
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1891 Session of
1979

INTRODUCED BY PIEVSKY, SALVATORE, McMONAGLE AND GREENFIELD,
OCTOBER 23, 1979

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 23, 1979

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), entitled
2 "An act concerning elections, including general, municipal,
3 special and primary elections, the nomination of candidates,
4 primary and election expenses and election contests; creating
5 and defining membership of county boards of elections;
6 imposing duties upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth,
7 courts, county boards of elections, county commissioners;
8 imposing penalties for violation of the act, and codifying,
9 revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto; and
10 repealing certain acts and parts of acts relating to
11 elections," requiring counties to pay postage on all absentee
12 ballots and providing for Commonwealth reimbursement.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. Section 1304, act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,
16 No.320), known as the "Pennsylvania Election Code," amended
17 December 11, 1968 (P.L.1183, No.375), is amended to read:

18 Section 1304. Envelopes for Official Absentee Ballots.--

19 (a) The county boards of election shall provide two
20 additional envelopes for each official absentee ballot of such
21 size and shape as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the
22 Commonwealth, in order to permit the placing of one within the

1 other and both within the mailing envelope. On the smaller of
2 the two envelopes to be enclosed in the mailing envelope shall
3 be printed, stamped or endorsed the words "Official Absentee
4 Ballot," and nothing else. On the larger of the two envelopes,
5 to be enclosed within the mailing envelope, shall be printed the
6 form of the declaration of the elector, and the name and address
7 of the county board of election of the proper county. The larger
8 envelope shall also contain information indicating the local
9 election district of the absentee voter and such other
10 information or markings or postage as provided in either
11 subsection (b) or (c). Said form of declaration and envelope
12 shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth and
13 shall contain among other things a statement of the electors
14 qualifications, together with a statement that such elector has
15 not already voted in such primary or election. The mailing
16 envelope addressed to the elector shall contain the two
17 envelopes, the official absentee ballot, lists of candidates,
18 when authorized by section 1303 subsection (b) of this act, the
19 uniform instructions in form and substance as prescribed by the
20 Secretary of the Commonwealth and nothing else[: Provided,
21 however, That].

22 (b) The mailing envelopes for electors qualified under
23 preceding section 1301, subsections (a) to (h), inclusive, shall
24 have printed across the face of each transmittal or return
25 envelope two parallel horizontal red bars, each one-quarter inch
26 wide, extending from one side of the envelope to the other side,
27 with an intervening space of one-quarter inch, the top bar to be
28 one and one-quarter inches from the top of the envelope and with
29 the words "Official Election Balloting Material via Air Mail"
30 between the bars; that there be printed, in the upper right

1 corner of each such envelope in a box, the words "Free of U. S.
2 Postage, Including Air Mail;" that all printing on the face of
3 each such envelope be in red, and that there be printed in red,
4 in the upper left corner of each such envelope, the name and
5 address of the county board of elections of the proper county or
6 blank lines for return address of the sender[: Provided further,
7 That the]. The aforesaid envelope addressed to the elector may
8 contain absentee registration forms where required, and shall
9 contain detailed instructions on the procedures to be observed
10 in casting an absentee ballot as prescribed by the Secretary of
11 the Commonwealth, together with return envelope upon which is
12 printed the name and address of the registration commission of
13 the proper county, which envelope shall have printed across the
14 face two parallel horizontal red bars, each one-quarter inch
15 wide, extending from one side of the envelope to the other side,
16 with an intervening space of one-quarter inch, the top bar to be
17 one and one-quarter inches from the top of the envelope and with
18 the words "Official Election Balloting Material via Air Mail"
19 between the bars; that there be printed in the upper right
20 corner of each such envelope in a box the words "Free of U. S.
21 Postage, Including Air Mail," and, in the upper left corner of
22 each such envelope, blank lines for return address of the
23 sender; that all printing on the face of each such envelope be
24 in red.

25 (c) The larger enclosed return envelope for all other
26 absentee electors qualified under section 1301, subsections (i)
27 to (l) inclusive, shall bear a hand applied stamp or meter
28 applied stamp for the appropriate postage costs to permit the
29 qualified absentee elector to return the absentee ballot free of
30 any postage costs.

1 (d) The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall fully reimburse
2 every county for all postage costs incurred pursuant to
3 subsection (c).

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 1980 or
5 immediately, whichever occurs later.