

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2916 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY BOYLE, OCTOBER 8, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 8, 2020

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 voting by qualified absentee electors, further
12 providing for canvassing of official absentee ballots and
13 mail-in ballots.

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

16 Section 1. Section 1308(g)(1.1) of the act of June 3, 1937
17 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code,
18 amended March 27, 2020 (P.L.41, No.12), is amended to read:

19 Section 1308. Canvassing of Official Absentee Ballots and
20 Mail-in Ballots.--* * *

21 (g) * * *

22 (1.1) The county board of elections shall meet [no earlier
23 than seven o'clock A.M. on] at least once before election day to
24 pre-canvass all ballots received prior to the meeting. The

1 county board of elections may complete the tasks specified under
2 paragraph (4)(i), (ii) and (iii) at any point during the period
3 beginning ten days before election day, including the day before
4 election day, if the board completes a pre-canvass of all
5 absentee ballots and mail-in ballots received prior to the
6 Friday before election day. A county board of elections shall
7 provide at least forty-eight hours' notice of a pre-canvass
8 meeting by publicly posting a notice of a pre-canvass meeting on
9 its publicly accessible Internet website. One authorized
10 representative of each candidate in an election and one
11 representative from each political party shall be permitted to
12 remain in the room in which the absentee ballots and mail-in
13 ballots are pre-canvassed. No person observing, attending or
14 participating in a pre-canvass meeting may disclose the results
15 of any portion of any pre-canvass meeting prior to the close of
16 the polls.

17 * * *

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.