

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1757 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY KRAJEWSKI, RABB, BULLOCK, DAWKINS, ABNEY, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, WAXMAN, KHAN, KINSEY, SANCHEZ, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, HOHENSTEIN, HOWARD AND GREEN, OCTOBER 16, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 16, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
 2 Statutes, in voter registration, further providing for
 3 qualifications to register, for government agencies and for
 4 preparation and distribution of applications; and, in voting
 5 procedures, further providing for application for absentee
 6 ballots.

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

9 Section 1. Sections 1301(a), 1325(b)(4) and 1327(a)(4)(iii)
 10 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are
 11 amended to read:

12 § 1301. Qualifications to register.

13 (a) Eligibility.--An individual who will be at least 18
 14 years of age on the day of the next election, who has been a
 15 citizen of the United States for at least one month prior to the
 16 next election and who has resided in this Commonwealth and the
 17 election district where the individual offers to vote for at
 18 least 30 days prior to the next ensuing election [and has not
 19 been confined in a penal institution for a conviction of a

1 felony within the last five years] shall be eligible to register
2 as provided in this chapter.

3 * * *

4 § 1325. Government agencies.

5 * * *

6 (b) Forms.--An agency designated in subsection (a) shall
7 provide a form for office visits or, if the agency provides
8 services to persons with disabilities, for home visits which
9 contains all of the following:

10 * * *

11 (4) The statement "In order to be qualified to register
12 to vote, you must be at least 18 years of age on the day of
13 the next election, you must have been a citizen of the United
14 States for at least one month prior to the next election and
15 have resided in Pennsylvania and the election district where
16 you plan to vote for at least 30 days prior to the next
17 election[, and you must not have been confined in a penal
18 institution for a conviction of a felony within the last five
19 years]."

20 * * *

21 § 1327. Preparation and distribution of applications.

22 (a) Form.--

23 * * *

24 (4) A voter registration application shall be printed on
25 stock of good quality and shall be of suitable uniform size.
26 Nothing in this part shall prohibit the design and use of an
27 electronic voter registration application which includes the
28 applicant's digitized or electronic signature. The
29 registration application shall contain the following
30 information; however, the information may be provided on a

1 separate form for voter registration made under section 1323
2 or 1325:

3 * * *

4 (iii) Notice that the applicant must be a citizen of
5 the United States for at least one month prior to the
6 next election and a resident of this Commonwealth and the
7 election district for at least 30 days and must be at
8 least 18 years of age by the day of the next ensuing
9 election [and has not been confined in a penal
10 institution for a conviction of a felony within the last
11 five years]. The notice required in this subparagraph
12 shall be in print identical to the declaration under
13 subsection (b).

14 * * *

15 Section 2. Section 3302(a) of Title 25 is amended by adding
16 a paragraph and the section is amended by adding a subsection to
17 read:

18 § 3302. Application for absentee ballots.

19 (a) General rule.--Notwithstanding the provisions of Part IV
20 (relating to voter registration) or the act of June 3, 1937
21 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, the
22 following persons may make application for an absentee ballot by
23 sending a letter or other signed document to the county board of
24 elections in the county in which the person's voting address is
25 located:

26 * * *

27 (5) An inmate who is confined in a correctional
28 institution and who is eligible to register to vote as
29 provided under section 1301 (relating to qualifications to
30 register).

1 * * *

2 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
3 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
4 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Correctional institution." A penal institution,
6 penitentiary, State farm, reformatory, prison, jail, house of
7 correction, juvenile detention facility or other institution for
8 the incarceration or custody of persons under sentence for
9 offenses or awaiting trial or sentence for offenses.

10 "Inmate." An offender who is committed to, under sentence to
11 or confined in a correctional institution and who is eligible to
12 register to vote as provided under section 1301. The term does
13 not include an individual convicted under section 1703 (relating
14 to application) or an offense under the Pennsylvania Election
15 Code.

16 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.