

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2461 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY SIMMONS, AUMENT, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, DALEY, EMRICK, EVANKOVICH, EVERETT, GABLER, GINGRICH, GROVE, HEFFLEY, HORNAMAN, KAUFFMAN, KNOWLES, KORTZ, MACKENZIE, MILLER, MUSTIO, PICKETT, QUINN, WILLIAMS AND YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 11, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 11, 2012

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," in voting by qualified absentee electors, further  
12 providing for envelopes for official absentee ballots.

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

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

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

20 The county boards of election shall provide two additional  
21 envelopes for each official absentee ballot of such size and

1 shape as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the  
2 Commonwealth, in order to permit the placing of one within the  
3 other and both within the mailing envelope. On the smaller of  
4 the two envelopes to be enclosed in the mailing envelope shall  
5 be printed, stamped or endorsed the words "Official Absentee  
6 Ballot," and nothing else. On the larger of the two envelopes,  
7 to be enclosed within the mailing envelope, shall be printed the  
8 form of the declaration of the elector, and the name and address  
9 of the county board of election of the proper county. The larger  
10 envelope shall also contain information indicating the local  
11 election district of the absentee voter, but the larger envelope  
12 shall not specify in any manner the political party affiliation  
13 of the absentee voter. Said form of declaration and envelope  
14 shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth and  
15 shall contain among other things a statement of the electors  
16 qualifications, together with a statement that such elector has  
17 not already voted in such primary or election. The mailing  
18 envelope addressed to the elector shall contain the two  
19 envelopes, the official absentee ballot, lists of candidates,  
20 when authorized by section 1303 subsection (b) of this act, the  
21 uniform instructions in form and substance as prescribed by the  
22 Secretary of the Commonwealth and nothing else: Provided,  
23 however, That envelopes for electors qualified under preceding  
24 section 1301, subsections (a) to (h), inclusive, shall have  
25 printed across the face of each transmittal or return envelope  
26 two parallel horizontal red bars, each one-quarter inch wide,  
27 extending from one side of the envelope to the other side, with  
28 an intervening space of one-quarter inch, the top bar to be one  
29 and one-quarter inches from the top of the envelope and with the  
30 words "Official Election Balloting Material via Air Mail"

1 between the bars; that there be printed, in the upper right  
2 corner of each such envelope in a box, the words "Free of U. S.  
3 Postage, Including Air Mail;" that all printing on the face of  
4 each such envelope be in red, and that there be printed in red,  
5 in the upper left corner of each such envelope, the name and  
6 address of the county board of elections of the proper county or  
7 blank lines for return address of the sender:

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

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