

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 173

Session of
1983

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, FEBRUARY 3, 1983

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, May 7, 1984

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 29, 1937 (P.L.487, No.115), entitled,
2 as reenacted and amended, "An act to provide for the
3 permanent personal registration of electors in cities of the
4 second class, cities of the second class A, cities of the
5 third class, boroughs, towns, and townships as a condition of
6 their right to vote at elections and primaries, and their
7 enrollment as members of political parties as a further
8 condition of their right to vote at primaries; prescribing
9 certain procedure for the conduct of elections and primaries
10 and the challenge and proof of qualifications of electors;
11 requiring the county commissioners of the various counties to
12 act as a registration commission therefor; and prescribing
13 the powers and duties of citizens, parties, political bodies,
14 registration commissions, commissioners, registrars,
15 inspectors of registration and other appointees of
16 registration commissions, county election boards, election
17 officers, municipal officers, departments and bureaus, police
18 officers, courts, judges, prothonotaries, sheriffs, county
19 commissioners, peace officers, county treasurers, county
20 controllers, registrars of vital statistics, certain public
21 utility corporations, real estate brokers, rental agents, and
22 boards of school directors; and imposing penalties,"
23 prohibiting rejection of voter registration applications
24 because the color of the applicant is not indicated thereon.

25 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
26 hereby enacts as follows:

27 Section 1. Sections 18(b) and (c), 18.1(b) and 18.2(b) of

1 the act of April 29, 1937 (P.L.487, No.115), known as The
2 Permanent Registration Act for Cities of the Second Class,
3 Cities of the Second Class A, Cities of the Third Class,
4 Boroughs, Towns, and Townships, reenacted and amended May 31,
5 1955 (P.L.62, No.32) and amended July 1, 1976 (P.L.504, No.123),
6 are amended to read:

7 Section 18. Manner of Registration.--

8 * * *

9 (b) He shall first be sworn or affirmed to the truth of the
10 statements which he is about to make, and informed that any
11 wilful false statement will constitute perjury and will be
12 punishable as such. He then shall be asked to state the facts
13 required herein, and his answers, together with other
14 information herein required, shall be recorded in his presence
15 by the registrar, commissioner, or clerk in permanent writing or
16 typewriting, in duplicate in the proper spaces on the
17 registration cards as follows:

18 (c) (1) The surname of the applicant; (2) his Christian
19 name or names; (4) the street or road and number, if any, of his
20 residence; (5) if his residence is a portion only of the house,
21 the location or number of the room or rooms, apartment, flat or
22 floor which he occupies; (6) the date his residence in the
23 district began; (7) his residence address when he last
24 registered, and the year of such registration; (8) the sex of
25 the applicant; (9) the color of the applicant: Provided,
26 however, That an application shall not be rejected because the
27 color of the applicant is not indicated thereon; (10) the state
28 or territory of the United States, or foreign country, where he
29 was born; (13) whether he is unable, by reason of illiteracy, to
30 read the names on the ballot or on the voting machine labels;

1 (14) whether he has a physical disability which will render him
2 unable to see or mark the ballot or operate the voting machine,
3 or to enter the voting compartment or voting machine booth,
4 without assistance, and, if so, his declaration of the fact and
5 his statement of the exact nature of such disability; (15) the
6 designation of the political party of the elector, for the
7 purpose of voting at primaries; (16) the affidavit of
8 registration, which shall be signed by the elector, attested by
9 the signature of the registrar or clerk and dated by him; (17)
10 his height, in feet and inches; (18) the color of his hair; (19)
11 the color of his eyes; and (20) the date of his birth. Each
12 registration card shall also have a sufficient number of spaces
13 thereon for the insertion of--(21) the city of the second class,
14 the city of the second class A, the city of the third class, the
15 borough, town, township, ward and election district, if any, in
16 which the elector resides and to which he may from time to time
17 remove, together with his street address in each city of the
18 second class, city of the second class A, city of the third
19 class, borough, town or township, and the other data required to
20 be given upon such removal; (22) the date of each election and
21 primary at which the elector votes, the number and letter, if
22 any, of the stub of the ballot issued to him or his number in
23 the order of admission to the voting machines; and (23) the
24 signature or initials of the election officer who enters the
25 record of voting on the card.

26 * * *

27 Section 18.1. Manner of Mail Registration by Persons in
28 Military Service, Persons in the Merchant Marine, Persons in
29 Religious and Welfare Groups Officially Attached To and Serving
30 with the Armed Forces and Civilian Federal Personnel Overseas

1 and Their Spouses and Dependents.--In addition to any other
2 method herein provided, the following persons may also be
3 registered by mail in the manner hereinafter set forth under
4 this section: (1) any person in military service, his spouse and
5 dependents; or (2) any person in the Merchant Marine, his spouse
6 and dependents; or (3) any person in religious and welfare
7 groups officially attached to and serving with the armed forces,
8 his spouse and dependents; or (4) any person who is a civilian
9 employee of the United States outside the territorial limits of
10 the several States of the United States and the District of
11 Columbia, whether or not such person is subject to the civil-
12 service laws and the Classification Act of 1949 and whether or
13 not paid from funds appropriated by the Congress, his spouse and
14 dependents.

15 * * *

16 (b) The official registration application card shall require
17 the statement of the applicant, the signature of the applicant,
18 and shall provide sufficient space for the following
19 information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his Christian
20 name or names, (4) the street or road and number, if any, of his
21 home residence and the date of leaving same, providing that, in
22 the event there is no street address, the registrant must list
23 the nearest cross street or road, (5) if his residence was a
24 portion only of a house, the location or number of the room or
25 rooms, apartment, flat or floor which he occupied, (6) the date
26 his residence began at the place which is his home residence,
27 (7) his home residence address when he last registered and the
28 year of such registration, including any former registration
29 under any other surname, (8) the sex of the applicant, (9) the
30 color of the applicant: Provided, however, That an application

1 shall not be rejected because the color of the applicant is not
2 indicated thereon, (10) the state or territory of the United
3 States or the foreign country where he was born, (13) whether he
4 is unable by reason of illiteracy to read the names on the
5 ballot or voting machine labels, (14) whether he has a physical
6 disability which will render him unable to see or mark the
7 ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the voting
8 compartment or voting machine booth without assistance, and, if
9 so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of the exact
10 nature of such disability, (15) the designation of the political
11 party of the elector for the purpose of voting at primaries,
12 (16) the declaration of registration, as hereinafter prescribed,
13 which shall be signed by the elector, (17) the height of the
14 applicant in feet and inches, (18) the color of his hair, (19)
15 the color of his eyes, (20) the date of his birth, (21) the
16 designation by the elector that the official registration
17 application card is intended by such elector for use as (check
18 one):

19 / / New Registration
20 / / Change of Address
21 / / Change of Name

22 Each official registration application card for registration by
23 persons registering under this section shall also have (22) a
24 sufficient number of spaces thereon for the insertion by the
25 commission, but not by the applicant, of the city of the second
26 class, city of the second class A, city of the third class,
27 borough, town, township, ward and election district, if any, in
28 which the applicant resided on the date of leaving home
29 residence and to which he may from time to time remove after
30 returning to his home residence, together with his street

1 address in each city of the second class, city of the second
2 class A, city of the third class, borough, town or township and
3 the other data required to be given upon such removal, (23) the
4 date of each election and primary at which the applicant votes
5 after registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub
6 of the ballot issued to him, or his number in the order of
7 admission to the voting machines, and (24) the signature or
8 initials of the election officer, commissioner, register or
9 clerk, who enters the record of voting on the card. Immediately
10 following the spaces for inserting the information as provided
11 in this subsection, the applicant shall affix his signature
12 exactly as it appears in (1) and (2) of this subsection.

13 * * *

14 Section 18.2. Manner of Mail Registration by Electors Other
15 Than Those Enumerated in Section 18.1 of This Act.--Any elector
16 may, in addition to any other method herein provided, also be
17 registered by mail in the manner set forth in this section:

18 * * *

19 (b) The official registration application card shall require
20 the statement of, and shall provide sufficient space for the
21 following information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his
22 Christian name or names, (4) the street or road and number of
23 his residence and the date of leaving same, providing that, in
24 the event there is no street address, the registrant must list
25 the nearest cross street or road, (5) if his residence is a
26 portion only of a house, the location or number of the room or
27 rooms, apartment, flat or floor which he occupies, (6) the date
28 his residence began at the place at which he resides, (7) his
29 residence address when he last registered and the year of such
30 registration, including any former registration under any other

1 surname, (8) the sex of the applicant, (9) the color of the
2 applicant: Provided, however, That an application shall not be
3 rejected because the color of the applicant is not indicated
4 thereon, (10) the state or territory of the United States or the
5 foreign country where he was born, (13) whether he is unable by
6 reason of illiteracy to read the names on the ballot or on
7 voting machines labels, (14) whether he has a physical
8 disability which will render him unable to see or mark the
9 ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the voting
10 compartment or voting machine booth without assistance and, if
11 so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of the exact
12 nature of such disability, (15) the designation of the political
13 party of the elector for the purpose of voting at primaries,
14 (16) the declaration of registration as hereinafter prescribed
15 which shall be signed by the elector, (17) the height of the
16 applicant in feet and inches, (18) the color of his hair, (19)
17 the color of his eyes, (20) the date of his birth, (21) the
18 designation by the elector that the official registration
19 application card is intended by such elector for use as (check
20 one):

21 / / New Registration
22 / / Change of Address
23 / / Change of Name

24 Each official registration application card for electors
25 registering in the manner prescribed by this section shall also
26 have a sufficient number of spaces thereon for the insertion of
27 (22) the city of the second class, city of the second class A,
28 city of the third class, borough, town, township, ward and
29 election district, if any, in which the applicant resides and to
30 which he may, from time to time, remove together with his street

1 address in each city of the second class, city of the second
2 class A, city of the third class, borough, town or township, and
3 the other data required to be given upon such removal, (23) the
4 date of each election and primary at which the applicant votes
5 after registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub
6 of the ballot issued to him or his number in the order of
7 admission to the voting machines, and (24) the signature or
8 initials of the election officer, commissioner, registrar or
9 clerk, who enters the record of voting on the card. Immediately
10 following the spaces for inserting the information as provided
11 in this subsection, the applicant shall affix his signature
12 exactly as it appears in (1) and (2) of this subsection.

13 * * *

14 SECTION 2. SECTION 18.3(D) OF THE ACT, ADDED JULY 1, 1976
15 (P.L.504, NO.123), IS AMENDED TO READ:

<—

16 SECTION 18.3. APPROVAL OF OFFICIAL REGISTRATION APPLICATION
17 CARDS.--* * *

18 (D) IF THE APPLICATION CARD IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS
19 ACT THE COMMISSION SHALL MARK "REJECTED" ON THE APPLICATION FORM
20 TOGETHER WITH THE REASON FOR REJECTION AND RETURN SAME TO THE
21 APPLICANT BY FIRST CLASS NON-FORWARDABLE MAIL, RETURN POSTAGE
22 GUARANTEED. AN APPLICATION SHALL NOT, HOWEVER, BE REJECTED
23 BECAUSE THE COLOR OF THE APPLICANT IS NOT INDICATED ON THE
24 APPLICATION FORM.

25 * * *

26 Section ~~2~~ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

<—