

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1168 Session of
1975

INTRODUCED BY LYNCH, ROSS, NOSZKA, SCANLON, LEWIS, McKINNEY,
SMITH AND ARLENE, NOVEMBER 18, 1975

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 18, 1975

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 30, 1937 (P.L.115, No.40), entitled
2 "An act to provide for the permanent personal registration of
3 electors in cities of the first class as a condition of their
4 right to vote at elections and primaries, and their
5 enrollment as members of political parties as a further
6 condition of their right to vote at primaries; prescribing
7 certain procedure for the conduct of elections and primaries
8 and the challenge and proof of qualifications of electors;
9 and prescribing the powers and duties of citizens, parties,
10 bodies of electors, registration commissions, commissioners,
11 registrars, inspectors of registration and other appointees
12 of registration commission, election officers, municipal
13 officers, departments and bureaus, police officers, courts,
14 judges, prothonotaries, sheriffs, county commissioners, peace
15 officers, county treasurers, county controllers, registrars
16 of vital statistics, real estate brokers, rental agents,
17 certain public service companies, persons, firms, and
18 corporations operating vehicles for moving furniture and
19 household goods, and boards of school directors; and imposing
20 penalties," further providing for registration, for the
21 number and compensation of election commissioners, for the
22 appointment, compensation and duties of employees and counsel
23 of the commission, for voter registrars, for periods of
24 registration, for penalties and for acts performed on Sundays
25 and holidays; providing for the appointment, compensation and
26 duties of non personal voter registration specialists and
27 their counsel; and changing witness fees and the age for
28 registration.

29 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

30 hereby enacts as follows:

31 Section 1. Section 3, act of March 30, 1937 (P.L.115,

1 No.40), known as "The First Class City Permanent Registration
2 Act," subsection (e) amended July 26, 1961 (P.L.917, No.397), is
3 amended to read:

4 Section 3. Registration Commission; Membership, Bipartisan;
5 Term of Office; Vacancies; Removal; Compensation; Chairman;
6 Secretary; Action by Vote of Majority of Members; Record of
7 Proceedings; Annual Report.--

8 (a) There shall be a registration commission in and for each
9 city of the first class, which commission shall have
10 jurisdiction over the registration of electors of such city
11 under the provisions of this act.

12 (b) [The registration commission shall consist of five
13 commissioners, who shall be qualified electors of the city, not
14 more than three of whom shall be enrolled members of the same
15 political party, who shall be appointed by the Governor, with
16 the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall hold office for
17 terms of four years, or until their successors, qualify, unless
18 sooner removed or otherwise disqualified: Provided, however,
19 That the terms of office of the commissioners, first appointed
20 by the Governor under this act, shall commence upon the date of
21 their appointment, and shall expire on the first Monday of
22 January, one thousand nine hundred and forty-one. Upon the
23 appointment by the Governor of the registration commission for
24 any such city, the terms of office of the existing registration
25 commission or commissioners of any such city shall terminate.]

26 The registration commission shall consist of the three elected
27 city commissioners of a city of the first class, who shall be
28 elected for a term of four years, in the year that the mayor is
29 elected and a vacancy in the office shall be filled in the
30 manner provided by city ordinance, in the same manner that a

1 vacancy in the office of city commissioner is filled.

2 [(c) The Governor shall fill any vacancy in any such
3 commission within ten days after the vacancy shall occur by
4 appointing a qualified elector of the city to hold office during
5 the remainder of the term of the commissioner whose place shall
6 have become vacant.

7 (d) The Governor may, at any time, remove any commissioner
8 for cause, and may appoint a duly qualified elector of the city
9 as his successor for the remainder of his term.]

10 (e) [Each commissioner shall receive compensation at the
11 rate of twelve thousand dollars per annum, except the chairman
12 who shall receive twelve thousand five hundred dollars per
13 annum.] The registration commissioner shall receive the salary
14 set for the city commissioner by city ordinance, and shall
15 receive no additional salary for service as the registration
16 commissioner.

17 [(f) As soon after their appointment as may be, the members
18 of each commission shall take the oath of office required by the
19 Constitution of this Commonwealth, and shall organize by
20 selecting from their number a chairman and a secretary, who
21 shall not be members of the same political party.]

22 (g) All actions of a commission shall be decided by a
23 majority vote of all members, except as may be otherwise
24 provided herein.

25 (h) Each commission shall keep a record, in permanent form,
26 of all its proceedings, and shall make an annual written report
27 to the [Governor] city.

28 Section 2. Subsection (b) of section 4 and sections 5 and 6
29 of the act, amended July 31, 1941 (P.L.710, No.279), are amended
30 to read:

1 Section 4. Powers of Commissions; Regulations; Enforcement;
2 Correction of Errors or Irregularities; Cancellation of
3 Registration; Powers of Commissioners.--

4 * * *

5 (b) The commission shall have power to correct, direct or
6 permit the correction of any error or any irregularity in
7 registration, to change or permit the change on the registration
8 affidavits and its records of the name of any registered elector
9 changed by order of a court of competent jurisdiction or by
10 reason of her marriage or divorce, and to cancel the
11 registration of any person whom it may find to be improperly
12 registered, and to cancel the party enrollment of any registered
13 elector whom it may find to be improperly enrolled as a member
14 of a party, subject only to the provisions of this act, and
15 provided that notice in writing shall be given to, or left at
16 the address of, each person whose registration or enrollment is
17 cancelled. Notice in writing of the cancellation of the
18 registration or party enrollment of any elector, as well as
19 notice of the serving of any paper upon or left at the address
20 of any elector with respect to his right to be registered or
21 enrolled as a member of the party designated by him and an
22 official application registration card, shall be sent promptly
23 to the city chairman of the party of which such person was or
24 may be registered as a member, if such party has headquarters
25 within the city known to the commission.

26 * * *

27 Section 5. Employes, Registrars, Inspectors of Registration;
28 Duties; Appointment.--

29 (a) The commission shall have power to appoint such
30 assistants, clerks and employes (including inspectors) as, from

1 time to time, it may deem necessary to carry out the provisions
2 of this act. The commission shall also have power to assign such
3 of its assistants, employes or clerks to act as registrars, who
4 shall not receive any additional compensation therefor, at its
5 office or offices as it may, from time to time, deem necessary,
6 and when so acting, such assistants, employes or clerks shall
7 have and may exercise the powers, and shall perform the duties
8 and obligations conferred by, or in accordance with, the law
9 upon registrars.

10 (b) The commission in each year shall designate the place or
11 places in each or any ward to be used as registration places,
12 and shall appoint two or more registrars for each such
13 registration place as it may deem necessary. Not more than one-
14 half of the number of registrars appointed for each registration
15 place in each year shall be members of the same political party.
16 All registrars appointed shall be qualified electors of the
17 election district or ward for which they have been appointed,
18 shall be of good moral character, shall not have been convicted
19 of any crime, shall be able to read English in an intelligent
20 manner, and to write legibly, and shall be familiar with
21 qualifications of electors and duties of the registrars. Such
22 registrars shall be empowered to register the qualified electors
23 of such elections districts or wards, and in so doing, to
24 administer oaths and affirmations, and shall perform all other
25 duties imposed on registrars by this act and by the registration
26 commission. Nothing in this section shall prevent any registrar
27 from serving as a registrar in any ward or any division of the
28 city, nor shall it prevent the commission from assigning any
29 registrar to register voters in any ward or division of the
30 city.

1 Each registrar shall receive [as] such compensation [ten
2 dollars (\$10.00)] as is set by the commission for each day
3 during which he is engaged in the active performance of his
4 duties as registrar. The commission shall designate the duties
5 to be performed by each such registrar appointed by it. The said
6 registrars shall be appointed in the manner as hereinafter
7 provided in subsection (c) of this section.

8 (c) In each year, at such time as shall be determined by the
9 commission, of which at least fifteen days' notice shall be
10 publicly given, the city chairman of the party having polled the
11 highest vote in the city at the last preceding November election
12 and the city chairman of the party having polled the second
13 highest vote in the city at such election may file with the
14 commission a written list of names of members of said party whom
15 such chairman recommends for appointment as registrars at the
16 said registration places. Such lists shall contain the name,
17 address, qualifications and occupation of each person so
18 recommended and shall be open to public inspection in the office
19 of the commission. The commission shall appoint persons whose
20 names appear on such list as the registrars representing such
21 parties. If more candidates are recommended by the chairman of
22 any such party then it is entitled to have appointed, the
23 commission shall appoint those candidates from the names
24 appearing on such list whom the commission finds to be qualified
25 in accordance with the provisions of clause (b) of this section,
26 and if there are not sufficient candidates qualified to serve
27 recommended by any city chairman, the commission may appoint
28 such other persons whom the commission believes qualified.

29 (d) Should any vacancy occur in the office of registrar of
30 any registration place in any year, by reason of death,

1 resignation, removal from the district or ward, or other cause,
2 the commission shall fill said vacancy by appointing an elector
3 of the district or ward, as the case may be, who is qualified
4 according to subsection (b) of this section, and who is a
5 registered and enrolled member of the same political party as
6 the registrar or registrars whose office was vacated. The
7 appointment shall be made in like manner as the annual
8 appointments of registrars, as provided by this act.

9 (e) No registrar or inspector of registration shall exercise
10 any power of his office, nor shall any employe assigned by the
11 commission to act as registrar at any office of the commission
12 so act, until he shall have taken an oath of office, which the
13 commission shall prescribe, and shall have received from the
14 commission a certificate of appointment, setting forth his name
15 and address, the date of his appointment, and the length of time
16 for which he shall have been appointed.

17 (f) Each commission may appoint [a chief clerk, at a
18 compensation not exceeding four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per
19 annum, who shall have authority to administer oaths, sign
20 vouchers, and register persons who are qualified and who appear
21 at the office of the commission, as herein provided; two (2)
22 assistant clerks, each at a salary of not over two thousand
23 dollars (\$2,000) per annum; a chief record clerk at a salary of
24 not over twenty-four hundred dollars (\$2,400) per annum; a
25 stenographer (who may act as clerk) at a salary of not over
26 eighteen hundred dollars (\$1,800) per annum; a chief inspector
27 at a salary of not over twenty-two hundred dollars (\$2,200) per
28 annum; two custodians of the records, to guard the same while
29 they are open to public inspection, each of whom shall receive
30 not more than fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) per annum; a

1 messenger who shall receive not more than twelve hundred dollars
2 (\$1,200) per annum; such stenographers, as they may deem
3 necessary, competent to take notes of testimony, at a
4 compensation not to exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) per diem for the
5 time actually employed at hearings before the commission; and as
6 many clerks, stenographers, and inspectors as they may deem
7 necessary, from time to time, at a compensation not exceeding
8 six dollars (\$6.00) per diem for the time actually employed.]
9 such employes as they deem necessary to perform the functions of
10 the office, and to register the voters of the city, and each
11 employe shall be paid compensation as set by the commission.

12 (g) The registration commission shall have the power to
13 remove any employe, inspector, registrar or other officer
14 appointed or employed by it, but no registrar appointed by the
15 commission under the provisions of clause (c) of this section
16 shall be removed, except for cause.

17 (h) Any inspector of registration, on his own motion or on
18 complaint of any person to him, may and when directed by the
19 commission, shall--

20 1. Investigate all questions relating to the registration of
21 electors in such city, and, for that purpose, shall have power
22 to enter and inspect any house, dwelling, building, inn,
23 lodging-house or hotel within such city, and to interrogate any
24 inmate, householder, lodger, lessee, keeper, caretaker, owner,
25 proprietor, or agent thereof or therein, regarding any person or
26 persons residing or claiming to reside thereat or therein
27 without being required to show any warrant for so doing except
28 his certificate of appointment.

29 2. Inspect and copy any register of lodgers in any lodging-
30 house, inn or hotel relating to or affecting the rights of any

1 persons to vote or to be registered in any such city.

2 3. Arrest any person without warrant, except any herein
3 privileged from such arrest, who, in the presence of the
4 inspector of registration, violates, or attempts to violate, any
5 of the provisions of this act, when such violation is punishable
6 as a crime.

7 4. Call on any police or peace officer of such city to
8 assist the inspector of registration in the maintenance of peace
9 at any place of registration, or in making any arrest, or in the
10 performance of any of his duties.

11 5. Distribute official registration application cards to
12 potential electors.

13 (i) Twenty-five persons shall be appointed and employed by
14 the Secretary of the Commonwealth, as non personal voter
15 registration specialists. The specialists shall be supervised
16 and assigned by the commission, and be subject to removal by the
17 secretary. The specialists shall have as their primary duties,
18 the promotion of non personal voter registration, and the
19 verification of the completion, correctness, and truthfulness of
20 the information shown on the official registration application
21 card. The duties shall include, but are not limited to
22 distribution of non personal registration application forms,
23 door to door canvassing to obtain completed non personal
24 registration application forms, and publicizing the non personal
25 voter registration program utilizing advertising procedures and
26 other means. The specialist shall also personally canvass at
27 least ten percent of those persons submitting non personal
28 registration applications during a period when the registration
29 of voters may be entered into the district register, and general
30 register. These specialists shall have the authority and

1 responsibility of inspectors of registration and shall receive
2 the same compensation as paid to an inspector of registration by
3 the city, provided that nothing in this act shall prevent the
4 commission from temporarily assigning the specialist to other
5 duties within the commission's office. One of the specialists
6 shall be designated director of non personal voter registration
7 activities, shall directly supervise the other specialists and
8 shall be compensated at the same rate as a deputy city
9 commissioner. The commission shall furnish necessary office
10 space and clerical assistance required for the proper conduct
11 and support of the total non personal voter registration
12 activities and employees in the city.

13 (j) The Secretary of the Commonwealth, if requested by the
14 director of non personal voter registration activities, shall
15 appoint a counsel who shall be a member of the bar of
16 Pennsylvania. The counsel shall advise and represent the
17 director of non personal voter registration activities in all
18 matters concerning voter registration in cities of the first
19 class. The counsel may also advise and represent the commission
20 if they so desire, and when acting as such shall have the full
21 force and affect as if he was employed as the counsel to the
22 commission. The counsel to the director of non personal voter
23 registration activities shall receive compensation not to exceed
24 fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), per year, and shall be a
25 person who is familiar with the content and operation of the
26 Pennsylvania Election Code and other relevant statutes and case
27 law.

28 (k) The salaries of specialists and counsel employed under
29 this section by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, shall be paid
30 entirely by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1 Section 6. Removal of Registrars; Voter Registration in Each
2 Ward.--(a) Any qualified elector of the city may appear before
3 the commission and show wherein any person appointed as a
4 registrar under the provisions of clauses (b) and (c) of section
5 five of this act does not possess the qualifications requisite
6 for the performance of the duties of his office, or has violated
7 the provisions of this act. If, after public hearing, the
8 commission shall find the charges brought by such elector to be
9 true, the commission shall decline to appoint such person, or
10 remove such registrar.

11 (b) The [commissioners] commission shall provide [a board of
12 registrars for each ward or district place of registration so
13 appointed not more than one-half of whom shall be of the same
14 party. If it appears at any time that by reason of a change in
15 political affiliation or because of error in appointment a board
16 is not so divided, any ten registered electors of such ward or
17 district may file a petition with the commissioners, setting
18 forth the facts, and praying that one or more of the
19 appointments may be revoked, and that other appointments may be
20 made. Upon presentation of such a petition, one of the
21 commissioners shall fix a time, not less than five days
22 thereafter, and at least three days' notice shall be given by
23 mail to all the registrars of such board, who are alleged to be
24 of the same party, when a public hearing shall be given all
25 concerned, and if the facts are then found to be as represented,
26 the commissioners shall grant the relief prayed for] for voter
27 registration in each ward of the city during the periods and
28 times provided for in section 17.

29 Section 3. Section 7 of the act is amended to read:

30 Section 7. Counsel; Compensation; Duties.--The commission

1 may employ [special] counsel at a compensation not exceeding
2 [three thousand dollars] fifteen thousand dollars per annum.
3 Such counsel shall advise the commission from time to time
4 regarding its powers and duties and the rights of electors, and
5 concerning the best methods of legal procedure for carrying out
6 the various provisions of this act, and shall appear for and
7 represent the commission on all appeals taken from its decisions
8 or orders to a court of common pleas, as herein provided.

9 Section 4. Sections 8 and 13 of the act, amended July 31,
10 1941 (P.L.710, No.279), are amended to read:

11 Section 8. Appropriations; Unexpended Balances of
12 Appropriations.--(a) The appropriating authorities of the city
13 shall appropriate annually, and from time to time, the funds
14 that shall be necessary for the maintenance and operation of the
15 commission and the carrying out of the provisions of this act,
16 therein including the payment of the compensation of the
17 commissioners, counsel, and a sufficient number of registrars,
18 inspectors of registration and other assistants and employes,
19 and the fees of witnesses, as herein provided, and likewise for
20 preparing, in accordance with the direction of the commission,
21 securing and distributing, or receiving and preserving, all
22 street lists, registration cards, official non personal voter
23 registration application cards, affidavits, vouchers, notices,
24 account books, stationery and other supplies which the
25 commission shall consider necessary for the purpose of this act,
26 and for all other necessary expenses.

27 (b) The appropriating authorities of the city shall provide
28 the commission thereof with suitable and adequate main offices,
29 properly furnished, for keeping its records, holding its public
30 sessions, and otherwise performing its duties, and such other

1 offices which it may from time to time during the period of
2 ninety days preceding any election deem it advisable to
3 establish for the convenience of the electors in exercising
4 their rights, powers and functions and performing their duties
5 hereunder, and upon failure to do so, the commission may lease
6 such office space for its main office as is reasonably required
7 for the performance of the functions and duties under this act.

8 (c) Any unexpended balances of any appropriations heretofore
9 made by the appropriating authorities of the city for the
10 purpose of carrying out any provision of any existing
11 registration act, or the amendments thereto, shall be
12 transferred to and made available for the commission hereby
13 created or constituted, for the expense of carrying out the
14 provisions of this act, and all moneys required in addition to
15 any original appropriation in the current year, or any other
16 year, if it shall appear that extra sums are needed.

17 (d) The commission may accept and use in the performance of
18 their duties funds received from the Federal Government, the
19 Commonwealth, or any other source.

20 Section 13. Records and Documents to Be Open to Public
21 Inspection.--The records of the commission, and all district
22 registers, street lists, voting check lists, voters'
23 certificates, affidavits, official non personal voter
24 registration application cards, petitions, appeals, witness
25 lists, accounts, contracts, reports, and other documents in its
26 custody, except the general registers, shall be open to public
27 inspection, except as herein provided, and may be inspected and
28 copied by any qualified elector of the city during ordinary
29 business hours, except when they are necessarily being used by
30 the commission or its employees having duties to perform in

1 reference thereto, or when such inspection or copying shall
2 unreasonably interfere with the proper and efficient performance
3 of the duties and exercise of the functions of the commission or
4 its employes in administering this act. Such public inspection
5 thereof shall only be in the presence of a commissioner or an
6 authorized employe of the commission, and shall be subject to
7 proper regulation for safekeeping of the records and documents
8 and subject to the further provisions of this act. The records
9 and documents of the commission open to inspection by the public
10 shall not be used for commercial or improper purposes.

11 Section 5. Section 17 of the act, amended July 31, 1941
12 (P.L.710, No.279) and March 26, 1973 (P.L.9, No.3), is amended
13 to read:

14 Section 17. Days and Hours of Registration; Places of
15 Registration; Use of Polling Places; Payments of Rentals; Use of
16 School Buildings; Public Notice.--

17 (a) The commission, or any commissioner, employe or clerk
18 assigned for that purpose shall at the main office of the
19 commission, during ordinary business hours, and during such
20 additional hours as the commission shall from time to time
21 prescribe, on each day, and on such days and during such hours
22 as the commission may from time to time designate at other
23 offices in the city which the commission shall from time to time
24 have power to establish and discontinue, [except Sundays,
25 holidays,] the days hereinafter provided for the registration of
26 electors in the districts or wards, the day of each election and
27 each primary, the thirty days next preceding each general,
28 municipal and primary election, and the thirty days next
29 following each election and the five days next following each
30 primary, receive personal applications from persons who claim

1 that they are entitled to be registered as electors of the city
2 and who appear for registration: Provided, however, That in case
3 of a special election within a certain district (congressional,
4 senatorial or representative), held on a day other than the day
5 of a primary, general or municipal election, the registration of
6 electors shall be discontinued in the wards comprising such
7 district for the period of [thirty-five] thirty days prior to
8 and the five days next following such special election. In each
9 year the commission may also, when it considers it necessary for
10 the convenience of the electors, provide one or more places of
11 registration in each or any ward of the city, at which two or
12 more registrars, as the commission may deem necessary, shall be
13 present to receive personal applications from qualified electors
14 of the city who claim that they are entitled to be registered,
15 which registrars shall be present thereat [between the hours of
16 seven antemeridian and one postmeridian, and between the hours
17 of four and ten postmeridian] during the hours specified by the
18 commission and on such days as may be selected by the
19 commission, which shall be [not more than sixty days, and] not
20 less than thirty days, prior to any general, municipal or
21 primary election: Provided, further, however, That with respect
22 to any person who shall become a citizen of the United States on
23 a day subsequent to the sixtieth day prior to any election or
24 primary, but at least one month prior to the day of such
25 election or primary, the commission or any commissioner, employe
26 or clerk assigned for that purpose shall receive personal
27 applications from such person if he or she is otherwise
28 qualified at the office of the registration commission until the
29 thirtieth day prior to such election or primary during ordinary
30 business hours [except Sundays, holidays and] on the days

1 hereinbefore provided for the registration of electors in the
2 districts or wards.

3 (b) The commissioners in charge of elections shall cause any
4 polling place to be open, in proper order for use, as a place of
5 registration, on each day when such polling place may be desired
6 by the registration commission for use as a place of
7 registration; and the appropriating authorities of the county
8 shall provide for the payment of all rentals for such polling
9 places and other places of registration.

10 (c) The board of public education or school directors of
11 each school district shall furnish suitable space, room or rooms
12 in any public school building under its jurisdiction or control,
13 and shall cause such space, room or rooms to be open and in
14 proper order for use as a place of registration on each day when
15 such room or rooms may be desired by the registration commission
16 for use as a place of registration: Provided, That such use
17 shall not interfere with instruction for the conduct of which
18 such board of public education or school directors shall be
19 responsible.

20 (d) The proper city or county authorities shall furnish
21 suitable space, room or rooms in the city hall or any of its
22 annexes or other municipal or county building under their
23 jurisdiction or control, and shall cause such space, room or
24 rooms to be open on each day when such space, room or rooms may
25 be desired by the commission for use as a place of registration
26 or as an office of the commission: Provided, That such use shall
27 not interfere with the use for which such room or rooms is
28 primarily designed.

29 (e) The commission shall in reasonable time publicly
30 announce the address of each place of registration, each office

1 of the commission established for the registration of electors
2 other than its main office, and the days and hours when the
3 place or office shall be open for the registration of electors,
4 by posting thereat and at its main office a notice thereof and
5 [at least five placards or notices thereof in conspicuous places
6 in the neighborhood of such place of registration or office,
7 and] by such other means as it shall deem advisable.

8 Section 6. Section 18 of the act is repealed.

9 Section 7. Subsection (a) of section 19 of the act, amended
10 August 1, 1941 (P.L.702, No.277) and July 30, 1941 (P.L.710,
11 No.279), is amended to read:

12 Section 19. Registration Cards; Preparation and
13 Distribution.--(a) For the purpose of registering the qualified
14 electors of the city, the commission shall prepare registration
15 cards, serially numbered, in duplicate or triplicate, as the
16 commission may determine, and containing spaces for entering the
17 information required by section twenty and twenty and one-tenth
18 of this act, and either the following affidavit or the affidavit
19 prescribed in section twenty and one-tenth, as the case may be:

20 REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT

21 State of Pennsylvania

22 ss:

23 County of

24 I hereby swear, or affirm, that I am a citizen of the United
25 States, that on the day of the next election I shall be at least
26 [twenty-one] eighteen years of age, and shall have resided
27 in the State of Pennsylvania [for one year (or, having
28 previously been a qualified elector or a native born citizen of
29 the State and having removed and returned, then six months) next
30 preceding said election] thirty days and in the election

1 district [two months] thirty days, that I am legally
2 qualified to vote, that I have read (or have had read to me) the
3 foregoing statements made in connection with my registration
4 and that they are true and correct.

5 Subscribed and sworn to before me this
6 day of
7

8 (Signature of Registrar or Person Authorized to act as
9 Registrar)

10

11 Signature of Voter

12 Section 8. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

13 Section 19.1. Official Non Personal Voter Registration

14 Application Cards; Preparations and Distribution.--

15 (a) For the purpose of enabling qualified electors of each
16 city of the first class to register to vote, the Secretary of
17 the Commonwealth shall cause to be prepared and printed at the
18 expense of the Commonwealth, non personal voter registration
19 application cards containing spaces for entering the information
20 required by sections 20, 20.1 and 20.2 of this act. The form
21 shall be a self mailer so designed as to preserve the
22 confidentiality of the information required to be submitted by
23 the registrant. The form shall be serially numbered on the
24 application card itself, and on the portion which will be
25 returned to the voter to indicate receipt by the county board of
26 elections, and have attached to it, a numbered stub, which will
27 be removed by the registrant, prior to sending the form to the
28 county board of election, and which will be retained by the
29 registrant until he receives from the commission acknowledgment
30 that the application card has been received. The form shall also

1 be designed in order to require the applicant to affix two
2 signatures, one signature to be affixed under the declaration of
3 the applicant and the other signature on a removable label or
4 other device to be affixed under the information required of the
5 applicant. In addition, the form shall include a detachable
6 portion on which the registrant shall print his name, present
7 residential address, postal designation and zip code. Such
8 portion shall include on the reverse side, printed notification
9 to the registrant that his application form has been received
10 and is being processed by the county registration commission.
11 Such notification shall be sent within three days from receipt
12 thereof, by first class non-forwardable mail, return postage
13 guaranteed, with all postage costs to be paid by the State.

14 The form shall include such other information as the
15 Secretary of the Commonwealth may reasonably require and shall
16 also contain the following information:

17 (1) Notice that those currently registered do not need to
18 reregister unless they have moved or failed to vote at least
19 once during the immediately preceding two calendar years.

20 (2) Notice of a registrant's right to also register in
21 person.

22 (3) Instructions on how to fill out and submit the
23 application card and that the card must be received by the
24 appropriate county registration commission at least thirty days
25 prior to the ensuing primary or election at which the applicant
26 may offer to vote.

27 (4) Notice that the registrant must be a citizen of the
28 United States for at least one month, a resident of
29 Pennsylvania, the county and the election district for at least
30 thirty days, and must be eighteen years old on or before the day

following the ensuing primary or election at which the
registrant offers to vote.

(5) A notice that a naturalized citizen must show the date
when, place where, the court by which naturalized and the number
of the naturalization certificate.

(6) Notice that political party enrollment is mandatory to
vote in a primary election of a political party.

(7) Notice that the voter notification stub from the
application card form will be mailed non-forwardable and
advising the registrant to contact the county registration
commission in the event such notification stub is not received
within ten days from the date the application is sent to the
county board of elections.

(8) Information designating the name of each county seat
together with its post office mailing address and zip code and
telephone number.

(9) Notice that registration, enrollment or transfer is not
complete until the application card is processed, and accepted
by the commission.

(10) A warning to the registrant that the State penalty for
making a false registration or furnishing false information
shall be perjury punishable by fine of one thousand dollars
(\$1,000) and/or five years imprisonment, plus loss of suffrage
for ten years.

(11) Instructions to Federal or State employees who wish to
retain voting residence in the county of last residence to so
indicate on the application form.

(b) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall supply such
official registration application forms to all county
registration commissions, who shall supply forms when requested

1 while keeping a record of the serial numbers of said forms to
2 any person, and to all Federal, State, county, local
3 governmental and school district offices, to all political
4 parties, political bodies, candidates, organized bodies of
5 citizens, community service organizations, leagues of women
6 voters, postmasters of all post offices and to any civic,
7 religious, educational, fraternal, labor, news-media, charitable
8 or business organizations interested therein. In addition, the
9 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall request the proper
10 governmental agency to make an official registration application
11 card available to all persons applying for or changing address
12 for driver's license, library cards, senior citizen
13 transportation passes, entry to all schools and institutions of
14 higher education. Furthermore, the Secretary of the Commonwealth
15 may provide technical assistance to county registration
16 commissions upon request and shall contract with the United
17 States Postal Service for the payment of all postage costs for
18 the transmittal of said official registration application cards
19 to the registration commission by the registrant and the
20 transmittal of the notification receipt form to the registrant
21 by the registration commission.

22 Section 9. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 20 of the act,
23 subsection (a) amended September 19, 1961 (P.L.1493, No.636),
24 and subsection (b) amended July 31, 1941 (P.L.710, No.279), are
25 amended to read:

26 Section 20. Manner of Registration.--(a) Every person
27 claiming the right to be registered as an elector [must] may
28 appear in person before the commission, a commissioner, a clerk
29 or employe of the commission acting as registrar or a registrar
30 at the main office of the commission, or at such other office or

1 place as the commission shall have designated, and answer the
2 questions required to be asked in accordance with this act or
3 may register in any other manner provided by this act.

4 [Every person claiming the right to be registered as an
5 elector who is physically disabled so that he cannot appear in
6 person to be registered may request, in writing, that the
7 registration commission send a registrar to the residence of
8 such person for the purpose of registering such person in the
9 same manner as required by law of other persons appearing for
10 registration. The letter requesting such registration shall be
11 accompanied by a statement of the physician attending such
12 person, stating that such person is physically disabled to the
13 extent that such person is unable to appear at any of the
14 established places for registration. Upon receipt by the
15 registration commission of such a letter duly accompanied by the
16 required physician's statement, the registration commission
17 shall direct one of its registrars to go to the residence of
18 such disabled person and register him or her, as the case may
19 be.]

20 (b) [He] When registering in person, he shall first be sworn
21 or affirmed to the truth of the statements which he is about to
22 make, and informed that any wilful false statement will
23 constitute perjury and will be punishable as such. He then shall
24 be asked to state the facts required herein, and his answers,
25 together with the other information herein required, shall be
26 recorded in his presence by the registrar or by the person
27 authorized to act as a registrar or commission, in permanent
28 writing or typewriting, in triplicate or duplicate, as the
29 commission may determine, in the proper spaces on the
30 registration cards, as follows:

1 * * *

2 Section 10. Section 20.1 of the act, added August 1, 1941
3 (P.L.702, No.277), and amended August 14, 1963 (P.L.900,
4 No.432), is amended to read:

5 Section 20.1. Manner of Registration by Persons in Military
6 Service, Persons in the Merchant Marine, Persons in Religious
7 and Welfare Groups Officially Attached to and Serving with the
8 Armed Forces and Civilian Federal Personnel Overseas and their
9 Spouses and Dependents.--In addition to any other method herein
10 provided, the following persons may also be registered in the
11 manner hereinafter set forth under this section: (1) any person
12 in military service, his spouse and dependents; or (2) any
13 person in the Merchant Marine, his spouse and dependents; or (3)
14 any person in religious and welfare groups officially attached
15 to and serving with the Armed Forces, his spouse and dependents
16 or (4) any person who is a civilian employe of the United States
17 outside the territorial limits of the several states of the
18 United States and the District of Columbia, whether or not such
19 person is subject to the civil service laws and the
20 Classification Act of 1949 and whether or not paid from funds
21 appropriated by the Congress, his spouse and dependents.

22 (a) He may [make application] submit to the commission [for
23 a registration card] an official registration application card,
24 the form of which shall be determined and prescribed by the
25 Secretary of the Commonwealth. The commission is hereby
26 authorized to consider a request for an absentee ballot from any
27 person enumerated in this section as [an application for a
28 registration card] a request for an official registration
29 application card and to cause to be forwarded to any such
30 person, together with his absentee ballot and balloting

1 material, [a registration card, in duplicate] an official
2 registration application card, to be completed and [sworn to or
3 affirmed] the declaration signed prior to or concurrently with
4 the time of voting the absentee ballot: Provided, however, That
5 the envelope containing such executed [duplicate] official
6 registration [cards shall bear a postmark no later than the day
7 of the primary or election for which the absentee ballot is
8 being voted and] application card shall be received at the
9 office of the commission no later than the last date [as]
10 provided by law for the [canvassing] return of absentee ballots.

11 (b) The official registration application card shall require
12 the statement of, and shall provide sufficient space for the
13 following information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his
14 Christian name or names, (3) his civilian occupation, if any,
15 (4) the street or road and number, if any, of his home residence
16 and the date of leaving same, provided that in the event that
17 there is no street address, the applicant must list the nearest
18 cross street or road, (5) if his residence was a portion only of
19 a house, the location or number of the room or rooms, apartment,
20 flat or floor which he occupied, (6) the date his residence
21 began at the place which is his home residence, (7) his home
22 residence address when he last registered and the year of such
23 registration, including any former registration under any other
24 surname, (8) the sex of the applicant, (9) the color of the
25 applicant, (10) the state or territory of the United States or
26 the foreign country where he was born, (11) the date when, place
27 where, and the court by which naturalized, and the number of the
28 naturalization certificate, (12) if not naturalized personally,
29 the name of father, mother or husband through whom naturalized,
30 (13) whether he is unable by reason of illiteracy to read the

1 names on the ballot or voting machine labels, (14) whether he
2 has a physical disability which will render him unable to see or
3 mark the ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the
4 voting compartment or voting machine booth without assistance,
5 and, if so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of
6 the exact nature of such disability, (15) the designation of the
7 political party of the elector for the purpose of voting at
8 primaries, (16) the [affidavit] declaration of registration, as
9 hereinafter prescribed, which shall be signed by the elector,
10 [attested by the signature of any person authorized to
11 administer oaths,] (17) the height of the applicant in feet and
12 inches, (18) the color of his hair, (19) the color of his eyes,
13 (20) the date of his birth, (20.1) the designation by the
14 applicant that the official registration application card is
15 intended by the applicant for use as new registration, change of
16 address, change of name, or change of political party
17 affiliation. Each registration card for registration by persons
18 registering under this section shall also have (21) a sufficient
19 number of spaces thereon for the insertion by the commission,
20 but not by the applicant, of the ward and election district, if
21 any, in which the applicant resided on the date of leaving home
22 residence and to which he may from time to time remove after
23 returning to his home residence, together with his street
24 address in each such ward and district and the other data
25 required to be given upon such removal, (22) the date of each
26 election and primary at which the applicant votes after
27 registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub of the
28 ballot issued to him, or his number in the order of admission to
29 the voting machines, and (23) the signature or initials of the
30 election officer, commissioner, registrar or clerk, who enters

1 the record of voting on the card[: Provided, however, That the
2 applicant may state (24) his social security number].
3 Immediately following the spaces for inserting the required
4 information, the applicant shall affix his signature exactly as
5 it appears in clauses (1) and (2).

6 (c) In addition, the foregoing registration card shall
7 contain the following affidavit:

8 REGISTRATION [AFFIDAVIT] DECLARATION

9 I hereby [swear or affirm] declare that I am a citizen of
10 the United States, that on the day of the next ensuing primary
11 or election I shall be at least [twenty-one] eighteen years of
12 age, and shall have resided in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 [for one year (or having previously been a qualified elector or
14 a native born citizen of the Commonwealth and having removed and
15 returned, then six months)] and in the election district [sixty]
16 thirty days, that I [have read (or have had read to me)]
17 affirm that the [foregoing statements made in connection with
18 my registration and that they are] information provided herein is
19 true and correct, [and] that I am legally qualified to vote and
20 that I fully understand that this application will be accepted
21 for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit, and if it
22 contains a material false statement, shall be subject to the
23 same penalties for perjury as if I had been duly sworn.

24

25 Printed name of applicant.

26
27 Signature of applicant for registration.

28 [Sworn to and subscribed before me this

29 day of, 19...

30

1 Signature of any person authorized to
2 administer oaths.]

3 PENALTY FOR FALSIFYING DECLARATION

4 If any person shall sign an official registration application
5 card knowing any statement declared therein to be false, he
6 shall be guilty of perjury, and upon conviction, shall be
7 sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars
8 (\$1,000), or be imprisoned for a term not exceeding five years,
9 or both, at the discretion of the court. In addition, sentence
10 shall include loss of the right of suffrage absolutely for a
11 term of ten years.

12 (d) [Upon written application by any person who may register
13 under the provisions of this section to the registration
14 commission having jurisdiction in the city in which the
15 applicant resided on the date of leaving his home residence, a
16 registration card, in the form herein prescribed, in duplicate,
17 shall be mailed to the applicant at the address given in such
18 application. Such person shall thereupon supply the information
19 required on the registration card, in duplicate, and shall take
20 the affidavit thereto, in duplicate, in the presence of any
21 person authorized to administer oaths, and shall mail the same,
22 in duplicate, to the registration commission from which it was
23 procured.] Any person registering to vote under this section who
24 is unable to sign his official registration application card
25 shall make his mark and acknowledge same before an officer
26 qualified to take acknowledgments of deeds.

27 (e) Registration in the manner prescribed for by persons
28 registering under this section may be made at any time:

29 (f) The status of any person qualified to register under
30 this section with respect to residence shall remain as the same

1 home residence from which he is qualified to register: Provided,
2 however, That if at the time of leaving such home address any
3 person shall not have resided in Pennsylvania or in a particular
4 election district thereof for a sufficient time to have been
5 entitled to be registered, but by continued residence would have
6 become so entitled, he shall be entitled to be registered at
7 such time as he would have been so entitled had he not left such
8 home address and had continued to reside where he then resided.

9 (g) [Registration] Official registration application cards
10 returned by persons qualified to register under this section to
11 any registration commission shall be examined by a member of the
12 commission or any clerk or registrar upon being received. The
13 right of such person to be registered shall [not] be subject to
14 challenge for any reason [other than] for which a personal
15 registration may be challenged and for the failure to have
16 mailed the commission a properly completed official registration
17 application card. If the commission finds the official
18 registration application card not properly completed it shall
19 reject it in the manner hereinafter provided.

20 Section 11. Section 20.1 of the act, added July 31, 1941
21 (P.L.710, No.279), and amended June 28, 1947 (P.L.1030, No.438),
22 is renumbered and amended to read:

23 Section [20.1] 20.1A. (a) When the non personal registration
24 of an elector has been fully processed and accepted, the
25 commission shall transmit to such registered elector by first
26 class non forwardable mail a wallet sized voter's identification
27 card setting forth the same information required in subsection
28 (b).

29 (b) When the personal registration of an elector [registered
30 thereafter] has been completed, the registrar, commissioner,

1 employe or clerk shall deliver to such registered elector a
2 [written or printed statement signed by such registrar,
3 commissioner, employe or clerk,] a wallet sized voter's
4 identification card setting forth the name and address of the
5 elector, his ward and district, the fact of registration,
6 designation of party enrollment, the date thereof, the serial
7 number of the elector's registration card, space wherein the
8 elector shall affix his signature or mark, and such other
9 information as the commission may deem advisable. Each such
10 statement shall contain a warning to the effect that the said
11 statement relates only to the time of the issuance thereof and
12 is not of itself evidence or proof of the elector's
13 qualifications to vote at any election or primary. Upon request
14 made at the office of the commission by any registered elector
15 who has been registered prior thereto, the commission, if
16 satisfied that such elector is a qualified elector of the
17 district in which he is registered, shall mail or deliver such a
18 statement of his registration to such elector.

19 Section 12. Section 20.2 of the act, added August 14, 1963
20 (P.L.900, No.432), is amended to read:

21 Section 20.2. Manner of [Absentee] Registration by Certain
22 [Ill or Disabled] Electors.--Any elector [who is unable to
23 appear in person to register because of illness or physical
24 disability] may, in addition to any other method herein
25 provided, also be registered in the [following] manner set forth
26 in this section:

27 (a) He may [make application] submit, either by mail, in
28 person or by authorized representative, to the commission [for a
29 registration card] an official registration application card,
30 the form of which shall be determined and prescribed by the

1 Secretary of the Commonwealth.

2 (b) The official registration application card shall require
3 the statement of, and shall provide sufficient space for the
4 following information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his
5 Christian name or names, (3) his occupation, if any, (4) the
6 street or road and number of his residence providing that in the
7 event there is no street address, the applicant must list the
8 nearest cross street or road, (5) if his residence is a portion
9 only of a house, the location or number of the room or rooms,
10 apartment, flat or floor which he occupies, (6) the date his
11 residence began at the place at which he resides, (7) his
12 residence address when he last registered and the year of such
13 registration, including any former registration under any other
14 surname, (8) the sex of the applicant, (9) the color of the
15 applicant, (10) the state or territory of the United States or
16 the foreign country where he was born, (11) the date when, place
17 where, and the court by which naturalized, and the number of the
18 naturalization certificate, (12) if not naturalized personally
19 the name of father, mother or husband through whom naturalized,
20 (13) whether he is unable by reason of illiteracy to read the
21 names on the ballot or on voting machine labels, (14) whether he
22 has a physical disability which will render him unable to see or
23 mark the ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the
24 voting compartment or voting machine booth without assistance
25 and, if so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of
26 the exact nature of such disability, (15) the designation of the
27 political party of the elector for the purpose of voting at
28 primaries, (16) the [affidavit] declaration of registration as
29 hereinafter prescribed which shall be signed by the elector
30 [attested by the signature of any person authorized to

1 administer oaths or affirmations], (17) the height of the
2 applicant in feet and inches, (18) the color of his hair, (19)
3 the color of his eyes, (20) the date of his birth, (20.1) the
4 designation by the applicant that the official registration
5 application card is intended by the applicant for use as
6 registration change of address, change of name, or change of
7 political party affiliation. Each official registration
8 application card for electors registering in the manner
9 prescribed by this section shall also have a sufficient number
10 of spaces thereon for the insertion of (21) the ward and
11 election district, if any, in which the applicant resides and to
12 which he may, from time to time, remove together with his street
13 address in each such ward and district and the other data
14 required to be given upon such removal, (22) the date of each
15 election and primary at which the applicant votes after
16 registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub of the
17 ballot issued to him or his number in the order of admission to
18 the voting machines, and (23) the signature or initials of the
19 election officer, commissioner, registrar or clerk, who enters
20 the record of voting on the card[: Provided, however, That the
21 applicant may state (24) his social security number].
22 Immediately following the spaces for inserting the required
23 information, the applicant shall affix his signature exactly as
24 it appears in clauses (1) and (2).

25 (c) In addition, the foregoing official registration
26 application card shall contain the following [affidavit]
27 registration declaration and penalty for falsifying such
28 declaration:

29 REGISTRATION [AFFIDAVIT] DECLARATION

30 I hereby [swear or affirm] declare that I am a citizen of the

1 United States, that on the day of the next ensuing primary or
2 election I shall be at least [twenty-one] eighteen years of age,
3 and shall have resided in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania [for
4 one year (or having previously been a qualified elector or a
5 native born citizen of the Commonwealth and having removed and
6 returned, then six months)], and in the election district
7 [sixty] thirty days, [that I am now legally entitled to register
8 under this section by virtue of being ill or disabled,] that I
9 am legally qualified to vote, that I [have read (or have had
10 read to me) the foregoing statements made in connection with my
11 registration, and that they are] affirm that the information
12 provided herein is true and correct and that I fully understand
13 that this application will be accepted for all purposes as the
14 equivalent of an affidavit, and if it contains a material false
15 statement, shall be subject to the same penalties for perjury as
16 if I had been duly sworn

17

18 Date of Signature

19

20 Printed name of applicant

21

22 Signature of applicant for registration.

23 [Sworn to and subscribed before me this

24 day of,

25 19....

26

27 Signature of any person authorized to

28 administer oaths or affirmations.]

29 PENALTY FOR FALSIFYING DECLARATION

30 If any person shall sign an official registration application

1 card knowing any statement declared therein to be false, he
2 shall be guilty of perjury, and upon conviction, shall be
3 sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars
4 (\$1,000), or be imprisoned for a term not exceeding five years,
5 or both, at the discretion of the court. In addition, sentence
6 shall include loss of the right of suffrage absolutely for a
7 term of ten years.

8 (d) [Upon written application by an elector in the manner
9 prescribed by this section to the registration commission having
10 jurisdiction in the city in which the applicant resides, a
11 registration card in the form herein prescribed, in duplicate,
12 shall be mailed, postage prepaid, to the applicant at the
13 address given in such application. Such elector shall thereupon
14 supply the information required on the registration card, in
15 duplicate, and shall take the affidavit thereto, in duplicate,
16 in the presence of any person authorized to administer oaths or
17 affirmations and shall have delivered or mail the same, in
18 duplicate, to the registration commission from which it was
19 procured.] Any person registering under this section who is
20 unable to sign his official registration application card shall
21 make his mark and acknowledged before an official who is
22 qualified to take acknowledgment of deeds.

23 (e) Registration in the manner prescribed by this section
24 may be made at any time. If any registration card is received by
25 any registration commission from any elector so registering any
26 time when registration by personal appearance in the manner
27 provided in section 20 of this act could not be made under the
28 provisions of section 17 of this act, such application shall be
29 retained by the commission until the beginning of the next
30 period during which such registration by personal appearance

1 could be made and at such time the applicant, if otherwise
2 entitled, shall be duly registered.

3 (f) [Registration] Official registration application cards
4 returned by electors [registering in the manner prescribed by]
5 qualified to register under this section to any registration
6 commission shall be examined by a member of the commission or
7 any clerk or registrar [at a time and place when personal
8 registrations are] upon being received [and such member of the
9 commission, clerk or registrar shall announce in the hearing of
10 all present the name and address of the elector who has thus
11 offered to register]. The right of such elector to be registered
12 shall be subject to challenge in like manner and for the same
13 causes as set forth in section 22 of this act and for failure to
14 have mailed the commission a properly completed official
15 registration application card. If the commission finds the
16 registration card not properly completed, it shall reject it in
17 the manner hereinafter provided.

18 Section 13. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

19 Section 20.3. Approval of Official Registration Application
20 Cards.--(a) The commission, upon receipt of an official
21 registration application card, shall make an entry of the date
22 received on each application and on the corresponding
23 notification of receipt stub. In the event the applicant does
24 not reside within the city, but resides elsewhere in
25 Pennsylvania, the commission shall forthwith forward such
26 application card to the proper county registration commission.
27 In all other cases, the commission shall forthwith detach the
28 notification stub as provided for in subsection (a) of section
29 19.1 of this act, and send the same to the applicant by first
30 class non-forwardable mail, return postage guaranteed, with such

1 postage costs to be paid by the State.

2 (b) If the official registration application card shall
3 contain the required information indicating that the applicant
4 is legally qualified to register as stated in his application,
5 the commission shall transfer all information on such
6 application card to a registration card, serially numbered in
7 duplicate as provided in section 17 of this act, provided that
8 the official registration application card may serve as the
9 registration card of the applicant in the general file. The
10 commission shall detach the signature portion from the
11 application form and affix it in the proper space on the
12 original registration card to be inserted in the district
13 register.

14 (c) If the official registration application card is one for
15 transfer of registration and party enrollment and shall contain
16 the required information, and the applicant is legally qualified
17 to transfer his registration or change his party enrollment as
18 stated in his application, the commission shall thereupon make
19 such transfer.

20 (d) If the official registration application card is one for
21 change of party enrollment and shall contain the required
22 information, the party enrollment of such applicant shall be
23 effective no later than the next primary.

24 (e) If the official registration application card is not in
25 compliance with this act the commission shall mark "REJECTED" on
26 the application form together with the reason for rejection and
27 return same to the applicant by first class non-forwardable
28 mail, return postage guaranteed.

29 (f) Upon the return by the post office of an applicant's
30 notification stub which the post office is unable to deliver at

1 the given address, the commission shall cause an investigation
2 to be made. In the event the commission finds the applicant is
3 not qualified from such an address, the commission shall reject
4 the application and notify the applicant by first class mail of
5 such action.

6 (g) The commission shall undertake such street canvasses by
7 inspectors to verify residence of those registered and to
8 determine if there are unregistered eligible voters residing at
9 these addresses. When the inspectors find or believe that there
10 are unregistered voters at a residency or voters who have
11 changed addresses they shall leave sufficient official
12 registration application cards for all potentially eligible
13 voters who are unregistered or need to change their
14 registrations. There must be at least one inspector for each
15 twenty thousand (20,000) registered voters as of the last
16 election: Provided, That each registration specialist employed
17 under section 5 (i) may be considered an inspector for purposes
18 of this section.

19 (h) If the registration commission suspects that for any
20 reason the applicant is not entitled to registration, change of
21 party affiliation, change of address or change of name, the
22 commission may cause an investigation to be made in reference
23 thereto. If the commission shall find that the applicant is not
24 qualified to register, change party affiliation, change address
25 or change name, the application shall be rejected and the
26 applicant notified of such rejection with the reason therefor,
27 provided that such rejection must be made no later than ten (10)
28 days before the ensuing primary or election succeeding the
29 filing of the official registration application card.

30 Section 14. Section 23 of the act, amended June 7, 1961

1 (P.L.273, No.159), is amended to read:

2 Section 23. Naturalized Applicants; Applicants Whose
3 Fathers, Mothers or Husbands Were Naturalized.--All persons
4 claiming the right to vote by reason of naturalization shall
5 [produce the proper naturalization papers, or a certified copy
6 thereof, before they shall be registered] declare the date when,
7 place where and court by which they were naturalized and the
8 number of the naturalization certificate: Provided, That any
9 person claiming citizenship by reason of the naturalization of
10 his father or mother [may be registered either by the production
11 of his father's or mother's original papers, or a certified copy
12 thereof, or by making affidavit as to the court in which, and
13 time when,] during his minority shall declare the date when,
14 place where, and the court by which his father or mother was
15 naturalized, and the date of his birth, indicating that he, the
16 applicant, then acquired citizenship and that he is unable to
17 produce his father's or mother's naturalization papers or a
18 certified copy thereof, stating the reason: And provided
19 further, That any woman claiming citizenship by reason of her
20 marriage prior to September twenty-second, one thousand nine
21 hundred and twenty-two, may be registered either (a) by the
22 production of her husband's original naturalization papers or a
23 certified copy thereof, or by making affidavit that her husband
24 was naturalized prior to their marriage stating therein the date
25 and place of their marriage, the time when, and the court in
26 which such naturalization was effected, and that she is unable
27 to produce his original naturalization papers or a certified
28 copy thereof, stating the reason therefor, or (b) by the
29 production of evidence that her husband was a native born
30 citizen of the United States or by making affidavit of such fact

1 stating therein the place and date of her husband's birth and
2 the date and place of their marriage. Each such affidavit shall
3 be filed with the registration affidavit of the person whose
4 registration it affects, and shall be returned therewith to the
5 office of the registration commission.

6 A person who has previously been registered in any city of
7 the first class and moves to another address in the same city
8 may be reregistered notwithstanding his inability to produce
9 documentary proof of citizenship, if such proof was submitted in
10 connection with his prior registration and the fact thereof was
11 noted on his registration record: And further provided, That
12 such person has voted within three years of the date of such
13 reregistration.

14 Section 15. Section 24 of the act, amended August 1, 1941
15 (P.L.702, No.277), is amended to read:

16 Section 24. Incomplete or Rejected Application to Be
17 Recorded.--The registrar, clerk or commissioner shall record on
18 registration cards the surname, Christian name or names, and
19 street and number of residence of each person who applies for
20 registration, whether or not the application is accepted.
21 Whenever the applicant is rejected after a portion of the record
22 has been filled in, the registration card or cards shall be
23 marked "Applicant Rejected," and the registrar, clerk or
24 commissioner shall note thereon the reason for the rejection and
25 shall sign his name thereto. The registrar, clerk or
26 commissioner shall forthwith personally notify the applicant if
27 his application for registration is rejected: Provided, however,
28 That if [the] an official registration application card was
29 received by mail [from a person in military service] or from the
30 personal representative of the elector, notice of rejection

1 shall be by mail. All such cards shall be returned to the
2 commission and shall be preserved for a period of two years.

3 Section 16. Section 26 of the act amended July 31, 1941
4 (P.L.710, No.279), is amended to read:

5 Section 26. General Register.--A copy of the registration
6 affidavits for the entire city shall be placed in cabinets in
7 exact alphabetical order and indexed as to name, and shall be
8 kept at the office of the commission in a place and in such
9 manner as to be properly safeguarded. These affidavits shall
10 constitute the general register of such city, and shall not be
11 removed from the office of the commission, nor open to public
12 inspection, except upon order of the court of common pleas of
13 the county wherein such city is located, upon sufficient cause
14 having been shown. The official registration application card of
15 an elector who has registered by using a non personal voter
16 registration application card may qualify as a duplicate
17 registration card.

18 Section 17. Section 27 of the act, amended July 31, 1941
19 (P.L.710, No.279), is amended to read:

20 Section 27. District Registers; [Triplicate] Registration
21 Cards.--

22 (a) The original registration affidavits shall be filed by
23 election districts, and within each election district, in exact
24 alphabetical order, or in the order in which their residences
25 appear upon the streets of the election district and in exact
26 alphabetical order for each residence, as the commission may
27 determine, and shall be visibly indexed as to name and voting
28 record. The affidavits so filed for each election district shall
29 constitute the district register for such district. The district
30 register shall be kept at the office of the commission, except

1 as herein provided and shall be open to public inspection,
2 subject to reasonable safeguards, rules and regulations and to
3 the provisions of this act.

4 (b) The commission shall safely retain all [triplicate]
5 registration affidavits or cards now in its custody, and such as
6 it may under the provisions of this act hereafter require to be
7 used in the registration of electors, for the same period of
8 time as the commission is required to retain all other
9 registration affidavits or cards and in such order or manner as
10 it may by regulation direct. Any such [triplicate] registration
11 affidavit or card may be substituted for a lost, destroyed or
12 mislaid original or duplicate affidavit or card of the same
13 elector on order of the commission endorsed thereon and signed
14 by a commissioner, and such [triplicate] affidavit or card when
15 so substituted shall be deemed and considered for all purposes
16 as though it shall be the original or duplicate affidavit or
17 card, as the case may be.

18 (c) All official registration application cards shall be
19 deemed original registration affidavits for the purposes of this
20 section.

21 Section 18. Sections 28 and 29 of the act, amended June 3,
22 1943 (P.L.855, No.359), are amended to read:

23 Section 28. Removal Notices.--The commission shall provide
24 forms of removal notices, which it shall cause to be made
25 available for the convenient use of registered electors. These
26 notices shall be printed upon cards suitable for mailing,
27 addressed to the office of the registration commission and shall
28 contain spaces wherein the elector shall write--(1) the street
29 and number of his present residence and the specific location
30 thereof, including the number of the room, apartment, flat or

1 floor in his residence, if a portion only of a house; (2) the
2 street and number of the address from which he was last
3 registered; (3) the date of his removal to his present address;
4 (4) the serial number of his registration card; (5) space
5 wherein the elector shall sign his name and insert the date of
6 signing; (6) space wherein two registered electors of the
7 district to which he has removed shall sign their names and
8 addresses, certifying to the truth of the statement on said
9 notice as to his present place of residence. The removal notice
10 shall contain a statement that the elector may, by filling out
11 properly and signing a removal notice, having it witnessed as
12 aforesaid and returning it to the office of the commission, have
13 his change of residence entered on the registers. Each removal
14 notice shall contain a warning to the elector that the notice
15 will not be accepted unless the signature thereon can be
16 identified by the commission with the elector's signature in the
17 general and district register, and that if he notifies the
18 commission of a change of his residence address knowing or
19 having reason to know that he is not entitled to have his
20 residence address changed, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor
21 and subject to the penalties as provided by this act. Each
22 removal notice, to be effective, must be received either through
23 the mail or by delivery at the office of the commission,
24 postmarked or delivered, as the case may be, not later than [the
25 tenth day] thirty days prior to any primary or election, and
26 must have been signed by the elector within ten days prior to
27 the date of mailing or delivery. Warning of these provisions
28 shall also appear on each removal notice form. An official
29 registration application card of any elector who has registered
30 by mail may qualify as a removal notice.

1 Section 29. Recording Change of Residence.--(a) Upon receipt
2 of a removal notice properly filled out, and executed on the
3 form prescribed by the commission within the time and in the
4 manner provided by this act, containing the required information
5 and setting forth a removal of residence to another location in
6 the same district, the commission shall cause the signature
7 thereon to be compared with the signature on the registration
8 affidavit of the elector from whom the removal notice purports
9 to come, and, if the signature shall appear authentic, shall
10 enter the change of residence in the registers. In any case, the
11 commission shall advise the elector promptly in writing of its
12 action.

13 (c) If the commission shall doubt that the request is
14 authentic, it shall, without entering the change of residence,
15 promptly notify the elector that it will be necessary for him to
16 apply in person at any office of the commission to have the
17 change of residence entered in the registers.

18 (d) [No elector who is unable to write his name shall be
19 permitted to apply for the recording of his change of residence
20 by use of a written removal notice, but each such elector must
21 apply in person at any office of the commission, or any place of
22 registration, on one of the days and at such time as prescribed
23 for the registration of electors, establish his identity, and
24 state, under oath or affirmation, to which he shall affix his
25 mark in the presence of a registrar, clerk or commissioner, who
26 shall affix his own signature thereto as a witness, the
27 information required of registered electors in a removal
28 notice.] Any [other] elector may also appear in person at any
29 office of the commission or any place of registration on any of
30 the said days and apply for the recording of his change of

1 residence within the same district, in which case the signatures
2 of two registered electors of the district shall not be
3 required, if such elector shall establish his identity, and,
4 after stating under oath or affirmation the information required
5 in a removal notice, shall sign the same in the presence of a
6 registrar, clerk or commissioner, who shall affix his own
7 signature thereto as a witness.

8 (e) Immediately upon the receipt of a removal notice by the
9 commission, it shall note thereon the date of receipt and number
10 the same in the order of its receipt, and shall forthwith mail
11 to the elector an acknowledgment of the receipt of such notice,
12 stating the date of receipt and the number assigned to it and
13 that the elector will be advised by the commission of the action
14 taken thereon. Each acknowledgment so mailed shall contain on
15 the outside a request to the postmaster to return it to the
16 commission within five days if it cannot be delivered to the
17 addressee at the address given thereon and not to forward the
18 same to any other address. In the event that any such removal
19 notice shall be filed or application made for the recording of
20 his change of residence as provided in clause (d) of this
21 section by an elector at any place of registration or at any
22 office of the commission, a similar acknowledgment shall be
23 delivered to him by the registrar, clerk or employes receiving
24 the same, signed by him: Provided, however, That such removal
25 notices and applications shall be numbered by the registrar,
26 clerk or employe in the order of their receipt at the respective
27 registration places or offices. The commission may cause blank
28 forms of acknowledgments to be physically attached to the
29 removal notices and applications and may require the elector to
30 insert his name and new address thereon before filing the same.

1 Section 19. Section 30 of the act, amended July 31, 1941
2 (P.L.710, No.279), August 14, 1963 (P.L.900, No.432), and March
3 26, 1973 (P.L.9, No.3), is amended to read:

4 Section 30. Change of Party Enrollment; Notice Change of
5 Enrollment of Political Party; Cancellation of Party Enrollment;
6 Persons Suffering Disability After Registration to Have Fact
7 Recorded; Cancellation.--(a) The commission shall provide change
8 of party enrollment notices, which it shall cause to be
9 available for the convenient use of registered electors. Those
10 notices shall be printed upon cards and shall contain spaces
11 wherein shall be recorded under oath--(1) the street and number
12 of the elector's residence; (2) his ward and election district;
13 (3) the political party in which he is enrolled; (4) the
14 political party in which he desires to be enrolled; (5) the
15 signature of the elector; (6) the serial number of his
16 registration card. Any person who is duly registered and is a
17 member of any of the categories enumerated in sections 20.1 and
18 20.2 herein who desires to change his party enrollment shall be
19 permitted to do so by addressing to the commission a signed
20 written application under oath taken and subscribed to before
21 any person authorized to administer oaths or by submitting an
22 official registration application card designated as a change of
23 party enrollment. The application [shall] may be sent by the
24 applicant[, if outside the continental limits of the United
25 States by registered mail, return receipt required, otherwise by
26 certified mail, return receipt required, and shall also contain
27 a statement that such person is at the time of making the
28 application absent from his residence or is ill or disabled.] by
29 mail, or by any other means. If, upon examination, the signature
30 appears authentic and the application conforms to the provisions

1 of this section, the enrollment shall be changed in accordance
2 with the application. In the event a registered elector changes
3 his party enrollment between any primary and the following
4 November or municipal election, such party enrollment change
5 shall become effective no later than the next ensuing primary.

6 (b) At any time except the thirty days next preceding the
7 primary election and except the thirty days next following an
8 election, any person who desires to change his party enrollment,
9 or who, although registered, has not hitherto enrolled as member
10 of a party, shall appear at any office of the commission or
11 before the registrars in his ward or district, and sign the
12 change of party enrollment notice, or shall submit an official
13 registration application card designated as a change of party
14 enrollment containing the information required by subsection (a)
15 of this section, stating the designation of the political party
16 in which he desires to be enrolled: Provided, however, That no
17 registered elector shall be permitted to change his party
18 enrollment between any primary and the following general or
19 municipal election, nor more than once between any November
20 election and the following primary election. The commission
21 shall cause the signature thereon to be compared with the
22 signature on the general and district registers, and, if the
23 signatures appear authentic, shall enter the change of
24 enrollment of political party in the registers, unless such
25 elector is prohibited from changing his party enrollment as
26 aforesaid. In the event a registered elector changes his party
27 enrollment between any primary and the following November or
28 municipal election, such party enrollment change shall become
29 effective no later than the next ensuing primary.

30 (c) Any elector who is unable to write his name shall, in

1 addition, establish his identity, and shall affix his mark, in
2 lieu of his signature, in the presence of a registrar, clerk or
3 commissioner, who shall affix his own signature thereto as a
4 witness to the information required in the change of party
5 enrollment notice.

6 (d) At any time not later than the thirtieth day preceding
7 any primary, any qualified elector of the city, including any
8 watcher, may petition the commission to cancel the party
9 enrollment of any registered elector of such city who has
10 previously enrolled as a member of a party for the purpose of
11 voting at primary elections, setting forth, under oath, that he
12 believes that such elector is not a member of the party with
13 which he has been enrolled, and also setting forth that due
14 notice of the time and place when said petition would be
15 presented had been given to the person so registered, at least
16 forty-eight hours prior to presentation of the same, by
17 delivering a copy of the said petition to him personally or by
18 leaving it with an adult member of the family with which he
19 resides. If, at or before the hearing of any such petition, the
20 elector against whom the petition is filed files an affidavit
21 with the commission in which he swears or affirms that, at the
22 last election at which he voted, he voted for a majority of the
23 candidates of the party as a member of which he desires to be
24 enrolled, all of the candidates of a party for presidential
25 elector being counted as two candidates, the petition shall be
26 refused, otherwise, the party enrollment of such elector shall
27 be forthwith cancelled.

28 (e) Any elector who has, since the time of registration,
29 suffered a physical disability which renders him unable to see
30 or mark the ballot or prepare the voting machine, or to enter

1 the voting compartment or voting machine booth, without
2 assistance shall, at least seven days prior to the next
3 succeeding primary or election, personally make application,
4 under oath, to the commission or registrars to have such fact
5 entered on his registration affidavit, together with the exact
6 nature of his physical disability, which entry shall be made
7 accordingly.

8 (f) When the commission shall ascertain that any elector who
9 has declared his need for assistance is no longer illiterate, or
10 no longer suffers from the disability stated by him, it shall
11 cancel on his registration affidavit the entry relating to
12 illiteracy or physical disability which authorized him to have
13 assistance, and shall forthwith notify such elector by mail of
14 this action.

15 Section 20. Section 32 of the act is amended by adding a
16 clause to read:

17 Section 32. Mail Check-up of Register.--* * *

18 (e) For new registrants or for persons changing their
19 registration and using the official registration application
20 card, the notification stub may serve as the mail check-up of
21 register.

22 Section 21. Section 33 of the act is amended by adding a
23 subsection to read:

24 Section 33. Canvass of Registered Voters.--* * *

25 (f) Non personal voter registration specialists will conduct
26 a personal canvass of a substantial number of persons who
27 registered to vote by submitting a non personal voter
28 registration application card, but in no event less than ten per
29 cent of those so registered during a period when personal
30 registrations are being accepted, to verify the authenticity of

1 the information sworn to on the official registration
2 application cards and to complete any otherwise incomplete
3 application cards.

4 Section 22. Section 37 of the act, subsection (c) added July
5 31, 1941 (P.L.710, No.279), is amended to read:

6 Section 37. Delivery of District Registers to Commissioners
7 in Charge of Elections.--(a) Not later than noon of the Friday
8 preceding an election or primary, the commission shall deliver
9 to the commissioners in charge of the election or primary the
10 district registers for that district, accurately corrected to
11 date, together with other election materials for use on election
12 day, in the manner in which such commissioners now are or
13 hereafter may be required to deliver the same: Provided,
14 however, That the registration commission shall not deliver to
15 the commissioners in charge of elections the registration card,
16 for use at the polls on election day, for any person who has
17 removed from one election district to another within [two
18 months] thirty days of any general, municipal, primary or
19 special election.

20 (b) District registers, when so delivered to the
21 commissioners in charge of elections, shall be contained in
22 suitable binders so constructed and locked that the name,
23 address, voting record, and other data on each card may be
24 visible, and that entries may be made on each card, but that the
25 cards cannot be removed by the election officers. Said binders
26 shall be enclosed within a case or container and shall be locked
27 and sealed by the commission before delivery to the
28 commissioners in charge of elections.

29 Said binders shall have printed or written thereon the words
30 "District Register of Voters" and the number of the district and

1 ward.

2 (c) In the event that any of said district registers when so
3 delivered shall contain the names of registered electors not
4 contained in the street list posted in the district as required
5 by section thirty-four (b), or shall omit names of registered
6 electors contained in said street list, then the said registers
7 shall be accompanied by a list showing such names as were added
8 and such names as were omitted with a brief explanation or key
9 showing the cause for such addition or omission. Such list shall
10 remain in the polling place on election day open to public
11 inspection. One copy of such list shall be posted at the office
12 of the commission at the time of the delivery of the binders and
13 shall remain posted until after the next succeeding election,
14 and one copy of such list shall be furnished to the chairman of
15 the city committee of each party entitled to a ballot at the
16 preceding primary.

17 Section 23. Section 40 of the act, amended May 23, 1945
18 (P.L.898, No.361), is amended to read:

19 Section 40. Cancellation of Registration upon Failure to
20 Vote Within Certain Periods; Request for Reinstatement;
21 Correction of Errors of the Commission in Cancellation of
22 Registrations.--[Within three months after the first day of
23 January of] During each year, the commission shall cause all of
24 the district registers to be examined, and in the case of each
25 registered elector who is not recorded as having voted at any
26 election or primary during the two calendar years immediately
27 preceding, the commission shall send to such elector by mail, at
28 his address appearing upon his registration affidavit, a notice,
29 setting forth that the records of the commission indicate that
30 he has not voted during the two immediately preceding calendar

1 years, and that his registration will be cancelled [at the
2 expiration of ten days from the date of mailing such notice] if
3 he does not vote in the next primary or election or unless he
4 shall, within [that period] ten days of the next primary or
5 election, file with the commission, [either personally or by
6 mail,] a written request for reinstatement of his registration,
7 signed by him, setting forth his place of residence. A list of
8 the persons to whom such notices shall have been mailed shall be
9 sent promptly to the city chairman of the political party of
10 which the electors were registered as members. At the expiration
11 of the time specified in the notice, the commission shall cause
12 the registration of such elector to be cancelled unless he has
13 filed with the commission a signed request for reinstatement of
14 his registration as above provided. The official registration
15 application card of an elector who has registered may qualify as
16 a reinstatement of his registration or a removal notice. The
17 cancellation of the registration of any such elector for failure
18 to vote during the two immediately preceding calendar years
19 shall not affect the right of any such elector to subsequently
20 register [by personal application] in the manner provided by
21 this act.

22 Whenever the registration of an elector has been cancelled
23 through error, such elector may petition the commission for the
24 reinstatement of his registration not later than the tenth day
25 preceding any primary or election, and after a hearing on said
26 application, if error on the part of the commission is proved,
27 the commission shall reinstate the registration of such elector.

28 Section 24. Section 44 of the act, repealed as to witness
29 fees by act of July 21, 1941 (P.L.425, No.173), is amended to
30 read:

1 Section 44. Subpoenas and Witness Fees.--(a) Any person
2 filing any petition of any kind aforesaid with the commission,
3 or opposing same, shall have the privilege of having subpoenas
4 issued by the commission to compel the attendance of witnesses
5 upon condition that all witnesses so subpoenaed shall be paid
6 [two dollars and fifty cents] twenty dollars per day as witness
7 fees, in the manner herein provided.

8 (b) The commission, on its own motion, may subpoena
9 witnesses, including registrars, each of whom shall also be
10 entitled to daily witness fees, [at the rate aforesaid] to be
11 paid out of any money to be provided for the purpose to the
12 commission by the appropriating authority of the county in the
13 same manner as other necessary expenses of such commission are
14 to be provided for.

15 (c) All subpoenas shall be in substantially the same form
16 and shall have the same force and effect as subpoenas now issued
17 by a court of common pleas. The commission shall have the
18 benefit of the process of said courts, if necessary, to enforce
19 any subpoena issued by such commission.

20 (d) No subpoena shall be issued for the benefit of any
21 person, other than the commission, until he shall have paid the
22 commission a fee of twenty-five cents for issuing the same, and
23 deposited with said commission one day's witness fees for each
24 witness to be summoned thereby, whose names shall be given to
25 the commission and entered by it in such subpoena, and no such
26 subpoena shall be of any virtue to require the further
27 attendance of any witness after the day mentioned therein unless
28 the hearing be postponed or continued by the commission, and
29 unless, before four o'clock postmeridian of said day, the person
30 for whose benefit it be issued shall have deposited with the

1 said commission an additional day's witness fees for each
2 witness whose further attendance is desired. As soon as
3 convenient after any hearing is concluded (or postponed or
4 continued) on any day, the commission shall disburse the fees
5 deposited with it by any person aforesaid among these witnesses
6 who have appeared in response to subpoenas issued as aforesaid,
7 and shall return to the person who deposited the same any fees
8 deposited for others who did not attend, and shall also pay like
9 fees to any summoned by the commission as aforesaid, taking
10 their receipts therefor, as long as there are sufficient funds
11 available for such payments.

12 (e) The commission shall pay over to the city treasurer all
13 fees received for subpoenas. The accounts of such commission
14 respecting disbursements of witness fees out of appropriation
15 made to such commission by the appropriating authority of the
16 city shall be subject to audit from time to time by the city
17 controller.

18 Section 25. Subsection (d) of section 45 of the act is
19 amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to
20 read:

21 Section 45. Crimes and Penalties.--* * *

22 (d) Any person who applies for registration, or who notifies
23 the commission of a change of his residence address, knowing, or
24 having reason to know, that he is not entitled to be registered,
25 or have his residence address changed, or any person who
26 declares as his residence a place or address which he knows or
27 has reason to know is not his legal residence, or who falsely
28 personates another in an application for registration, or who
29 knowingly offers false naturalization [papers] information to
30 establish his claim to be registered, shall be guilty of a

1 misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to
2 pay a fine not exceeding one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, or to
3 undergo an imprisonment [of not more than three (3) years] not
4 exceeding five (5) years, or both. In addition, sentence shall
5 include the loss of the right of suffrage absolutely for a term
6 of ten (10) years.

7 * * *

8 (q) Any wilful false statement made by a registrant in
9 information set forth by such registrant on the official
10 registration application card shall be perjury, and any
11 registrant convicted thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine
12 not exceeding one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, and to undergo
13 an imprisonment not exceeding five (5) years, or both. In
14 addition, sentence shall include the loss of the right of
15 suffrage absolutely for a term of ten (10) years.

16 (r) It shall be a misdemeanor for an elector's
17 representative under section 20 to deliberately misinstruct or
18 falsify or alter party designation or to fail to deliver a
19 completed and signed registration application.

20 Section 26. This act shall take effect December 31, 1975.