

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1876 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY BROWN, FICHTER, JAROLIN, TIGUE, PESCI, DEMPSEY,
WOZNIAK, STEELMAN, RUBLEY, MILLER, TRICH, L. I. COHEN,
ROONEY, GIGLIOTTI, CURRY AND EGOLF, JUNE 28, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS, JUNE 28, 1995

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," further
23 providing for manner of registration.

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

26 Section 1. Sections 18(c), 18.1(b) and 18.2(b) of the act of
27 April 29, 1937 (P.L.487, No.115), known as The Permanent
28 Registration Act for Cities of the Second Class, Cities of the

1 Second Class A, Cities of the Third Class, Boroughs, Towns, and
2 Townships, reenacted and amended May 31, 1955 (P.L.62, No.32)
3 and amended May 31, 1984 (P.L.355, No.70), are amended to read:

4 Section 18. Manner of Registration.--

5 * * *

6 (c) (1) The surname of the applicant; (2) his Christian
7 name or names; (4) the street or road and number, if any, of his
8 residence; (5) if his residence is a portion only of the house,
9 the location or number of the room or rooms, apartment, flat or
10 floor which he occupies; (6) the date his residence in the
11 district began; (7) his residence address when he last
12 registered, and the year of such registration; (8) the sex of
13 the applicant; [(9) the color of the applicant: Provided,
14 however, That an application shall not be rejected because the
15 color of the applicant is not indicated thereon;] (10) the state
16 or territory of the United States, or foreign country, where he
17 was born; (13) whether he is unable, by reason of illiteracy, to
18 read the names on the ballot or on the voting machine labels;
19 (14) whether he has a physical disability which will render him
20 unable to see or mark the ballot or operate the voting machine,
21 or to enter the voting compartment or voting machine booth,
22 without assistance, and, if so, his declaration of the fact and
23 his statement of the exact nature of such disability; (15) the
24 designation of the political party of the elector, for the
25 purpose of voting at primaries; (16) the affidavit of
26 registration, which shall be signed by the elector, attested by
27 the signature of the registrar or clerk and dated by him; (17)
28 his height, in feet and inches; (18) the color of his hair; (19)
29 the color of his eyes; and (20) the date of his birth. Each
30 registration card shall also have a sufficient number of spaces

1 thereon for the insertion of--(21) the city of the second class,
2 the city of the second class A, the city of the third class, the
3 borough, town, township, ward and election district, if any, in
4 which the elector resides and to which he may from time to time
5 remove, together with his street address in each city of the
6 second class, city of the second class A, city of the third
7 class, borough, town or township, and the other data required to
8 be given upon such removal; (22) the date of each election and
9 primary at which the elector votes, the number and letter, if
10 any, of the stub of the ballot issued to him or his number in
11 the order of admission to the voting machines; and (23) the
12 signature or initials of the election officer who enters the
13 record of voting on the card.

14 * * *

15 Section 18.1. Manner of Mail Registration by Persons in
16 Military Service, Persons in the Merchant Marine, Persons in
17 Religious and Welfare Groups Officially Attached To and Serving
18 with the Armed Forces and Civilian Federal Personnel Overseas
19 and Their Spouses and Dependents.--In addition to any other
20 method herein provided, the following persons may also be
21 registered by mail in the manner hereinafter set forth under
22 this section: (1) any person in military service, his spouse and
23 dependents; or (2) any person in the Merchant Marine, his spouse
24 and dependents; or (3) any person in religious and welfare
25 groups officially attached to and serving with the armed forces,
26 his spouse and dependents; or (4) any person who is a civilian
27 employee of the United States outside the territorial limits of
28 the several States of the United States and the District of
29 Columbia, whether or not such person is subject to the civil-
30 service laws and the Classification Act of 1949 and whether or

1 not paid from funds appropriated by the Congress, his spouse and
2 dependents.

3 * * *

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

1 which shall be signed by the elector, (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, (21) the
4 designation by the elector that the official registration
5 application card is intended by such elector for use as (check
6 one):

7 / / New Registration

8 / / Change of Address

9 / / Change of Name

10 Each official registration application card for registration by
11 persons registering under this section shall also have (22) a
12 sufficient number of spaces thereon for the insertion by the
13 commission, but not by the applicant, of the city of the second
14 class, city of the second class A, city of the third class,
15 borough, town, township, ward and election district, if any, in
16 which the applicant resided on the date of leaving home
17 residence and to which he may from time to time remove after
18 returning to his home residence, together with his street
19 address in each city of the second class, city of the second
20 class A, city of the third class, borough, town or township and
21 the other data required to be given upon such removal, (23) the
22 date of each election and primary at which the applicant votes
23 after registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub
24 of the ballot issued to him, or his number in the order of
25 admission to the voting machines, and (24) the signature or
26 initials of the election officer, commissioner, register or
27 clerk, who enters the record of voting on the card. Immediately
28 following the spaces for inserting the information as provided
29 in this subsection, the applicant shall affix his signature
30 exactly as it appears in (1) and (2) of this subsection.

1 * * *

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

6 * * *

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

1 party of the elector for the purpose of voting at primaries,
2 (16) the declaration of registration as hereinafter prescribed
3 which shall be signed by the elector, (17) the height of the
4 applicant in feet and inches, (18) the color of his hair, (19)
5 the color of his eyes, (20) the date of his birth, (21) the
6 designation by the elector that the official registration
7 application card is intended by such elector for use as (check
8 one):

9 / / New Registration

10 / / Change of Address

11 / / Change of Name

12 Each official registration application card for electors
13 registering in the manner prescribed by this section shall also
14 have a sufficient number of spaces thereon for the insertion of
15 (22) the city of the second class, city of the second class A,
16 city of the third class, borough, town, township, ward and
17 election district, if any, in which the applicant resides and to
18 which he may, from time to time, remove together with his street
19 address in each city of the second class, city of the second
20 class A, city of the third class, borough, town or township, and
21 the other data required to be given upon such removal, (23) the
22 date of each election and primary at which the applicant votes
23 after registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub
24 of the ballot issued to him or his number in the order of
25 admission to the voting machines, and (24) the signature or
26 initials of the election officer, commissioner, registrar or
27 clerk, who enters the record of voting on the card. Immediately
28 following the spaces for inserting the information as provided
29 in this subsection, the applicant shall affix his signature
30 exactly as it appears in (1) and (2) of this subsection.

1 * * *

2 Section 2. Section 20(c) of the act is amended to read:

3 Section 20. Applicants to Register May Be Challenged;
4 Procedure; Challenge Affidavit.--* * *

5 (c) The challenge affidavit shall be, in form, prescribed by
6 the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and shall contain spaces for
7 the following information: (1) Serial number; (2) place and date
8 of execution; (3) full name of challenged applicant; (4) whether
9 he is married or single; (5) if married, where his family
10 resides; (6) if single, where his parents reside; (7) where
11 applicant actually resided immediately before he took up his
12 present residence; (8) his residence for the four months
13 immediately preceding date of execution; (9) the name of his
14 present employer; (10) the city, town, borough, and street and
15 number of his place of business; (11) the name of his last
16 employer, and the year in which he left his employ; (12) the
17 city, town, borough, and street and number of said last
18 employer's place of business; (13) sex of the applicant; [(14)
19 his color;] (15) the date of his birth; and (16) such
20 distinguishing marks, peculiarities, and further information for
21 identification as the commission shall prescribe.

22 * * *

23 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1995.