
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1827 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY RABB, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, HILL-EVANS, MAYES, VENKAT,
PROBST, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, CIRESI, DALEY, KRAJEWSKI AND
CERRATO, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to voter
3 registration, further providing for definitions; in
4 registration system, further providing for SURE system; in
5 voter registration, further providing for qualifications to
6 register, for methods of voter registration, for application
7 with driver's license application and for government
8 agencies, providing for same-day voter registration and for
9 preregistration data entry and further providing for
10 preparation and distribution of applications; in changes in
11 records, further providing for death of registrant; in voting
12 procedures, providing for prohibition of rejecting ballots
13 based solely on signature analysis; making a repeal; and
14 making editorial changes.

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

17 Section 1. Section 1102 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania
18 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions to read:
19 § 1102. Definitions.

20 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent
21 provisions of this part which are applicable to specific
22 provisions of this part, the following words and phrases when
23 used in this part shall have the meanings given to them in this

1 section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 * * *

3 "Preregistrant." An individual who is at least 16 years of
4 age but less than 18 years of age and who is otherwise eligible
5 to register to vote in accordance with this part.

6 "Preregistration." A process in which a preregistrant
7 submits the information necessary for voter registration and
8 inclusion into the SURE system in accordance with this part
9 prior to the time at which the preregistrant is eligible to
10 actively register to vote under section 1301 (relating to
11 qualifications to register).

12 * * *

13 Section 2. Section 1222(c) of Title 25 is amended by adding
14 paragraphs to read:

15 § 1222. SURE system.

16 * * *

17 (c) Requirements.--The SURE system shall be developed as a
18 single, uniform integrated computer system. All commissions
19 shall be connected electronically to the SURE system and shall
20 maintain their registration records in the system. The SURE
21 system shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

22 * * *

23 (22) Contain a code to enable identification and
24 tracking of preregistration status.

25 (23) Automatically activate the registration of a
26 preregistrant no later than the 18th birthday of the
27 preregistrant.

28 * * *

29 Section 3. Section 1301(a) of Title 25 is amended and the
30 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

1 § 1301. Qualifications to register.

2 (a) Eligibility.--~~[An individual who]~~ Except as provided in
3 subsection (a.1)(1), an individual shall be eligible to register
4 to vote as provided in this chapter if the individual:

5 (1) will be at least 18 years of age on the day of the
6 next election~~[, who]~~;

7 (2) has been a citizen of the United States for at least
8 one month prior to the next election and ~~[who]~~ has resided in
9 this Commonwealth and the election district where the
10 individual offers to vote for at least 30 days prior to the
11 next ensuing election ~~[and]~~; and

12 (3) has not been confined in a penal institution for a
13 conviction of a felony within the last five years ~~[shall be~~
14 ~~eligible to register as provided in this chapter]~~.

15 (a.1) Preregistration.--

16 (1) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), a preregistrant
17 may preregister to vote in an election, but the preregistrant
18 may not vote in the election before reaching 18 years of age.

19 (2) Within 90 days of the effective date of this
20 paragraph, the department shall provide guidance to assist
21 commissions in implementing preregistration.

22 * * *

23 Section 4. Sections 1321, 1323 heading, (a) and (b) and
24 1325(b)(4) of Title 25 are amended to read:

25 § 1321. Methods of voter registration.

26 An individual qualified to register to vote under section
27 1301(a) (relating to qualifications to register) may apply to
28 register as follows:

29 (1) Under section 1322 (relating to in-person voter
30 registration).

1 (2) Under section 1323 (relating to application with
2 driver's license or identification card application).

3 (3) Under section 1324 (relating to application by
4 mail).

5 (4) Under section 1325 (relating to government
6 agencies).

7 (5) Under section 1325.1 (relating to same-day voter
8 registration).

9 § 1323. Application with driver's license or identification
10 card application.

11 (a) General rule.--

12 (1) [The Department of Transportation shall provide for
13 simultaneous application for voter registration in] In
14 conjunction with the process under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1510
15 (relating to issuance and content of driver's license) [.] ,
16 the Department of Transportation shall provide for
17 simultaneous application for voter registration and shall
18 notify a preregistrant of the preregistrant's ability to
19 preregister to vote. An application under this subsection
20 shall serve as an application to register to vote unless the
21 applicant fails to sign the voter registration application.
22 The secretary has the primary responsibility for implementing
23 and enforcing the driver's license and identification card
24 voter registration system created under this section. The
25 secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of
26 Transportation, may promulgate regulations for implementing
27 this section.

28 (2) An application for voter registration submitted to
29 the Department of Transportation under this subsection shall
30 be considered as updating any previous voter registration

1 information by a registrant.

2 (3) Any change of address submitted to the Department of
3 Transportation for the purposes of driver licensing or
4 issuance of an identification card shall serve as
5 notification of change of address for voter registration for
6 the registrant involved unless the registrant indicates that
7 the change of address is not for voter registration purposes.

8 (b) Process.--

9 (1) [The] As part of a driver's license application or
10 an identification card application, the Department of
11 Transportation shall provide for an application for voter
12 registration [as part of a driver's license application.] and
13 shall notify a preregistrant of the preregistrant's ability
14 to preregister to vote.

15 (2) The format of the [driver's license/voter
16 registration] driver's license, identification card and voter
17 registration application shall be determined and prescribed
18 by the secretary and the Secretary of Transportation.

19 (3) The voter registration application portion of the
20 application shall contain all the requirements of an official
21 voter registration application specified in section 1327
22 (relating to preparation and distribution of applications).

23 The voter registration portion of the application:

24 (i) may not require any information that duplicates
25 information required in the driver's license or
26 identification card portion of the form, other than a
27 second signature; and

28 (ii) may require only the minimum amount of
29 information necessary to prevent duplicate voter
30 registration, to enable the commission to assess the

1 eligibility of the applicant and to administer voter
2 registration and other parts of the election process.

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.] years. You may preregister to vote if you are at
20 least 16 years of age, but you may not vote in an election
21 until you reach 18 years of age."

22 * * *

23 Section 5. Title 25 is amended by adding sections to read:

24 § 1325.1. Same-day voter registration.

25 (a) Authorization.--A qualified elector may register on
26 election day by:

27 (1) Appearing in person at the polling place for the
28 electoral district in which the individual resides.

29 (2) Completing and submitting a registration application
30 to the judge of elections.

1 (3) Providing a government-issued identification as
2 described under subsection (b) and proof of residence.

3 (b) Valid forms of identification.--Valid forms of
4 identification under subsection (a)(3) include:

5 (1) A valid identification card issued by the Federal
6 Government.

7 (2) A valid United States passport.

8 (3) A valid United States Armed Forces identification
9 card.

10 (4) A valid driver's license or identification card
11 issued by the Department of Transportation.

12 (5) A valid identification card issued by another agency
13 of the Commonwealth.

14 (c) Procedures for same-day registration.--

15 (1) Upon certifying the eligibility of a qualified
16 elector, the judge of elections at the polling place shall
17 issue a provisional ballot, provided by the county board of
18 elections, which is to be completed by the qualified elector
19 and sealed in an envelope along with the voter registration
20 application.

21 (2) Within 10 days of an election, the Department of
22 State shall approve or deny a voter registration application
23 under the provisions established in section 1328 (relating to
24 approval of registration applications).

25 (3) The provisional ballot may not be counted until the
26 Department of State has approved the voter registration
27 application.

28 (4) The qualified elector shall be notified in writing
29 by the Department of State as to the approval or denial of a
30 voter registration application.

1 (d) Deadline for same-day registration.--The deadline for
2 same-day voter registration is when the applicant is accepted in
3 the appropriate electoral district by the presiding judge of
4 elections.

5 § 1325.2. Preregistration data entry.

6 In the case of preregistration, each commission shall enter
7 preregistration information into the SURE system upon receipt of
8 the information and ensure that each preregistrant is actively
9 registered to vote no later than the preregistrant's 18th
10 birthday.

11 Section 6. Section 1327(a)(3) and (4)(iii) and (b)(1)(ii) of
12 Title 25 are amended and subsection (c) is amended by adding a
13 paragraph to read:

14 § 1327. Preparation and distribution of applications.

15 (a) Form.--

16 * * *

17 (3) Any person who assists in the completion of the
18 registration application shall sign the application and
19 indicate the person's address. In the case of those
20 registering under sections 1323 (relating to application with
21 driver's license or identification card application) and 1325
22 (relating to government agencies), the person providing
23 assistance shall insert the person's initials or employee or
24 agent identification number on a separate or detachable
25 portion of the application or computer data file.

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

1 registration application shall contain the following
2 information; however, the information may be provided on a
3 separate form for voter registration made under section 1323
4 or 1325:

5 * * *

6 (iii) Notice that the applicant must be a citizen of
7 the United States for at least one month prior to the
8 next election and a resident of this Commonwealth and the
9 election district for at least 30 days and must be at
10 least 18 years of age by the day of the next ensuing
11 election, unless the individual is at least 16 years of
12 age and preregisters to vote, and has not been confined
13 in a penal institution for a conviction of a felony
14 within the last five years. The notice required in this
15 subparagraph shall be in print identical to the
16 declaration under subsection (b).

17 * * *

18 (b) Registration declaration.--

19 (1) The official voter registration application shall
20 contain a registration declaration. On the declaration, the
21 applicant shall state all of the following:

22 * * *

23 (ii) On the day of the next ensuing election, the
24 applicant shall be at least 18 years of age[.], unless
25 the applicant is preregistering to vote in the next
26 election in which the individual reaches 18 years of age.

27 * * *

28 (c) Distribution.--

29 * * *

30 (7) The secretary shall print and distribute same-day

1 voter registration applications to all polling places
2 throughout this Commonwealth. Along with the distribution of
3 the applications, the secretary shall include instructions to
4 inform the applicant of the same-day voter registration
5 application process and the process for counting the
6 applicant's vote and verifying the applicant's eligibility.

7 * * *

8 Section 7. Sections 1406(a), 1505(a) and 1801(a) of Title 25
9 are amended to read:

10 § 1406. Reports.

11 (a) Commission.--By March 1, a commission shall submit to
12 the secretary an annual report setting forth the number of
13 electors registered under sections 1322 (relating to in-person
14 voter registration), 1323 (relating to application with driver's
15 license or identification card application), 1324 (relating to
16 application by mail) and 1325 (relating to government agencies).
17 The report shall specify the number of electors whose
18 registration has been canceled under Chapter 15 (relating to
19 changes in records) and any other information required by the
20 secretary.

21 * * *

22 § 1505. Death of registrant.

23 (a) Department of Health.--A commission shall cancel the
24 registration of a registered elector or the preregistration of a
25 preregistrant reported dead by the Department of Health. The
26 Department of Health shall, within 60 days of receiving notice
27 of the death of an individual [18] 16 years of age or older,
28 send the name and address of residence of that individual to a
29 commission in a manner and on a form prescribed by the
30 department. The commission shall promptly update information

1 contained in its registration records.

2 * * *

3 § 1801. Attorney General.

4 (a) Investigation.--The secretary shall investigate alleged
5 violations of sections 1323 (relating to application with
6 driver's license or identification card application) and 1325
7 (relating to government agencies) and report apparent violations
8 to the Attorney General.

9 * * *

10 Section 8. Title 25 is amended by adding a section to read:

11 § 3303. Prohibition of rejecting ballots based solely on
12 signature analysis.

13 (a) Rejection.--A county election official may not reject an
14 absentee ballot or mail-in ballot canvassed under this title or
15 the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the
16 Pennsylvania Election Code, based solely on signature analysis.

17 (b) Challenge.--A challenge may not be made to an absentee
18 ballot or mail-in ballot at any time based on signature
19 analysis.

20 Section 9. Repeals are as follows:

21 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeal under
22 paragraph (2) is necessary to effectuate this act.

23 (2) Section 1231 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,
24 No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is
25 repealed.

26 Section 10. This act shall take effect in one year.