

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1499 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, SILVIS, PICKETT, MILLARD, RYAN, HAMM,
METCALFE, ROTHMAN, KAUFFMAN, JAMES, RADER, COOK, PENNYCUICK,
STAMBAUGH, ECKER, WARNER, MENTZER, ZIMMERMAN AND BERNSTINE,
JUNE 1, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 1, 2021

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)(3) 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 (3) When the county board meets to pre-canvass or canvass

absentee ballots and mail-in ballots under paragraphs (1), (1.1) and (2), the board shall examine the declaration on the envelope of each ballot not set aside under subsection (d) and shall compare the information thereon with that contained in the "Registered Absentee and Mail-in Voters File," the absentee voters' list and/or the "Military Veterans and Emergency Civilians Absentee Voters File," whichever is applicable. The examination shall include a comparison of the elector's signature of record against the signature on the declaration of the elector. If the board finds that the two signatures do not match, the ballot shall be set aside and declared void. If the county board has verified the proof of identification as required under this act and is satisfied that the declaration is sufficient and the information contained in the "Registered Absentee and Mail-in Voters File," the absentee voters' list and/or the "Military Veterans and Emergency Civilians Absentee Voters File" verifies his right to vote, the county board shall provide a list of the names of electors whose absentee ballots or mail-in ballots are to be pre-canvassed or canvassed.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.