

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1636 Session of  
2009

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PHILLIPS, SAYLOR, ROAE, PAYNE, SCHRODER, MARSHALL, REICHLEY,  
MUSTIO, KAUFFMAN, ROCK, VEREB, BAKER, BEAR, BOYD, CAUSER,  
CLYMER, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALLY, DENLINGER, EVERETT, FARRY,  
FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GINGRICH, GROVE, HARRIS, HELM, HESS,  
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METZGAR, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, MURT,  
O'NEILL, PICKETT, READSHAW, REED, ROHRER, SCAVELLO,  
STEVENSON, SWANGER, TRUE, VULAKOVICH, WATSON AND HARHART,  
JUNE 23, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 23, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, further providing for standardized forms, for  
3 applications and for preparation and distribution of  
4 applications; and providing for government service  
5 facilitation.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Sections 1105(a) and 1106(a) of Title 25 of the  
9 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

10 § 1105. Standardized forms.

11 (a) General rule.--Whenever possible, the secretary shall  
12 prescribe by regulation standardized voter registration or  
13 absentee ballot application forms which may be used, with prior  
14 approval by the secretary, by political bodies, candidates and  
15 organized bodies of citizens in compliance with both the

provisions of this part and the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,  
No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code. The forms  
shall include notice to applicants as required under section  
1327.1(e) (relating to government service facilitation).

\* \* \*

§ 1106. Applications.

[(a) Registration application.--Voter registration  
applications printed under the act of June 30, 1995 (P.L.170,  
No.25), known as the Pennsylvania Voter Registration Act, may be  
used to apply for registration under this part.]

\* \* \*

Section 2. Section 1327(a)(4) of Title 25 is amended by  
adding a subparagraph to read:

§ 1327. Preparation and distribution of applications.

(a) Form.--

\* \* \*

(4) A voter registration application shall be printed on  
stock of good quality and shall be of suitable uniform size.  
Nothing in this part shall prohibit the design and use of an  
electronic voter registration application which includes the  
applicant's digitized or electronic signature. The  
registration application shall contain the following  
information; however, the information may be provided on a  
separate form for voter registration made under section 1323  
or 1325:

\* \* \*

(xi) Notice to applicants as required under section  
1327.1(e) (relating to government service facilitation).

\* \* \*

Section 3. Title 25 is amended by adding a section to read:

1 § 1327.1. Government service facilitation.

2 (a) Legislative findings.--The General Assembly finds and  
3 declares as follows:

4 (1) Individuals who move into this Commonwealth or move  
5 from one political subdivision to another in this  
6 Commonwealth often have difficulty accessing government  
7 services and participating fully in the rights and  
8 responsibilities which accrue to residents.

9 (2) Requiring citizens to stand in multiple lines at  
10 multiple agencies at various levels of government is not an  
11 efficient means to provide necessary services to citizens or  
12 an efficient use of government employee resources.

13 (3) Failure to make appropriate and timely changes  
14 concerning residency has led to problems for citizens  
15 concerning voting rights and incorrectly transmitted tax  
16 information and withholding.

17 (4) The General Assembly has, in the past, assisted  
18 individuals with reducing the governmental burdens associated  
19 with geographic moves through methods such as combining the  
20 driver's license and voter registration processes.

21 (5) In order to make the government more people  
22 friendly, it is imperative to interconnect systems so that  
23 information provided to the government can be accessed in  
24 such a manner as to provide new residents with appropriate  
25 contact information and the full panoply of government  
26 interaction.

27 (b) General rule.--Notwithstanding any prohibition found in  
28 any other law, regulation or rule, a commission which processes  
29 a voter registration application shall provide information as  
30 follows:

1       (1) Within 14 days of receipt, the commission shall  
2       provide, in the manner prescribed by the secretary, the  
3       department with the applicant's full name, address of  
4       residence and mailing address, if different from the address  
5       of residence. The requirements of this paragraph may be met,  
6       with the approval of the secretary, by current law and  
7       practices concerning transmission of information from a  
8       commission to the department.

9       (2) Within 14 days of receipt, the commission shall  
10       provide, in the manner prescribed by the secretary, each  
11       political subdivision which contains the applicant's address  
12       of residence with the applicant's full name, address of  
13       residence and mailing address, if different from the address  
14       of residence.

15       (c) Duties of department.--Notwithstanding any prohibition  
16       found in any other law, regulation or rule, upon receipt of  
17       information from a commission under subsection (b), the  
18       department shall provide the Department of Revenue, the  
19       Department of Public Welfare and the Department of  
20       Transportation with the applicant's full name, address of  
21       residence and mailing address, if different from the address of  
22       residence. The method of providing information shall be  
23       determined by the secretary in conjunction with the Department  
24       of Revenue, the Department of Public Welfare and the Department  
25       of Transportation, and may include electronic mail, facsimile or  
26       other secure method which accomplishes the requirements of this  
27       subsection without undue expense or delay.

28       (d) Responsibility of recipient agencies.--Any State agency  
29       or political subdivision which receives information regarding an  
30       applicant under subsection (b) or (c) shall determine if an

1 applicant meets the residency requirements applicable to the  
2 services provided or duties imposed by that State agency or  
3 political subdivision and shall transmit to the applicant  
4 information concerning the rights and responsibilities of that  
5 applicant which fall within the scope of the authority provided  
6 to the State agency or political subdivision.

7 (e) Notice on voter registration application.--Each voter  
8 registration application shall contain, in a manner prescribed  
9 by the secretary, notice that the applicant's name, address and  
10 mailing address will be provided to the Department of  
11 Transportation, the Department of Public Welfare, the Department  
12 of Revenue and relevant political subdivisions to ensure the  
13 applicant's full access to the rights and responsibilities  
14 attendant to residence.

15 (f) Definitions.--The following words and phrases, when used  
16 in this section, shall have the meanings given to them in this  
17 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Political subdivision." The term shall have the same  
19 meaning as the term is defined in 1 Pa.C.S. § 1991 (relating to  
20 definitions).

21 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.