

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 216 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY LEACH, SABATINA, FARNESE, FONTANA, BREWSTER,
HAYWOOD, STREET, COSTA, SCHWANK AND HUGHES, JANUARY 26, 2017

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 26, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in voting procedures, providing for early voting.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
6 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

7 § 3303. Early voting.

8 (a) Establishment.--The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
9 allow electors to vote early at the polling place where they are
10 registered in this Commonwealth.

11 (b) Sites.--The Secretary of the Commonwealth may designate
12 any city hall or permanent public library facility as early
13 voting sites. If designated, the sites must be geographically
14 located to provide voters in the county an equal opportunity to
15 cast a ballot, as is practicable.

16 (c) Results.--The results or tabulation of votes cast during
17 early voting may not be made before the close of the polls on
18 election day. Early voting results shall be reported in the same

1 manner as votes cast on election day.

2 (d) Designation of sites.--The Secretary of the Commonwealth
3 shall designate each early voting site by no later than the 30th
4 day prior to an election.

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

10 (f) Duration.--Early voting shall begin on the 15th day
11 before an election and end on the second day before an election.
12 For a special election, early voting shall begin on the eighth
13 day before an election and end on the second day before an
14 election. Early voting shall be provided for eight hours per
15 weekday and eight hours in the aggregate each weekend at each
16 site during the applicable periods.

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

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

1 (i) Early voting voter certificate.--The elector must
2 provide identification and must complete an early voting voter
3 certificate in substantially the following form:

4 EARLY VOTING VOTER CERTIFICATE

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

15 (Voter's Signature)

16 (Address)

17 (City/State)

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

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

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