

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 563 Session of  
2017

INTRODUCED BY STEFANO, BROWNE, GORDNER, MENSCH, FOLMER,  
GREENLEAF, VULAKOVICH, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, TARTAGLIONE,  
WARD, FARNESE, YUDICHAK, LANGERHOLC, AUMENT, HUTCHINSON,  
SABATINA, VOGEL, HAYWOOD, RAFFERTY AND STREET, MARCH 28, 2017

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 28, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in uniform military and overseas voters, further  
3 providing for definitions, for duties and responsibilities of  
4 secretary and for registering to vote.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. The definition of "military-overseas ballot" in  
8 section 3502 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
9 Statutes is amended and the section is amended by adding a  
10 definition to read:

11 § 3502. Definitions.

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

15 \* \* \*

16 "Electronic submission of a paper ballot." A vote cast and  
17 submitted through electronic means, including, but not limited  
18 to, e-mail and facsimile.

1 \* \* \*

2 "Military-overseas ballot." All of the following:

3 (1) A Federal write-in absentee ballot.

4 (2) A ballot specifically prepared or distributed for  
5 use by a covered voter in accordance with this chapter.

6 (3) A ballot cast by a covered voter in accordance with  
7 this chapter.

8 (4) An electronic submission of a paper ballot.

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 2. Sections 3503(c) and 3505(c) of Title 25 are  
11 amended to read:

12 § 3503. Duties and responsibilities of secretary.

13 \* \* \*

14 (c) Other duties.--The secretary shall do all of the  
15 following:

16 (1) Establish an electronic transmission system through  
17 which a covered voter may apply for and receive voter  
18 registration materials, military-overseas ballots and other  
19 information under this chapter.

20 (2) Develop standardized absentee-voting materials and  
21 their electronic equivalents, authentication materials and  
22 voting instructions to be used with the military-overseas  
23 ballot of a voter authorized to vote in any jurisdiction in  
24 this Commonwealth.

25 (3) To the extent reasonably possible, coordinate with  
26 other states to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

27 (4) Prescribe the form and content of a declaration for  
28 use by a covered voter who does not use the Federal write-in  
29 absentee ballot in accordance with the following:

30 (i) The declaration shall require the covered voter

1 to swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, specific  
2 representations pertaining to the voter's:

3 (A) identity;

4 (B) eligibility to vote;

5 (C) status as a covered voter; and

6 (D) timely and proper completion of a military-  
7 overseas ballot.

8 (ii) The declaration shall be based on the FWAB  
9 declaration, as modified to be consistent with this  
10 chapter.

11 (iii) The secretary shall ensure that a form for the  
12 execution of the declaration, including an indication of  
13 the date of execution of the declaration, is a prominent  
14 part of all balloting materials for which the declaration  
15 is required.

16 (5) Establish an electronic transmission system in which  
17 a covered voter under this chapter may cast an electronic  
18 ballot. The electronic transmission system shall be  
19 operational by January 1, 2019.

20 § 3505. Registering to vote.

21 \* \* \*

22 (c) Electronic transmission system.--The secretary shall  
23 ensure that the electronic transmission system described in  
24 section 3503(c) (relating to duties and responsibilities of  
25 secretary) is capable of accepting a Federal postcard  
26 application, military-overseas ballot and any other approved  
27 electronic registration application sent to the appropriate  
28 county election board. The voter may use the electronic  
29 transmission system or any other approved method to register to  
30 vote.

1       \* \* \*

2       Section 3.   This act shall take effect in 60 days.