

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 830 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY DAWKINS, HOHENSTEIN, WAXMAN, RABB, KINSEY, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, KHAN, SANCHEZ, KRAJEWSKI AND PARKER, APRIL 4, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 4, 2023

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 polling places to be selected by county board;  
 13 and, in qualifications of electors, further providing for  
 14 residence of electors.

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

17 Section 1. Section 526 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,  
 18 No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended by  
 19 adding a subsection to read:

20 Section 526. Polling Places to Be Selected by County  
 21 Board.--\* \* \*

22 (a.1) The county board of elections in a county of the first  
 23 class shall provide an additional polling place in the county

1 prison for individuals registering their residence at the prison  
2 under section 703(4) (ii).

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 2. Section 703 of the act is amended to read:

5 Section 703. Residence of Electors.--For the purpose of  
6 registration and voting, no person shall be deemed to have  
7 gained a residence by reason of his presence, or lost it by  
8 reason of his absence, [while] in any of the following  
9 circumstances:

10 (1) Being employed in the service, either civil or military,  
11 of this [State] Commonwealth or of the United States[, nor  
12 while].

13 (2) Being engaged in the navigation of the waters of the  
14 State or of the United States, or on the high seas[, nor while].

15 (3) Being a student of any institution of learning[, nor  
16 while kept in any poorhouse or other asylum].

17 (4) Being in an institution at public expense[, nor while  
18 confined in public prison, except that any]. This paragraph does  
19 not apply to any of the following:

20 (i) A veteran who resides in a home for disabled and  
21 indigent soldiers and sailors, operated and maintained by the  
22 Commonwealth [of Pennsylvania, and who possesses all the  
23 qualifications for voting. [, may gain a residence for  
24 registration and voting at the home for disabled and indigent  
25 soldiers and sailors. The provisions of this amendment shall not  
26 be construed to affect the voting rights of bedridden or  
27 hospitalized veterans who choose to vote as absentee electors by  
28 the use of veteran's official ballots.] Such a veteran may elect  
29 to use that residence for registration and voting or elect to  
30 vote as an absentee elector by the use of an absentee ballot.

1        (ii) An individual who is incarcerated in a county prison in  
2 a county of the first class and who is awaiting trial or  
3 sentencing or serving a sentence for a misdemeanor or summary  
4 offense. Such an individual may elect to utilize that residence  
5 for registration and voting or elect to vote as an absentee  
6 elector by the use of an absentee ballot.

7        Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.