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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House of Representatives
From: Representative Eddie Day Pashinski
Date: June 4, 2012
Subject: Co-sponsorship Amend Act 18: Voter ID

In the near future, I intend to introduce two pieces of legislation which will provide voters and election officials with additional time to become acclimated with the new voting requirements created by Act 18, and create greater access for electors previously excluded under the Act 18 provisions.

As you know, Act 18 requires every elector to present photo identification at the 2012 General Election, and every election thereafter. My biggest concern with the new requirements lies within the voting rights of our constituency; 700,000 Pennsylvanians do not carry an up-to-date driver's license or photo identification. African-Americans, seniors, people with disabilities, the working poor, and students are twice as likely to lack proper identification. Therefore, I believe we must amend this law to create additional time before these changes go into effect, and provide more accessibility and opportunity for our electors to vote.

In order to slow down this new process and phase-in the implementation over time, my first piece of legislation will amend the enactment date of Act 18 to November 8, 2016. This time period will allow our citizens the opportunity to become familiarized with the new voting procedures and to obtain the proper identification required to vote.

My second piece of legislation creates greater transparency and accountability by doing the following:

- Directs the county boards of elections to provide notice of proof of identification requirements in the county newspaper before each November election;

- Exempts veterans from proof of identification requirements with the addition of a completed affidavit;
- Permits an elector who does not possess the proper proof of identification to mail a photocopy of their identification and a notarized affidavit to the county board of elections after voting via provisional ballot;
- Compels the county boards of elections to provide affidavits for notarization and preaddressed envelopes to each election district for the purpose of mailing a photocopy of proof of identification after voting by provisional ballot;
- Allows an elector living in a care facility, who appears to vote for the first time, to present a current utility bill, current bank statement, or a government check as proof of identification;
- Requires the Secretary of State to disseminate voter identification information to the Commonwealth in both English and Spanish;
- Obliges the county boards of elections to provide early voting beginning 35 days prior to the dates of elections and primaries, set parameters for early voting sites and times, and prohibits the board from calculating votes until after the close of the polls; and
- Exempts an elector who is not voting for the first time from proof of identification requirements if the elector:
 - Completes an affidavit including their date of birth and address as it appears in the district register;
 - Completes an affidavit swearing that they are the person as identified in the district register; or
 - If another elector who has proof of identity completes an affidavit verifying the individual's identity.

Now that Act 18 has become law, we must make it a personal priority to facilitate the most accessible means for our constituents to exercise their greatest individual right. By supporting this legislation, I believe we can ensure that voters and election workers have been adequately educated on the new identification requirements, and alleviate some of the potential negative impacts of Act 18.

Please join me in sponsoring this legislation by contacting Lauren Bordner in my Harrisburg office via email at lbordner@pahouse.net.