

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in uniform military and overseas voters, further
3 providing for definitions; and providing for assistance to
4 covered voters in VA Medical Centers.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 3502 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:

9 § 3502. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 * * *

14 "VA Medical Center." A United States Department of Veterans
15 Affairs medical center located in this Commonwealth.

16 Section 2. Section 3513 of Title 25 is amended to read:

17 § 3513. [(Reserved).] Covered voters in VA Medical Centers.

18 (a) General rule.--A covered voter who resides in a VA

1 Medical Center may receive assistance in registering to vote and
2 voting at any primary or election in accordance with this
3 section.

4 (b) Assistance.--A county election board in each county
5 wherein a VA Medical Center is located shall appoint two
6 individuals who are not of the same political party to assist
7 covered voters in each VA Medical Center in that county. The
8 appointees shall:

9 (1) Assist with voter registration in accordance with
10 section 3505 (relating to registering to vote).

11 (2) Provide assistance in obtaining the benefits of this
12 chapter, including informing the appropriate county election
13 board that the voter is a covered voter.

14 (3) Assist a covered voter in applying for a military-
15 overseas ballot.

16 (4) Provide assistance with voting to covered voters as
17 follows:

18 (i) Voting shall be conducted on the premises of the
19 VA Medical Center during any continuous period sufficient
20 to allow covered voters to cast their ballots on election
21 day.

22 (ii) The appointees shall ensure that military-
23 overseas ballots cast are received by the appropriate
24 county election board no later than the close of the
25 polls.

26 (iii) To the extent possible, voting booths or
27 screens shall be provided to ensure the privacy of the
28 covered voter.

29 (c) Watchers.--Watchers may be appointed for each VA Medical
30 Center as follows:

1 (1) Each candidate for nomination or election at any
2 election may appoint one watcher for each VA Medical Center
3 located in an election district in which the candidate is to
4 be voted for at any primary or election.

5 (2) Each political party and each political body which
6 has nominated candidates for election may appoint one watcher
7 for each VA Medical Center located in an election district in
8 which the candidates of that party or political body are to
9 be voted for at any primary or election.

10 (3) The watchers appointed under this subsection shall
11 be in addition to any watchers that candidates, political
12 parties and political bodies are entitled to appoint under
13 section 417 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320),
14 known as the Pennsylvania Election Code. Otherwise, the
15 provisions of section 417 of the Pennsylvania Election Code
16 shall apply to watchers appointed under this subsection.

17 (d) Coordination.--Appointees shall coordinate the
18 assistance provided under this section with the chief
19 administrative officer of the VA Medical Center to which the
20 appointees are assigned.

21 (e) Applicability of other law.--The provisions of section
22 1218 of the Pennsylvania Election Code shall not apply to
23 assistance provided under subsection (b) (4).

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.