

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1501 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 official absentee voters ballots, for
13 delivering or mailing ballots and for canvassing of official
14 absentee ballots and mail-in ballots; and, in voting by
15 qualified mail-in electors, further providing for official
16 mail-in elector ballots and for delivering or mailing
17 ballots.

18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
19 hereby enacts as follows:

20 Section 1. Section 1303 of the act of June 3, 1937
21 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is
22 amended by adding a subsection to read:

23 Section 1303. Official Absentee Voters Ballots.--* * *

24 (f) The official absentee voter ballot shall contain a

1 scannable identification number unique to each individual
2 ballot.

3 Section 2. Section 1305(b) of the act is amended by adding a
4 paragraph to read:

5 Section 1305. Delivering or Mailing Ballots.--

6 * * *

7 (b) * * *

8 (3) A county board of elections shall scan and retain record
9 of each unique ballot number prior to the issuance or
10 association of the ballot with an individual voter's application
11 or mailing envelope.

12 * * *

13 Section 3. Section 1308(g)(4)(iii) of the act, amended March
14 27, 2020 (P.L.41, No.12), is amended to read:

15 Section 1308. Canvassing of Official Absentee Ballots and
16 Mail-in Ballots.--* * *

17 (g) * * *

18 (4) All absentee ballots which have not been challenged
19 under section 1302.2(c) and all mail-in ballots which have not
20 been challenged under section 1302.2-D(a)(2) and that have been
21 verified under paragraph (3) shall be counted and included with
22 the returns of the applicable election district as follows:

23 * * *

24 (iii) The county board shall then break the seals of such
25 envelopes, remove the ballots and scan each ballot's unique
26 identification number. Any ballot with an identification number
27 that has already been scanned, with an identification number not
28 recorded as having been issued by the county or with an invalid
29 identification number shall be set aside and declared void. The
30 county board shall then count, compute and tally the votes.

1 * * *

2 Section 4. Section 1303-D of the act is amended by adding a
3 subsection to read:

4 Section 1303-D. Official mail-in elector ballots.

5 * * *

6 (f) Unique identification number.--The official mail-in
7 ballot shall contain a scannable identification number unique to
8 each individual ballot.

9 Section 5. Section 1305-D of the act, amended March 27, 2020
10 (P.L.41, No.12), is amended to read:

11 Section 1305-D. Delivering or mailing ballots.

12 (a) General rule.--The county board of elections, upon
13 receipt and approval of an application filed by a qualified
14 elector under section 1301-D, shall commence to deliver or mail
15 official mail-in ballots as soon as a ballot is certified and
16 the ballots are available. While any proceeding is pending in a
17 Federal or State court which would affect the contents of any
18 ballot, the county board of elections may await a resolution of
19 that proceeding but in any event, shall commence to deliver or
20 mail official mail-in ballots not later than the second Tuesday
21 prior to the primary or election. For applicants whose proof of
22 identification was not provided with the application or could
23 not be verified by the board, the board shall send the notice
24 required under section 1302.2-D(c) with the mail-in ballot. As
25 additional applications are received and approved, the board
26 shall deliver or mail official mail-in ballots to the additional
27 electors within 48 hours.

28 (b) Unique ballot number.--A county board of elections shall
29 scan and retain record of each unique ballot number prior to the
30 issuance or association of the mail-in ballot with an individual

1 voter's application or mailing envelope.

2 Section 6. This act shall take effect in 60 days.