
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 976 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY SMITH, TEPLITZ, STACK, WASHINGTON, FONTANA,
SMUCKER, RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK, GREENLEAF, VULAKOVICH, WAUGH,
COSTA, HUTCHINSON, BREWSTER, HUGHES, VANCE, SCHWANK, KASUNIC,
WOZNIAK, SOLOBAY, TARTAGLIONE, BAKER, BROWNE, FARNESE,
WILLIAMS AND BLAKE, MAY 30, 2013

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 30, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in uniform military and overseas voters, further
3 providing for definitions, for duties and responsibilities of
4 secretary and for registering to vote.

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

7 Section 1. The definition of "military-overseas ballot" in
8 section 3502 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
9 Statutes, added October 24, 2012 (P.L.1490, No.189), is amended
10 and the section is amended by adding a definition to read:

11 § 3502. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
13 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 * * *

16 "Electronic vote." A vote cast and transmitted through
17 electronic means which includes, but is not limited to, e-mail

1 or fax.

2 * * *

3 "Military-overseas ballot." All of the following:

4 (1) A Federal write-in absentee ballot.

5 (2) A ballot specifically prepared or distributed for
6 use by a covered voter in accordance with this chapter.

7 (3) A ballot cast by a covered voter in accordance with
8 this chapter.

9 (4) An electronic ballot.

10 * * *

11 Section 2. Sections 3503(c) and 3505(c) of Title 25, added
12 October 24, 2012 (P.L.1490, No.189), are amended to read:

13 § 3503. Duties and responsibilities of secretary.

14 * * *

15 (c) Other duties.--The secretary shall do all of the
16 following:

17 (1) Establish an electronic transmission system through
18 which a covered voter may apply for and receive voter
19 registration materials, military-overseas ballots and other
20 information under this chapter.

21 (2) Develop standardized absentee-voting materials and
22 their electronic equivalents, authentication materials and
23 voting instructions to be used with the military-overseas
24 ballot of a voter authorized to vote in any jurisdiction in
25 this Commonwealth.

26 (3) To the extent reasonably possible, coordinate with
27 other states to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

28 (4) Prescribe the form and content of a declaration for
29 use by a covered voter who does not use the Federal write-in
30 absentee ballot in accordance with the following:

1 (i) The declaration shall require the covered voter
2 to swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, specific
3 representations pertaining to the voter's:

4 (A) identity;

5 (B) eligibility to vote;

6 (C) status as a covered voter; and

7 (D) timely and proper completion of a military-
8 overseas ballot.

9 (ii) The declaration shall be based on the FWAB
10 declaration, as modified to be consistent with this
11 chapter.

12 (iii) The secretary shall ensure that a form for the
13 execution of the declaration, including an indication of
14 the date of execution of the declaration, is a prominent
15 part of all balloting materials for which the declaration
16 is required.

17 (5) Establish an electronic transmission system in which
18 a covered voter under this chapter may cast an electronic
19 vote.

20 § 3505. Registering to vote.

21 * * *

22 (c) Electronic transmission system.--The secretary shall
23 ensure that the electronic transmission system described in
24 section 3503(c) (relating to duties and responsibilities of
25 secretary) is capable of accepting a Federal postcard
26 application, military-overseas ballot and any other approved
27 electronic registration application sent to the appropriate
28 county election board. The voter may use the electronic
29 transmission system or any other approved method to register to
30 vote.

1 * * *

2 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.