
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2562 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, MILLARD, LONGIETTI, READSHAW, HELM,
THOMAS, SCHLOSSBERG, WARD, DRISCOLL, PICKETT, DALEY AND
NESBIT, JULY 17, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JULY 17, 2018

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 the Pennsylvania Election Law
12 Advisory Board.

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 XIII-D

19 Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory Board

20 Section 1301-D. Definitions.

21 The following words and phrases when used in this article
22 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Board." The Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory Board
3 established under section 1302-D(a).

4 "Department." The Department of State of the Commonwealth.
5 Section 1302-D. Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory Board.

6 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory
7 Board is established within the department.

8 (b) Members.--The board shall be comprised of the following
9 members:

10 (1) The Secretary of State or a designee.

11 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate or a
12 designee.

13 (3) The Minority Leader of the Senate or a designee.

14 (4) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or a
15 designee.

16 (5) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
17 or a designee.

18 (6) Twenty members appointed by the Governor, which
19 shall include members who:

20 (i) represent geographically and politically diverse
21 areas of this Commonwealth;

22 (ii) represent groups advocating for individuals
23 with disabilities;

24 (iii) represent groups advocating for minorities;

25 (iv) represent groups advocating for voting rights;

26 (v) represent county commissioners;

27 (vi) represent county election officials; and

28 (vii) are experts in the fields of computer
29 security, network security, cyber risk and resilience
30 assessment, internal controls accounting, information

1 technology auditing and statistics.

2 (c) Duties.--The board shall have the following duties:

3 (1) Study the Pennsylvania Election Code and identify
4 statutory language to repeal, modify or update.

5 (2) Collaborate with other agencies and political
6 subdivisions of the Commonwealth to study election-related
7 issues.

8 (3) Study the development of new election technology and
9 voting machines.

10 (4) Evaluate and make recommendations on:

11 (i) improving the electoral process in Pennsylvania
12 by amending the Pennsylvania Election Code; and

13 (ii) implementing best practices identified to
14 ensure the integrity and efficiency of the electoral
15 process in Pennsylvania.

16 (5) By the end of each fiscal year, publish extensive
17 and detailed findings on the department's publicly accessible
18 Internet website and make them available in electronic format
19 to the Office of the Governor and members of the General
20 Assembly.

21 (d) Quorum.--A majority of appointed members shall
22 constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

23 (e) Chairperson and vice chairperson.--The members shall
24 select a member to be chairperson and another member to be vice
25 chairperson.

26 (f) Transparency and ethics.--The board shall be subject to
27 the following laws:

28 (1) The act of July 19, 1957 (P.L.1017, No.451), known
29 as the State Adverse Interest Act.

30 (2) The act of October 4, 1978 (P.L.883, No.170),

1 referred to as the Public Official and Employee Ethics Law.

2 (3) The act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as
3 the Right-to-Know Law.

4 (4) 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings).

5 (g) Information gathering.--The board may conduct hearings
6 and otherwise gather pertinent information and analysis that it
7 considers appropriate and necessary to fulfill its duties.

8 (h) Logistical and other support.--The board shall receive
9 logistical and other support from the Joint State Government
10 Commission and may employ additional temporary staff as needed.

11 (i) Reimbursement.--The board and members of the board shall
12 be reimbursed for reasonable expenses.

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