

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 599 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY SANTARSIERO, HUGHES, KANE, COLLETT, COSTA,
KEARNEY, COMITTA, TARTAGLIONE, SAVAL, FONTANA AND SCHWANK,
APRIL 27, 2021

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 27, 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 voting by qualified absentee electors, further
12 providing for canvassing of official absentee ballots and
13 mail-in ballots.

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

16 Section 1. Section 1308(g)(1.1) of the act of June 3, 1937
17 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code,
18 amended March 27, 2020 (P.L.41, No.12), is amended to read:

19 Section 1308. Canvassing of Official Absentee Ballots and
20 Mail-in Ballots.--* * *

21 (g) * * *

22 (1.1) The county board of elections shall meet no earlier
23 than [seven o'clock A.M. on] twenty-one (21) days prior to

1 election day to pre-canvass all ballots received prior to the
2 meeting. A county board of elections shall provide at least
3 forty-eight hours' notice of a pre-canvass meeting by publicly
4 posting a notice of a pre-canvass meeting on its publicly
5 accessible Internet website. One authorized representative of
6 each candidate in an election and one representative from each
7 political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in
8 which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are pre-
9 canvassed. No person observing, attending or participating in a
10 pre-canvass meeting may disclose the results of any portion of
11 any pre-canvass meeting prior to the close of the polls.

12 * * *

13 Section 2. The amendment of section 1308(g)(1.1) shall apply
14 to elections occurring on or after the effective date of the
15 amendment of section 1308(g)(1.1) of the act.

16 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.