

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1543 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, MIZGORSKI, BERNSTINE, NEILSON, CIRESI,
MILLARD, KEEFER, HILL-EVANS, DeLUCA AND DEASY, JUNE 3, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 3, 2019

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 ballots, further providing for form of
12 ballots, printing ballots, stubs and numbers; and, in voting
13 by qualified absentee electors, further providing for
14 applications for official absentee ballots.

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

17 Section 1. Sections 1004 and 1302(e.1) of the act of June 3,
18 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election
19 Code, are amended to read:

20 Section 1004. Form of Ballots; Printing Ballots; Stubs;
21 Numbers.--(a) From the lists furnished by the Secretary of the
22 Commonwealth under the provisions of sections 915 and 984, and
23 from petitions and papers filed in their office, the county
24 election board shall print the official primary and election

1 ballots in accordance with the provisions of this act: Provided,
2 however, That in no event, shall the name of any person
3 consenting to be a candidate for nomination for any one office,
4 except the office of judge of a court of common pleas, the
5 Philadelphia Municipal Court or the Traffic Court of
6 Philadelphia, or the office of school director in districts
7 where that office is elective or the office of justice of the
8 peace be printed as a candidate for such office upon the
9 official primary ballot of more than one party. All ballots for
10 use in the same election district at any primary or election
11 shall be alike. They shall be at least six inches long and four
12 inches wide, and shall have a margin extending beyond any
13 printing thereon. They shall be printed with the same kind of
14 type [(which), which shall not be smaller than the size known as
15 "brevier" or "eight point (body)"] body," upon white paper of
16 uniform quality, without any impression or mark to distinguish
17 one from another, and with sufficient thickness to prevent the
18 printed matter from showing through. Each ballot shall be
19 attached to a stub, and all the ballots for the same election
20 district shall be bound together in books of fifty, in such
21 manner that each ballot may be detached from its stub and
22 removed separately. The ballots for each party to be used at a
23 primary shall be bound separately. The stubs of the ballots
24 shall be consecutively numbered, and in the case of primary
25 ballots, the number shall be preceded by an initial or
26 abbreviation designating the party name. The number and initial
27 or abbreviation which appears upon the stub shall also be
28 printed in the upper right hand corner of the back of the
29 ballot, separated from the remainder of the ballot by a diagonal
30 perforated line so prepared that the upper right hand corner of

1 the back of the ballot containing the number may be detached
2 from the ballot before it is deposited in the ballot box and
3 beside that corner shall also be printed, "Remove numbered stub
4 immediately before depositing your ballot in ballot box."

5 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), upon request in writing
6 of a qualified registered elector under section 1302(e.1), the
7 county election board shall print a ballot in type that may not
8 be smaller than the size known as "sixteen point body" for the
9 qualified registered elector.

10 Section 1302. Applications for Official Absentee Ballots.--*

11 * *

12 (e.1) Any qualified registered elector, including any
13 qualified bedridden or hospitalized veteran, who is unable
14 because of illness or physical disability to attend his polling
15 place on the day of any primary or election or operate a voting
16 machine and state distinctly and audibly that he is unable to do
17 so as required by section 1218 of this act may, with the
18 certification by his attending physician that he is permanently
19 disabled, and physically unable to attend the polls or operate a
20 voting machine and make the distinct and audible statement
21 required by section 1218 appended to the application
22 hereinbefore required, be placed on a permanently disabled
23 absentee ballot list file. [An absentee ballot application shall
24 be mailed to every such person for each primary or election so
25 long as he does not lose his voting rights by failure to vote as
26 otherwise required by this act. Such person shall not be
27 required to file a physician's certificate of disability with
28 each application as required in subsection (e) of this section
29 but such person must submit a written statement asserting
30 continuing disability every four years in order to maintain his

1 eligibility to vote under the provisions of this subsection.]

2 Each qualified registered elector on a permanently disabled
3 absentee ballot list file shall be mailed an absentee ballot
4 each primary and election. A qualified registered elector on a
5 permanently disabled absentee ballot list file whose absentee
6 ballot is returned as undeliverable for three consecutive
7 primaries or two consecutive elections shall be deemed inactive.

8 If a qualified registered elector on a permanently disabled
9 absentee ballot list file dies or is moved to inactive status
10 under this subsection, the elector shall be removed from the
11 permanently disabled absentee ballot list file. Should any such
12 person lose his disability he shall inform the county board of
13 elections of the county of his residence.

14 * * *

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