
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 255 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, KITCHEN, FARNESE, TEPLITZ, BREWSTER,
BLAKE, COSTA, SCHWANK, WILEY, YUDICHAK, BOSCOLA, HUGHES,
SMITH, WILLIAMS AND LEACH, JANUARY 15, 2015

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 15, 2015

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," providing for early voting in primaries and
12 elections.

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

15 Section 1. The act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known
16 as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended by adding an
17 article to read:

18 ARTICLE XII-A

19 CONDUCT OF EARLY VOTING

20 IN PRIMARIES AND ELECTIONS

21 Section 1201-A. Early voting period.

22 Each county board shall provide for early voting to begin 15

1 days prior to the dates of primaries and elections established
2 in accordance with Article VI and to end 14 days after the
3 starting date.

4 Section 1202-A. Early voting sites.

5 Each county board shall designate early voting sites where
6 electors may cast their ballots during the early voting period
7 established in accordance with section 1201-A. These sites shall
8 include the main office of the county board and any other sites
9 designated by the county board. The county board shall make
10 available at these sites the same equipment used on election day
11 as provided for in Article XI. The early voting sites shall be
12 geographically located to provide electors in the election
13 district an equal opportunity to cast a ballot.

14 Section 1203-A. Days and times for opening and closing polls at
15 early voting sites.

16 Each county board shall designate the days and hours that
17 early voting sites will be open, provided that all sites
18 throughout the county shall have uniform days and hours, shall
19 be open eight hours each weekday, shall be open a minimum of an
20 aggregate eight hours each weekend, and shall not open prior to
21 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time or close before 7 p.m. Eastern
22 Standard Time.

23 Section 1204-A. Voting check list.

24 Each county board shall maintain a voting check list as
25 provided for in section 1212 in such a way to ensure that
26 electors are prohibited from casting additional ballots at
27 either an early voting site or on election day in their
28 precinct.

29 Section 1205-A. Disposition of returns.

30 Each county board shall track votes by precinct but shall not

1 tabulate votes prior to the close of the polls on election day.

2 Section 1206-A. Notice of early voting.

3 Each county board shall, not earlier than 15 days nor later

4 than nine days before each November election, give notice of

5 early voting by newspaper publication in the county in

6 accordance with the provisions of section 106, the notice to be

7 published twice in counties of the first class and once in all

8 other counties. Each county board shall also post the notice on

9 its publicly accessible Internet website.

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