
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1596 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY WHEELAND, STAATS, R. MACKENZIE, COOK, CAUSER,
BERNSTINE, KAUFFMAN, BOROWICZ, M. MACKENZIE, RYAN, DIAMOND,
OWLETT, HAMM, ROTHMAN, ROWE, MILLARD AND METCALFE,
JUNE 10, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 10, 2021

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for qualifications of
3 electors.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby resolves as follows:

6 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
7 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

8 (1) That section 1 of Article VII be amended to read:

9 § 1. Qualifications of electors.

10 (a) Every citizen 21 years of age, possessing the following
11 qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections
12 subject, however, to such laws requiring and regulating the
13 registration of electors as the General Assembly may enact.

14 1. He or she shall have been a citizen of the United States
15 at least one month.

16 2. He or she shall have resided in the State 90 days
17 immediately preceding the election.

1 3. He or she shall have resided in the election district
2 where he or she shall offer to vote at least 60 days immediately
3 preceding the election, except that if qualified to vote in an
4 election district prior to removal of residence, he or she may,
5 if a resident of Pennsylvania, vote in the election district
6 from which he or she removed his or her residence within 60 days
7 preceding the election.

8 (b) In addition to the qualifications under subsection (a)
9 of this section, a qualified elector shall provide a valid
10 identification at each election in accordance with the
11 following:

12 1. When voting in person, the qualified elector shall
13 present a valid identification before receiving a ballot to vote
14 in person.

15 2. When voting by absentee ballot or mail-in ballot, the
16 qualified elector shall enclose a copy of a valid identification
17 with his or her absentee ballot or mail-in ballot.

18 (c) The Legislature shall, by general law, provide for the
19 types of valid identifications necessary for a qualified elector
20 to comply with subsection (b) of this section.

21 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
22 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the
23 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
24 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
25 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
26 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
27 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
28 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

29 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this
30 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the

1 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
2 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
3 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
4 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
5 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
6 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the
7 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment
8 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first
9 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
10 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article
11 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least
12 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is
13 passed by the General Assembly.