

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 548 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, HANNA, B. BOYLE, K. BOYLE, BRADFORD, BRIGGS, V. BROWN, CARROLL, CONKLIN, DAVIDSON, DEAN, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GAINNEY, GOODMAN, HAGGERTY, W. KELLER, KORTZ, MARKOSEK, MATZIE, MCGEEHAN, MCNEILL, MOLCHANY, MUNDY, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, PARKER, PASHINSKI, ROEBUCK, SANTARSIERO, STURLA, THOMAS, WHITE AND YOUNGBLOOD, FEBRUARY 6, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 6, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), entitled
2 "An act concerning elections, including general, municipal,
3 special and primary elections, the nomination of candidates,
4 primary and election expenses and election contests; creating
5 and defining membership of county boards of elections;
6 imposing duties upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth,
7 courts, county boards of elections, county commissioners;
8 imposing penalties for violation of the act, and codifying,
9 revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto; and
10 repealing certain acts and parts of acts relating to
11 elections," further providing for notice of November
12 elections; providing for early voting; and further providing
13 for duties of election officials.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. Section 1201 of the act of June 3, 1937
17 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code,
18 amended July 14, 1961 (P.L.647, No.333), is amended to read:

19 Section 1201. Notice of November Elections.--The county
20 board of each county shall, not earlier than [ten] fifteen days
21 nor later than [three] nine days before each November election,

1 give notice of the same by newspaper publication in the county
2 in accordance with the provisions of section 106 of this act,
3 said notice to be published twice in counties of the first class
4 and once in all other counties. Such notice shall set forth--(a)
5 the officers to be elected in the State at large, or in said
6 county, or in any district of which said county or part thereof
7 forms a part, or in any city, borough, township, school
8 district, poor district, ward or other district which is
9 contained in such county; (b) the names of the candidates for
10 election to Federal, State, county and city offices, whose names
11 will appear upon the ballots or ballot labels; (c) the text of
12 all constitutional amendments and other questions to be
13 submitted at such election; (d) the places at which the election
14 is to be held in the various election districts of the county;
15 and (e) the date of the election and the hours during which the
16 polls will be open. Such notice may include a portion of the
17 form of ballot or diagram of the face of the voting machine in
18 reduced size.

19 Section 2. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

20 Section 1201.3. Early Voting Period.--Notwithstanding any
21 other provision of this act to the contrary, the county board of
22 each county shall provide for early voting to begin eight days
23 prior to the dates of elections established in accordance with
24 Article VI. The early voting period shall end seven days after
25 the early voting start date.

26 Section 1201.4. Early Voting Sites.--(a) The county board
27 of each county shall designate early voting sites where electors
28 may cast their ballots during the early voting period
29 established in accordance with section 1201.3.

30 (b) The early voting sites shall include the office of the

county board of elections and sites designated by the county board within the election district. The early voting sites shall be geographically located to provide electors in the election district an equal opportunity to cast a ballot. Aside from the office of the county board of elections, the county board is prohibited from designating early voting sites outside the geographical boundary of election districts within their county. The county board shall make available at these sites the same cards of instructions and supplies required under section 1202 of this act.

(c) During the early voting period, the county board shall appoint, in the same manner, clerks of elections and machine inspectors at each designated early voting polling place as provided for under Article IV.

Section 1203.1. Meeting of Election Officers for Early Voting; Voter's Certificates.--(a) The provisions of section 1208 regarding meeting of election officers shall apply to the early voting period.

(b) At each early voting site, the county board shall prepare a suitable number of voter's certificates as provided for in section 1203. Each elector who appears to vote at an early voting site shall complete a voter certificate and shall present to an election officer one of the forms of photo identification as established in section 1210, if such photo identification is required.

Section 1205.1. Days and Times for Opening and Closing Polls at Early Voting Sites.--The county board of each county shall designate the early voting sites to be open from 8 A. M. to 7 P. M. each weekday during the early voting period and from 1 P. M. to 5 P. M. on Saturday and Sunday during the early voting

1 period. Early voting sites shall allow any person in line at the
2 closing of an early voting site to cast a vote.

3 Section 1205.2. Extending Absentee Eligibility.--A qualified
4 elector, as defined in section 102, shall continue to be
5 eligible for an absentee ballot if the qualified elector is
6 expected to be absent from his election district during the
7 early voting period and on election day and meets the conditions
8 under section 102(w).

9 Section 3. Section 1225 of the act is amended by adding
10 subsections to read:

11 Section 1225. Signing and Disposition of Returns, District
12 Register and Voting Check List; Posting; Return of Ballot
13 Boxes.--* * *

14 (d) During early voting periods, each judge of elections
15 shall make the voter check list available no later than twelve
16 o'clock noon of each day and shall be contemporaneously provided
17 to the Secretary of the Commonwealth but shall not tabulate
18 votes prior to the close of the polls on election day. The
19 ballot of each elector voting early shall be counted even if the
20 elector dies on or before election day. The county board shall
21 maintain a voting check list in such a way to ensure that
22 electors are prohibited from casting additional ballots at
23 either an early voting site or on election day in their
24 precinct.

25 (e) Each early voting site designated by the county board
26 shall submit a detailed report of security procedures to secure
27 the ballots prior to the early voting period to the Secretary of
28 the Commonwealth.

29 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.