
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 419 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY FOLMER, SCHWANK, KILLION, STEFANO, ARGALL, COSTA,
K. WARD, BROWNE AND BREWSTER, MARCH 19, 2019

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 19, 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 election districts and polling places, further
12 providing for the consolidation of election districts and for
13 polling places to be selected by county board.

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

16 Section 1. Sections 504 and 526 of the act of June 3, 1937
17 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, are
18 amended to read:

19 Section 504. Petitions by County Board; Action by Court on
20 Petition or Report.--The county board of elections may also
21 petition the court for the division or redivision of any
22 township, borough, ward or election district into two or more
23 election districts, or for the alteration of the bounds of any

1 election district, or for the formation of one or more election
2 districts out of two or more existing election districts, or
3 parts thereof, or for the consolidation of adjoining election
4 districts, accompanying its petition with a map and a verbal
5 description of the boundaries of the proposed new election
6 districts which must have clearly visible physical features
7 conforming with census block lines from the most recently
8 completed Federal decennial census. The petition must also
9 include a certification of the number of electors registered in
10 each of the resulting election districts for the immediately
11 preceding general or municipal election. The county board of
12 elections may consolidate election districts containing less
13 than two hundred fifty (250) registered electors if the
14 consolidated district will not exceed a combined one thousand
15 two hundred (1,200) registered electors. Upon the presentation
16 of any such petition by the county board, or upon the filing by
17 the board of its report and recommendations as to any petition
18 presented by qualified electors under the provisions of section
19 503 of this act, the court may make such order for the division,
20 redivision, alteration, formation or consolidation of election
21 districts, as will, in its opinion, promote the convenience of
22 electors and the public interests: Provided, however, That the
23 court shall not make any final order for the division,
24 redivision, alteration, formation or consolidation of election
25 districts until at least ten days after notice shall have been
26 posted in at least five public and conspicuous places in the
27 district or districts to be affected thereby, one of which
28 notices shall be posted on or in the immediate vicinity of the
29 polling place in each such district. Such notice shall state in
30 brief form the division, redivision, alteration, formation or

1 consolidation of election districts recommended by the county
2 board, the number of electors registered in each district at the
3 immediately preceding general or municipal election, and the
4 date upon which the same will be considered by the court, and
5 shall contain a warning that any person objecting thereto must
6 file his objections with the clerk of the court prior to such
7 date. Upon the making of any such final order by the court, a
8 copy thereof shall be certified by the clerk to the county board
9 of elections.

10 Section 526. Polling Places to Be Selected by County
11 Board.--(a) The county board of elections shall select and fix
12 the polling place within each new election district and may, at
13 any time, for any reason that may seem proper to it, either on
14 its own motion or on petition of ten qualified registered
15 electors of an election district, change the polling place
16 within any election district. Except in case of an emergency or
17 unavoidable event occurring within twenty days of a primary or
18 election, which renders any polling place unavailable for use at
19 such primary or election, the county board shall not change any
20 polling place until at least five days after notice of the
21 proposed change shall have been posted on the existing polling
22 place and in the immediate vicinity thereof, and until at least
23 five days after written notice of the proposed change shall have
24 been given to the occupant or owner of said polling place, or
25 their agent.

26 (b) Except in case of emergency or unavoidable event,
27 occurring within twenty days of a primary or election, which
28 renders any polling place unavailable for use, if a petition be
29 presented to the county board on or before the day set for
30 hearing of the petition for change of polling place, signed by a

1 majority of the registered electors of the district, objecting
2 to the proposed change, said change shall not be ordered.

3 (c) The county board of elections shall publicly announce,
4 not less than twenty days prior to the primary election, special
5 election, municipal election or general election, by posting at
6 its office in a conspicuous place, a list of the places at which
7 the election is to be held in the various election districts of
8 the county. The list shall be available for public inspection at
9 the office of the county board of elections.

10 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a
11 county board of elections may require absentee ballots to be
12 cast in accordance with section 1115-A for an election district
13 with less than two hundred and fifty (250) registered electors.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 90 days.