

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 674 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, BREWSTER, TEPLITZ, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA AND  
WARD, MARCH 31, 2015

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 31, 2015

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," in preliminary provisions, providing for the  
12 definition of "credentialed media"; and, in preparation for  
13 and conduct of primaries and elections, further providing for  
14 regulations in force at polling places.

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

17 Section 1. Section 102 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,  
18 No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended by  
19 adding a subsection to read:

20 Section 102. Definitions.--The following words, when used in  
21 this act, shall have the following meanings, unless otherwise  
22 clearly apparent from the context:

23 \* \* \*

24 (z.6) The term "credentialed media" shall mean a person

1 whose business includes reporting or commenting to the public on  
2 current events and news through print, electronic, digital or  
3 other media and who complied with the provisions of section  
4 1220.

5 \* \* \*

6 Section 2. Section 1220(a) and (d) of the act are amended  
7 and the section is amended by adding subsections to read:

8 Section 1220. Regulations in Force at Polling Places.--(a)  
9 Until the polls are closed, no person shall be allowed in the  
10 polling place outside of the enclosed space at any primary or  
11 election, except the watchers, voters not exceeding ten at any  
12 one time who are awaiting their turn to vote, credentialed media  
13 and peace officers, when necessary for the preservation of the  
14 peace. No elector shall be allowed to occupy a voting  
15 compartment or voting machine booth already occupied by another,  
16 except when giving assistance as permitted by this act.

17 \* \* \*

18 (d) All persons, except election officers, clerks, machine  
19 inspectors, overseers, watchers, persons in the course of  
20 voting, persons lawfully giving assistance to voters,  
21 credentialed media and peace and police officers, when permitted  
22 by the provisions of this act, must remain at least ten (10)  
23 feet distant from the polling place during the progress of the  
24 voting.

25 \* \* \*

26 (g) Credentialed media may be within ten (10) feet of a  
27 polling place while polls are open to record the events in  
28 writing or in film, video or digital images while the processes  
29 do not unreasonably disturb the order and conduct of elections.  
30 Credentialed media seeking entry to a polling place must be

1 accommodated as reasonably as possible. A determination by the  
2 judge of elections that the presence of credentialed media may  
3 not reasonably be accommodated may be overturned or modified by  
4 the county board of elections.

5 (h) Credentialed media may not:

6 (1) report or disclose in any form the identity of an elector  
7 within the polling place without the elector's permission;

8 (2) attempt to interview electors while either one is within  
9 the polling place;

10 (3) enter the enclosed space; or

11 (4) record the casting of an actual ballot.

12 (i) Credentialed media shall notify the Secretary of the  
13 Commonwealth or the county board of elections before the close  
14 of work on the Tuesday last preceding the primary or election of  
15 their intent to be present in a polling place and identify the  
16 individuals for whom admission is sought. Credentialed media  
17 shall be permitted into a polling place without such  
18 notification after their credentialed status is verified by the  
19 county board of elections. The county board of elections may not  
20 unreasonably withhold a verification.

21 (j) No later than the day preceding the primary or election,  
22 the Secretary of the Commonwealth or the county board of  
23 elections shall make available for each member of the  
24 credentialed media requesting it a pass or other authorization  
25 it may require for credentialed media to enter a polling place.  
26 A pass or other authorization issued for the election by the  
27 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall be valid at any polling  
28 place in this Commonwealth without prior notice to a board of  
29 elections. A county board of elections may, in the exercise of  
30 reasonable discretion, permit credentialed media to enter a

1 polling place despite failing to notify it before the close of  
2 work on the Tuesday last preceding a primary or election.

3       Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.