

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative John Hornaman
DATE: June 5, 2012
SUBJECT: Legislation Providing for Acceptable Forms of Identification

In the near future I will be introducing legislation amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L. 1333, No. 320), known as the Election Code, for the purpose of redefining what is considered an acceptable form of identification.

I need not remind you all of the sweeping electoral changes that have occurred in our Commonwealth following the passage of Act 18 of 2012, also known as the Voter ID Act. Heavily mired in controversy and the subject of intense public and political debate, the primary concern of opponents to former House Bill 934 was that the adoption of this measure would unnecessarily burden and disenfranchise much of Pennsylvania's minority and senior citizen population

In my district alone, April's primary elections have yielded empirical evidence that only confirms the many fears of those strongly opposed to the statute. Specifically, state retirees and military veterans were informed that their state issued IDs and Veteran's Administration Hospital medical cards were not an acceptable form of identification. Upon inquiring about why these forms of identification were deemed invalid, voters were informed that it was due to the fact that these documents did not have an expiration date. Outraged by this line of reasoning, those in possession of these documents pointed out that in order to be issued these forms of identification they either had to be fingerprinted, undergo extensive background checks or receive an Honorable Discharge from the United States Military.

The rigors and procedural process for individuals seeking state or federal employment and those who wish to enlist in the military is thorough and extensive. Therefore, the forms of identification issued to such employees and veterans, both current and retired, should be given the dignity and validity they deserve. As such, I would like to add all photo IDs issued by any Commonwealth, municipal, or federal agency or the United States Military to the list of acceptable forms of identification.

If you would wish to join me as a co-sponsor of this measure, please contact my Legislative Assistant, Carla Walker at (717) 772-2297 x 6535 or CWalker@pahouse.net.