

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 856 Session of
1991

INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS, BELFANTI, NOYE, ALLEN, GEIST, BUNT,
NAILOR, HERMAN, JOHNSON, SAURMAN, STABACK, GODSHALL, CLARK,
BILLOW, E. Z. TAYLOR, FARGO AND VROON, MARCH 19, 1991

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 19, 1991

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," further providing for absentee ballots.

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

14 Section 1. Section 1308(a) of the act of June 3, 1937
15 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code,
16 amended December 11, 1968 (P.L.1183, No.375), is amended to
17 read:

18 Section 1308. Canvassing of Official Absentee Ballots.--

19 (a) The county boards of election, upon receipt of official
20 absentee ballots in such envelopes, shall safely keep the same
21 in sealed or locked containers until they distribute same to the
22 appropriate local election districts in a manner prescribed by

1 the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Official absentee ballots
2 received later than 5:00 o'clock P. M. on the Friday immediately
3 preceding the primary or election day shall be immediately
4 canvassed by the county board of elections.

5 The county board of elections shall then distribute the
6 absentee ballots received prior to 5:00 o'clock P. M. on the
7 Friday immediately preceding the primary or election day,
8 unopened, to the absentee voter's respective election district
9 concurrently with the distribution of the other election
10 supplies. Absentee ballots shall be canvassed immediately and
11 continuously without interruption until completed after the
12 close of the polls on the day of the election in each election
13 district. The results of the canvass of the absentee ballots
14 shall then be included in and returned to the county board with
15 the returns of that district. No absentee ballot shall be
16 counted which is received in the office of the county board of
17 election later than [five] 8:00 o'clock P. M. on the [Friday
18 immediately preceding the] primary or November election day.

19 * * *

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.