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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1465 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY RABB, ROZZI, DEAN, SCHLOSSBERG, V. BROWN, SOLOMON,  
KINSEY, O'BRIEN, DeLUCA, DAWKINS, PASHINSKI AND FRANKEL,  
MAY 31, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 31, 2017

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for  
3 definitions; in registration system, further providing for  
4 departmental responsibilities and for SURE system; in voter  
5 registration, further providing for qualifications to  
6 register, for methods of voter registration, for application  
7 with driver's license application and for government  
8 agencies, providing for same day voter registration and for  
9 Commonwealth agencies and other entities and further  
10 providing for time, for preparation and distribution of  
11 applications and for approval of registration applications;  
12 in changes in records, further providing for removal notices  
13 and providing for effect of inmates being released from  
14 correctional facilities; in voting procedures, further  
15 providing for application for absentee ballots and providing  
16 for early voting; and adding provisions relating to voter  
17 education.

18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
19 hereby enacts as follows:

20 Section 1. The definitions of "applicant," "registration  
21 card" and "registration records" in section 1102 of Title 25 of  
22 the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended and the  
23 section is amended by adding a definition to read:

24 § 1102. Definitions.

25 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent

1 provisions of this part which are applicable to specific  
2 provisions of this part, the following words and phrases when  
3 used in this part shall have the meanings given to them in this  
4 section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Applicant." An individual who is automatically registered  
6 or who applies to be registered to vote as provided for in this  
7 part.

8 \* \* \*

9 "Employment or program application." All of the following:

10 (1) Any application for employment filed with any of the  
11 following:

12 (i) The Bureau of State Employment.

13 (ii) Any independent agency of this Commonwealth.

14 (iii) The Pennsylvania Civil Service Commission.

15 (2) An application for any financial assistance,  
16 compensation, benefit or service available, offered or to  
17 which the person is entitled pursuant to any program  
18 administered by the following:

19 (i) The Department of Aging.

20 (ii) The Department of Health.

21 (iii) The Department of Human Services.

22 (iv) The Insurance Department.

23 (v) The Department of Labor and Industry.

24 (vi) The Department of Military and Veterans  
25 Affairs.

26 (vii) The Department of Revenue.

27 (viii) The Treasury Department.

28 (ix) The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

29 (x) Any other offices in this Commonwealth that  
30 provide public assistance or that provide State-funded

1 programs primarily engaged in providing services to low-  
2 income individuals, the elderly or persons with  
3 disabilities.

4 (3) An application for admission to a State-owned or  
5 State-related institution of higher education in this  
6 Commonwealth.

7 (4) An application for financial assistance filed with  
8 the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

9 \* \* \*

10 "Registration card." A registration record, including an  
11 electronic record, containing all information required on the  
12 registration application, including the elector's signature or  
13 electronic signature, and suitable space for the insertion by  
14 the appropriate official of the following information:

15 (1) The ward and election district of residence.

16 (2) The registrant's street address.

17 (3) Data required to be given upon removal from the  
18 registrant's residence.

19 (4) The date of each election at which the registrant  
20 votes.

21 (5) The number and letter of the stub of the ballot  
22 issued to the registrant or the registrant's number in the  
23 order of admission to the voting machines.

24 (6) The initials of the election officer who enters the  
25 record of voting in the district register.

26 (7) Whether the registrant needs assistance to vote and,  
27 if so, the nature of the disability.

28 "Registration records." The general register, district  
29 register and any other record of registration, including an  
30 electronic record, maintained by a commission. The term includes

1 any record maintained by the commission on the Statewide Uniform  
2 Registry of Electors.

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 2. Sections 1201, 1222(c)(8), 1301, 1321, 1323 and  
5 1325(b)(4) of Title 25 are amended to read:

6 § 1201. Departmental responsibilities.

7 The department shall do all of the following:

8 (1) Provide for applicants to submit their voter  
9 registration application to a commission, the Department of  
10 Transportation and other agencies designated in section 1325  
11 (relating to government agencies).

12 (2) Prescribe a procedure for the return of completed  
13 voter registration applications from and the schedule by  
14 which the Department of Transportation, the Department of  
15 [Public Welfare] Human Services, armed forces recruitment  
16 centers, Offices of the Clerk of Orphan's Court and all other  
17 offices authorized under [this part to the secretary or the  
18 appropriate commission.] sections 1323 (relating to automatic  
19 registration with driver's license application), 1325  
20 (relating to government agencies) and 1325.2 (relating to  
21 Commonwealth agencies and other entities) to register  
22 individuals to vote shall provide to the department  
23 electronic records containing the legal name, age, residence  
24 and citizenship information for, and the electronic signature  
25 of, each individual who meets qualifications identified by  
26 the secretary by guideline for automatic registration.

27 (3) Develop, establish, implement and administer a  
28 Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors in accordance with  
29 Subchapter B (relating to Statewide Uniform Registry of  
30 Electors (SURE)).

1 (4) Promulgate regulations necessary to administer this  
2 part.

3 § 1222. SURE system.

4 \* \* \*

5 (c) Requirements.--The SURE system shall be developed as a  
6 single, uniform integrated computer system. All commissions  
7 shall be connected electronically to the SURE system and shall  
8 maintain their registration records in the system. The SURE  
9 system shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

10 \* \* \*

11 (8) Provide for the electronic transfer of voter  
12 registration information transmitted under section 1502  
13 (relating to transfer of registration), completed voter  
14 registration applications and changes of address in  
15 accordance with this part.

16 \* \* \*

17 § 1301. Qualifications to register.

18 (a) Eligibility.--An individual who:

19 (1) will be at least 18 years of age on the day of the  
20 next election[, who];

21 (2) has been a citizen of the United States for at least  
22 one month prior to the next election [and who]; and

23 (3) has resided in this Commonwealth and the election  
24 district where the individual offers to vote for at least 30  
25 days prior to the next ensuing election [and has not been  
26 confined in a penal institution for a conviction of a felony  
27 within the last five years] shall be eligible to register as  
28 provided in this chapter.

29 (a.1) Preregistration.--

30 (1) A person who is otherwise qualified to vote may

1 preregister on or after the person's 16th birthday and may  
2 thereafter vote at any election occurring on or after the  
3 person's 18th birthday or such earlier time as State law  
4 permits.

5 (2) The preregistration of a person under 18 years of  
6 age shall be marked with a code according to the person's  
7 birth date and shall be automatically activated on the  
8 person's 18th birthday or the date permitted by State law.

9 (3) The database of the county board of elections shall  
10 automatically generate a postcard when the preregistrant  
11 attains 18 years of age. The registrar shall mail the  
12 postcard to the preregistrant at the address at which the  
13 person preregistered or any updated address to notify the  
14 person of the eligibility to vote in the next election.

15 (b) Effect.--No individual shall be permitted to vote at any  
16 election unless the individual is registered under this  
17 subsection, except as provided by law or by order of a court of  
18 common pleas. No registered elector shall be required to  
19 register again for any election while the elector continues to  
20 reside at the same address.

21 [(c) Removal of residence.--Except as otherwise provided by  
22 this part, a registered elector who removes residence from one  
23 place to another outside the elector's last election district  
24 shall not be entitled to vote in the election district of the  
25 elector's last residence except pursuant to the provisions of  
26 this section and sections 1501(b) (relating to removal notices),  
27 1502 (relating to transfer of registration) and 1902 (relating  
28 to procedure for voting following failure to return notification  
29 card).]

30 § 1321. Methods of voter registration.

1     (a) Application.--An individual qualified to register to  
2 vote under section 1301(a) (relating to qualifications to  
3 register) may apply to register [as follows] in accordance with:

4           (1) [Under section] Section 1322 (relating to in-person  
5 voter registration).

6           (2) Under section 1323 (relating to [application]  
7 automatic registration with driver's license application).

8           (3) [Under section] Section 1324 (relating to  
9 application by mail).

10          (4) [Under section] Section 1325 (relating to government  
11 agencies).

12          (5) Under section 1325.1 (relating to same day voter  
13 registration).

14     (b) Automatic registration.--An individual qualified to  
15 register to vote under section 1301(a) who applies for or uses  
16 government services under section 1323 or 1325.2 (relating to  
17 Commonwealth agencies and other entities) shall be registered  
18 automatically unless an individual chooses not to register  
19 automatically as provided for in this chapter.

20 § 1323. [Application] Automatic registration with driver's  
21 license application.

22     (a) General rule.--

23           (1) The Department of Transportation shall provide for  
24 simultaneous [application for] voter registration in  
25 conjunction with the process under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1510  
26 (relating to issuance and content of driver's license). An  
27 application under this subsection shall serve as an  
28 application to register to vote unless the applicant fails to  
29 sign the voter registration application.

30           (1.1) The secretary shall prescribe a procedure and

1 schedule by which the Department of Transportation shall  
2 collect voter information and provide to the department  
3 electronic registration records containing the legal name,  
4 age, residence and the electronic signature of each  
5 individual who reports being a citizen of the United States,  
6 is subject to penalties under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to  
7 unsworn falsification to authorities) and meets  
8 qualifications identified by the secretary. The secretary has  
9 the primary responsibility for implementing and enforcing the  
10 driver's license voter registration system created under this  
11 section. The secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of  
12 Transportation, may promulgate regulations for implementing  
13 this section.

14 (1.2) Upon receiving the electronic registration record  
15 for, and electronic signature of, an individual described in  
16 paragraph (1), the secretary shall provide the information to  
17 the commission in which the individual may be registered as  
18 an elector under the laws of this Commonwealth and under the  
19 National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-31,  
20 42 U.S.C. § 203). The commission shall provide each  
21 individual with the process to:

22 (i) Decline being registered as a voter.

23 (ii) Adopt a political party affiliation, along with  
24 information as to which elections require a political  
25 party affiliation for participation.

26 (1.3) If an individual notified under paragraph (1.2)  
27 does not decline to be registered as an elector within 21  
28 calendar days after the commission issues the notification,  
29 the individual's electronic registration record and  
30 electronic signature submitted under paragraph (1) shall



1 constitute a completed voter registration application for  
2 purposes of this chapter. The individual shall be registered  
3 to vote if the individual is eligible to vote under the laws  
4 of this Commonwealth and is not already registered to vote.

5 (1.4) An individual notified under paragraph (1.3) who  
6 does not decline to be registered as an elector within 21  
7 calendar days after the commission issues the notification  
8 and does not adopt a political party affiliation shall be  
9 required to adopt a political party affiliation prior to  
10 voting at the next primary election at which the individual  
11 exercises the individual's right to vote. If no such  
12 political affiliation is adopted, an individual shall be  
13 permitted to vote at the next election that does not require  
14 a political party affiliation to participate.

15 (1.5) A commission may not send a ballot to, or add to  
16 an elector registration list, an individual who does not have  
17 a completed registration under paragraph (1.2).

18 (2) An application for voter registration or automatic  
19 registration submitted to the Department of Transportation  
20 under this subsection shall be considered as updating any  
21 previous voter registration information by a registrant.

22 (3) Any change of address submitted to the Department of  
23 Transportation for the purposes of driver licensing or an  
24 identification card under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1510 (relating to  
25 issuance and content of driver's license) shall serve as  
26 notification of change of address for voter registration for  
27 the registrant involved unless the registrant indicates that  
28 the change of address is not for voter registration purposes.

29 (b) Process.--

30 (1) The Department of Transportation shall both provide

1 for an application for voter registration as part of a  
2 driver's license application[.] and collect voter  
3 registration information as part of an application submitted  
4 under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1510 by an individual who meets the  
5 qualifications to register under section 1301(a) (relating to  
6 qualifications to register).

7 (2) The format of the driver's license/voter  
8 registration application and information to be collected  
9 shall be determined and prescribed by the secretary and the  
10 Secretary of Transportation[.] and shall include all the  
11 requirements of an official voter registration application  
12 specified in section 1327 (relating to preparation and  
13 distribution of applications).

14 (3) The voter registration application portion of the  
15 application shall contain all the requirements of an official  
16 voter registration application specified in section 1327  
17 [(relating to preparation and distribution of applications)].  
18 The voter registration portion of the application:

19 (i) may not require any information that duplicates  
20 information required in the driver's license portion of  
21 the form, other than a second signature; and

22 (ii) may require only the minimum amount of  
23 information necessary to prevent duplicate voter  
24 registration, to enable the commission to assess the  
25 eligibility of the applicant and to administer voter  
26 registration and other parts of the election process.

27 (c) Transmission.--

28 (1) The Department of Transportation shall forward  
29 completed applications or contents of the completed voter  
30 registration applications in machine-readable format to the

1 department by the close of registration for the ensuing  
2 election. The Department of Transportation shall forward the  
3 electronic registration record containing the information set  
4 forth in subsection (a)(1) to the secretary as prescribed by  
5 section 1201(2) (relating to departmental responsibilities)  
6 regarding individuals who report being a citizen of the  
7 United States, subject to penalties under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904  
8 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

9 (2) [The] Upon receipt, the department shall transmit  
10 the material to the appropriate commission within ten days  
11 after the date of its receipt by the Department of  
12 Transportation. If a voter registration application is  
13 received by the Department of Transportation within five days  
14 before the last day to register before an election, the  
15 application shall be transmitted to the appropriate  
16 commission not later than five days after the date of its  
17 receipt by the Department of Transportation.

18 (3) Upon receipt of the completed voter registration  
19 information from the department, the commission shall make a  
20 record of the date of the receipt of the application or  
21 electronic registration record and process the application.  
22 No applicant shall be deemed eligible to vote until the  
23 commission has received and approved the application. Upon  
24 receipt of an electronic registration record from the  
25 department, the commission shall notify the individual of the  
26 process to:

27 (i) Decline being registered as a voter.

28 (ii) Adopt a political party affiliation, along with  
29 information as to which elections require a political  
30 party affiliation for participation.

1       (3.1) If an individual notified under paragraph (3) does  
2 not decline to be registered as an elector within 21 calendar  
3 days after the commission issues the notification, the  
4 individual's electronic record and electronic signature  
5 submitted under paragraph (1) shall constitute a completed  
6 voter registration application for purposes of this chapter.  
7 The person shall be registered to vote if the individual is  
8 eligible to vote under the laws of this Commonwealth and is  
9 not already registered to vote.

10       (3.2) A commission may not send a ballot to, or add to  
11 an elector registration list, an individual who does not have  
12 a completed voter registration under paragraph (3.1).

13       [(3.1)] (3.3) After the Department of Transportation is  
14 connected to the SURE system and notwithstanding paragraphs  
15 (1), (2) and (3), the Department of Transportation shall  
16 transmit electronically the contents of a completed voter  
17 registration application within five days of receipt of the  
18 application. The Department of Transportation shall transmit  
19 the electronic registration records of individuals who have  
20 reported, subject to penalties under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904, that  
21 the individual is a citizen of the United States and shall  
22 contain the information set forth in subsection (a)(1) within  
23 24 hours of collection of the information. Upon receipt of  
24 the information from the Department of Transportation, a  
25 commission shall, in the case of an application, make a  
26 record of the date of the receipt of the application and  
27 process the application in accordance with section 1328  
28 (relating to approval of registration applications) or, in  
29 the case of an electronic registration record, proceed in  
30 accordance with paragraphs (3), (3.1) and (3.2). If the

1 commission of the county of residence has not been connected  
2 to the SURE system, the Department of Transportation shall  
3 forward the completed application or contents of the  
4 completed application or the electronic registration record  
5 to the department in accordance with paragraph (1). No  
6 applicant shall be deemed eligible to vote until the  
7 commission has received and approved an application in  
8 accordance with section 1328.

9 (4) Changes of address shall comply with the following:

10 (i) Before the Department of Transportation is  
11 connected to the SURE system, the Department of  
12 Transportation shall notify the department of changes of  
13 address received under subsection (a)(3). The department  
14 shall notify the commission of the county of the  
15 registrant's former residence. After the Department of  
16 Transportation is connected to the SURE system, the  
17 Department of Transportation shall notify the commission  
18 of the county of the registrant's former residence. If  
19 the registrant has moved to an address outside this  
20 Commonwealth, the commission shall verify the address  
21 change in accordance with section 1901 (relating to  
22 removal of electors). Except as provided in subparagraph  
23 (ii), if the registrant confirms in accordance with  
24 section 1901(d) that he has moved to another county, the  
25 commission shall cancel the registration and forward the  
26 registrant's registration information to the commission  
27 of the registrant's new county of residence. Except as  
28 provided in subparagraph (ii), if the registrant has  
29 moved to an address within the commission's jurisdiction,  
30 the commission shall promptly update the registration

1 record of the registrant in accordance with section 1328.  
2 All changes of address received by the Department of  
3 Transportation under this section at least 30 days before  
4 an election must be processed by the commission for the  
5 ensuing election. For the purpose of this paragraph, the  
6 term "registration information" means the registration  
7 card and any other record of registration maintained by a  
8 commission.

9 (ii) In the case of changes of address received by  
10 the Department of Transportation which do not contain a  
11 signature of the registrant, the commission receiving the  
12 change of address notification shall mail a notice to the  
13 registrant at the new residence address requesting  
14 verification of the address change. If the change of  
15 address is to a new residence outside the commission's  
16 jurisdiction, the commission shall mail the following  
17 notice:

18 Date.....

19 Office of the Registration Commission  
20 ..... County, Pennsylvania  
21 ..... (Address and Telephone No. of County)

22 We have been notified by the Department of Transportation  
23 that you recently changed your address  
24 from ..... (old residence address)  
25 to ..... (new residence address) and that this  
26 change of address is to serve as a change of address for  
27 voter registration purposes. Unless you notify this  
28 office within ten days from the date of this notice that  
29 this information is not correct, your voter registration  
30 will be transferred to ..... County. You may notify

1 this office by writing your residence address, the date  
2 and your signature on the bottom of this form and mailing  
3 this notice to this office. You need not notify this  
4 office if this information is correct.

5 .....  
6 Chief Clerk

7 If the address change is within the commission's  
8 jurisdiction, the commission shall mail a voter's  
9 identification card to the registrant at the new  
10 residence address.

11 (iii) If the registrant does not return the notice  
12 under subparagraph (ii) within the ten-day period, the  
13 commission shall process the change of address according  
14 to subparagraph (i). If the registrant notifies the  
15 commission that the information is incorrect and the  
16 commission is satisfied with the registrant's explanation  
17 of the discrepancy, the address of the registrant's  
18 registration shall remain unchanged. If the verification  
19 notification or voter identification card is returned by  
20 the post office as undeliverable as addressed or with a  
21 forwarding address, the commission shall send a  
22 confirmation notice to the registrant's address of former  
23 residence in accordance with section 1901(d)(2).

24 (5) Upon notification and confirmation of any change of  
25 address, a commission shall promptly update information  
26 contained in its registration record.

27 (d) Prohibition.--[An] The Department of Transportation may  
28 not register to vote under this section an individual who is not  
29 a qualified elector [is ineligible to register to vote under  
30 this section].

1 (e) Effect.--Failure to properly complete a voter  
2 registration application or refusal to provide voter  
3 registration information shall not affect the validity of an  
4 application for a driver's license, a renewal application or an  
5 identification card application.

6 (f) Use of information.--No information regarding a  
7 declination to register to vote in connection with an  
8 application [made] submitted or not submitted if an individual  
9 has not certified that the individual is a citizen of the United  
10 States, subject to penalties under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904, under this  
11 section may be used for any purpose other than voter  
12 registration.

13 (g) Staff.--Agents and employees working on behalf of the  
14 Department of Transportation assisting in the completion of  
15 voter registration applications or collecting voter registration  
16 information under this section shall conduct themselves in a  
17 manner consistent with the following principles:

18 (1) They shall not seek to influence an applicant's  
19 political preference or party registration or display  
20 political preference or party allegiance.

21 (2) They shall not make a statement to an applicant or  
22 take an action the purpose or effect of which is to  
23 discourage the applicant from registering to vote or  
24 providing voter registration information.

25 (3) Applicants wishing to register to vote under this  
26 section shall be given the same degree of assistance with the  
27 voter registration application as with all other Department  
28 of Transportation forms.

29 Agency employees who violate this subsection or who fail to  
30 collect the information required under subsection (a)(1) or who



1 fail to forward the information to the department or the SURE  
2 system shall be removed from employment, provided that the  
3 agency at its discretion may impose a penalty of suspension  
4 without pay for at least 30 days, but not more than 120 days, if  
5 it finds that the violation does not warrant termination.

6 § 1325. Government agencies.

7 \* \* \*

8 (b) Forms.--An agency designated in subsection (a) shall  
9 provide a form for office visits or, if the agency provides  
10 services to persons with disabilities, for home visits which  
11 contains all of the following:

12 \* \* \*

13 (4) The statement "In order to be qualified to register  
14 to vote, you must be at least 18 years of age on the day of  
15 the next election, you must have been a citizen of the United  
16 States for at least one month prior to the next election and  
17 have resided in Pennsylvania and the election district where  
18 you plan to vote for at least 30 days prior to the next  
19 [election, and you must not have been confined in a penal  
20 institution for a conviction of a felony within the last five  
21 years.]" election."

22 \* \* \*

23 Section 3. Title 25 is amended by adding sections to read:

24 § 1325.1. Same day voter registration.

25 (a) General rule.--A qualified elector may register on  
26 election day by appearing in person at the polling place for the  
27 electoral district in which the individual maintains residence  
28 by completing and submitting a registration application to the  
29 judge of elections and providing proof of identification and  
30 residence.

1 (b) Acceptable forms of identification.--In addition to  
2 providing a completed voter registration form, an applicant must  
3 provide a valid form of identification, including any of the  
4 following government-issued forms of identification:

5 (1) A valid driver's license or identification card  
6 issued by the Department of Transportation.

7 (2) A valid identification card issued by another agency  
8 of the Commonwealth.

9 (3) A valid identification card issued by the United  
10 States Government.

11 (4) A valid United States passport.

12 (5) A valid United States Armed Forces identification  
13 card.

14 (c) Procedures for same day registration.--

15 (1) Upon certifying the eligibility of the qualified  
16 elector, the judge of elections at the polling place shall  
17 issue a provisional ballot, provided by the county board of  
18 elections, which is to be completed by the qualified elector  
19 and sealed in an envelope along with the voter registration  
20 application.

21 (2) Within 10 days of an election, the Department of  
22 State shall approve or deny a voter registration application  
23 under the provisions established in section 1328 (relating to  
24 approval of registration applications).

25 (3) The provisional ballot shall not be counted until  
26 the Department of State has approved the voter registration  
27 application.

28 (4) The qualified elector shall be notified in writing  
29 by the Department of State as to the approval or denial of a  
30 voter registration application.

1 § 1325.2. Commonwealth agencies and other entities.

2 (a) Administration.--The secretary shall administer a system  
3 whereby each individual submitting an employment or program  
4 application shall provide for simultaneous voter registration in  
5 conjunction with an employment or program application filed with  
6 the agency or entity.

7 (b) Procedure.--The secretary shall prescribe a procedure  
8 and schedule by which each entity under this section shall  
9 provide to the department electronic records containing the  
10 legal name, age, residence and citizenship information for, and  
11 the electronic signature of, each individual who has certified  
12 that the individual is a citizen of the United States, subject  
13 to penalties under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn  
14 falsification to authorities), and any other information  
15 required under this chapter.

16 (c) Effect.--Refusal to provide voter registration  
17 information shall not affect the validity of an employment or  
18 program application, consideration of the application or  
19 eligibility for any financial assistance, compensation, benefit  
20 or service available, offered or to which the person is entitled  
21 under any program.

22 (d) Staff.--

23 (1) Agency or entity employees collecting voter  
24 registration information under this section shall conduct  
25 themselves in a manner consistent with the following  
26 principles:

27 (i) The employee may not seek to influence an  
28 applicant's political preference or party registration or  
29 display political preference or party allegiance.

30 (ii) The employee may not make any statement to an

1 applicant or take any action the purpose of or effect of  
2 which is to discourage the applicant from providing voter  
3 registration information.

4 (iii) The employee may not make any statement to an  
5 applicant or take any action the purpose of or effect of  
6 which is to lead the applicant to believe that refusing  
7 to provide voter registration information has any bearing  
8 on the application, including its consideration, the  
9 likelihood of employment or, in the case of an  
10 application to a State-owned or State-related university,  
11 acceptance, or the availability of services or benefits.

12 (2) Agency or entity employees who violate this  
13 subsection, who fail to collect the information required  
14 under subsection (a)(1) or fail to forward the information to  
15 the department shall be removed from employment, except that  
16 the agency or entity at its discretion may impose a penalty  
17 of suspension without pay for at least 30 days, but not more  
18 than 120 days, if it finds that the violation does not  
19 warrant termination.

20 (e) Encouraging registration.--Agencies and entities subject  
21 to this section must provide reasonable space for nonpartisan  
22 signs or posters advising individuals of automatic voter  
23 registration. The signs and posters shall be provided by the  
24 secretary.

25 (f) Transmission.--The following shall apply:

26 (1) Agencies and entities subject to this section shall  
27 forward the electronic registration record of individuals who  
28 certify that the individual is a citizen of the United  
29 States, subject to penalties under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904,  
30 containing the information set forth in subsection (a)(1) to

1 the secretary as prescribed by section 1201(2) (relating to  
2 departmental responsibilities).

3 (2) Upon receipt, the department shall transmit the  
4 material to the appropriate commission.

5 (3) Upon receipt of the electronic record from the  
6 department, the commission shall notify the individual of the  
7 process to:

8 (i) Decline being registered as a voter.

9 (ii) Adopt a political party affiliation, along with  
10 information as to which elections require a political  
11 party affiliation for participation.

12 (4) The individual's electronic record and electronic  
13 signature submitted under paragraph (1) shall constitute a  
14 completed voter registration card for purposes of this  
15 chapter. The person shall be registered to vote if the  
16 individual is eligible to vote under the laws of this  
17 Commonwealth and is not already registered to vote.

18 (5) An individual notified under paragraph (3) who does  
19 not decline to be registered as an elector within 21 calendar  
20 days after the commission issues the notification and does  
21 not adopt a political party affiliation shall be required to  
22 adopt a political party affiliation prior to voting at the  
23 next primary election at which the individual exercises the  
24 right to vote. If no such political affiliation is adopted,  
25 an individual shall be permitted to vote at the next election  
26 that does not require a political party affiliation to  
27 participate.

28 (6) A commission may not send a ballot to, or add to an  
29 elector registration list, an individual who does not have a  
30 completed voter registration under paragraph (4).

1 (g) Confidentiality.--The identity of any agency or entity  
2 through which any particular voter is registered in accordance  
3 with this section shall not be disclosed to the public.

4 (h) Use of information.--No information relating to voter  
5 registration collected by agencies or entities, including, but  
6 not limited to, an individual's citizenship status under this  
7 section or information relating to an individual's election to  
8 decline to register as a voter may be used for any purpose other  
9 than voter registration.

10 (i) Regulation.--The secretary shall promulgate regulations  
11 regarding the maintenance and destruction of forms used under  
12 this section.

13 Section 4. Sections 1326(b) and (c), 1327, 1328(b) and (c)  
14 and 1501 are amended to read:

15 § 1326. Time.

16 \* \* \*

17 (b) Deadlines.--In the administration of voter registration,  
18 each commission shall ensure that any applicant who is a  
19 qualified elector is registered to vote in an election when the  
20 applicant has met any of the following conditions:

21 (1) In the case of voter registration with a motor  
22 vehicle driver's license application under section 1323  
23 (relating to [application] automatic registration with  
24 driver's license application), if the valid application or  
25 electronic voter registration application is submitted to the  
26 appropriate Department of Transportation office or received  
27 by the department not later than 30 days before the date of  
28 the election.

29 (2) In the case of registration by mail under section  
30 1324 (relating to application by mail), if the valid voter

1 registration mail application is postmarked not later than  
2 the deadline to register for the ensuing election or, in the  
3 case of an illegible or missing postmark, it is received not  
4 later than five days after the deadline to register for the  
5 ensuing election.

6 (3) In the case of voter registration at a voter  
7 registration agency under section 1325 (relating to  
8 government agencies) or 1325.2 (relating to Commonwealth  
9 agencies or other entities), if the valid voter registration  
10 application is accepted at the voter registration agency or  
11 electronic voter registration record is received by the  
12 department not later than 30 days before the date of the  
13 election.

14 (3.1) In the case of same day voter registration if the  
15 valid voter registration application of the applicant is  
16 accepted in the appropriate electoral district by the  
17 presiding judge of elections.

18 (4) In any other case, if the valid voter registration  
19 application of the applicant is received by the appropriate  
20 commission not later than 30 days before the election.

21 (c) Special rules.--

22 (1) In the case of a special election within a  
23 congressional, senatorial or representative district held on  
24 a day other than the day of a primary, general or municipal  
25 election, the registration application forms and electronic  
26 records shall not be processed in the wards and election  
27 districts comprising the district for the [30] five days  
28 prior to the special election for such election.

29 (2) No applications shall be received as follows:

30 (i) On Sundays.

- 1           (ii) On holidays.
- 2           (iii) On the day of the election.
- 3           (iv) During the [30] five days next preceding each
- 4 general, municipal and primary election except as
- 5 provided in subsection (b).

6 § 1327. Preparation and distribution of applications.

7       (a) Form.--

8           (1) The secretary shall prescribe the form of an

9 official voter registration application. The official voter

10 registration application shall provide space for the

11 following information about the applicant:

12           (i) Full name.

13           (ii) Address of residence. If the residence is a

14 portion only of the house, the location or number of the

15 room, apartment or floor which is occupied.

16           (iii) Mailing address if different than address of

17 residence.

18           (iv) Name and residence address on previous

19 registration and the year of that registration.

20           (v) Designation of political party, for the purpose

21 of voting at a primary election.

22           (vi) Date of birth.

23           (vii) Telephone number. An application shall not be

24 rejected because of noncompliance with this subparagraph.

25           (viii) Race. An application shall not be rejected

26 because of noncompliance with this subparagraph.

27           (2) Data required on the voter registration application

28 shall not be more nor less than the minimum data elements

29 permissible for Federal voter registration.

30           (3) Any person who assists in the completion of the



1 registration application shall sign the application and  
2 indicate the person's address. In the case of those  
3 [registering] automatically registered electronically under  
4 [sections] section 1323 (relating to [application] automatic  
5 registration with driver's license application) [and], 1325  
6 (relating to government agencies) or 1325.2 (relating to  
7 Commonwealth agencies and other entities), the person  
8 providing assistance shall insert the person's initials or  
9 employee or agent identification number on a separate or  
10 detachable portion of the application or the computer data  
11 file.

12 (4) A voter registration application shall be printed on  
13 stock of good quality and shall be of suitable uniform size.  
14 Nothing in this part shall prohibit the design and use of an  
15 electronic voter registration application which includes the  
16 applicant's digitized or electronic signature. The  
17 registration application shall contain the following  
18 information; however, the information may be provided on a  
19 separate form for automatic voter registration made under  
20 section 1323 [or], 1325 or 1325.2:

21 (i) Notice that a registered elector does not need  
22 to reregister unless the registered elector has moved.

23 (ii) Instructions on how to fill out and submit the  
24 application and notification of when the application must  
25 be submitted to a voter registration office in order to  
26 be registered for the ensuing election.

27 (iii) Notice that the applicant must be a citizen of  
28 the United States for at least one month prior to the  
29 next election and a resident of this Commonwealth and the  
30 election district for at least 30 days and must be at

1 least 18 years of age by the day of the next ensuing  
2 election [and has not been confined in a penal  
3 institution for a conviction of a felony within the last  
4 five years]. The notice required in this subparagraph  
5 shall be in print identical to the declaration under  
6 subsection (b).

7 (iv) Notice that political party enrollment is  
8 mandatory to vote in a primary election of a political  
9 party.

10 (v) [Notice] For a paper application, notice that  
11 the commission will mail by nonforwardable mail to the  
12 applicant a voter's identification card upon acceptance  
13 of the application and that the applicant should contact  
14 the commission if the identification card is not received  
15 within 14 days from the date the application is sent to  
16 the registration office.

17 (v.1) For automatic registration under section 1323,  
18 1325 or 1325.2, notice that the commission will notify  
19 the individual of the registration and that if the  
20 individual does not decline to be registered as an  
21 elector within 21 calendar days after the commission  
22 issues the notification, the individual's electronic  
23 record and electronic signature submitted under paragraph  
24 (1) shall constitute a completed voter registration card  
25 for purposes of this chapter.

26 (vi) Notice that registration is not complete until  
27 the application is processed and accepted by the  
28 commission.

29 (vii) A warning to the applicant that making a false  
30 registration or furnishing false information is perjury.

1 The notice required in this subparagraph shall be in  
2 print identical to the declaration under subsection (b).

3 (viii) Instructions to Federal or State employees  
4 who wish to retain voting residence in county of last  
5 residence to so indicate on the application.

6 (ix) Notice that, if an individual declines to  
7 register to vote, the fact that the individual has  
8 declined to register will remain confidential and will be  
9 used only for voter registration purposes. The notice  
10 required in this subparagraph shall be in print identical  
11 to the declaration under subsection (b).

12 (x) Notice that, if an individual does register to  
13 vote, the office at which the individual submits a voter  
14 registration application or was automatically registered  
15 will remain confidential and will be used for voter  
16 registration purposes only. The notices required in this  
17 subparagraph shall be in print identical to the  
18 declaration in subsection (b).

19 (5) In jurisdictions where there is a single language  
20 minority, the secretary may print a bilingual application.

21 (6) In jurisdictions where a single language minority  
22 exceeds [5%] 3% of the population, the secretary shall:

23 (i) print [a bilingual application] voting notices,  
24 forms, instructions, assistance and ballots in both  
25 English and the minority languages; and

26 (ii) conduct a public educational program among that  
27 language group alerting both organizations and  
28 individuals of that group of the availability of the  
29 bilingual application and encouraging individuals to  
30 register.

1 In jurisdictions where interested citizens or organizations  
2 provide the secretary with information that gives the  
3 secretary sufficient reason to believe a substantial need  
4 exists for language assistance for voting the secretary shall  
5 provide it.

6 (7) To implement section 1324 (relating to application  
7 by mail), the secretary shall print an official voter  
8 registration mail application designed to preserve the  
9 confidentiality of the information required to be submitted.  
10 The application shall contain information required by this  
11 section and shall include the name of each county seat, its  
12 post office mailing address and zip code and its telephone  
13 number. Voter registration mail applications shall contain  
14 information indicating whether the application is a new  
15 registration, change of party enrollment, change of address  
16 or change of name.

17 (8) Nothing in this part shall prohibit a private  
18 organization or individual from printing blank voter  
19 registration applications or shall prohibit the use of such  
20 applications by any other individual, provided that the form,  
21 content and paper quality of such voter registration  
22 application complies with department regulations for the  
23 forms or has received prior approval from the secretary.

24 (b) Registration declaration.--

25 (1) The official voter registration application shall  
26 contain a registration declaration. On the declaration, the  
27 applicant shall state all of the following:

28 (i) The applicant has been a citizen of the United  
29 States for at least one month prior to the next election.

30 (ii) On the day of the next ensuing election, the

1 applicant shall be at least 18 years of age.

2 (iii) On the day of the next ensuing election, the  
3 applicant shall have resided in this Commonwealth and in  
4 the election district for at least 30 days.

5 [(iv) The applicant has not been confined in a penal  
6 institution for a conviction of a felony within the last  
7 five years.]

8 (v) The applicant is legally qualified to vote.

9 (2) The applicant shall affirm all of the following:

10 (i) The information provided in the registration  
11 declaration is true.

12 (ii) The applicant understands that:

13 (A) the registration declaration will be  
14 accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an  
15 affidavit; and

16 (B) if the registration contains a material  
17 false statement, the applicant shall be subject to  
18 penalties for perjury.

19 (3) The registration declaration shall contain the  
20 printed name and signature of the applicant and the date of  
21 signing. An applicant unable to sign the voter registration  
22 application shall make a mark before a person of the  
23 applicant's choice other than the applicant's employer or an  
24 agent of the applicant's union. The person shall insert the  
25 person's name, address and telephone number. If the person is  
26 an employee or agent of the Department of Transportation or  
27 another agency as provided under section 1325 and is  
28 assisting the applicant in an official capacity, the employee  
29 or agent shall insert the initials and identification number  
30 of the employee or agent. In the case of applicants

1 registering under section 1323 or 1325, the person providing  
2 assistance shall insert initials or employee or agent  
3 identification number on [a separate or detachable portion of  
4 the application or] the computer data file.

5 (4) The official registration application shall contain  
6 a notice entitled "PENALTY FOR FALSIFYING DECLARATION." The  
7 notice shall advise the applicant that if a person signs an  
8 official registration application knowing a statement  
9 declared in the application to be false, the person commits  
10 perjury. The notice shall specify the penalty for perjury.

11 (c) Distribution.--

12 (1) The secretary shall supply official registration  
13 applications to commissions.

14 (2) The secretary shall make available for distribution  
15 official voter registration applications to public libraries,  
16 public schools, State-related institutions of higher  
17 education, offices operated by the Department of Revenue,  
18 offices operated by the Department of Aging, area agencies on  
19 aging, offices operated by the Pennsylvania Game Commission  
20 or any of its authorized license-issuing agents, offices  
21 operated by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission or any  
22 of its issuing agents, and offices that provide unemployment  
23 compensation.

24 (3) Each participating agency identified under paragraph  
25 (2) shall:

26 (i) Provide that official voter registration mail  
27 applications are available on the premises and displayed  
28 prominently in a conspicuous location during normal  
29 business hours.

30 (ii) Provide an official voter registration mail

1 application to any individual requesting one.

2 (iii) Provide reasonable space for nonpartisan signs  
3 or posters indicating the availability of official voter  
4 registration mail applications on the premises.

5 (4) The secretary may provide technical assistance to  
6 commissions upon request and agencies designated under  
7 paragraph (2).

8 (5) The secretary shall print and distribute mail  
9 registration applications which are not postage paid and  
10 which shall not be specific to any county registration  
11 office. Along with the distribution of such applications, the  
12 secretary shall also include instructions to inform the  
13 applicant where the application is to be sent.

14 (6) The secretary and commissions shall supply  
15 applications to all of the following:

16 (i) Persons and organizations who request  
17 applications.

18 (ii) Federal, State and political subdivision  
19 offices.

20 (iii) Political parties and political bodies.

21 (iv) Candidates.

22 (7) The secretary shall print and distribute same day  
23 voter registration applications to all polling places  
24 throughout this Commonwealth. Along with the distribution of  
25 such applications, the secretary shall also include  
26 instructions to inform the applicant of the same day voter  
27 registration application process, the process for counting  
28 the applicant's vote and verifying the applicant's  
29 eligibility.

30 (d) Staff.--Agency employees assisting in the distribution

1 of voter registration applications under subsection (c) shall  
2 conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the following  
3 principles:

4 (1) They shall not seek to influence an applicant's  
5 political preference or party registration or display  
6 political preference or party allegiance.

7 (2) They shall not make any statement to an applicant or  
8 take any action the purpose of or effect of which is to  
9 discourage the applicant from registering to vote.

10 (3) They shall not make any statement to an applicant or  
11 take any action the purpose of or effect of which is to lead  
12 the applicant to believe that a decision to register or not  
13 to register has any bearing on the availability of services  
14 or benefits.

15 Agency employees who violate this subsection shall be removed  
16 from employment, provided that the agency at its discretion may  
17 impose a penalty of suspension without pay for at least 30 days,  
18 but not more than 120 days, if it finds that the violation does  
19 not warrant termination.

20 § 1328. Approval of registration applications.

21 \* \* \*

22 (b) Decision.--A commission shall do one of the following:

23 (1) Record and forward a voter registration application  
24 to the proper commission if the commission finds during its  
25 examination under subsection (a) that the applicant does not  
26 reside within the commission's county but resides elsewhere  
27 in this Commonwealth.

28 (2) Reject a voter registration application[, ] or an  
29 electronic voter registration record transferred under  
30 section 1323 (relating to automatic registration with



1 driver's license application), 1325 (relating to government  
2 agencies) or 1325.2 (relating to Commonwealth agencies and  
3 other entities), indicate the rejection and the reasons for  
4 the rejection on the application or electronic voter  
5 registration record and notify the applicant by first class  
6 nonforwardable mail, return postage guaranteed of the  
7 rejection and the reason if the commission finds during its  
8 examination under subsection (a) any of the following:

9 (i) The application or electronic registration was  
10 not properly completed and, after reasonable efforts by  
11 the commission to ascertain the necessary information,  
12 the application or electronic registration remains  
13 incomplete or inconsistent.

14 (ii) The applicant is not a qualified elector.

15 (iii) The applicant is not entitled to a transfer of  
16 registration or a change of address.

17 (iv) The applicant is not legally qualified for a  
18 change of name.

19 A rejection shall be made no later than ten days before the  
20 election succeeding the filing of the application.

21 (3) Process a voter registration application or  
22 electronic registration in accordance with subsection (c) if  
23 the commission finds during its examination under subsection  
24 (a) all of the following:

25 (i) The application or electronic registration  
26 requests registration.

27 (ii) The application or electronic registration  
28 contains the required information indicating that the  
29 applicant is a qualified elector of the county.

30 (4) Process a voter registration application or

1 electronic registration in accordance with subsection (c) and  
2 update its registration records if the commission finds  
3 during its examination under subsection (a) all of the  
4 following:

5 (i) The application or electronic registration  
6 requests registration.

7 (ii) The application or electronic registration  
8 contains the required information indicating that the  
9 applicant is a qualified elector of the county.

10 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered  
11 elector of the county.

12 (5) Process a voter registration application or  
13 electronic registration in accordance with subsection (c) and  
14 request transfer of registration records in accordance with  
15 subsection (d) if the commission finds during its examination  
16 under subsection (a) all of the following:

17 (i) The application or electronic registration  
18 requests registration.

19 (ii) The application or electronic registration  
20 contains the required information indicating that the  
21 applicant is a qualified elector of the county.

22 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered  
23 elector of another county.

24 (6) Process a voter registration application or  
25 electronic registration in accordance with subsection (c) and  
26 request transfer of registration records in accordance with  
27 subsection (d) if the commission finds during its examination  
28 under subsection (a) all of the following:

29 (i) The application or electronic registration  
30 requests a transfer of registration.

1           (ii) The application or electronic registration  
2 contains the required information indicating that the  
3 applicant is a qualified elector of the county.

4           (iii) The applicant is currently a registered  
5 elector of another county.

6           (7) Process a voter registration application or  
7 electronic registration in accordance with subsection (c) and  
8 update its registration if the commission finds during its  
9 examination under subsection (a) all of the following:

10           (i) The application or electronic registration  
11 requests a change of address.

12           (ii) The application or electronic registration  
13 contains the required information indicating that the  
14 applicant is a qualified elector of the county.

15           (iii) The applicant is currently a registered  
16 elector of the county.

17           (8) Process a voter registration application or  
18 electronic registration in accordance with subsection (c) and  
19 update its registration records if the commission finds  
20 during its examination under subsection (a) all of the  
21 following:

22           (i) The application or electronic registration  
23 requests a change of name.

24           (ii) The applicant is legally qualified to a change  
25 of name.

26           (iii) The application or electronic registration  
27 contains the required information indicating that the  
28 applicant is a qualified elector of the county.

29           (iv) The applicant is currently a registered elector  
30 of the county.

1           (9) Voters shall be able to track the status of their  
2 registration online via a secure publicly accessible Internet  
3 website.

4       (c) Processing of voter registration.--

5           (1) When a commission has accepted a voter registration  
6 application or electronic registration under subsection (b)

7 (3), the commission shall assign each applicant a unique  
8 identification number in the SURE system. [The] Except as  
9 provided in section 1323(c) (3.1), 1325(f) (4) or 1325.2(f) (4),

10 the commission shall mail a wallet-sized voter's  
11 identification card to the individual by first class  
12 nonforwardable mail, return postage guaranteed, which shall  
13 serve as notice of the acceptance of the application. The  
14 card shall contain all of the following:

15           (i) Name and address of the individual.

16           (ii) Name of municipality of residence.

17           (iii) Identification of the individual's ward and  
18 district.

19           (iv) The effective date of registration.

20           (v) Designation of party enrollment and date of  
21 enrollment.

22           (vi) A space for the individual's signature or mark.

23           (vii) The unique identification number of the  
24 individual.

25           (viii) A statement that the individual must notify  
26 the commission within ten days from the date it was  
27 mailed if any information on the card is incorrect;  
28 otherwise, the information shall be deemed correct for  
29 voter registration purposes.

30           (2) When a commission has accepted a voter registration

1 application under subsection (b) (4), (5), (6), (7) or (8),  
2 except as provided in section 1323(c) (3.1), 1325(f) (4) or  
3 1325.2(f) (4), the commission shall mail a wallet-sized  
4 voter's identification card to the individual by first class  
5 nonforwardable mail, return postage guaranteed, which shall  
6 serve as notice of the acceptance of the application. The  
7 card shall contain all of the following:

8 (i) Name and address of the individual.

9 (ii) Name of municipality of residence.

10 (iii) Identification of the individual's ward and  
11 district.

12 (iv) The effective date of registration.

13 (v) Designation of party enrollment and date of  
14 enrollment.

15 (vi) A space for the individual's signature or mark.

16 (vii) The SURE registration number of the  
17 individual.

18 (viii) A statement that the individual must notify  
19 the commission within ten days from the date it was  
20 mailed if any information on the card is incorrect;  
21 otherwise, the information shall be deemed correct for  
22 voter registration purposes.

23 (3) An envelope containing a voter identification card  
24 shall be marked on the outside with a request to the  
25 postmaster to return it within five days if it cannot be  
26 delivered to the addressee at the address given.

27 (4) (i) If an envelope containing a voter  
28 identification card has been mailed in accordance with  
29 paragraphs (1) and (3) and has not been returned to the  
30 commission by the postmaster within ten days from the

1 date it was mailed, the individual shall be deemed a  
2 registered elector of the county and the commission shall  
3 enter the individual's registration information in the  
4 general register. The unique identification number shall  
5 be entered as the registered elector's SURE registration  
6 number. No person shall be deemed a registered elector of  
7 the county until ten days after the voter identification  
8 card has been mailed.

9 (ii) If an envelope containing a voter  
10 identification card has been mailed in accordance with  
11 paragraphs (2) and (3) and has not been returned to the  
12 commission by the postmaster within ten days from the  
13 date it was mailed, the individual shall be deemed a  
14 registered elector of the county and the commission shall  
15 enter the individual's registration information in the  
16 general register. No person shall be deemed a registered  
17 elector of the county until ten days after the voter  
18 identification card has been mailed.

19 (5) If an envelope containing a voter identification  
20 card is returned by the postmaster because the envelope is  
21 undeliverable at the given address, the commission shall  
22 investigate. If the commission finds that the individual is  
23 not qualified to register from the address, the commission  
24 shall reject the application and shall notify the individual  
25 by first class forwardable mail of this action.

26 \* \* \*

27 § 1501. Removal notices.

28 (a) Form.--

29 (1) A commission shall make removal notices available to  
30 electors who are registered in the county.

1           (2) The notice shall be printed upon cards suitable for  
2 mailing, addressed to the office of the commission. The  
3 notice shall provide the following information:

4           (i) The address of present residence, including  
5 municipality.

6           (ii) The address of last registration, including  
7 municipality.

8           (iii) Date of removal to present residence.

9           (iv) Signature.

10          [(3) The notice shall contain a statement that the  
11 registered elector may, by filling out properly and signing a  
12 removal notice and returning it to the office of the  
13 commission, secure the transfer of registration effective as  
14 to elections at least 30 days after the date of removal into  
15 the new district.

16          (4) The notice shall contain a warning to the registered  
17 elector that the notice will not be accepted as an  
18 application for transfer of the elector's registration unless  
19 the signature thereon can be identified by the commission as  
20 the elector's signature as it appears on file with the  
21 commission.

22          (5) The notice shall contain a warning to the registered  
23 elector that the notice must be received by the commission  
24 not later than 30 days before an election. If mailed, the  
25 notice must be postmarked not later than the deadline for  
26 registration or, in the case of an illegible or missing  
27 postmark, received within five days of the close of  
28 registration.]

29          (6) A person who has changed the person's permanent  
30 place of residence within this Commonwealth, but who has not

1 transferred voter registration to the new address, shall be  
2 permitted to vote a regular ballot at the polling place for  
3 the person's new address on the day of the election,  
4 including any days established for early voting, under  
5 paragraph (7).

6 (7) An elector who moves from the precinct in which the  
7 elector is registered shall be permitted to change the  
8 elector's place of residence and vote by regular ballot in  
9 the precinct to which the elector has moved if the elector  
10 completes an affirmation in substantially the following form:

11 Change of Legal Residence  
12 of Registered Voter

13 Under penalties for false swearing, I,.....  
14 (name of voter) swear (or affirm) that the former address  
15 of my legal residence was.....  
16 .....  
17 (address of legal residence) in the municipality of  
18 .....in  
19 .....County,  
20 Pennsylvania, and I was registered to vote at this  
21 address; that I have not voted in the precinct of my  
22 former registration in this election; that now I reside  
23 at the following address:

24 (i) Address.....  
25 .....

26 (ii) Municipality.....

27 (iii) County.....

28 (iv) Pennsylvania Zip Code.....

29 (v) I further swear (or affirm) that I am otherwise  
30 legally registered, eligible and entitled to vote



1 .....  
2 (Signature of voter whose address of legal residence  
3 has changed)

4 (8) An elector whose name is changed from that on the  
5 elector's voter registration, because of marriage or other  
6 legal process, shall be permitted to vote under the elector's  
7 new name, provided such elector completes an affirmation in  
8 substantially the following form:

9 Change of Name  
10 of Registered Voter

11 Under penalties for false swearing, I,.....  
12 (new name of voter) swear (or affirm) that my name has  
13 been changed because of marriage or other legal process.  
14 My former name and address of legal residence appear on  
15 the registration records as follows:

- 16 (i) Name.....
- 17 (ii) Address.....
- 18 .....
- 19 (iii) Municipality.....
- 20 (iv) County.....
- 21 (v) Pennsylvania Zip Code.....
- 22 (vi) My present name and address of legal residence  
23 are as follows:

- 24 (vii) Name.....
- 25 (viii) Address.....
- 26 .....
- 27 (ix) Municipality.....
- 28 (x) County.....
- 29 (xi) Pennsylvania Zip Code.....
- 30 (xii) And I further swear (or affirm) that I am

1           otherwise legally registered and entitled to vote  
2           .....  
3           (Signature of voter whose name has changed)

4           (9) The affirmation, when completed and presented at the  
5 precinct in which the elector is entitled to vote, upon  
6 verification that the elector is a registered voter in this  
7 Commonwealth, shall entitle the elector to vote a regular  
8 ballot as provided in this subsection. If the elector's  
9 registration record cannot be located in the State database,  
10 the elector shall be entitled to vote a provisional ballot,  
11 subject to the requirement and procedures in section 1210(a)  
12 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the  
13 Pennsylvania Election Code. Upon receipt of an affirmation or  
14 application certifying a change in address of legal residence  
15 or name, the director of the county board of elections shall,  
16 as soon as practicable, make the necessary changes in the  
17 SURE system to indicate the change in address of legal  
18 residence and name of the elector.

19           (10) The secretary shall ensure that each precinct shall  
20 have access to the SURE system to determine an elector's  
21 eligibility to vote in accordance with this section. If  
22 access to the Statewide database is unavailable at each  
23 precinct on the effective date of this paragraph, the  
24 secretary shall, within 90 days of the effective date,  
25 present the General Assembly with a plan to comply with this  
26 provision within 12 months of the effective date. During such  
27 period as a precinct does not have access to the Statewide  
28 voter registration system, voters will be still be offered  
29 the opportunity to update any new voter information in  
30 accordance with this section.

1        [(b) Use.--A registered elector who removes residence from  
2 one place to another within the same county must notify the  
3 commission by filing a removal notice under subsection (a) or a  
4 signed request for renewal that contains the information  
5 required in subsection (a) with the commission not later than  
6 the registration deadline before an election. If mailed, the  
7 notice or request must be postmarked not later than the deadline  
8 for registration or, in the case of an illegible or missing  
9 postmark, received within five days of the close of  
10 registration. The following apply:

11            (1) An official registration application of an elector  
12 who has registered by mail qualifies as a removal notice.

13            (2) A registered elector who removes residence from one  
14 place to another within the same county and who has not yet  
15 filed a removal notice with the commission shall be permitted  
16 to vote once at the elector's former polling place following  
17 removal if, at the time of signing the voter's certificate,  
18 the elector files with the judge of election a signed removal  
19 notice properly filled out. Removal notices under this  
20 paragraph shall be returned to the commission with the voting  
21 check list, and the commission shall proceed to transfer the  
22 registration of the elector under section 1502 (relating to  
23 transfer of registration) and shall promptly update  
24 information contained in its registration records. A  
25 registered elector may vote in the election district of the  
26 elector's former residence not more than one time following  
27 the elector's removal.

28            (3) A registered elector who removes residence from one  
29 county to another county and who is not registered to vote in  
30 the new county of residence shall be permitted to vote in the

1 election district in the former county of residence if, at  
2 the time of signing the elector's certificate, the elector  
3 files with the judge of election a signed affirmation  
4 declaring the elector's new residence. A registered elector  
5 may vote in the election district of the elector's former  
6 residence not more than one time following the elector's  
7 removal. Affirmations made under this paragraph shall be  
8 returned to the commission of the elector's former county of  
9 residence with the voting checklist, and that commission  
10 shall proceed to transfer the registration of the elector  
11 under section 1502. Upon receipt of the transfer notice, the  
12 commission of the elector's new county of residence shall  
13 immediately process the transfer of the elector in accordance  
14 with section 1328 (relating to approval of registration  
15 applications). Both commissions shall promptly update  
16 information contained in their registration records.]

17 (c) Alternate method.--In lieu of the affirmation contained  
18 in subsection (a) (4) or (5), an elector may complete a voter  
19 registration application that indicates the change of name or  
20 change of address of legal residence.

21 Section 5. Title 25 is amended by adding a section to read:  
22 § 1515. Effect of inmates being released from correctional  
23 facilities.

24 (a) Duty of Department of Corrections.--The Department of  
25 Corrections shall, within 14 days of the release of an inmate  
26 from incarceration in a State correctional institution, send the  
27 name and address of residence of that individual to the county  
28 board of elections in the inmate's county of residence in a  
29 manner and on a form prescribed by the department. The county  
30 board of elections shall promptly update information contained

1 in its registration records.

2 (b) Duty of county officials.--The warden or supervisor of a  
3 county jail or prison shall, within 14 days of the release of an  
4 individual from incarceration in the county jail or prison, send  
5 the name and address of residence of that individual to the  
6 county board of elections in a manner and on a form prescribed  
7 by the county. The county board of elections shall promptly  
8 update information contained in its registration records.

9 Section 6. Section 3302(a) of Title 25 is amended and the  
10 section is amended by adding subsections to read:

11 § 3302. Application for absentee ballots.

12 (a) General rule.--Notwithstanding the provisions of Part IV  
13 (relating to voter registration) or the act of June 3, 1937  
14 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code,  
15 [the following persons] any qualified elector may make  
16 application for an absentee ballot by sending a letter or other  
17 signed document to or by appearing in person in accordance with  
18 subsection (e) at the county board of elections in the county in  
19 which the person's voting address is located[:]. The period for  
20 casting an absentee ballot shall begin on the 30th day before  
21 any regularly scheduled primary or general election or any  
22 special election. All completed ballots must be received by 5  
23 p.m. on the Friday before the primary, general or special  
24 election. The period for requesting an absentee ballot  
25 application shall begin 180 days before the election.

26 [(1) A registered elector who is unable to attend the  
27 polling place on the day of any primary or election because  
28 of illness or physical disability.

29 (2) A registered elector who expects to be absent from  
30 this Commonwealth or the municipality of residence because

1 duties, occupation or business require the elector to be  
2 elsewhere the day of any primary or election.

3 (3) A county employee who cannot vote due to duties  
4 relating to the conduct of elections.

5 (4) A person who will not attend a polling place because  
6 of an observance of a religious holiday.]

7 \* \* \*

8 (e) In-person appearance.--Any qualified elector who appears  
9 during normal business hours at a county board of elections in  
10 the county in which the person's voting address is located shall  
11 be permitted to, at that time, apply for an absentee ballot,  
12 complete the application, submit the application, receive and  
13 complete the ballot and cast the ballot, subject to review and  
14 approval of the application in accordance with law.

15 (f) Reason for requesting absentee ballot.--No qualified  
16 elector who submits an application for an absentee ballot may be  
17 required to state the reason for the absentee ballot.

18 (g) Online information.--The Secretary of State shall  
19 provide a secure publicly accessible Internet website through  
20 which voters can track their absentee ballot. Voters shall be  
21 able to see online:

22 (1) When the application for a ballot is received by the  
23 board of elections.

24 (2) Whether the application was rejected and, if so,  
25 why.

26 (3) The status of a ballot being mailed.

27 (4) The receipt of the filled-out ballot by the board.

28 (5) The status of whether the ballot was counted.

29 (h) Permanent absentee voter status.--

30 (1) Any voter may request permanent absentee voter

1 status by requesting that status on an absentee ballot  
2 application.

3 (2) Election officials shall record the voter's  
4 permanent absentee voter status.

5 (3) A voter shall retain the status until the voter  
6 submits a signed request to the board of elections requesting  
7 cancellation of permanent absentee voter status.

8 (4) If a voter has permanent absentee status, an  
9 absentee ballot shall be mailed on the first day of the  
10 absentee voting period.

11 Section 7. Title 25 is amended by adding a section to read:  
12 § 3303. Early voting.

13 (a) Establishment.--The Secretary of State shall allow  
14 electors to vote early at the county board of elections office  
15 and additional sites as designated by the county board of  
16 elections.

17 (b) Sites.--The Secretary of State may designate any city  
18 hall or permanent public library facility as early voting sites.  
19 If designated, the sites must be geographically located to  
20 provide voters in the county an equal opportunity to cast a  
21 ballot, as is practicable.

22 (c) Results.--The results or tabulation of votes cast during  
23 early voting may not be made before the close of the polls on  
24 election day. Early voting results shall be reported in the same  
25 manner as votes cast on election day.

26 (d) Designation of sites.--The Secretary of State shall  
27 designate each early voting site by no later than the 30th day  
28 prior to an election and each local elections board shall  
29 undertake steps to inform the public about early voting and the  
30 locations of early voting centers in each county.

1 (e) Opening and closing.--Voting sites shall be open on the  
2 same days for the same amount of time and shall allow any person  
3 in line at the closing of an early voting site to vote. Early  
4 voting sites shall open no sooner than 7 a.m. and close no later  
5 than 8 p.m. on each applicable day.

6 (f) Duration.--Early voting shall begin on the 15th day  
7 before an election and end at 6 p.m. on the Sunday before an  
8 election. For a special election, early voting shall begin on  
9 the eighth day before an election and end on the second day  
10 before an election. Early voting shall be provided for 10 hours  
11 per weekday and eight hours on each Saturday and Sunday at each  
12 site during the applicable periods.

13 (g) Municipalities.--Municipalities may provide early voting  
14 in municipal elections that are not held in conjunction with  
15 county or State elections. If a municipality provides early  
16 voting, it may designate as many sites as necessary and shall  
17 conduct its activities in accordance with the provisions of  
18 subsections (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).

19 (h) Early voting period.--

20 (1) During early voting periods, each judge of elections  
21 shall make available the names of voters and total number of  
22 voters casting a ballot at each early voting location during  
23 the previous day. The information shall be updated and made  
24 available no later than 12 noon of each day and shall be  
25 contemporaneously provided to the Department of State. The  
26 ballot of each elector voting early shall be counted even if  
27 the elector dies on or before election day.

28 (2) A list of voters who voted early shall be a matter  
29 of public record.

30 (i) Early voting voter certificate.--The elector must



1 provide identification and must complete an early voting voter  
2 certificate in substantially the following form:

3 EARLY VOTING VOTER CERTIFICATE

4 I,....., am a qualified elector in this election and  
5 registered voter of ..... County, Pennsylvania. I do  
6 solemnly swear or affirm that I am the person listed on the  
7 voter registration rolls of ..... County and that I  
8 reside at the listed address. I understand that if I vote  
9 unlawfully or attempt to vote unlawfully, I could be convicted  
10 of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall, upon conviction,  
11 be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and to  
12 imprisonment for not more than five years. I understand that my  
13 failure to sign this certificate invalidates my ballot.

14 (Voter's Signature).....

15 (Address).....

16 (City/State).....

17 (j) Challenges.--A challenged voter shall vote a provisional  
18 ballot. The judge of elections and the minority and majority  
19 inspectors shall review the ballot and decide the validity of  
20 the ballot by majority vote.

21 (k) Returns.--The canvass of returns for ballots cast under  
22 this section shall be substantially the same as votes cast by  
23 qualified electors in election districts.

24 Section 8. Title 25 is amended by adding a chapter to read:

25 CHAPTER 37

26 VOTER EDUCATION

27 Sec.

28 3701. Definitions.

29 3702. Notice of enacted changes to law.

30 3703. Voter education plan.

1 § 3701. Definitions.

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

5 "Demographic group." Each group which section 2 of the  
6 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110, 52 U.S.C. § 10301  
7 et seq.), protects from the denial or abridgment of the right to  
8 vote on account of race or color, or in contravention of the  
9 guarantees set forth in section 4(f)(2) of that act.

10 § 3702. Notice of enacted changes to law.

11 (a) Duty to provide notice.--

12 (1) If the Commonwealth or a political subdivision of  
13 the Commonwealth makes a change in a prerequisite to voting  
14 or standard, practice or procedure affecting voting in an  
15 election that will result in the prerequisite, standard,  
16 practice or procedure being different from the prior  
17 election, the Commonwealth or political subdivision shall  
18 provide reasonable public notice in the Commonwealth or  
19 political subdivision and on the Internet in a reasonably  
20 convenient and accessible format.

21 (2) The notice shall contain a concise description of  
22 the change, including the difference between the changed  
23 prerequisite, standard, practice or procedure and the  
24 prerequisite, standard, practice or procedure that was  
25 previously in effect.

26 (3) The Commonwealth or political subdivision shall  
27 provide the public notice required under paragraph (1) not  
28 later than 48 hours after making the change involved. If the  
29 change occurs fewer than 48 hours before the date of the  
30 election, public notice shall be made as soon as practicable

1 after the change occurs.

2 (b) Types of changes.--The types of changes that require  
3 public notice include changes in:

4 (1) Polling place names, numbers, locations or changes  
5 affecting out-of-precinct voting.

6 (2) Resources assigned to each polling place, including  
7 number of voting machines, number of volunteer workers and  
8 number of paid workers.

9 (3) Days and hours of voting, including access to  
10 evening and weekend voting.

11 (4) Voter identification or verification requirements at  
12 the polls.

13 (5) Changes to voter registration or verification  
14 requirements, including the ability to register and update  
15 registration at the polls.

16 (6) Voter challenge procedures.

17 (7) Absentee and provisional ballot procedures.

18 (8) Voter assistance rules and procedures.

19 (9) Changes to the method of election to add seats  
20 elected at-large or to change one or more seats elected by  
21 single-member seats.

22 (10) Reductions in the kind or type of voting materials  
23 that are provided in a language other than English or changes  
24 to the manner in which such materials are provided or  
25 distributed.

26 (11) Any changes to the boundaries of a jurisdiction  
27 that reduces by three or more percentage points the  
28 proportion of the jurisdiction's voting-age population that  
29 is comprised of members of a single racial or language  
30 minority group in the jurisdiction.

1           (12) Changes to list maintenance requirements or  
2 procedures.

3 (c) Demographic and electoral data.--

4           (1) Not later than 10 days after making any change in  
5 the constituency that will participate in an election for  
6 Federal, State or local office or the boundaries of an  
7 electoral district in an election for Federal, State or local  
8 office, including redistricting, reapportionment or changing  
9 from at-large elections to district-based elections, the  
10 Commonwealth or political subdivision shall provide  
11 reasonable public notice of the demographic and electoral  
12 data for each of the geographic areas.

13           (2) The geographic areas shall consist of:

14           (i) The Commonwealth as a whole, if the change  
15 applies Statewide, or the political subdivision as a  
16 whole, if the change applies across the entire political  
17 subdivision.

18           (ii) If the change includes a plan to replace or  
19 eliminate voting units or electoral districts, each  
20 voting unit or electoral district that will be replaced  
21 or eliminated.

22           (iii) If the change includes a plan to establish new  
23 voting units or electoral districts, each such new voting  
24 unit or electoral district.

25           (3) The demographic and electoral data with respect to a  
26 geographic area shall consist of:

27           (i) The voting age population, broken down by  
28 demographic group.

29           (ii) If it is reasonably available to the  
30 Commonwealth or political subdivision involved, an

1 estimate of the population of the area that consists of  
2 citizens of the United States who are 18 years of age or  
3 older, itemize by demographic group.

4 (iii) The number of registered voters, itemized by  
5 demographic group if the itemization is reasonably  
6 available to the Commonwealth or political subdivision.

7 (iv) The actual number of votes or, if it is not  
8 reasonably practicable for the Commonwealth or political  
9 subdivision to ascertain the actual number of votes, the  
10 estimated number of votes received by each candidate in  
11 each Statewide election and, if the change applies to  
12 only one political subdivision, in each subdivision-wide  
13 election held during the five-year period which ends on  
14 the date the change involved is made.

15 (4) Compliance with this subsection shall be voluntary  
16 for a political subdivision unless the political subdivision  
17 is one of the following:

18 (i) A county of any class.

19 (ii) A governmental unit with a population greater  
20 than 10,000, as determined under the most recent  
21 decennial census.

22 (iii) A school district with a population greater  
23 than 10,000, as determined under the most recent  
24 decennial census.

25 (5) The secretary may issue rules specifying a  
26 reasonably convenient and accessible format that the  
27 Commonwealth and political subdivisions shall use to provide  
28 public notice of information under this section.

29 (d) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be  
30 construed to deny or abridge the right to vote of any person

1 because the person failed to comply with a change made by the  
2 Commonwealth or political subdivision, if the Commonwealth or  
3 political subdivision involved did not meet the applicable  
4 requirements of this section.

5 § 3703. Voter education plan.

6 (a) Duty of secretary.--The secretary shall, in consultation  
7 with community organizations and local election administrators,  
8 develop and implement a voter education plan for fully educating  
9 the public about a new registration or voting change as  
10 described in section 3702(b) (relating to notice of enacted  
11 changes to law).

12 (b) Multilingual materials.--All materials used in the plan  
13 shall be written in consultation with literacy experts and, in a  
14 political subdivision where a language minority exceeds 3% of  
15 the population, the materials shall be provided in all  
16 applicable languages.

17 (c) Components.--Components of the voter education plan  
18 shall include the following:

19 (1) Mailings to all known citizens.

20 (2) Educational brochures and fliers to be made  
21 available for dissemination by local elections officials,  
22 community organizations, civic groups, religious  
23 institutions, institutions of higher education and political  
24 parties.

25 (3) Newspaper, radio and television advertisements,  
26 including ethnic media and outlets with wide public reach.

27 (4) Social media.

28 (5) E-mails to voters with known e-mail addresses.

29 (6) An informational section on the publicly accessible  
30 Internet website of the Department of State, including new

1 laws and regulations, copies of the mailers, brochures and  
2 other educational materials. The materials shall be available  
3 to download and provided in the languages as required under  
4 subsection (b).

5 (d) School preregistration.--With respect to preregistration  
6 in particular, the secretary shall, in consultation with  
7 secondary schools, school boards, parents and local  
8 administrators, develop and implement an education plan  
9 regarding preregistration in schools.

10 Section 9. This act shall take effect in 60 days.