

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1172 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, BAKER, BEAR, BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, CAUSER, CUTLER, DENLINGER, EVERETT, FARRY, FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GILLEN, GROVE, HARHART, HARRIS, HESS, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MILNE, MURT, O'NEILL, PICKETT, PYLE, READSHAW, ROCK, SCHRODER, STERN, SWANGER, J. TAYLOR, VULAKOVICH AND WATSON, MARCH 23, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 23, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, further providing for standardized forms, for  
3 applications and for preparation and distribution of  
4 applications; and providing for government service  
5 facilitation.

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

8 Section 1. Sections 1105(a) and 1106(a) of Title 25 of the  
9 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

10 § 1105. Standardized forms.

11 (a) General rule.--Whenever possible, the secretary shall  
12 prescribe by regulation standardized voter registration or  
13 absentee ballot application forms which may be used, with prior  
14 approval by the secretary, by political bodies, candidates and  
15 organized bodies of citizens in compliance with both the  
16 provisions of this part and the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,  
17 No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code. The forms

1 shall include notice to applicants as required under section  
2 1327.1(e) (relating to government service facilitation).

3 \* \* \*

4 § 1106. Applications.

5 [(a) Registration application.--Voter registration  
6 applications printed under the act of June 30, 1995 (P.L.170,  
7 No.25), known as the Pennsylvania Voter Registration Act, may be  
8 used to apply for registration under this part.]

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 2. Section 1327(a)(4) of Title 25 is amended by  
11 adding a subparagraph to read:

12 § 1327. Preparation and distribution of applications.

13 (a) Form.--

14 \* \* \*

15 (4) A voter registration application shall be printed on  
16 stock of good quality and shall be of suitable uniform size.  
17 Nothing in this part shall prohibit the design and use of an  
18 electronic voter registration application which includes the  
19 applicant's digitized or electronic signature. The  
20 registration application shall contain the following  
21 information; however, the information may be provided on a  
22 separate form for voter registration made under section 1323  
23 or 1325:

24 \* \* \*

25 (xi) Notice to applicants as required under section  
26 1327.1(e) (relating to government service facilitation).

27 \* \* \*

28 Section 3. Title 25 is amended by adding a section to read:

29 § 1327.1. Government service facilitation.

30 (a) Legislative findings.--The General Assembly finds and

1 declares as follows:

2 (1) Individuals who move into this Commonwealth or move  
3 from one political subdivision to another in this  
4 Commonwealth often have difficulty accessing government  
5 services and participating fully in the rights and  
6 responsibilities which accrue to residents.

7 (2) Requiring citizens to stand in multiple lines at  
8 multiple agencies at various levels of government is not an  
9 efficient means to provide necessary services to citizens or  
10 an efficient use of government employee resources.

11 (3) Failure to make appropriate and timely changes  
12 concerning residency has led to problems for citizens  
13 concerning voting rights and incorrectly transmitted tax  
14 information and withholding.

15 (4) The General Assembly has, in the past, assisted  
16 individuals with reducing the governmental burdens associated  
17 with geographic moves through methods such as combining the  
18 driver's license and voter registration processes.

19 (5) In order to make the government more people  
20 friendly, it is imperative to interconnect systems so that  
21 information provided to government can be accessed in such a  
22 manner as to provide new residents with appropriate contact  
23 information and the full panoply of government interaction.

24 (b) General rule.--Notwithstanding any prohibition found in  
25 any other law, regulation or rule, a commission which processes  
26 a voter registration application shall provide information as  
27 follows:

28 (1) Within 14 days of receipt, the commission shall  
29 provide, in the manner prescribed by the secretary, the  
30 department with the applicant's full name, address of

1 residence and mailing address, if different from the address  
2 of residence. The requirements of this paragraph may be met,  
3 with the approval of the secretary, by current law and  
4 practices concerning transmission of information from a  
5 commission to the department.

6 (2) Within 14 days of receipt, the commission shall  
7 provide, in the manner prescribed by the secretary, each  
8 political subdivision which contains the applicant's address  
9 of residence with the applicant's full name, address of  
10 residence and mailing address, if different from the address  
11 of residence.

12 (c) Duties of department.--Notwithstanding any prohibition  
13 found in any other law, regulation or rule, upon receipt of  
14 information from a commission under subsection (b), the  
15 department shall provide the Department of Revenue, the  
16 Department of Public Welfare and the Department of  
17 Transportation with the applicant's full name, address of  
18 residence and mailing address, if different from the address of  
19 residence. The method of providing information shall be  
20 determined by the secretary in conjunction with the Department  
21 of Revenue, the Department of Public Welfare and the Department  
22 of Transportation, and may include electronic mail, facsimile or  
23 other secure method which accomplishes the requirements of this  
24 subsection without undue expense or delay.

25 (d) Responsibility of recipient agencies.--Any State agency  
26 or political subdivision which receives information regarding an  
27 applicant under subsection (b) or (c) shall determine if an  
28 applicant meets the residency requirements applicable to the  
29 services provided or duties imposed by that State agency or  
30 political subdivision and shall transmit to the applicant

1 information concerning the rights and responsibilities of that  
2 applicant which fall within the scope of the authority provided  
3 to the State agency or political subdivision.

4 (e) Notice on voter registration application.--Each voter  
5 registration application shall contain, in a manner prescribed  
6 by the secretary, notice that the applicant's name, address and  
7 mailing address will be provided to the Department of  
8 Transportation, the Department of Public Welfare, the Department  
9 of Revenue and relevant political subdivisions to ensure the  
10 applicant's full access to the rights and responsibilities  
11 attendant to residence.

12 (f) Definitions.--The following words and phrases, when used  
13 in this section, shall have the meanings given to them in this  
14 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Political subdivision." The term shall have the same  
16 meaning as the term is defined in 1 Pa.C.S. § 1991 (relating to  
17 definitions).

18 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.