

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 281 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, COSTA, HUGHES, FONTANA, FARNESE, SCHWANK,
BREWSTER AND HAYWOOD, APRIL 5, 2017

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 5, 2017

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," in preliminary provisions, providing for voter's
12 bill of rights; and, in election districts and polling
13 places, further providing for public buildings to be used
14 where possible and portable polling places.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. The act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known
18 as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended by adding a
19 section to read:

20 Section 107. Voter's Bill of Rights.--(a) The following
21 rights are guaranteed to all registered voters in this
22 Commonwealth:

23 (1) A voter who is in line at the correct polling place
24 during the hours it is required by law to be open may vote, even

1 if the voter's turn to vote does not come until after those
2 hours expire.

3 (2) If a voter has moved from the voter's original polling
4 district to another, the voter may return to the original
5 polling district to vote for as long as the voter remains
6 qualified there. To be eligible to vote in the new polling
7 district, the voter must either file a notice of removal with
8 the voting registrar or register anew.

9 (3) A voter who has a physical disability or who cannot read
10 or write may apply to the voting registrar for a special needs
11 ballot, but this must be done at least ten days before the
12 election.

13 (4) A voter may take the voter's children who are not yet
14 eighteen years of age into the voting booth.

15 (5) A voter has the right to vote without being intimidated
16 or forced to vote for someone the voter does not wish to vote
17 for in an election.

18 (6) A voter who believes that the voter's rights under this
19 act have been violated may call the voter's local law
20 enforcement officers.

21 (b) A listing of the rights set forth under subsection (a)
22 shall be posted publicly in each voter registration office and,
23 on election days, polling place.

24 Section 2. Section 527(a) of the act is amended to read:

25 Section 527. Public Buildings to Be Used Where Possible;
26 Portable Polling Places.--(a) In selecting polling places, the
27 county board of elections shall, wherever possible and
28 practicable, select schoolhouses, municipal buildings or rooms,
29 or other public buildings for that purpose and shall ensure that
30 the places selected are accessible by persons with physical

1 disabilities. Any board of public education or school directors,
2 or county or the municipal authorities shall, upon request of
3 the county board, make arrangements for the use of school
4 property, or of county or municipal property for polling places.
5 In selecting polling places, the county board of elections shall
6 make every effort to select polling places that provide all
7 electors with an environment that is free from intimidation and
8 violence.

9 In the event no available public building as contemplated
10 under this section is situated within the boundaries of any
11 election district, the county board of elections may, not less
12 than twenty days prior to any election, designate as the polling
13 place for such election district any such public building
14 situated in another election district within the same or
15 immediately adjacent ward, or, if there are no wards, then
16 within the same borough or township as the case may be, provided
17 such other building is located in an election district which is
18 immediately adjacent to the boundary of the election district
19 for which it is to be the polling place and is directly
20 accessible therefrom by public street or thoroughfare. Two or
21 more polling places may be located in the same public building
22 under this section. A polling place may be selected and
23 designated hereunder less than twenty days prior to any
24 election, with the approval of a court of competent
25 jurisdiction.

26 * * *

27 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.