
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 29 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY DAY, ARMANINI, COX, DOWLING, FRITZ, GILLEN, HAMM,
KAUFFMAN, KERWIN, MILLARD, PENNYCUICK, ROWE AND RYAN,
JUNE 3, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 3, 2021

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 the Secretary of the Commonwealth, providing
12 for paper ballot specifications.

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

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

18 Section 209. Paper Ballot Specifications.--(a)
19 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each paper ballot
20 for an election shall:

21 (1) Include a timing mark, barcode, quick response code or
22 similar measure designed to ensure greater ballot security in

1 the counting and tallying of ballots.

2 (2) Be designed with specific standards regarding the
3 length, width, weight, capacity, codes and watermark, as
4 determined by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, in consultation
5 with county boards.

6 (b) The Secretary of the Commonwealth, in consultation with
7 county boards, shall consider whether the standards under this
8 section shall be applied on a Statewide or countywide basis or
9 only within specific election districts, in light of ballot
10 security issues that could reasonably occur in an election or
11 that have occurred in past elections.

12 Section 2. This act shall apply to elections occurring more
13 than 90 days after the effective date of this section.

14 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.