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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 143 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY DIAMOND, BERNSTINE, BOROWICZ, BROOKS, SCHLEGEL  
CULVER, GROVE, HAMM, IRVIN, JAMES, JOZWIAK, KAUFFMAN, PYLE,  
ROTHMAN, ROWE, RYAN, SAYLOR, SMITH AND STAMBAUGH,  
JANUARY 13, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 13, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in registration system, further providing for SURE  
3 system; in voter registration, further providing for approval  
4 of registration applications; in records, further providing  
5 for public information lists; and, in changes in records,  
6 further providing for removal notices, for transfer of  
7 registration and for death of registrant.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1222 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania  
11 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:

12 § 1222. SURE system.

13 \* \* \*

14 (c.1) Coordination with local registrars.--

15 (1) The department shall establish a process to cross-  
16 reference the department's database of registered electors  
17 with death record information from local registrars, which  
18 shall be conducted at least once each calendar month. A  
19 registered elector whose first and last name, date of birth

1 and last four digits of his Social Security number are found  
2 on a death record shall be subject to immediate removal from  
3 the SURE system.

4 (2) The local commission shall notify the elector by  
5 mail of its action.

6 (3) No registered elector may be removed within 30 days  
7 of an election.

8 (4) As used in this subsection, the term "local  
9 registrar" means a local registrar under the supervision of  
10 the Department of Health in accordance with Article III of  
11 the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304, No.66), known as the Vital  
12 Statistics Law of 1953.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 2. Section 1328(d) of Title 25 is amended by adding  
15 a paragraph to read:

16 § 1328. Approval of registration applications.

17 \* \* \*

18 (d) Transfer of registration records.--

19 \* \* \*

20 (3) Upon receipt of a notice of address change in  
21 accordance with section 1323(a)(3) (relating to application  
22 with driver's license application), the commission of the  
23 individual's former county of residence shall investigate.  
24 Upon verifying that the registered elector has moved to  
25 another state of residence, the commission shall cancel the  
26 registered elector's registration. The commission shall  
27 promptly update information contained in their registration  
28 records.

29 \* \* \*

30 Section 3. Section 1404 of Title 25 is amended by adding a

1 subsection to read:

2 § 1404. Public information lists.

3 \* \* \*

4 (d) Updated lists for absentee or mail-in ballot  
5 applications.--An organization or individual seeking to  
6 circulate absentee ballot or mail-in ballot applications for the  
7 selection, nomination, election or appointment of an individual  
8 to a Federal, State or local public office or office in a  
9 political organization must request and use updated voter  
10 registration data from the Department of State for circulating  
11 absentee ballot or mail-in ballot applications.

12 Section 4. Section 1501(b) introductory paragraph of Title  
13 25 is amended and the subsection is amended by adding a  
14 paragraph to read:

15 § 1501. Removal notices.

16 \* \* \*

17 (b) Use.--A registered elector who removes residence from  
18 one place to another [within the same county] must notify the  
19 commission by filing a removal notice under subsection (a) or a  
20 signed request for renewal that contains the information  
21 required in subsection (a) with the commission not later than  
22 the registration deadline before an election. If mailed, the  
23 notice or request must be postmarked not later than the deadline  
24 for registration or, in the case of an illegible or missing  
25 postmark, received within five days of the close of  
26 registration. The following apply:

27 \* \* \*

28 (4) A registered elector who removes residence from this  
29 Commonwealth to another state and who is not registered to  
30 vote in the new state of residence shall be permitted to vote

1 in the election district in this Commonwealth if, at the time  
2 of signing the elector's certificate, the elector files with  
3 the judge of election a signed affirmation declaring the  
4 elector's new residence. A registered elector may vote in the  
5 election district of the elector's former residence not more  
6 than one time following the elector's removal. Affirmations  
7 made under this paragraph shall be returned to the commission  
8 of the elector's former county of residence and that  
9 commission shall proceed to transfer the registration of the  
10 elector under section 1502. Upon receipt of the address  
11 change under section 1323(a) (3) (relating to application with  
12 driver's license application), the commission of the  
13 elector's former county of residence shall immediately  
14 process the transfer of the elector in accordance with  
15 section 1328. The commission shall promptly update  
16 information contained in its registration records.

17 Section 5. Section 1502(a) of Title 25 is amended by adding  
18 a paragraph to read:

19 § 1502. Transfer of registration.

20 (a) General rule.--Upon timely receipt of notification of  
21 removal under section 1501(b) (relating to removal notices), the  
22 commission shall proceed as follows:

23 \* \* \*

24 (4.1) When a registered elector has filed with a  
25 commission a notice that the elector has moved from this  
26 Commonwealth to another state, if the signature appears  
27 authentic, the commission shall cancel the registration of  
28 the elector and notify the elector's new state of residence.

29 \* \* \*

30 Section 6. Section 1505(b) of Title 25 is amended to read:

1 § 1505. Death of registrant.

2 \* \* \*

3 (b) Other sources.--A commission may also utilize published  
4 newspaper obituaries, letters testamentary [~~or~~], letters of  
5 administration issued by the office of the registrar of wills or  
6 any other source of verified data to cancel and remove the  
7 registration of an elector, provided that such removals are  
8 uniform, nondiscriminatory and in compliance with the Voting  
9 Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110, 42 U.S.C. § 1973 et  
10 seq.). The commission shall promptly update information  
11 contained in its registration records.

12 \* \* \*

13 Section 7. This act shall take effect in 60 days.