

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1396 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY McCLINTON, VENKAT, INGLIS, KHAN, GREEN, KAZEEM, WEBSTER AND WARREN, MAY 5, 2025

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAY 12, 2025

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 preliminary provisions, further providing for
12 definitions; in district election officers, further providing
13 for compensation of district election officers; in election
14 districts and polling places, providing for ballot drop
15 boxes; in electronic voting systems, further providing for
16 definitions and for supplies, preparation of the voting
17 system and of polling places, providing for pre-election
18 logic and accuracy testing, repealing provisions relating to
19 statistical sample and providing for post-election ballot
20 audit; providing for electronic poll books and for electronic
21 poll books and election infrastructure equipment bonds; in
22 preparation for and conduct of primaries and elections,
23 further providing for manner of applying to vote, persons
24 entitled to vote, voter's certificates, entries to be made in
25 district register, numbered lists of voters and challenges
26 and for deadline for receipt of valid voter registration
27 application; providing for in-person early voting; in voting
28 by qualified absentee electors, further providing for date of
29 application for absentee ballot, for approval of application
30 for absentee ballot, for envelopes for official absentee
31 ballots and for voting by absentee electors; in voting by
32 qualified mail-in electors, further providing for
33 applications for official mail-in ballots, for date of

1 application for mail-in ballot, for approval of application  
2 for mail-in ballot, for envelopes for official mail-in  
3 ballots and for voting by mail-in electors; in returns of  
4 primaries and elections, further providing for computation of  
5 returns by county board, certification and issuance of  
6 certificates of election; in Election Integrity Grant  
7 Program, further providing for funding for elections; in  
8 recounts and contests, further providing for opening ballot  
9 boxes upon petition of electors alleging fraud or error and  
10 deposit or bond, for recanvassing voting machines upon  
11 petition of electors alleging fraud or error and for  
12 correction of returns, decision not to be final and evidence  
13 for prosecution; in penalties, further providing for  
14 interference with primaries and elections, frauds and  
15 conspiracy; making an appropriation; and making an editorial  
16 change.

17 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
18 Statutes, in registration system, further providing for SURE  
19 system; in voter registration, further providing for  
20 ~~qualifications to register, for~~ methods of voter <--  
21 registration, for application with driver's license  
22 application and for government agencies and for approval of  
23 registration applications; and, in changes in records,  
24 repealing provisions relating to removal notices, to transfer  
25 of registration and to change of enrollment of political  
26 party and further providing for death of registrant.

27 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
28 hereby enacts as follows:

29 Section 1. Section 102(q.1) of the act of June 3, 1937  
30 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is  
31 amended and the section is amended by adding subsections to  
32 read:

33 Section 102. Definitions.--The following words, when used in  
34 this act, shall have the following meanings, unless otherwise  
35 clearly apparent from the context:

36 \* \* \*

37 (q.1) The word "pre-canvass" shall mean the inspection and  
38 opening of all envelopes containing official absentee ballots or  
39 mail-in ballots, the removal of such ballots from the envelopes  
40 and [the counting, computing and tallying of the votes reflected  
41 on the ballots.] the preparation of those ballots for scanning,  
42 including unfolding, straightening and duplicating if the ballot  
43 is damaged in some way that prevents it from being scanned but

1 where the voter's intent is still clear. It shall also include  
2 scanning the ballot into a voting machine or other automatic  
3 tabulating device, if the equipment used by the county board of  
4 elections permits a ballot to be scanned without tabulating or  
5 counting the votes on the ballot scanned. The term does not  
6 include the examination of unopened absentee or mail-in ballot  
7 envelopes for processing, detecting voter errors or recording or  
8 publishing of the votes reflected on the ballots.

9 \* \* \*

10 (z.7) The words "ballot drop box" shall mean a secure  
11 receptacle established by a county board of elections or county  
12 election official by which a voted absentee ballot or mail-in  
13 ballot may be deposited by hand by the qualified elector, or an  
14 authorized third party.

15 (z.8) The words "photo identification" shall include an  
16 electronic or digital representation of a photo identification  
17 of an individual issued by a system maintained by the  
18 Commonwealth or an agency, county, municipality, school district  
19 or institution of higher education of this Commonwealth,  
20 displayed on a smartphone or other electronic device.

21 Section 2. Section 412.2(a) and Article V heading of the act  
22 are amended to read:

23 Section 412.2. Compensation of District Election Officers.--

24 (a) In all counties regardless of class, judges of election,  
25 inspectors of election, clerks and machine operators shall be  
26 paid compensation as fixed by the county board of elections for  
27 each election, which amount shall be at least [\$75 and not more  
28 than \$200] \$175.

29 \* \* \*

30 ARTICLE V

1 Election Districts [and], Polling Places and Ballot Drop Boxes  
2 Section 3. Article V of the act is amended by adding a  
3 subarticle to read:

4 (b.1) Ballot Drop Boxes

5 Section 531.1. Ballot drop box locations to be selected by  
6 county board of elections.

7 (a) County board duties.--

8 (1) The county board of elections shall select and fix  
9 the ballot drop box locations within the county for each  
10 election and may, after notifying the secretary and for  
11 emergency purposes only, change the ballot drop box locations  
12 within the county.

13 (2) The county board of elections shall inform the  
14 secretary of the ballot drop box locations at least 65 days  
15 prior to the primary election, municipal election or general  
16 election.

17 (3) The county board of elections shall publicly  
18 announce, not less than 55 days prior to any primary  
19 election, municipal election or general election, by posting  
20 at its office in a conspicuous place and prominently featured  
21 on the county's publicly accessible Internet website, a list  
22 of the ballot drop box locations within the county. The list  
23 must include the address, dates and hours of operation of the  
24 ballot drop boxes, ballot return deadline, contact  
25 information for the county board of elections and  
26 accessibility information. The list shall be available for  
27 public inspection at an office of the county board of  
28 elections.

29 (4) For a special election not being held during a  
30 primary election, municipal election or general election:

1           (i) the county board of elections shall inform the  
2           secretary of the ballot drop box locations no later than  
3           10 days after the date a writ of election is issued; and

4           (ii) the county board of elections shall publicly  
5           announce, no later than 20 days after the date a writ of  
6           election is issued by posting at its office in a  
7           conspicuous place and prominently featured on the  
8           county's publicly accessible Internet website, a list of  
9           the ballot drop box locations within the county. The list  
10           must include the address, dates and hours of operation of  
11           the ballot drop boxes, ballot return deadline, contact  
12           information for the county board of elections and  
13           accessibility information. The list must be available for  
14           public inspection at an office of the county board of  
15           elections.

16           (5) If an additional ballot drop box is added, or a  
17           ballot drop box is moved for an emergency, the county board  
18           of elections must notify the secretary immediately and  
19           simultaneously update the county's publicly accessible  
20           Internet website with the new locations.

21           (6) A county board of elections shall immediately  
22           forward to the correct county board of elections any out-of-  
23           county absentee ballots and mail-in ballots deposited in the  
24           county board of elections' ballot drop box. County boards of  
25           election shall accept receipt of absentee ballots and mail-in  
26           ballots from other county boards of election up until 8:00  
27           p.m. on election day.

28           (b) Minimum ballot drop box requirement.--

29           (1) Each county must provide at least two ballot drop  
30           boxes within the county for each primary election, special

1 election, municipal election or general election. The ballot  
2 drop boxes must be arrayed throughout the county. The county  
3 board of elections may add additional ballot drop boxes.  
4 Nothing in this section shall limit counties to only two  
5 ballot drop boxes if the county board of elections deems  
6 additional ballot drop boxes are appropriate.

7 (2) In addition to the ballot drop boxes required under  
8 paragraph (1), the county board of elections in a county with  
9 a population over 100,000 must provide additional ballot drop  
10 boxes equal to at least one additional ballot drop box for  
11 every 50,000 registered voters over 100,000 as determined on  
12 the date of the November election of the preceding year.

13 (c) Prohibition.--A county or municipality may not prohibit  
14 or inhibit the use of ballot drop boxes.

15 Section 531.2. Signage, hours of operation and security.

16 (a) Label.--Each ballot drop box must be labeled "Official  
17 Ballot Drop Box" and must include the following:

18 (1) Specific points identifying the slot where ballots  
19 are to be inserted. A ballot drop box may have more than one  
20 ballot slot.

21 (2) Language stating counterfeiting, forging, tampering  
22 with or destroying ballots is a second-degree misdemeanor  
23 under sections 1816, 1817 and 1827.

24 (3) A statement that third-party return of a ballot is  
25 prohibited unless the individual returning the ballot:

26 (i) is rendering assistance to a disabled voter or  
27 an emergency absentee voter as authorized by law;

28 (ii) is a member of the same household as the voter;

29 (iii) is the voter's parent, grandparent or adult  
30 child; or

1           (iv) is a caregiver.

2           (4) A statement requesting that the designated county  
3 elections official shall be notified immediately if the  
4 ballot drop box is full, not functioning or is damaged,  
5 including a telephone number and email address for the  
6 designated county elections official.

7           (5) Signage that states "You are returning your  
8 ballot to (name of county) County. If you are registered to  
9 vote in another county, your ballot will be forwarded but  
10 will not be considered timely received unless and until it's  
11 received by your county of registration by 8:00 p.m. on  
12 election day" or substantially similar language.

13           (b) Surveillance and security.--~~Except for ballot drop boxes~~<--  
14 ~~provided under section 531.1(e), while~~ WHILE available, the       <--  
15 ballot drop box shall be under video surveillance, securely  
16 fastened to a stationary surface or an immovable object for the  
17 duration of its deployment during an election. The ballot drop  
18 box must be constructed to securely receive and hold the  
19 absentee ballots and mail-in ballots and have a unique  
20 identifying number. The ballot drop box shall be secured by a  
21 lock and shall include a tamper-evident seal. Only the county  
22 board of elections, a county election official or an individual  
23 designated by the county board of elections shall have access to  
24 the means to unfasten the lock.

25           (c) Duties of secretary.--The secretary shall develop  
26 standards and issue appropriate directives for additional  
27 security measures at ballot drop box locations.

28           (d) Access.--Ballot drop boxes must be made available for  
29 use by voters at least 30 days before the next occurring primary  
30 election, special election, municipal election or general

1 election. At least one ballot drop box per county must be made  
2 available 24 hours a day for use by voters.

3 Section 531.3. Removal of absentee ballots and mail-in ballots.

4 (a) Ballot removal.--Absentee and mail-in ballots must be  
5 removed from each ballot drop box at least once every day by at  
6 least two individuals. Both individuals must be a county  
7 election official or an individual designated by the county  
8 board of elections. Each individual removing ballots from any  
9 ballot drop box shall carry proper identification.

10 (b) Collection and chain of custody requirement.--Conforming  
11 with the requirements of this section and any other directives  
12 of the secretary, each county board of elections shall utilize  
13 ballot collection and chain of custody procedures. The  
14 department shall create a paper or electronic form, entitled the  
15 Ballot Drop Box Collection Form, to be used when retrieving  
16 absentee ballots and mail-in ballots from the ballot drop boxes.

17 (c) Form required.--A Ballot Drop Box Collection Form must  
18 be completed by the county election officials and individuals  
19 designated by the county board of elections each time they  
20 remove absentee ballots and mail-in ballots from a ballot drop  
21 box and return absentee ballots and mail-in ballots to the  
22 county board of elections in a secured transport container. A  
23 Ballot Drop Box Collection Form must include the following  
24 information:

25 (1) The ballot drop box location and the unique  
26 identifying number of the ballot drop box.

27 (2) The date and time ballots were emptied from the  
28 ballot drop box.

29 (3) The names of the individuals removing the ballots  
30 from the ballot drop box and the name of the individual who



1 secured and relocked the ballot drop box.

2 (4) The name of the county election official or designee  
3 receiving the secured transport container.

4 (5) The date and time the county election official or  
5 designee received the secured transport container.

6 (6) The number of ballots delivered in the secured  
7 transport container.

8 (d) Transportation and security.--Absentee ballots and mail-  
9 in ballots from ballot drop boxes must be returned to the county  
10 board of elections in secured transport containers and  
11 immediately taken to a secure location established by the county  
12 board of elections to be held until ballots are pre-canvassed  
13 under this act. A county election official or individual  
14 designated by the county board of elections shall take control  
15 of the secured transport container and inspect the container for  
16 tampering. The county election official or individual designated  
17 by the county board of elections receiving the ballots shall  
18 complete the Ballot Drop Box Collection Form.

19 (e) Interference prohibited.--An individual may not  
20 interfere with the emptying of ballot drop boxes. An individual  
21 who interferes with the removal of ballots from a ballot drop  
22 box or inhibits or prevents a voter or authorized agent from  
23 lawfully depositing a ballot commits a criminal offense under  
24 section 1849.

25 Section 3.1. Section 1101-A of the act is amended by adding  
26 definitions to read:

27 Section 1101-A. Definitions.--As used in this article:

28 \* \* \*

29 "Ballot set" means one of any number of ballot types each  
30 used for a particular method of voting, including absentee

1 ballot voting, mail-in ballot voting, voting in-person at a  
2 polling place and voting by emergency paper ballot.

3 "Ballot style" means a ballot's particular array of election  
4 contests and candidates specific to an election district. Each  
5 ballot set shall comprise ballots with various ballot styles.

6 \* \* \*

7 Section 3.2. Section 1110-A(d) and (e) of the act are  
8 amended to read:

9 Section 1110-A. Supplies; Preparation of the Voting System  
10 and of Polling Places.--\* \* \*

11 [(d) On or before the fortieth day preceding any election,  
12 the county board of elections shall mail to the chairman of the  
13 county committee of each political party which shall be entitled  
14 under existing laws to participate in primary elections within  
15 the county, and to the chairman or presiding officer of any  
16 organization of citizens within the county which has as its  
17 purpose or among its purposes the investigation or prosecution  
18 of election frauds and which has registered its name and address  
19 and the names of its principal officers with the county board of  
20 elections at least fifty days before the election, a written  
21 notice stating the times when and the place or places where  
22 preparation of the system and its components for use in the  
23 several election districts in the county or municipality will be  
24 started. One representative of each such political party,  
25 certified by the respective chairman of the county committee of  
26 such party, and one representative of each such organization of  
27 citizens, certified by the respective chairman or presiding  
28 officer of such organization shall be entitled to be present  
29 during the preparation of the voting system and its components  
30 and to see that they are properly prepared and are in proper

1 condition and order for use. Such representatives shall not  
2 interfere with the preparation of the system and its components,  
3 and the county board may make reasonable rules and regulations  
4 governing the conduct of such representatives.

5 (e) Prior to the delivery of any automatic tabulating  
6 equipment to any election district the county board of elections  
7 shall examine or cause to have examined such equipment and shall  
8 make a certificate stating:

9 (1) the identifying number and election district designation  
10 of the equipment;

11 (2) that the equipment is suitable for use in the particular  
12 election district designated;

13 (3) that the equipment has been tested to ascertain that it  
14 will accurately compute the votes cast for all offices and all  
15 questions;

16 (4) that the offices and questions on the official ballot  
17 correspond in all respects with the ballot labels assigned to  
18 such particular election district;

19 (5) that the public counter and the counters for each  
20 candidate position and each question are all set at zero and  
21 that element that generates a printed record of the results of  
22 the election is functioning correctly; and

23 (6) the number on the seal with which the equipment is  
24 sealed.]

25 \* \* \*

26 Section 3.3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

27 Section 1110.1-A. Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy Testing.--

28 (a) Prior to an election in which an electronic voting system  
29 is to be used, the county board of elections shall complete  
30 logic and accuracy testing for the electronic voting system in

1 accordance with this section to ensure that voting equipment  
2 functions as expected and votes are accurately tabulated.

3 (b) Logic and accuracy testing shall be sufficient to  
4 determine that:

5 (1) The electronic voting system is properly programmed.

6 (2) The election is correctly defined on the electronic  
7 voting system.

8 (3) All of the input, output and communication devices for  
9 the electronic voting system are working properly.

10 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), logic and  
11 accuracy testing shall be completed as soon as ballots are  
12 available.

13 (2) If a proceeding is pending in a Federal or State court  
14 that would affect the contents of a ballot, logic and accuracy  
15 testing shall be completed no later than the eleventh day prior  
16 to the election.

17 (d) During logic and accuracy testing, the county board of  
18 elections shall:

19 (1) For each voting device that will or may be used in the  
20 upcoming election:

21 (i) Generate a report that shows the contest order and  
22 confirm that the contest order as reported matches the expected  
23 contest order.

24 (ii) Mark, in all available languages using the touchscreen  
25 and any other assistive device provided by the manufacturer, and  
26 print ballots for each ballot style using a predetermined voting  
27 pattern designed such that each contest, and each choice within  
28 each contest, is given a unique number of votes.

29 (iii) Review the printed ballots to ensure that the ballots  
30 were accurately printed and the votes contained on the printed

1 ballot match the choices designated by the tester.

2 (iv) Scan the printed ballots to ensure that the ballots  
3 will scan and generate the expected results.

4 (v) Shut down, lock and seal the voting device.

5 (vi) Execute a written statement specifying:

6 (A) The electronic voting devices tested.

7 (B) The results of the testing.

8 (C) The protective counter numbers, if applicable, of each  
9 tabulation device.

10 (D) The number of the seal securing each tabulation device  
11 at the conclusion of testing.

12 (E) Any problems reported to the county board of elections  
13 as a result of the testing.

14 (F) The identifying number and election district designation  
15 of the device.

16 (G) Whether each device tested is satisfactory or  
17 unsatisfactory.

18 (2) For each piece of automatic tabulating equipment that  
19 will or may be used in the upcoming election:

20 (i) Generate a report that shows the total number of votes  
21 for all contests and candidates and confirm that the totals show  
22 as zero for all contests and candidates.

23 (ii) Scan premarked ballots for each ballot style using a  
24 predetermined voting pattern designed such that each contest,  
25 and each choice within each contest, is given a unique number of  
26 votes.

27 (iii) Generate a report that shows the vote totals for each  
28 contest and candidate and compare the reported results to the  
29 expected results to ensure that the automatic tabulating  
30 equipment will generate the expected results.

1 (iv) Reset all vote totals, shut down, lock and seal the  
2 automated tabulating equipment.

3 (v) Execute a written statement specifying:

4 (A) The automatic tabulation equipment tested.

5 (B) The results of the testing.

6 (C) The protective counter numbers, if applicable, of each  
7 tabulation device.

8 (D) The number of the seal securing each tabulation device  
9 at the conclusion of testing.

10 (E) Any problems reported to the county board of elections  
11 as a result of the testing.

12 (F) Whether each device tested is satisfactory or  
13 unsatisfactory.

14 (e) The Secretary of the Commonwealth may:

15 (1) Prescribe additional requirements relating to logic and  
16 accuracy testing as the Secretary of the Commonwealth deems  
17 appropriate.

18 (2) Issue directives and instructions for the implementation  
19 and administration of this section, but only if the directives  
20 and instructions do not conflict with the requirements of this  
21 section.

22 (f) No later than forty-eight hours prior to beginning logic  
23 and accuracy testing, the county board of elections shall give  
24 notice of the times and places in which the logic and accuracy  
25 testing will be conducted as follows:

26 (1) The county board of elections shall mail the notice to:

27 (i) The chairperson of the county committee of each  
28 political party that is entitled to participate in primary  
29 elections within the county.

30 (ii) The chairperson or presiding officer of each

1 organization within the county whose purpose includes the  
2 investigation or prosecution of election frauds and that has  
3 registered its name and address and the names of its principal  
4 officers with the county board of elections by the first Monday  
5 in February of the year.

6 (2) The county board of elections shall post the notice on  
7 its publicly accessible Internet website.

8 (3) The county board of elections shall publish the notice  
9 in accordance with section 106, with the notice to be published  
10 once.

11 (g) The county board of elections shall allow in-person  
12 observation of logic and accuracy testing in accordance with the  
13 following procedures:

14 (1) One representative from each political party whose  
15 chairperson is entitled to receive notice under subsection (f)  
16 (1)(i) may observe the logic and accuracy testing, if the  
17 representative is certified by the chairperson of the county  
18 committee of the party.

19 (2) One representative of each organization entitled to  
20 receive notice under subsection (f)(1)(ii) may observe the logic  
21 and accuracy testing if the representative is certified by the  
22 chairperson or presiding officer of the organization.

23 (3) A registered elector of the county who gives the county  
24 board of elections at least twenty-four hours' notice may  
25 observe the logic and accuracy testing.

26 (4) A representative or a registered elector who observes  
27 the logic and accuracy testing may not interfere with the  
28 testing.

29 (5) The county board of elections may make reasonable rules  
30 and regulations governing the conduct of the representatives and

1 registered electors during the logic and accuracy testing. The  
2 rules and regulations must be published as part of the notice  
3 required under subsection (f).

4 (h) No later than five days after completing logic and  
5 accuracy testing, the county board of elections shall certify  
6 compliance with the requirements of this section to the  
7 Secretary of the Commonwealth in a manner and on a form as  
8 prescribed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The Department  
9 of State shall post each certification received by the Secretary  
10 of the Commonwealth under this subsection to its publicly  
11 accessible Internet website.

12 (i) If the county board of elections fails to comply with  
13 this section or with any directive or instruction issued by the  
14 Secretary of the Commonwealth under this section, the following  
15 shall apply:

16 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the failure shall  
17 not constitute competent evidence in any administrative,  
18 legislative or judicial proceeding, including any petition for  
19 recount under section 1404(e), 1701, 1702 or 1703.

20 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary of the  
21 Commonwealth may bring an action to enforce this section and may  
22 introduce as evidence the failure of the county board of  
23 elections to comply with this section or any directive or  
24 instruction issued by the Secretary of the Commonwealth under  
25 this section.

26 (3) The failure shall not be cause or justification for  
27 delaying or refusing to perform any duty assigned under this  
28 act, including the county board of elections' duty to receive,  
29 canvass, compute or certify the returns of each election under  
30 section 302(k).



1 Section 4. Section 1117-A of the act is repealed:

2 [Section 1117-A. Statistical Sample.--The county board of  
3 elections, as part of the computation and canvass of returns,  
4 shall conduct a statistical recount of a random sample of  
5 ballots after each election using manual, mechanical or  
6 electronic devices of a type different than those used for the  
7 specific election. The sample shall include at least two (2) per  
8 centum of the votes cast or two thousand (2,000) votes whichever  
9 is the lesser.]

10 Section 5. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

11 Section 1117.1-A. Post-Election Ballot Audit.--(a) After  
12 each regularly scheduled primary and ~~general~~ NOVEMBER election, <--  
13 each county board of elections shall participate in a bipartisan  
14 post-election ballot audit in accordance with the following:

15 (1) The audit shall include a review of a random sample of  
16 paper ballots cast in one or more selected Statewide or county  
17 contests.

18 (2) The audit shall be facilitated by the department.

19 (3) The audit shall include the contested race at the top of  
20 the ballot and, if existing, an additional Statewide contest to  
21 be randomly selected by the department. The following are not  
22 eligible for selection:

23 (i) An uncontested race.

24 (ii) A race for which a full recount has been ordered.

25 (4) The department shall identify, approve and employ an  
26 audit method that provides a high statistical confidence that  
27 the election outcome in each audited Statewide OR COUNTY contest <--  
28 is correct. All department-approved audit methods shall be  
29 consistent with best practices in the field, including methods  
30 approved by the National Academies of Sciences and the American

1 Statistical Association.

2 (5) The department shall direct and oversee the process to  
3 randomly select the ballots necessary to confirm the accuracy of  
4 the election outcome for the Statewide races, based on the  
5 statistical methods and on the margin between the winning and  
6 the losing candidate or measure.

7 (6) As soon as practicable following the completion of the  
8 audit, the department shall publish detailed audit data that <--  
9 allows the public to verify the random sample, audit  
10 calculations and audit results THE FINAL RESULT OF THE AUDIT ON <--  
11 ITS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
12 ALSO, WITHIN ONE BUSINESS DAY OF SELECTING THE RANDOM SEED AND  
13 LIST OF AUDITED CONTESTS, PUBLISH THE FOLLOWING on its publicly  
14 accessible Internet website.: <--

15 (I) RANDOM SEED;

16 (II) LIST OF AUDITED CONTESTS;

17 (III) COUNTY BALLOT MANIFESTS; AND

18 (IV) CANDIDATE VOTE TOTALS BY BATCH SELECTED FOR THE POST-  
19 ELECTION BALLOT AUDIT.

20 No data published may reveal the contents of any ballot.

21 (7) The department and each county WITH BALLOTS SELECTED IN <--  
22 THE RANDOM SAMPLE shall provide public notice in accordance with  
23 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings) of the time and  
24 place of the audit processes. The audit shall be conducted in  
25 public view to permit observation and within feasible election  
26 operations. The county board may establish reasonable  
27 restrictions to prevent members of the public from interfering  
28 with the audit process. A member of the public may not:

29 (i) Touch ballots or other official materials.

30 (ii) In any way impede the process.

1     (8) The audit:

2     (i) Shall take into account all forms of validly cast  
3 ballots, including in-person, absentee, mail-in and provisional  
4 ballots.

5     (ii) May include hand-marked, ballot marking device-marked  
6 and disability tool-marked ballots.

7     (9) Each official participating in the audit shall swear or  
8 affirm that the participant will support, obey and defend the  
9 Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of  
10 Pennsylvania and that the participant will discharge the duties  
11 of the audit with fidelity.

12     (10) Each official participating in the audit shall ensure  
13 that each ballot examined during the audit is protected from  
14 loss, substitution, alteration or addition.

15     (11) The department shall provide any necessary  
16 instructions, software and other materials to the county boards  
17 to carry out these audits.

18     (12) The secretary shall promulgate rules, regulations and  
19 procedures as necessary to implement this section.

20     (13) The audit process and oversight, including ballot  
21 review and reporting of votes, shall be conducted by teams of no  
22 less than two officials and no greater than three officials  
23 representing a partisan balance which shall include the two  
24 principal political parties, and may include additional  
25 unaffiliated voters. Each audit team member shall be appointed  
26 by the county board of elections from a pool of competent  
27 persons who are qualified registered electors of the county and  
28 who meet the above criteria. Any audit team vacancy occurring at  
29 any time preceding or on the day of the audit shall be filled by  
30 appointment by the county board of elections according to the

1 above criteria.

2 (b) The following shall apply:

3 (1) The post-election ballot audits must be completed during  
4 the official canvass before a county board finalizes the  
5 certification of official election returns before the third  
6 Monday after the primary or general election.

7 (2) The secretary may extend the county certification  
8 deadline if the extension:

9 (i) is necessary to complete the audit; and

10 (ii) does not impair other deadlines.

11 (3) If the results of the audit confirm to a high degree of  
12 statistical confidence that the originally reported contest  
13 outcome was correct, the contests shall be certified by the  
14 county and the secretary.

15 (4) If the initial audit result fails to confirm to a high  
16 degree of statistical confidence that the originally reported  
17 contest outcome was correct, the following shall apply:

18 (i) Within forty-eight (48) hours, the secretary shall  
19 direct relevant counties to commence appropriate action to  
20 confirm or determine the outcome.

21 (ii) The action may include further investigation or  
22 expanding the size and scope of the ballot sample, including, if  
23 necessary, a full recount of all ballots cast for the audited  
24 contest.

25 (5) If the official results of a full recount conclude a  
26 different outcome than the originally reported results, the  
27 winner determined by the full recount shall replace the  
28 originally reported winner and the county and the secretary  
29 shall certify the results as determined by the full recount.

30 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
2 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Department" shall mean the Department of State of the  
4 Commonwealth.

5 "Paper ballot" shall mean the original of all forms of  
6 validly cast and counted ballots, including qualified in-person,  
7 absentee, mail-in and provisional ballots, and may include hand  
8 marked, ballot marking device-marked and disability tool-marked  
9 ballots.

10 "Post-election ballot audit" shall mean a post-election  
11 process that involves MANUAL inspection of a random sample of <--  
12 paper ballots IN THE SELECTED COUNTIES to verify votes cast in <--  
13 one or more selected contests FOR AUDIT, as determined and <--  
14 facilitated by the department. A POST-ELECTION AUDIT IS A <--  
15 DISTINCT PROCESS FROM A RECOUNT.

16 "Secretary" shall mean the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

17 Section 6. The act is amended by adding articles to read:

18 ARTICLE XI-C  
19 ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS

20 Section 1101-C. Definitions.

21 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
22 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
23 context clearly indicates otherwise:

24 "Board." The county board of elections.

25 "Department." The Department of State of the Commonwealth.

26 "Electronic poll books." A secure and self-contained  
27 electronic record system examined, approved and certified by the  
28 secretary, constituting the voters' certificates, voting check  
29 list, numbered lists of voters, district register and general  
30 register for the county that:

1       (1) has the ability to enable a poll worker to perform  
2 by electronic means each of the same functions performed  
3 using a paper district register during an election;

4       (2) receives and stores electronically the name,  
5 address, date of birth, identifying municipality, particular  
6 election district from which the voter is registered,  
7 signature of voters and any other necessary voter  
8 information;

9       (3) securely downloads and uploads voter information in  
10 concert with the SURE system;

11       (4) contains information regarding whether a registered  
12 voter already voted in the particular election, requested an  
13 absentee or mail-in ballot or returned an absentee or mail-in  
14 ballot;

15       (5) allows real-time transmission of information to and  
16 from SURE and other electronic poll books regarding updates  
17 to voter registration and voter history records.

18       (6) if used at a polling place on election day,  
19 redirects an in-person voter to their correct polling place;

20       (7) provides an auditable record of the district  
21 register for a particular election; and

22       (8) has any other capability or standard deemed  
23 appropriate by the secretary.

24 "Secretary." The Secretary of the Commonwealth.

25 "SURE system." The Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors  
26 established under 25 Pa.C.S. § 1222 (relating to SURE system).  
27 Section 1102-C. Use.

28 (a) Standards.--Each board shall use electronic poll books  
29 that meet the minimum standards published by the secretary under  
30 section 1103-C in all early voting locations and precincts on

1 election day for each primary and election held after December  
2 31, 2026. Electronic poll books shall serve as the district  
3 register and shall be used as all of the following in each  
4 voting location allowed for by law in this Commonwealth:

5 (1) Voters' certificates.

6 (2) Voting check lists.

7 (3) Numbered lists of voters.

8 (4) District registers.

9 (5) For the management of district registers during  
10 elections.

11 (6) Any other use deemed appropriate by the secretary.

12 (b) Poll book standards.--An electronic poll book may not be  
13 used by a county board of elections unless it meets the  
14 standards established and published by the secretary under  
15 section 1103-C and is examined, approved and certified in  
16 accordance with the secretary's directive. The secretary shall  
17 have the authority to decertify and prohibit from use any  
18 electronic poll book that at any point does not meet the  
19 standards under this section or as set forth in the secretary's  
20 directive.

21 Section 1103-C. Standards.

22 (a) General.--The secretary, in coordination with the Office  
23 of Administration and Office of Information Technology, shall,  
24 upon request by a commercial electronic poll book vendor or  
25 county board of elections, examine commercially available  
26 electronic poll books and, upon successful completion of the  
27 examination, approve examined poll books for use. The secretary  
28 shall issue a directive establishing requirements and  
29 specifications which shall define the minimum standards  
30 required, capabilities and security requirements of electronic

1 poll books for certification by the secretary. The requirements  
2 and specifications shall include compatibility with the SURE  
3 system, screen size, technology documentation, user safety,  
4 accessibility, durability, device and system security standards,  
5 data encryption, audit log, data and power backup, signature  
6 capture requirements, voter data fields and any other  
7 requirements identified as necessary to meet the needs for each  
8 voting location allowed by law in this Commonwealth. The  
9 secretary, in issuing such directive, shall take appropriate  
10 measures to protect against the disclosure of sensitive  
11 information relating to security and infrastructure.

12 (b) Compatibility.--To have compatibility with the SURE  
13 system, an electronic poll book must include the ability to  
14 import the records of each registered voter in the election  
15 district and county and update those records before election  
16 day, to record edits to the records on election day, and to  
17 export to the SURE system each of the election activity and  
18 voter participation information that occurs each day and the  
19 capability to generate a report of all election activity and  
20 participation information for manual entry into the SURE system.

21 (c) Prohibited interest.--The secretary, the department  
22 staff involved with implementation, maintenance or upkeep of the  
23 SURE system or electronic poll books or any member of a board  
24 may not hold a pecuniary interest in an electronic poll book  
25 company, components of an electronic poll book or in the design,  
26 manufacture or sale of an electronic poll book.

27 (d) Access to poll books.--The county board shall secure  
28 each electronic poll book and prohibit third-party access not  
29 authorized by the secretary. The secretary shall develop  
30 standards and issue a directive for secure storage of electronic



1 poll books during and at any time before or after an election.  
2 Failure of a county board or election worker to comply with the  
3 secretary's directive may result in a decertification or  
4 decommissioning of the county's electronic poll books and fines  
5 as prescribed by the secretary.

6 (e) Standards and requirements.--The secretary shall develop  
7 standards and requirements for a board to ensure that a paper  
8 version of the district register and all necessary documents,  
9 including numbered list of voters, are available at a polling  
10 place on election day and can be updated in the event of a  
11 failure of or inability to use an electronic poll book.

12 Section 1104-C. Funding for acquisition.

13 (a) Declaration of policy.--The General Assembly finds and  
14 declares that funding of the acquisition of electronic poll  
15 books for the management of voter data for each polling place in  
16 this Commonwealth is in the best interest of this Commonwealth.

17 (b) Appropriation.--The General Assembly appropriates  
18 \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the department for the  
19 examination and approval of commercially available electronic  
20 poll books that shall be compatible with the SURE system and for  
21 the development and implementation of a secure electronic poll  
22 book network to be used by counties.

23 ARTICLE XI-D

24 ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS AND

25 ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE EQUIPMENT BONDS

26 Section 1101-D. Definitions.

27 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
28 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
29 context clearly indicates otherwise:

30 "Account." The County Electronic Poll Book and Election

1 Infrastructure Equipment Reimbursement Account established under  
2 section 1106-D.

3 "Authority." The Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing  
4 Authority.

5 "Bond." Any type of revenue obligation, including a bond or  
6 series of bonds, note, certificate or other instrument, issued  
7 by the authority for the benefit of the department under this  
8 article.

9 "Bond administrative expenses." Expenses incurred to  
10 administer bonds as provided under the Financing Law, or as  
11 necessary to ensure compliance with Federal or State law.

12 "Bond obligations." The principal of a bond and any premium  
13 and interest payable on a bond, together with any amount owed  
14 under a related credit agreement or a related resolution of the  
15 authority authorizing a bond.

16 "Credit agreement." A loan agreement, a revolving credit  
17 agreement, an agreement establishing a line of credit, a letter  
18 of credit or another agreement that enhances the marketability,  
19 security or creditworthiness of a bond.

20 "Department." The Department of State of the Commonwealth.

21 "Election infrastructure equipment." The following apply:

22 (1) Hardware or software, or both, that is used by a  
23 county in running elections. The term includes, but is not  
24 limited to:

25 (i) mail-ballot processing equipment, such as  
26 envelope openers; and

27 (ii) information technology equipment, such as:

28 (A) broadband, Internet or cellular  
29 infrastructure; or

30 (B) intrusion detection sensors, deployed to

1 enhance the security of electronic voting systems,  
2 electronic poll books and other election systems by  
3 detecting and reporting hacking attempts and other  
4 election security breaches.

5 (2) The term does not include electronic voting systems  
6 or electronic poll books.

7 "Electronic poll book." The components of electronic poll  
8 books as defined in section 1101-C.

9 "Electronic voting system." As defined in section 1101-A.

10 "Financing Law." The act of August 23, 1967 (P.L.251,  
11 No.102), known as the Economic Development Financing Law.  
12 Section 1102-D. Bond issuance.

13 (a) Declaration of policy.--The General Assembly finds and  
14 declares that funding for electronic poll books and election  
15 infrastructure equipment, including interest, through the  
16 authority, is in the best interest of this Commonwealth.

17 (b) Authority.--Notwithstanding any other law, the following  
18 shall apply:

19 (1) The department may be a project applicant under the  
20 Financing Law and may apply to the authority for the funding  
21 of electronic poll books and election infrastructure  
22 equipment.

23 (2) The authority may issue bonds under the Financing  
24 Law, consistent with this article, to finance a project or  
25 projects consisting of funding the purchase, replacement or  
26 lease of electronic poll books by the counties, the  
27 reimbursement to the counties for their cost to purchase or  
28 lease electronic poll books and for the purchase or lease of  
29 election infrastructure equipment by the counties.

30 (3) Participation of an industrial and commercial

1 development authority shall not be required to finance the  
2 projects or to issue the bonds described under this article.

3 (c) Debt or liability.--

4 (1) Bonds issued under this article shall not be a debt  
5 or liability of the Commonwealth and shall not create or  
6 constitute an indebtedness, liability or obligation of the  
7 Commonwealth.

8 (2) Bond obligations and bond administrative expenses  
9 shall be payable solely from revenues or money pledged or  
10 available for repayment as authorized under this article.  
11 This paragraph shall include the proceeds of any issuance of  
12 bonds.

13 (3) Each bond shall contain on the bond's face a  
14 statement that:

15 (i) the authority is obligated to pay the principal  
16 or interest on the bonds only from the revenues or money  
17 pledged or available for repayment as authorized under  
18 this article;

19 (ii) neither the Commonwealth nor a county is  
20 obligated to pay the principal or interest; and

21 (iii) the full faith and credit of the Commonwealth  
22 or any county is not pledged to the payment of the  
23 principal of or the interest on the bonds.

24 Section 1103-D. Criteria for bond issuance.

25 (a) Application.--

26 (1) The department shall apply to the authority to issue  
27 bonds to provide financing to the department to:

28 (i) reimburse each county for the county's cost to  
29 purchase or lease electronic poll books;

30 (ii) fund a county's purchase or lease of electronic

1 poll books; or

2 (iii) fund the purchase or lease of election  
3 infrastructure equipment.

4 (2) The choice of the funding options under paragraph  
5 (1)(i) or (ii) and the choice of type of electronic poll  
6 books shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of the  
7 Commonwealth.

8 (b) Issuance.--Bonds may be issued in one or more series,  
9 and each series may finance reimbursement grants to one or more  
10 counties.

11 (c) Terms.--

12 (1) The department, with the approval of the Office of  
13 the Budget, shall specify in its application to the  
14 authority:

15 (i) the maximum principal amount of the bonds for  
16 each bond issue; and

17 (ii) the maximum term of the bonds consistent with  
18 applicable law.

19 (2) The total principal amount for all bonds, not  
20 including refunding bonds, issued under this article may not  
21 exceed \$60,000,000.

22 (3) The term of the bonds issued under this article may  
23 not exceed 10 years from the respective date of original  
24 issuance.

25 (d) Expiration.--For the purpose of this article, the  
26 authorization to issue bonds, except for the authorization to  
27 issue refunding bonds, shall expire December 31, 2027.

28 Section 1104-D. Issuance of bonds and sources of payments.

29 (a) Issuance.--The authority shall consider issuing the  
30 bonds upon application by the department. Bonds issued under

1 this article shall be subject to the provisions of the Financing  
2 Law, unless otherwise specified under this article.

3 (b) Service agreement authorized.--The authority and the  
4 department may enter into an agreement or service agreement to  
5 effectuate this article, including an agreement to secure bonds  
6 issued for the purposes under section 1102-D(b), pursuant to  
7 which the department shall agree to pay the bond obligations and  
8 bond administrative expenses to the authority in each fiscal  
9 year that the bonds or refunding bonds are outstanding in  
10 amounts sufficient to timely pay in full the bond obligations,  
11 bond administrative expenses and any other financing costs due  
12 on the bonds issued for the purposes under section 1102-D(b).  
13 The department's payment of the bond obligations, bond  
14 administrative expenses and other financing costs due on the  
15 bonds as service charges under an agreement or service agreement  
16 shall be subject to and dependent upon the appropriation of  
17 funds by the General Assembly to the department for payment of  
18 the service charges. The service agreement may be amended or  
19 supplemented by the authority and the department in connection  
20 with the issuance of any series of bonds or refunding bonds  
21 authorized under this article.

22 Section 1105-D. Sale of bonds.

23 The authority shall offer the bonds for sale by means of a  
24 public, competitive sale or by means of a negotiated sale based  
25 on the authority's determination of which method will produce  
26 the most benefit to counties and the Commonwealth.

27 Section 1106-D. Deposit of bond proceeds.

28 The net proceeds of bonds, other than refunding bonds,  
29 exclusive of costs of issuance, reserves and any other financing  
30 charges, shall be transferred by the authority to the State

1 Treasurer for deposit into a restricted account established in  
2 the State Treasury and held solely for the purposes under  
3 section 1102-D(b) to be known as the County Electronic Poll Book  
4 and Election Infrastructure Equipment Reimbursement Account. The  
5 department shall pay out the bond proceeds to the counties from  
6 the account in accordance with this article.

7 Section 1107-D. Payment of bond-related obligations.

8 For each fiscal year in which bond obligations and bond  
9 administrative expenses will be due, the authority shall notify  
10 the department of the amount of bond obligations and the  
11 estimated amount of bond administrative expenses in sufficient  
12 time, as determined by the department, to permit the department  
13 to request an appropriation sufficient to pay bond obligations  
14 and bond administrative expenses that will be due and payable in  
15 the following fiscal year. The authority's calculation of the  
16 amount of bond obligations and bond administrative expenses that  
17 will be due shall be subject to verification by the department.

18 Section 1108-D. Commonwealth not to impair bond-related  
19 obligations.

20 The Commonwealth pledges that it shall not do any of the  
21 following:

22 (1) Limit or alter the rights and responsibilities of  
23 the authority or the department under this article, including  
24 the responsibility to:

25 (i) pay bond obligations and bond administrative  
26 expenses; and

27 (ii) comply with any other instrument or agreement  
28 pertaining to bonds.

29 (2) Alter or limit the service agreement under section  
30 1104-D(b).

1           (3) Impair the rights and remedies of the holders of  
2           bonds, until each bond issued and the interest on the bond  
3           are fully met and discharged.

4 Section 1109-D. Personal liability.

5           The members, directors, officers and employees of the  
6           department and the authority shall not be personally liable as a  
7           result of good faith exercise of the rights and responsibilities  
8           granted under this article.

9 Section 1110-D. Annual report.

10           No later than March 1 of the year following the first full  
11           year in which bonds have been issued under this article and for  
12           each year thereafter in which bond obligations existed in the  
13           prior year, the department shall submit an annual report to the  
14           chair and minority chair of the Appropriations Committee of the  
15           Senate, the chair and minority chair of the Appropriations  
16           Committee of the House of Representatives, the chair and  
17           minority chair of the State Government Committee of the Senate  
18           and the chair and minority chair of the State Government  
19           Committee of the House of Representatives and publish the report  
20           on the department's publicly accessible Internet website  
21           providing all data available on bonds issued or existing in the  
22           prior year. The report shall include existing and anticipated  
23           bond principal, interest and administrative costs, revenue,  
24           repayments, refinancing, overall benefits to counties and any  
25           other relevant data, facts and statistics that the department  
26           believes necessary in the content of the report.

27 Section 1111-D. County electronic poll book and election  
28           infrastructure expenses.

29           (a) Application.--

30           (1) A county may apply to the department to receive



1 funding or reimbursement for:

2 (i) the purchase or lease of electronic poll books;

3 and

4 (ii) the purchase or lease of election

5 infrastructure equipment.

6 (2) Each county shall apply for funding on a form

7 containing information and documentation prescribed by the

8 department no later than July 1, 2026. The department may

9 allow a county to submit one or more applications.

10 (b) Documentation for prior purchase or lease.--If a county

11 seeks reimbursement of the county's cost to purchase or lease by

12 capital lease electronic poll books or election infrastructure

13 equipment that the county purchased or leased before the date

14 that the county submits its application to the department, the

15 county's application shall include documentation prescribed by

16 the department to substantiate the county's cost to purchase or

17 lease the electronic poll books or election infrastructure

18 equipment, including copies of fully executed electronic poll

19 book contracts, fully executed copies of election infrastructure

20 equipment contracts, invoices and proof of payment to the vendor

21 of the electronic poll book or election infrastructure

22 equipment.

23 (c) Documentation for subsequent purchase or lease.--If a

24 county seeks funding to purchase or lease electronic poll books

25 or election infrastructure equipment that the county will

26 purchase or lease after the date that the county submits its

27 application to the department, the county's application shall

28 include documentation prescribed by the department to

29 substantiate the county's estimate to purchase or lease the

30 electronic poll books or election infrastructure equipment,

1 including copies of fully executed electronic poll book  
2 contracts or election infrastructure equipment bids or price  
3 quotes submitted to the county and other price estimates or cost  
4 proposals.

5 (d) Review.--The department shall review each county's  
6 application on a rolling basis and shall either approve or deny  
7 each county's application within 90 days of the date the  
8 application is received by the department. A county may  
9 supplement or amend submitted applications during the 90-day  
10 review period in consultation with the department.

11 (e) Approval for prior purchase or lease.--If the department  
12 approves a county's application submitted under subsection (b),  
13 the department and the county shall enter into a written grant  
14 agreement through which the department shall reimburse the  
15 county at the amount determined under subsection (g).

16 (f) Approval for subsequent purchase or lease.--If the  
17 department approves a county's application submitted under  
18 subsection (c), the department and the county shall enter into a  
19 written grant agreement through which the department shall  
20 provide funding to the county to purchase or lease electronic  
21 poll books or election infrastructure equipment at the amount  
22 determined under subsection (g). The county shall hold the grant  
23 money in an account of the county that is separate from each  
24 other county account. The county shall deliver quarterly reports  
25 to the department of the electronic poll book costs or election  
26 infrastructure equipment costs paid from the grant money in a  
27 form prescribed by the department. The county shall return any  
28 unspent grant money to the department within 30 days of the  
29 expiration of the grant agreement.

30 (g) Payments.--

1           (1) A county shall only receive amounts under this  
2 section to the extent that the department has bond proceeds  
3 available in the account from which to make payments.

4           (2) Except as provided under paragraph (3), a county  
5 which submitted an application approved under subsection (e)  
6 or (f) may receive 100% of the total amount submitted under  
7 subsection (b) or (c) which may be reimbursed or paid.

8           (3) If the total amount submitted by all counties under  
9 paragraph (2) exceeds the total amount available for  
10 reimbursement or payment, a county may receive a portion of  
11 the amount available equal to the total amount submitted by  
12 the county under subsection (b) or (c) which may be  
13 reimbursed or paid, divided by the total amount submitted by  
14 all counties under subsection (b) or (c) which may be  
15 reimbursed or paid.

16 Section 7. Sections 1210(a.4) (2), (5) (i), (ii) and (7) and  
17 (d) and 1231(b) (1), (3) and (4) of the act are amended to read:

18 Section 1210. Manner of Applying to Vote; Persons Entitled  
19 to Vote; Voter's Certificates; Entries to Be Made in District  
20 Register; Numbered Lists of Voters; Challenges.--\* \* \*

21 (a.4) \* \* \*

22 (2) Prior to voting the provisional ballot, the elector  
23 shall be required to sign an affidavit stating the following:

24 I do solemnly swear or affirm that my name is \_\_\_\_\_,  
25 that my date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_, and at the time that I  
26 registered I resided at \_\_\_\_\_ in the municipality of  
27 \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County of the Commonwealth of  
28 Pennsylvania and that this is the only ballot that I cast in  
29 this election.

30 Signature of Voter/Elector

1 Current Address

2 Check the Reason for Casting the Provisional Ballot.

3 [Signed by Judge of Elections and minority inspector]

4 \* \* \*

5 (5) (i) Except as provided in subclause (ii), if it is  
6 determined that the individual was registered and entitled to  
7 vote at the election district where the ballot was cast, the  
8 county board of elections shall compare the signature on the  
9 provisional ballot envelope with the signature on the elector's  
10 registration form and, if the signatures are determined to be  
11 genuine, shall count the ballot if the county board of elections  
12 confirms that the individual did not cast any other ballot,  
13 including an absentee ballot, in the election. Except as  
14 provided in subclause (ii), if it is determined that the  
15 individual voting the provisional ballot was registered and  
16 eligible to vote in the Commonwealth but not at the election  
17 district where the ballot was cast, the county board of  
18 elections shall compare the signature on the provisional ballot  
19 envelope with the signature on the elector's registration form  
20 and, if the signatures are determined to be genuine, shall open  
21 the envelope and only count that portion of the ballot that the  
22 individual would have been eligible to vote in his proper  
23 election district.

24 (ii) A provisional ballot shall not be counted if:

25 (A) either the provisional ballot envelope under clause (3)  
26 or the affidavit under clause (2) is not signed by the  
27 individual;

28 (B) the signature required under clause (3) and the  
29 signature required under clause (2) are either not genuine or  
30 are not executed by the same individual;

1 [(C) a provisional ballot envelope does not contain a  
2 secrecy envelope;]

3 (D) in the case of a provisional ballot that was cast under  
4 subsection (a.2)(1)(i), within six calendar days following the  
5 election the elector fails to appear before the county board of  
6 elections to execute an affirmation or the county board of  
7 elections does not receive an electronic, facsimile or paper  
8 copy of an affirmation affirming, under penalty of perjury, that  
9 the elector is the same individual who personally appeared  
10 before the district election board on the day of the election  
11 and cast a provisional ballot and that the elector is indigent  
12 and unable to obtain proof of identification without the payment  
13 of a fee;

14 (E) in the case of a provisional ballot that was cast under  
15 subsection (a.2)(1)(ii), within six calendar days following the  
16 election, the elector fails to appear before the county board of  
17 elections to present proof of identification and execute an  
18 affirmation or the county board of elections does not receive an  
19 electronic, facsimile or paper copy of the proof of  
20 identification and an affirmation affirming, under penalty of  
21 perjury, that the elector is the same individual who personally  
22 appeared before the district election board on the day of the  
23 election and cast a provisional ballot; or

24 (F) the elector's absentee ballot or mail-in ballot is  
25 timely received by a county board of elections[.], unless the  
26 board determines that the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot will  
27 not be counted due to a reason unrelated to the elector's  
28 eligibility to vote in the election.

29 \* \* \*

30 [(7) The following shall apply:

1 (i) Except as provided in subclause (ii), if it is  
2 determined that the individual voting the provisional ballot was  
3 eligible to vote in the county in which the ballot was cast but  
4 not at the election district where the ballot was cast, the  
5 county board of elections shall open the envelope and only count  
6 that portion of the ballot that the individual would have been  
7 eligible to vote in his proper election district and at the  
8 election district where the vote was cast if:

9 (A) the county board of elections confirms that the  
10 individual did not cast any other ballot, including an absentee  
11 ballot, in the election; and

12 (B) the individual casting the provisional ballot is a  
13 resident of the county in which the provisional ballot was cast.

14 (ii) In the event that the individual casting the  
15 provisional ballot is not found to be a resident of the county  
16 in which the provisional ballot was cast, the ballot shall not  
17 be counted.

18 (iii) In the event that the board of elections determines,  
19 based on an evidentiary record, that the individual  
20 intentionally and wilfully cast a provisional ballot in an  
21 election district in which the individual was not eligible to  
22 vote, the ballot shall not be counted.]

23 \* \* \*

24 (d) No person, except a qualified elector who is in actual  
25 military or naval service under a requisition of the President  
26 of the United States or by the authority of this Commonwealth,  
27 and who votes under the provisions of Article XIII of this act,  
28 shall be entitled or permitted to vote at any primary or  
29 election at any polling place outside the election district in  
30 which he resides, nor shall he be permitted to vote in the

1 election district in which he resides, unless he has been  
2 personally registered as an elector and his registration card  
3 appears in the district register of such election district,  
4 except by order of the court of common pleas as provided in this  
5 act[, and any person, although personally registered as an  
6 elector, may be challenged by any qualified elector, election  
7 officer, overseer, or watcher at any primary or election as to  
8 his identity, as to his continued residence in the election  
9 district or as to any alleged violation of the provisions of  
10 section 1210 of this act, and if challenged as to identity or  
11 residence, he shall produce at least one qualified elector of  
12 the election district as a witness, who shall make affidavit of  
13 his identity or continued residence in the election district]:

14 Provided, however, That no person shall be entitled to vote as a  
15 member of a party at any primary, unless he is registered and  
16 enrolled as a member of such party upon the district register,  
17 which enrollment shall be conclusive as to his party membership  
18 and shall not be subject to challenge on the day of the primary.

19 \* \* \*

20 Section 1231. Deadline for Receipt of Valid Voter  
21 Registration Application.--\* \* \*

22 (b) In the administration of voter registration, each  
23 commission shall ensure that an applicant who is a qualified  
24 elector is registered to vote in an election when the applicant  
25 has met any of the following conditions:

26 (1) In the case of voter registration with a motor vehicle  
27 driver's license application under 25 Pa.C.S. § 1323 (relating  
28 to application with driver's license application), if the valid  
29 voter registration application is received by the [appropriate  
30 commission] Department of Transportation not later than fifteen

1 days before the election.

2 \* \* \*

3 (3) In the case of voter registration at a voter  
4 registration agency under 25 Pa.C.S. § 1325 (relating to  
5 government agencies), if the valid voter registration  
6 application is received by the appropriate commission or the  
7 Department of State not later than fifteen days before the  
8 election.

9 (4) In any other case, if the valid voter registration  
10 application of the applicant is received by the appropriate  
11 commission or the Department of State not later than fifteen  
12 days before the election.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 8. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

15 ARTICLE XII-A

16 IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

17 Section 1201-A. Conduct.

18 (a) Authority.--Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,  
19 each county board shall provide for a period of in-person early  
20 voting as provided for under this article.

21 (b) Issuance of ballots and voting booths.--

22 (1) A registered elector may request to vote early in  
23 person at any early voting location in the county of their  
24 residence. The county board shall issue a ballot to the  
25 registered elector or, in the case of an electronic voting  
26 system under Article XI-A, permit the registered elector to  
27 vote on the county voting system for in-person early voting.  
28 Except as otherwise provided under this article, a registered  
29 elector who appears for early voting must vote on the  
30 premises designated by the county board for early voting.



1       (2) On the dates for early voting prescribed under  
2 section 1203-A, each county board shall provide ballots or  
3 voting booths with electronic voting systems certified by the  
4 secretary and other suitable equipment for voting on the  
5 premises of the county board and at any other early voting  
6 location established by the county board for the conduct of  
7 early voting in accordance with this article. Each ballot  
8 style must be available in each early voting location,  
9 allowing any registered voter of the county to vote in any of  
10 the early voting locations.

11       (3) In conducting early voting under this article, an  
12 early voting election official shall verify:

13           (i) that the voter is a registered elector;

14           (ii) the election district in which the voter is  
15 registered;

16           (iii) the proper ballot of the election district in  
17 which the registered elector resides and is entitled to  
18 vote before providing an early voting ballot to the  
19 applicant, in accordance with section 1210; and

20           (iv) the applicant's registration from the most  
21 recent district register provided by the county board. If  
22 the applicant is not listed, the election official shall  
23 contact the office of the county board.

24       (4) The election official shall maintain a list of all  
25 voters who appeared to vote in person. At the end of each  
26 early voting day, or at regular intervals during each early  
27 voting day if practicable, the list of voters who appeared  
28 and cast an early voting ballot shall be transmitted to the  
29 county board and entered into the SURE system.

30       (c) Lists of early voters.--The county board shall maintain

1 a list of each registered elector in each election district who  
2 votes. The list must be maintained for each election district in  
3 the county and updated daily. The county board shall deliver an  
4 updated district register listing voters who have already voted  
5 at each early voting location before the start of early voting  
6 the following day. All electronic poll books shall be updated to  
7 reflect the same.

8 (d) General register.--The county board shall indicate in  
9 the general register, or any other system used to update voter  
10 histories in real time, whether a voter has voted early in the  
11 election. A voter who is listed in the general register as  
12 having voted early shall not be permitted to vote by any other  
13 method permitted by law, including at their polling place on any  
14 primary or election day.

15 (e) Provisional ballot.--Notwithstanding any other provision  
16 in this section, any voters who believe they have been  
17 erroneously listed as having voted shall be permitted to vote a  
18 provisional ballot in accordance with section 1210.

19 Section 1202-A. Early voting locations.

20 (a) Minimum location requirement.--A county board shall  
21 establish at least one early voting locations for in-person  
22 early voting in the county, which may be located at an office of  
23 the county board.

24 (b) Minimum population requirement.--In addition to the  
25 requirement under subsection (a), a county board shall establish  
26 one early voting location for in-person early voting for every  
27 100,000 voters registered in that county as of the date of the  
28 prior election. At least one location shall be in the same  
29 municipality as the county seat.

30 (c) Additional locations.--In addition to the requirements

1 for early voting locations under subsections (a) and (b), a  
2 county board may establish additional early voting locations for  
3 in-person early voting.

4 (d) Location.--Early voting locations may be located in any  
5 location eligible to be selected as a polling place under  
6 Article V.

7 (e) Voting.--A registered elector entitled to early voting  
8 may vote early at any early voting location established by the  
9 county board in their county of residence.

10 (f) Factors.--For an early voting location established under  
11 this section or section 1204-A and not located at an office of  
12 the county board, the sites must be geographically located to  
13 provide all voters in the county an equal opportunity to cast a  
14 ballot, as much as practicable, and must provide sufficient  
15 nonpermitted parking to accommodate the anticipated number of  
16 voters arriving by vehicle. Although the selection of an early  
17 voting site is a matter of discretion of the county board, the  
18 county board shall consider the following factors:

19 (1) proximity to public transportation lines and  
20 availability of parking;

21 (2) proximity to communities which will provide the  
22 greatest opportunity for residents of rural areas to vote  
23 during the early voting period;

24 (3) proximity to nursing homes, hospitals, long-term  
25 care facilities, and public universities or community  
26 colleges;

27 (4) travel time to the early voting location;

28 (5) commuter traffic patterns;

29 (6) geographic features that may affect an elector's  
30 equitable access to early voting locations;

1           (7) population density;

2           (8) use of existing voting locations that typically  
3 serve a significant number of electors;

4           (9) use of public buildings that are known to electors  
5 in the county, especially to the extent that using the  
6 buildings results in cost savings compared to other potential  
7 locations; and

8           (10) if private locations are considered or designated  
9 as early voting locations, methods and standards to ensure  
10 the security of voting conducted at the locations.

11          (g) Accessibility.--Early voting locations shall be  
12 accessible to persons with disabilities.

13          (h) Prohibition.--An individual, if within an early voting  
14 location or temporary early voting location, may not  
15 electioneer or solicit votes for a political party, political  
16 body or candidate. Written or printed material may not be posted  
17 within the early voting location or temporary early voting  
18 location, except as required under this act.

19          (i) Distance.--Except for a county designee, watcher, person  
20 in the course of voting, including a person delivering an  
21 absentee or mail-in ballot to a ballot drop box located in the  
22 early voting location, person lawfully giving assistance to a  
23 voter and peace and police officer, if permitted under this act,  
24 an individual must remain at least 10 feet distant from the  
25 early voting location or temporary early voting location during  
26 the progress of the voting.

27          (j) Early voting location officials.--

28               (1) The county board shall designate a county employee  
29 or, if a county employee is unavailable, appoint a duly  
30 elected judge of elections from any election district in the

1 county to serve as the presiding election officer in charge  
2 at an early voting location.

3 (2) The county board shall also appoint as many  
4 additional election officials and clerks as needed to  
5 sufficiently staff and operate an early voting location.

6 (3) If appointing election officials at early voting  
7 locations, the county board shall appoint individuals from  
8 different political parties, including nonaffiliated voters.

9 (4) The duties of the election officials in carrying out  
10 the procedures of voting at early voting locations shall  
11 comply with the duties of district election officers under  
12 this act.

13 (5) All individuals appointed to serve at early voting  
14 locations must attend training provided by the county board  
15 before they can serve at the early voting location.

16 (6) An election officer, elected or appointed in an  
17 election district, may be appointed as an election official  
18 or clerk in an early voting location, unless prohibited by  
19 law.

20 (7) The secretary shall issue requirements and  
21 qualifications for training and appropriate daily rates, as  
22 permitted by law, for compensation at staff at early voting  
23 locations.

24 (k) Watcher.--Each candidate and each party or political  
25 body may appoint one watcher consistent with section 417 who  
26 shall be present within the early voting location or temporary  
27 early voting location from the time that county designees meet  
28 prior to the opening of the early voting location or temporary  
29 early voting location until the time that county designees  
30 depart the early voting location or temporary early voting

1 location. A watcher must be a qualified elector of the county in  
2 which the watcher serves and must show their certificates if  
3 requested to do so.

4 (l) Voters permitted to vote.--When the hour for closing the  
5 early voting location arrives on each day of the early voting  
6 period, all qualified electors who have already qualified, and  
7 are inside the enclosed space, shall be permitted to vote.  
8 Qualified electors who are in the early voting location outside  
9 the enclosed space waiting to vote and voters who are in line  
10 either inside or outside of the early voting location waiting to  
11 vote, shall be permitted to vote.

12 Section 1203-A. Period for early voting.

13 (a) Commencement and ending.--The period for in-person early  
14 voting shall begin on the 11th day preceding the date of an  
15 election and extend through the Sunday before election day.

16 (b) Schedules.--Except as provided under subsection (c),  
17 each early voting location must remain open beginning the 11th  
18 day before an election for no less than 8 hours and no more than  
19 12 hours a day between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. as determined by the  
20 county board of elections.

21 (c) Emergency closure.--Notwithstanding subsection (b), a  
22 county board may close an early voting location if the building  
23 in which the early voting location is located has been closed by  
24 a State, county or local agency in response to a severe weather  
25 emergency or other emergency. The county board shall notify the  
26 Secretary of the Commonwealth of each closure and shall make  
27 reasonable efforts to provide notice to the public of an  
28 alternative early voting location under section 1204-A.

29 (d) Security of ballots and voting equipment.--The county  
30 board shall ensure that each ballot, scanner and other voting

1 equipment used during the early voting period are secured in  
2 accordance with Article XI-A. The following shall apply:

3 (1) At the beginning of each day of early voting, the  
4 early voting location officials shall examine every ballot  
5 box, scanner and tabulator, if applicable, to ensure that  
6 they remain locked and sealed. Upon completion of their  
7 examination, the early voting location officials shall sign a  
8 declaration attesting to the same on a form prescribed by the  
9 Secretary of the Commonwealth.

10 (2) At the end of each day of early voting, the early  
11 voting location officials shall examine every ballot box,  
12 scanner and tabulator, if applicable, to ensure that they  
13 remain locked and sealed. Upon completion of their  
14 examination, the early voting location officials shall sign a  
15 declaration attesting to the same on a form prescribed by the  
16 Secretary of the Commonwealth.

17 (3) All voting equipment and materials shall be stored  
18 in a secure and locked location and access to the locked  
19 storage location shall be limited only to designated election  
20 officials. A daily written record of persons who entered the  
21 locked locations shall be kept and transmitted to the county  
22 board at the end of the early voting period.

23 (4) At the conclusion of each day of early voting, the  
24 ballot box containing paper ballots or voter verified paper  
25 records shall be emptied and the paper ballots or voter  
26 verified paper records shall be placed in a secure transit  
27 container, locked and sealed with a tamper evident seal. The  
28 ballots shall be transported by at least two election  
29 officials from the early voting location or others designated  
30 by the county board to the county board for secure storage

1 until official canvass of votes.

2 (5) At the conclusion of the early voting period,  
3 election officials shall follow the procedures for closing  
4 the polls as provided for in this act. All voting materials,  
5 paper ballots, voter verified paper records and all digital  
6 storage devices shall be securely transmitted to the county  
7 board for inclusion in the official tally of the election  
8 returns. Provided, that no results of early voting shall be  
9 disclosed until after the close of the polls on primary or  
10 election day.

11 (6) The secretary shall issue directives or instructions  
12 for secure chain of custody protocols for early voting  
13 locations consistent with national best practices.

14 Section 1204-A. Designation of temporary early voting  
15 locations.

16 (a) Temporary early voting locations.--In addition to early  
17 voting locations established under section 1202-A, the county  
18 board may establish temporary early voting locations for early  
19 voting due to an emergency closure under section 1202-A or any  
20 other reason. Temporary early voting locations may be located in  
21 any location eligible to be selected as a polling place under  
22 Article V.

23 (b) Applicability of schedule.--

24 (1) The schedules for the conduct of early voting under  
25 section 1203-A(b) shall apply to temporary early voting  
26 locations unless an exception is granted by the secretary.

27 (2) Early voting at temporary early voting locations may  
28 be conducted on one or more days and during hours established  
29 by the county board.

30 (3) The schedules for the conduct of early voting at a



1 temporary early voting location shall not need to be uniform  
2 among the temporary early voting locations.

3 (4) (i) Except as provided under subparagraph (ii), a  
4 county board establishing or changing a temporary early  
5 voting location shall publish the information required  
6 under section 1206-A at least 10 days before early voting  
7 begins.

8 (ii) If a temporary early voting location is  
9 established or changed within 10 days of early voting  
10 beginning or is established or changed after early voting  
11 begins, the county board shall:

12 (A) publish the information required under  
13 section 1206-A as soon as the county board determines  
14 the temporary early voting location; and

15 (B) post the same on the county's publicly  
16 accessible Internet website.

17 Section 1205-A. Public buildings.

18 (a) Early voting locations.--

19 (1) Upon request by a county board, the governing body  
20 of a municipality shall make public buildings within the  
21 county available as early voting locations without charge. A  
22 request to use a public building shall include reasonably  
23 necessary time before and after the period that early voting  
24 will be conducted at the public building.

25 (2) A municipality making a public building available as  
26 an early voting location shall ensure that any portion of the  
27 building made available is accessible to voters with  
28 disabilities and elderly voters.

29 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school may  
30 only be used as an in-person early voting location if voting can

1 occur separately without access to other areas of the school or  
2 school children and the location and access comply with the  
3 general security procedures in force at the school.

4 Section 1206-A. Publication of early voting locations and  
5 schedules.

6 (a) Notice.--No later than 30 days before an election, the  
7 county board shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation  
8 in the county a schedule stating:

9 (1) the location of each early voting location;

10 (2) the location of each temporary early voting  
11 location; and

12 (3) the dates and hours that early voting will be  
13 conducted at each early voting and temporary early voting  
14 location.

15 (b) Posting requirements.--Each county board shall post a  
16 copy of the schedule at an office or other location that is to  
17 be used as an early voting or temporary early voting location.  
18 The schedule must be posted continuously and updated for a  
19 period beginning not later than the 10th day before the  
20 commencement of early voting and ending on the last day of the  
21 early voting period.

22 (c) Copies.--The county board must make copies of the  
23 schedule available to the public in reasonable quantities  
24 without charge during the period of posting.

25 (d) Electronic posting.--

26 (1) If the county board maintains a publicly accessible  
27 Internet website, the county board shall make the schedule  
28 available on the website no later than 30 days before the  
29 election.

30 (2) A municipality within the county that maintains a

1 publicly accessible Internet website shall also make the  
2 schedule available on the website no later than 30 days  
3 before the election.

4 (e) Prohibition and exception after schedule publication.--

5 (1) Additional early voting locations may not be  
6 established after the schedule is published under this  
7 section.

8 (2) Additional temporary early voting locations may be  
9 established after the schedule is published if the temporary  
10 early voting locations are open to each registered elector.  
11 The locations, dates and hours of each additional temporary  
12 early voting location shall be reported to the Secretary of  
13 the Commonwealth and posted on the county board's, the  
14 county's and any municipality located within the county's  
15 publicly accessible Internet website.

16 Section 1207-A. List of early voting locations.

17 No later than 30 days before the commencement of early  
18 voting, each county board shall provide the Secretary of the  
19 Commonwealth with a list of each early voting location and the  
20 hours each location will be open for early voting. The secretary  
21 shall develop a tool on the department's publicly accessible  
22 Internet website for voters to locate early voting location and  
23 temporary early voting locations in their counties.

24 Section 1208-A. Results.

25 Results of early voting may not be made available to the  
26 public other than through the tabulation process used for votes  
27 cast on election day, after the closing of polls.

28 Section 1209-A. Directives of secretary.

29 (a) General rule.--The secretary shall issue a directive to  
30 counties specifying in-person early voting polling procedures

1 and best practices to ensure uniform implementation in every  
2 county.

3 (b) Additional directives.--The secretary may issue  
4 additional directives as necessary in order to facilitate the  
5 administration of early voting and temporary early voting  
6 locations.

7 Section 9. Sections 1302.1(a), 1302.2(c), 1304 and 1306 of  
8 the act are amended to read:

9 Section 1302.1. Date of Application for Absentee Ballot.--

10 (a) Except as provided in subsection (a.3), applications for  
11 absentee ballots shall be received in [the] an office of the  
12 county board of elections not earlier than fifty (50) days  
13 before the primary or election, except that if a county board of  
14 elections determines that it would be appropriate to its  
15 operational needs, any applications for absentee ballots  
16 received more than fifty (50) days before the primary or  
17 election may be processed before that time. Applications for  
18 absentee ballots shall be processed if received not later than  
19 five o'clock P.M. of the first Tuesday prior to the day of any  
20 primary or election.

21 \* \* \*

22 Section 1302.2. Approval of Application for Absentee  
23 Ballot.--\* \* \*

24 (c) The county board of elections, upon receipt of any  
25 application of a qualified elector required to be registered  
26 under the provisions of preceding section 1301, shall determine  
27 the qualifications of such applicant by verifying the proof of  
28 identification and comparing the information set forth on such  
29 application with the information contained on the applicant's  
30 permanent registration card. If the board is satisfied that the

1 applicant is qualified to receive an official absentee ballot,  
2 the application shall be marked "approved." Such approval  
3 decision shall be final and binding, except that challenges may  
4 be made only on the ground that the applicant was not a  
5 qualified elector. Such challenges must be made to the county  
6 board of elections prior to five o'clock p.m. on the Friday  
7 prior to the election or prior to the pre-canvass of an  
8 elector's absentee ballot, whichever is earlier: Provided,  
9 however, That a challenge to an application for an absentee  
10 ballot shall not be permitted on the grounds that the elector  
11 used an application for an absentee ballot instead of an  
12 application for a mail-in ballot or on the grounds that the  
13 elector used an application for a mail-in ballot instead of an  
14 application for an absentee ballot.

15 \* \* \*

16 Section 1304. Envelopes for Official Absentee Ballots.--

17 (a) The county boards of election shall provide two  
18 additional envelopes for each official absentee ballot of such  
19 size and shape as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the  
20 Commonwealth, in order to permit the placing of one within the  
21 other and both within the mailing envelope. On the smaller of  
22 the two envelopes to be enclosed in the mailing envelope shall  
23 be printed, stamped or endorsed the words "Official Election  
24 Ballot," and nothing else. On the larger of the two envelopes,  
25 to be enclosed within the mailing envelope, shall be printed,  
26 stamped or endorsed to conform with election mail design  
27 requirements from the United States Postal Service, a prepaid  
28 reply mail option under subsection (b), the form of the  
29 declaration of the elector, and the name and address of the  
30 county board of election of the proper county. The larger

1 envelope shall also contain information indicating the local  
2 election district of the absentee voter. Said form of  
3 declaration and envelope shall be as prescribed by the Secretary  
4 of the Commonwealth and shall contain among other things a  
5 statement of the electors qualifications, together with a  
6 statement that such elector has not already voted in such  
7 primary or election. The mailing envelope addressed to the  
8 elector shall contain the two envelopes, the official absentee  
9 ballot, lists of candidates, when authorized by section 1303  
10 subsection (b) of this act, the uniform instructions in form and  
11 substance as prescribed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth and  
12 nothing else.

13 (b) The county board of election shall provide prepaid  
14 postage for the larger of the two additional envelopes. The  
15 county board of election shall utilize a United States Postal  
16 Service prepaid reply mail option.

17 (c) The county board of election shall include on both the  
18 mailing envelope and larger envelope uniquely serialized United  
19 States Postal Service Intelligent Mail barcodes which shall  
20 include a service type identifier or an equivalent successor  
21 barcode or identifier that allows mail tracking of uniquely  
22 serialized barcoded envelopes as specified by the Secretary of  
23 the Commonwealth.

24 Section 1306. Voting by Absentee Electors.--(a) (1) Except  
25 as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), at any time after  
26 receiving an official absentee ballot, but on or before eight  
27 o'clock P.M. the day of the primary or election, the elector  
28 shall, in secret, proceed to mark the ballot only in black lead  
29 pencil, indelible pencil or blue, black or blue-black ink, in  
30 fountain pen or ball point pen, and then fold the ballot,

1 enclose and securely seal the same in the envelope on which is  
2 printed, stamped or endorsed "Official Election Ballot." This  
3 envelope shall then be placed in the second one, on which is  
4 printed the form of declaration of the elector, and the address  
5 of the elector's county board of election and the local election  
6 district of the elector. The elector shall then [fill out, date  
7 and] sign the declaration printed on such envelope. Such  
8 envelope shall then be securely sealed and the elector shall  
9 send same by mail, postage prepaid, except where franked, or  
10 deliver it in person to [said] a county board of election[.] or  
11 at a ballot drop box.

12 (2) Any elector, spouse of the elector or dependent of the  
13 elector, qualified in accordance with the provisions of section  
14 1301, subsections (e), (f), (g) and (h) to vote by absentee  
15 ballot as herein provided, shall be required to include on the  
16 form of declaration a supporting declaration in form prescribed  
17 by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to be signed by the head  
18 of the department or chief of division or bureau in which the  
19 elector is employed, setting forth the identity of the elector,  
20 spouse of the elector or dependent of the elector.

21 (3) Any elector who has filed his application in accordance  
22 with section 1302 subsection (e)(2), and is unable to sign his  
23 declaration because of illness or physical disability, shall be  
24 excused from signing upon making a declaration which shall be  
25 witnessed by one adult person in substantially the following  
26 form: I hereby declare that I am unable to sign my declaration  
27 for voting my absentee ballot without assistance because I am  
28 unable to write by reason of my illness or physical disability.  
29 I have made or received assistance in making my mark in lieu of  
30 my signature.

1 ..... (Mark)

2 (Date)

3 .....

4 (Complete Address of Witness) (Signature of Witness)

5 (b) (1) Any elector who receives and votes an absentee  
6 ballot pursuant to section 1301 shall not be eligible to vote at  
7 a polling place on election day. The district register at each  
8 polling place shall clearly identify electors who have received  
9 and voted absentee ballots as ineligible to vote at the polling  
10 place, and district election officers shall not permit electors  
11 who voted an absentee ballot to vote at the polling place.

12 (2) An elector who requests an absentee ballot and who is  
13 not shown on the district register as having voted the ballot  
14 may vote by provisional ballot under section 1210(a.4)(1).

15 (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), an elector who requests  
16 an absentee ballot and who is not shown on the district register  
17 as having voted the ballot may vote at the polling place if the  
18 elector remits the ballot and the envelope containing the  
19 declaration of the elector to the judge of elections to be  
20 spoiled and the elector signs a statement subject to the  
21 penalties under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn  
22 falsification to authorities) in substantially the following  
23 form:

24 I hereby declare that I am a qualified registered elector who  
25 has obtained an absentee ballot or mail-in ballot. I further  
26 declare that I have not cast my absentee ballot or mail-in  
27 ballot, and that instead I remitted my absentee ballot or  
28 mail-in ballot and the envelope containing the declaration of  
29 the elector to the judge of elections at my polling place to  
30 be spoiled and therefore request that my absentee ballot or



1 mail-in ballot be voided.

2 (Date)

3 (Signature of Elector).....(Address of Elector)

4 (Local Judge of Elections)

5 (c) Except as provided under 25 Pa.C.S. § 3511 (relating to  
6 receipt of voted ballot), a completed absentee ballot must be  
7 received in the office of the county board of elections no later  
8 than eight o'clock P.M. on the day of the primary or election.

9 (d) (1) Nothing under this section shall be construed to  
10 prohibit an individual from returning an absentee ballot for an  
11 elector, if the individual is:

12 (i) rendering assistance to a disabled voter or an emergency  
13 absentee voter as authorized by law;

14 (ii) returning the completed ballot of another member of the  
15 individual's household;

16 (iii) returning the completed ballot of a family member; or

17 (iv) returning the completed ballot of an elector under the  
18 individual's care.

19 (2) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "family  
20 member" means a parent, grandparent or adult child.

21 Section 10. Section 1308(a), (b) and (g)(1)(ii), (1.1), (2)  
22 and (4)(ii) and (iii) of the act are amended and subsection (g)  
23 is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

24 Section 1308. Canvassing of Official Absentee Ballots and  
25 Mail-in Ballots.--(a) The county boards of election, upon  
26 receipt of official absentee ballots in sealed official absentee  
27 ballot envelopes as provided under this article and mail-in  
28 ballots as in sealed official mail-in ballot envelopes as  
29 provided under Article XIII-D, shall [safely keep the ballots in  
30 sealed or locked containers until they are to be canvassed by

1 the county board of elections. An absentee ballot, whether  
2 issued to a civilian, military or other voter during the regular  
3 or emergency application period, shall be canvassed in  
4 accordance with subsection (g). A mail-in ballot shall be  
5 canvassed in accordance with subsection (g).] mark the date of  
6 receipt in the voter's record and shall examine the ballot  
7 envelope containing the declaration of the elector to verify  
8 completion of the declaration as required under sections 1306  
9 and 1306-D. The following shall apply:

10 (1) If the declaration of the elector has been completed as  
11 required under sections 1306 and 1306-D, the absentee and mail-  
12 in ballots shall be safely kept until the ballots are to be pre-  
13 canvassed or canvassed by the county board of elections. An  
14 absentee ballot, notwithstanding if the absentee ballot is  
15 issued to a civilian, military or other voter, shall be pre-  
16 canvassed or canvassed in accordance with subsection (g). A  
17 mail-in ballot shall be pre-canvassed in accordance with  
18 subsection (g).

19 (2) If the declaration of the elector has not been signed as  
20 required under sections 1306 and 1306-D, the county board of  
21 elections shall enter into the voter's record in the voter  
22 registration system that the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot  
23 has a defect with the voter's declaration requiring correction  
24 in order for the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot to be  
25 counted. The following shall apply:

26 (i) Within twenty-four (24) hours of a finding under this  
27 paragraph, the county board of elections shall notify the voter  
28 by electronic or telephonic means of the error, if the voter's  
29 email or phone number is included in the voter's record or  
30 application and shall provide an Absentee Ballot and Mail-in

1 Ballot Cure Form. The county board shall notify all such voters  
2 by letter. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall create a form  
3 that is accessible by and can be completed through paper,  
4 electronic and telephonic means. The form shall contain a  
5 location for the voter to place the voter's Pennsylvania  
6 driver's license or Department of Transportation identification  
7 card number or last four digits of the voter's Social Security  
8 number and instructions on how to return the form. Instead of  
9 providing a driver's license, Department of Transportation  
10 identification card number or the last four digits of the  
11 voter's Social Security number, a voter may provide a legible  
12 copy or photograph of a government-issued document, including an  
13 official Federal, State, county or municipal document which  
14 lists the voter's name, a student identification document issued  
15 by an institution of higher education as defined in section  
16 118(c) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as  
17 the Public School Code of 1949, in this Commonwealth or a  
18 utility bill, telephone bill, bank statement, government check,  
19 paycheck or tax or rent receipt which lists the voter's name.  
20 The cure shall include the following attestation in  
21 substantially the following form:

22 I hereby declare that I am a qualified registered elector in  
23 this election who requested and returned an absentee ballot  
24 or mail-in ballot to (county) and that I have not and will  
25 not vote more than one ballot in this election.

26 (Date)

27 (Signature of Elector)

28 (ii) The Absentee Ballot and Mail-in Ballot Cure Form and  
29 instructions on how to return the form shall be made available  
30 on the Department of State and each county board of election's

1 publicly accessible Internet website.

2 (iii) If the voter completes and returns the Absentee Ballot  
3 and Mail-in Ballot Cure Form before noon on the sixth day after  
4 the election, the voter's ballot shall be counted as provided  
5 under subsection (g) (4) (iii). If the voter fails to complete and  
6 return the form before noon on the sixth day after the election,  
7 the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot shall be set aside and  
8 declared void. The voter may return the Absentee Ballot and  
9 Mail-in Ballot Cure Form by email, fax, text message or other  
10 form of electronic submission, mail or delivery in person to the  
11 county board of elections.

12 (iv) The county board of elections shall provide the voter  
13 with information on how to vote by provisional ballot on  
14 election day instead of completing an Absentee Ballot and Mail-  
15 In Ballot Cure Form.

16 (v) Within twenty-four (24) hours of a finding under  
17 paragraph (2), counties shall compile a list of voters eligible  
18 to cure defective ballots and must make the list available to  
19 the public, including posting it to the counties' publicly  
20 accessible Internet website.

21 [(b) Watchers shall be permitted to be present when the  
22 envelopes containing official absentee ballots and mail-in  
23 ballots are opened and when such ballots are counted and  
24 recorded.]

25 \* \* \*

26 (g) (1) \* \* \*

27 (ii) An absentee ballot cast by any absentee elector as  
28 defined in section 1301(i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n), an  
29 absentee ballot under section [1302(a.3)] 1302.1(a.3) or a mail-  
30 in ballot cast by a mail-in elector shall be canvassed in

1 accordance with this subsection if the absentee ballot or mail-  
2 in ballot is received in [the] an office of the county board of  
3 elections or delivered to a ballot drop box no later than eight  
4 o'clock P.M. on the day of the primary or election.

5 (1.1) The county board of elections shall meet no earlier  
6 than [seven] nine o'clock A.M. on the seventh day prior to  
7 election day and no later than seven o'clock A.M. on election  
8 day to pre-canvass all ballots received prior to the meeting.  
9 The pre-canvass meeting may continue until eight o'clock P.M. on  
10 election day. A county board of elections shall provide at least  
11 forty-eight hours' notice of a pre-canvass meeting by publicly  
12 posting a notice of a pre-canvass meeting on its publicly  
13 accessible Internet website. One authorized representative of  
14 each candidate in an election and one representative from each  
15 political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in  
16 which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are pre-  
17 canvassed. No person observing, attending or participating in a  
18 pre-canvass meeting may disclose the results of any portion of  
19 any pre-canvass meeting prior to the close of the polls.

20 (2) The county board of elections shall meet no earlier than  
21 the close of polls on the day of the election and no later than  
22 the [third] day following the election to begin canvassing  
23 absentee ballots and mail-in ballots not included in the pre-  
24 canvass meeting. The meeting under this paragraph shall continue  
25 until all absentee ballots and mail-in ballots received prior to  
26 the close of the polls have been canvassed. The county board of  
27 elections shall not record or publish any votes reflected on the  
28 ballots prior to the close of the polls. The canvass process  
29 shall continue through the eighth day following the election for  
30 valid military-overseas ballots timely received under 25 Pa.C.S.

1 § 3511 (relating to receipt of voted ballot). A county board of  
2 elections shall provide at least forty-eight hours' notice of a  
3 canvass meeting by publicly posting a notice on its publicly  
4 accessible Internet website. One authorized representative of  
5 each candidate in an election and one representative from each  
6 political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in  
7 which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are canvassed.

8 \* \* \*

9 (4) All absentee ballots which have not been challenged  
10 under section 1302.2(c) and all mail-in ballots which have not  
11 been challenged under section 1302.2-D(a)(2) and that have been  
12 verified under paragraph (3) shall be counted and included with  
13 the returns of the applicable election district as follows:

14 \* \* \*

15 (ii) [If] Notwithstanding sections 1306 and 1306-D, if any  
16 of the envelopes on which are printed, stamped or endorsed the  
17 words "Official Election Ballot" contain any text, mark or  
18 symbol which reveals the identity of the elector, the elector's  
19 political affiliation or the elector's candidate preference,  
20 [the envelopes and the ballots contained therein shall be set  
21 aside and declared void.] or the ballot is not sealed inside the  
22 Official Election Ballot envelope, the presence of such text,  
23 mark or symbol or the failure to seal the ballot in the Official  
24 Election Ballot envelope shall not be a fatal defect to the  
25 ballot. The county board of elections shall place the voted  
26 absentee ballot or voted mail-in ballot into an Official  
27 Election Ballot envelope in a manner as to maintain the secrecy  
28 of the voted absentee ballot or voted mail-in ballot. The  
29 Official Election Ballot envelope shall be sealed and shall be  
30 pre-canvassed or canvassed in accordance with subparagraph

1 (iii).

2 (iii) The county board shall then break the seals of such  
3 envelopes, remove the ballots and count, compute and tally the  
4 votes. If an absentee ballot or mail-in ballot is damaged or  
5 defective so that the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot cannot  
6 properly be counted by the automatic tabulating equipment, the  
7 county board shall make and substitute a true duplicate copy for  
8 the damaged absentee ballot or mail-in ballot. Each duplicate  
9 absentee ballot or mail-in ballot shall be clearly labeled  
10 "duplicate" and shall bear a serial number which shall be  
11 recorded on the damaged or defective absentee ballot or mail-in  
12 ballot.

13 \* \* \*

14 (8) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall develop an  
15 electronic system through which qualified electors may track and  
16 verify the status of the qualified elector's absentee or mail-in  
17 ballot, including, but not limited to, the dates that the ballot  
18 was mailed by the county board, received by the county board,  
19 pre-canvassed and accepting for counting, pre-canvassed and in  
20 need of cure or rejected for a flaw not subject to cure, along  
21 with details of the defect or reason for rejection.

22 \* \* \*

23 Section 11. Sections 1302-D(g), 1302.1-D(a) and 1302.2-D(a)  
24 (3) of the act are amended to read:

25 Section 1302-D. Applications for official mail-in ballots.

26 \* \* \*

27 (g) Permanent mail-in voting list.--

28 (1) [Any qualified registered elector may request to be  
29 placed on a permanent mail-in ballot list file at any time  
30 during the calendar year. A mail-in ballot application shall

1 be mailed to every person otherwise eligible to receive a  
2 mail-in ballot application by the first Monday in February  
3 each year or within 48 hours of receipt of the request,  
4 whichever is later, so long as the person does not lose the  
5 person's voting rights by failure to vote as otherwise  
6 required by this act. A mail-in ballot application mailed to  
7 an elector under this section, which is completed and timely  
8 returned by the elector, shall serve as an application for  
9 any and all primary, general or special elections to be held  
10 in the remainder of that calendar year and for all special  
11 elections to be held before the third Monday in February of  
12 the succeeding year.] Any qualified registered elector may  
13 request to be placed on a permanent mail-in ballot list at  
14 any time during the calendar year by submitting a mail-in  
15 ballot application and checking a box on the application that  
16 affirms their decision to permanently receive mail-in ballots  
17 for future elections. If the application is approved, the  
18 qualified registered elector shall be placed on the permanent  
19 mail-in voting list and receive permanent mail-in voter  
20 status under this section. A qualified registered elector who  
21 has requested and been approved for permanent mail-in voter  
22 status shall receive a mail-in ballot for all primary,  
23 general or special elections until the elector revokes their  
24 permanent mail-in voter status or ceases being a qualified  
25 elector as provided in this act.

26 (2) The Secretary of the Commonwealth [may] shall  
27 develop an electronic system through which all qualified  
28 electors may apply for a mail-in ballot and request permanent  
29 mail-in voter status under this section, provided the system  
30 is able to capture a digitized or electronic signature of the



1 applicant. A county board of elections shall treat an  
2 application or request received through the electronic system  
3 as if the application or request had been submitted on a  
4 paper form or any other format used by the county.

5 (3) The transfer of a qualified registered elector on a  
6 permanent mail-in voting list from one county to another  
7 county shall only be permitted upon the request of the  
8 qualified registered elector.

9 (4) By the first Monday in February each year, a notice  
10 developed by the department shall be sent to every elector on  
11 the permanent mail-in ballot list advising the elector that  
12 they will receive a mail-in ballot for any primary, general  
13 or special elections until the elector revokes their  
14 permanent mail-in voter status or ceases being a qualified  
15 elector.

16 Section 1302.1-D. Date of application for mail-in ballot.

17 (a) General rule.--Applications for mail-in ballots shall be  
18 received in the office of the county board of elections not  
19 earlier than 50 days before the primary or election, except that  
20 if a county board of elections determines that it would be  
21 appropriate to the county board of elections' operational needs,  
22 any applications for mail-in ballots received more than 50 days  
23 before the primary or election may be processed before that  
24 time. ~~{Applications} Except as provided in subsection (a.1),~~ <--  
25 applications for mail-in ballots shall be processed if received  
26 not later than five o'clock P.M. [of the first Tuesday] on the  
27 fourteenth day prior to the day of any primary or election.

28 \* \* \*

29 Section 1302.2-D. Approval of application for mail-in ballot.

30 (a) Approval process.--The county board of elections, upon

1 receipt of any application of a qualified elector under section  
2 1301-D, shall determine the qualifications of the applicant by  
3 verifying the proof of identification and comparing the  
4 information provided on the application with the information  
5 contained on the applicant's permanent registration card. The  
6 following shall apply:

7 \* \* \*

8 (3) Challenges must be made to the county board of  
9 elections prior to five o'clock p.m. on the Friday prior to  
10 the election or prior to the pre-canvass of an elector's  
11 mail-in ballot, whichever is earlier: Provided, however, That  
12 a challenge to an application for a mail-in ballot shall not  
13 be permitted on the grounds that the elector used an  
14 application for a mail-in ballot instead of an application  
15 for an absentee ballot or on the grounds that the elector  
16 used an application for an absentee ballot instead of an  
17 application for a mail-in ballot.

18 \* \* \*

19 Section 12. Sections 1304-D(a) and 1306-D(a) of the act are  
20 amended and the sections are amended by adding subsections to  
21 read:

22 Section 1304-D. Envelopes for official mail-in ballots.

23 (a) Additional envelopes.--The county boards of election  
24 shall provide two additional envelopes for each official mail-in  
25 ballot of a size and shape as shall be prescribed by the  
26 Secretary of the Commonwealth, in order to permit the placing of  
27 one within the other and both within the mailing envelope. On  
28 the smaller of the two envelopes to be enclosed in the mailing  
29 envelope shall be printed, stamped or endorsed the words  
30 "Official Election Ballot," and nothing else. On the larger of

1 the two envelopes, to be enclosed within the mailing envelope,  
2 shall be printed, stamped or endorsed to conform with election  
3 mail design requirements from the United States Postal Service,  
4 a prepaid reply mail option pursuant to subsection (a.1), the  
5 form of the declaration of the elector and the name and address  
6 of the county board of election of the proper county. The larger  
7 envelope shall also contain information indicating the local  
8 election district of the mail-in voter.

9 (a.1) Prepaid postage.--The county board of elections shall  
10 provide prepaid postage for the larger of the two additional  
11 envelopes. The county board of elections shall utilize a United  
12 States Postal Service prepaid reply mail option.

13 (a.2) Mail tracking.--The county board of elections shall  
14 include on both the mailing envelope and larger envelope  
15 uniquely serialized United States Postal Service Intelligent  
16 Mail barcodes which shall include a service type identifier or  
17 an equivalent successor barcode or identifier that the allows  
18 mail tracking as specified by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

19 \* \* \*

20 Section 1306-D. Voting by mail-in electors.

21 (a) General rule.--At any time after receiving an official  
22 mail-in ballot, but on or before eight o'clock P.M. the day of  
23 the primary or election, the mail-in elector shall, in secret,  
24 proceed to mark the ballot only in black lead pencil, indelible  
25 pencil or blue, black or blue-black ink, in fountain pen or ball  
26 point pen, and then fold the ballot, enclose and securely seal  
27 the same in the envelope on which is printed, stamped or  
28 endorsed "Official Election Ballot." This envelope shall then be  
29 placed in the second one, on which is printed the form of  
30 declaration of the elector, and the address of the elector's

1 county board of election and the local election district of the  
2 elector. The elector shall then [fill out, date and] sign the  
3 declaration printed on such envelope. Such envelope shall then  
4 be securely sealed and the elector shall send same by mail,  
5 postage prepaid, except where franked, or deliver it in person  
6 to said county board of election[.] or at a ballot drop box.

7 \* \* \*

8 (d) Construction.--

9 (1) Nothing under this section shall be construed to  
10 prohibit an individual from returning a mail-in ballot for an  
11 elector, if the individual is:

12 (i) rendering assistance to a disabled voter as  
13 authorized by law;

14 (ii) returning the completed ballot of another  
15 member of the individual's household;

16 (iii) returning the completed ballot of a family  
17 member; or

18 (iv) returning the completed ballot of an elector  
19 under the individual's care.

20 (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) (iii), the term  
21 "family member" means a parent, grandparent or adult child.

22 Section 13. Sections 1404(f), 1602-A(j)(1), 1701(a), (a.1)  
23 (2)(ii), (b), (d) and (e), 1702(a)(1) and (2)(ii)(B), (a.1),  
24 (b.1) and (b.2), 1703(a)(1) and 1827 of the act are amended to  
25 read:

26 Section 1404. Computation of Returns by County Board;  
27 Certification; Issuance of Certificates of Election.--

28 \* \* \*

29 (f) As the returns from each election district are read,  
30 computed and found to be correct or corrected as aforesaid, they

1 shall be recorded on the blanks prepared for the purpose until  
2 all the returns from the various election districts which are  
3 entitled to be counted shall have been duly recorded, when they  
4 shall be added together, announced and attested by the clerks  
5 who made and computed the entries respectively and signed by the  
6 members of the county board. Returns under this subsection shall  
7 be considered unofficial for [~~five (5)~~] three (3) days. The  
8 county board shall submit the unofficial returns to the  
9 Secretary of the Commonwealth by five o'clock P. M. on the  
10 Tuesday following the election. The submission shall be as  
11 directed by the secretary for public office which appears on the  
12 ballot in every election district in this Commonwealth or for a  
13 ballot question which appears on the ballot in every election  
14 district in this Commonwealth. At the expiration of [~~five (5)~~]  
15 three (3) days after the completion of the computation of votes,  
16 in case no petition for a recount or recanvass has been filed in  
17 accordance with the provisions of this act, or upon the  
18 completion of the recount or recanvass if a petition therefor  
19 has been filed within [~~five (5)~~] three (3) days after the  
20 completion of the computation of votes, the county board shall  
21 certify the returns so computed in said county in the manner  
22 required by this act, unless upon appeals taken from any  
23 decision, the court of common pleas shall have directed any  
24 returns to be revised, or unless in case of a recount, errors in  
25 the said returns shall have been found, in which case said  
26 returns shall be revised, corrected and certified accordingly.  
27 The county board shall thereupon, in the case of elections,  
28 issue certificates of election to the successful candidates for  
29 all county, city, borough, township, ward, school district, poor  
30 district and election offices, and local party offices to be

1 filled by the votes of the electors of said county, or of any  
2 part thereof.

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 1602-A. Funding for elections.

5 \* \* \*

6 (j) Grant agreement.--The grant agreement between the  
7 department and the county under this section shall include the  
8 following requirements for counties:

9 (1) The county shall begin pre-canvassing [at] no later  
10 than 7 a.m. on election day and shall continue without  
11 interruption until each mail-in ballot and absentee ballot  
12 timely received [by 7 a.m. on election day] is [pre-  
13 canvassed] canvassed.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 1701. Opening Ballot Boxes upon Petition of Electors  
16 Alleging Fraud or Error; Deposit or Bond.--(a) Except as set  
17 forth in subsection (a.1), the court of common pleas, or a judge  
18 thereof, of the county in which any election district is located  
19 in which ballots were used, shall open the ballot box of such  
20 election district used at any general, municipal, special or  
21 primary election held therein, and cause the entire vote thereof  
22 to be correctly counted by persons designated by such court or  
23 judge, if three qualified electors of the election district  
24 shall file, as hereinafter provided, a petition duly verified by  
25 them, alleging that upon information which they consider  
26 reliable they believe that fraud or error, although not manifest  
27 on the general return of votes made therefrom, was committed in  
28 the computation of the votes cast for all offices or for any  
29 particular office or offices in such election district, or in  
30 the marking of the ballots, or otherwise in connection with such

1 ballots. It shall [not] be necessary for the petitioners to  
2 specify in their petition the particular act of fraud or error  
3 which they believe to have been committed, [nor] and to offer  
4 evidence to substantiate the allegations of their petition.

5 (a.1) In cases resulting from a recount or recanvass order  
6 by the Secretary of the Commonwealth under section 1404(g), all  
7 of the following apply:

8 \* \* \*

9 (2) To obtain relief under clause (1):

10 \* \* \*

11 (ii) It is [not] necessary for the petitioners to specify in  
12 their petition the particular act of fraud or error which they  
13 believe to have been committed [nor] and to offer evidence to  
14 substantiate the allegations of their petition.

15 (b) Every petition for the opening of a ballot box under the  
16 provisions of this section shall be filed in the office of the  
17 prothonotary of the proper county, accompanied by a deposit of  
18 cash in the amount of [fifty (\$50.00)] eight hundred fifty  
19 (\$850) dollars, or by a bond signed by the petitioners as  
20 principals and by a corporate surety to be approved by the  
21 court, in the amount of [one hundred (\$100.00)] one thousand  
22 five hundred (\$1,500) dollars, conditioned upon the payment to  
23 the county treasurer for the use of the county of the sum of  
24 [fifty (\$50.00)] eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars, in the  
25 event that, upon the opening of the ballot box, it shall not  
26 appear that fraud or substantial error was committed in the  
27 computation of the votes cast on the ballots contained therein,  
28 or fraud in the marking of the ballots contained therein, or  
29 otherwise in connection with such ballots.

30 \* \* \*

1 (d) If, upon opening any such ballot box, it shall appear  
2 that fraud or substantial error was committed in the computation  
3 of the votes cast on the ballots contained therein, or fraud in  
4 the marking of the ballots contained therein, or otherwise in  
5 connection with such ballots, it shall be the duty of the court  
6 to certify such fact to the prothonotary and thereupon the  
7 prothonotary shall return to the petitioners the said sum of  
8 [fifty (\$50.00)] eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars, or if the  
9 petitioners shall have filed a bond in lieu of cash, to mark  
10 said bond cancelled and notify the petitioners that he has done  
11 so.

12 (e) If, upon opening any ballot box under the provisions of  
13 this section, it shall not appear that fraud or substantial  
14 error was committed in the computation of the votes cast on the  
15 ballots contained therein, or fraud in the marking of the  
16 ballots contained therein, or otherwise in connection with such  
17 ballots, the persons upon whose petition such ballot box shall  
18 have been opened shall forfeit to the county the sum of [fifty  
19 (\$50.00)] eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars. If said  
20 petitioners shall have deposited the said sum in cash with the  
21 prothonotary at the time of filing the petition, the  
22 prothonotary, upon certification of the court that fraud or  
23 substantial error was not discovered, shall pay said sum  
24 deposited with him to the county treasurer; and if the  
25 petitioners shall have filed with their petition a bond in the  
26 sum of [one hundred (\$100.00)] one thousand five hundred  
27 (\$1,500) dollars, it shall be the duty of the county treasurer  
28 forthwith to collect from the principals or surety on said bond,  
29 the sum of [fifty (\$50.00)] eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars,  
30 and costs of suit, and for this purpose, he is hereby authorized



1 to institute any necessary legal proceedings. When so collected,  
2 the said sum of [fifty (\$50.00)] eight hundred fifty (\$850)  
3 dollars shall be paid over to the county treasurer.

4 \* \* \*

5 Section 1702. Recanvassing Voting Machines upon Petition of  
6 Electors Alleging Fraud or Error.--(a) Judicial proceedings  
7 shall be as follows:

8 (1) Except as set forth in clause (2), the court of common  
9 pleas, or a judge thereof, of the county in which any election  
10 district is located, shall make visible the registering counters  
11 of the voting machine or machines used in such election district  
12 at any primary or election, and without unlocking the machine  
13 against voting, shall recanvass the vote cast therein, if three  
14 qualified electors of the election district shall file a  
15 petition, duly verified by them, alleging that, upon information  
16 which they consider reliable, they believe that fraud or error,  
17 although not manifest on the general return of votes made  
18 therefrom, was committed in the canvassing of the votes cast on  
19 such machine or machines. It shall [not] be necessary for the  
20 petitioners to specify in their petition the particular act of  
21 fraud or error they believe to have been committed, [nor] and to  
22 offer evidence to substantiate the allegations of their  
23 petition.

24 (2) In cases resulting from a recount or recanvass ordered  
25 by the Secretary of the Commonwealth under section 1404(g), all  
26 of the following apply:

27 \* \* \*

28 (ii) To obtain relief under subclause (i):

29 \* \* \*

30 (B) It is [not] necessary for the petitioners to specify in

1 their petition the particular act of fraud or error they believe  
2 to have been committed [nor] and to offer evidence to  
3 substantiate the allegations of the petition.

4 (a.1) Every petition for the recanvassing of votes cast in  
5 the voting machine, or voting machines of an election district,  
6 under the provisions of this section, shall be filed in the  
7 office of the prothonotary of the proper county accompanied by a  
8 deposit of cash in the amount of [fifty (\$50)] eight hundred  
9 fifty (\$850) dollars, or by a bond signed by the petitioners as  
10 principals and by a corporate surety to be approved by the court  
11 in the amount of [one hundred (\$100)] one thousand five hundred  
12 (\$1,500) dollars, conditioned upon the payment to the county  
13 treasurer for the use of the county of the sum of [fifty (\$50)]  
14 eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars, in the event that upon the  
15 recanvassing of the votes cast in a voting machine or voting  
16 machines, it does not appear that fraud or substantial error was  
17 committed in the canvassing of the votes cast on such machine or  
18 otherwise in connection with such voting machines.

19 \* \* \*

20 (b.1) If, upon the recanvassing of the votes in any voting  
21 machine, it shall appear that fraud or substantial error was  
22 committed in the computation of the votes cast on the voting  
23 machine or otherwise in connection with such voting machine, it  
24 shall be the duty of the court to certify such fact to the  
25 prothonotary, and thereupon the prothonotary shall return to the  
26 petitioners the said sum of [fifty (\$50)] eight hundred fifty  
27 (\$850) dollars, or if the petitioners shall have filed a bond,  
28 in lieu of cash, to mark said bond cancelled and notify the  
29 petitioners that he has done so.

30 (b.2) If, upon the recanvassing of the votes in any voting

1 machine under the provisions of this section, it shall not  
2 appear that fraud or substantial error was committed in the  
3 computation of the votes cast in the voting machine or otherwise  
4 in connection with such voting machine, the persons upon whose  
5 petition such voting machine was recanvassed shall forfeit to  
6 the county the sum of [~~fifty (\$50)~~] eight hundred fifty (\$850)  
7 dollars. If said petitioners shall have deposited the said sum  
8 in cash with the prothonotary at the time of filing the  
9 petition, the prothonotary, upon certification of the court that  
10 fraud or substantial error or otherwise in connection with such  
11 machine was not discovered, shall pay said sum deposited with  
12 him to the county treasurer, and if the petitioners shall have  
13 filed with their petition a bond in the sum of [~~one hundred~~  
14 ~~(\$100)~~] one thousand five hundred (\$1,500) dollars, it shall be  
15 the duty of the county treasurer forthwith to collect from the  
16 principals or surety on said bond the sum of [~~fifty (\$50)~~] eight  
17 hundred fifty (\$850) dollars and costs of suit, and for this  
18 purpose he is hereby authorized to institute any necessary legal  
19 proceedings. When so collected, the said sum of [~~fifty (\$50)~~]  
20 eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars shall be paid over to the  
21 county treasurer.

22 \* \* \*

23 Section 1703. Correction of Returns; Decision Not to Be  
24 Final; Evidence for Prosecution.--

25 (a) (1) Any petition to open a ballot box or to recanvass  
26 the votes on a voting machine or an electronic voting system  
27 pursuant to sections 1701 and 1702 shall be filed no later than  
28 [~~five (5)~~] three (3) days after the completion of the  
29 computational canvassing of all returns of the county by the  
30 county board. If any error or fraud is found the court shall

1 grant the interested parties an additional five (5) days to file  
2 petitions requesting additional ballot boxes to be opened or  
3 voting machines or electronic voting systems to be recanvassed.

4 (i) Except as set forth in subclause (ii):

5 (A) a recount or recanvass shall include all election  
6 districts in which ballots were cast for the office in question;  
7 and

8 (B) petitions, accompanied by the appropriate money or bond,  
9 must be filed in each election district in accordance with this  
10 act.

11 (ii) Subclause (i) shall not apply if a petitioner under  
12 section 1701 or 1702 pleads that a particular act of fraud or  
13 error occurred and offers prima facie evidence supporting the  
14 allegation.

15 (iii) The county board shall have three (3) days to file a  
16 response to any petition for recount filed with the court.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 1827. Interference with Primaries and Elections;  
19 Frauds; Conspiracy.--If any person shall prevent or attempt to  
20 prevent any election officers from holding any primary or  
21 election, under the provisions of this act, or shall use or  
22 threaten any violence to any such officer; or shall interrupt or  
23 improperly interfere with him in the execution of his duty; or  
24 shall block up or attempt to block up the avenue to the door of  
25 any polling place; or shall use or practice any intimidation,  
26 threats, force or violence with design to influence unduly or  
27 overawe any elector, or to prevent him from voting or restrain  
28 his freedom of choice; or shall prepare or present to any  
29 election officer a fraudulent voter's certificate not signed in  
30 the polling place by the elector whose certificate it purports

1 to be; or shall deposit fraudulent ballots in the ballot box; or  
2 shall register fraudulent votes upon any voting machine; or  
3 shall tamper with any district register, voting check list,  
4 numbered lists of voters, ballot box, ballot drop box or voting  
5 machine; or shall conspire with others to commit any of the  
6 offenses herein mentioned, or in any manner to prevent a free  
7 and fair primary or election, he shall be guilty of a felony of  
8 the third degree, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be  
9 sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding fifteen thousand (\$15,000)  
10 dollars, or to undergo an imprisonment of not more than seven  
11 (7) years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

12 Section 14. Section 1222(c) of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania  
13 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding paragraphs to read:  
14 § 1222. SURE system.

15 \* \* \*

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

21 \* \* \*

22 (22) Facilitate the use of electronic poll books.

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

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

28 \* \* \*

29 ~~Section 15. 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 will be at least 18~~  
3 ~~years of age on the day of the next election, who has been a~~  
4 ~~citizen of the United States for at least one month prior to the~~  
5 ~~next election and who has resided in this Commonwealth and the~~  
6 ~~election district where the individual offers to vote for at~~  
7 ~~least 30 days prior to the next ensuing election [and has not~~  
8 ~~been confined in a penal institution for a conviction of a~~  
9 ~~felony within the last five years] shall be eligible to register~~  
10 ~~as provided in this chapter.~~

11 ~~(a.1) Preregistration. Notwithstanding subsection (a),~~  
12 ~~every individual who is otherwise qualified to register and is~~  
13 ~~16 years of age or older may preregister and update the~~  
14 ~~individual's preregistered information by any means authorized~~  
15 ~~under this part for individuals 18 years of age or older. Upon~~  
16 ~~reaching 18 years of age, the individual is automatically~~  
17 ~~registered.~~

18 \* \* \* (RESERVED) .

<--

19 Section 16. Sections 1323(a)(1), (c)(1), (2), (3), (3.1) and  
20 (4) of Title 25 are amended, subsections (b) and (c) are amended  
21 by adding introductory paragraphs and the section is amended by  
22 adding a subsection to read:

23 § 1323. Application with driver's license application.

24 \* \* \*

25 (a) General rule.--

26 (1) The Department of Transportation shall provide for  
27 simultaneous application for voter registration in  
28 conjunction with the process under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1510  
29 (relating to issuance and content of driver's license). An  
30 application under this subsection shall serve as an

1 application to register to vote unless the applicant [fails  
2 to sign the voter registration application.] presents a  
3 document for purposes of the driver's license application  
4 demonstrating that the applicant is not a United States  
5 Citizen, affirms that the applicant is not a United States  
6 Citizen or declines to submit a voter registration  
7 application under the process specified in this section. The  
8 secretary has the primary responsibility for implementing and  
9 enforcing the driver's license voter registration system  
10 created under this section. The secretary, in consultation  
11 with the Secretary of Transportation, may promulgate  
12 regulations for implementing this section.

13 \* \* \*

14 (b) Process.--Except as provided in subsection (c.1) (2):

15 \* \* \*

16 (c) Transmission.--Except as provided in subsection (c.1)  
17 (2):

18 (1) The Department of Transportation shall forward  
19 completed applications or contents of the completed voter  
20 registration applications in [machine-readable] an electronic  
21 format to the department by the close of registration for the  
22 ensuing election.

23 (2) The department shall transmit the material to the  
24 appropriate commission [within ten days] on the next business  
25 day after the date of its receipt by the Department of  
26 Transportation. [If a voter registration application is  
27 received by the Department of Transportation within five days  
28 before the last day to register before an election, the  
29 application shall be transmitted to the appropriate  
30 commission not later than five days after the date of its

1 receipt by the Department of Transportation.]

2 (3) Upon receipt of the completed voter registration  
3 information from the department, the commission shall make a  
4 record of the date of the receipt of the application and  
5 process the application. [No applicant shall be deemed  
6 eligible to vote until the commission has received and  
7 approved the application.]

8 (3.1) After the Department of Transportation is  
9 connected to the SURE system and notwithstanding paragraphs  
10 (1), (2) and (3), the Department of Transportation shall  
11 transmit electronically the contents of a completed voter  
12 registration application within five days of receipt of the  
13 application. Upon receipt of the information from the  
14 Department of Transportation, a commission shall make a  
15 record of the date of the receipt of the application and  
16 process the application in accordance with section 1328  
17 (relating to approval of registration applications). If the  
18 commission of the county of residence has not been connected  
19 to the SURE system, the Department of Transportation shall  
20 forward the completed application or contents of the  
21 completed application to the department in accordance with  
22 paragraph (1). No applicant shall be deemed eligible to vote  
23 until the commission has received and approved an application  
24 in accordance with section 1328.]

25 (4) [~~Changes of address shall comply with~~] ~~If the~~ <--  
26 ~~application submitted under subsection (a) (3) is for change~~  
27 ~~of address, the following shall apply:~~ [THE FOLLOWING:] FOR A <--  
28 CHANGE OF ADDRESS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) (3), IF THE CHANGE OF  
29 ADDRESS IS FOR AN ELECTOR CURRENTLY REGISTERED IN THIS  
30 COMMONWEALTH, THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:



1 (i) [Before the Department of Transportation is  
2 connected to the SURE system, the Department of  
3 Transportation shall notify the department of changes of  
4 address received under subsection (a)(3). The department  
5 shall notify the commission of the county of the  
6 registrant's former residence. After the Department of  
7 Transportation is connected to the SURE system, the  
8 Department of Transportation shall notify the commission  
9 of the county of the registrant's former residence.] If  
10 the registrant has moved to an address outside this  
11 Commonwealth, the [commission] department shall notify  
12 the commission of the county of the registrant's former  
13 residence, which shall verify the address change in  
14 accordance with section 1901 (relating to removal of  
15 electors). [Except as provided in subparagraph (ii), if  
16 the registrant confirms in accordance with section  
17 1901(d) that he has moved to another county, the  
18 commission shall cancel the registration and forward the  
19 registrant's registration information to the commission  
20 of the registrant's new county of residence. Except as  
21 provided in subparagraph (ii), if the registrant has  
22 moved to an address within the commission's jurisdiction,  
23 the commission shall promptly update the registration  
24 record of the registrant in accordance with section 1328.  
25 All changes of address received by the Department of  
26 Transportation under this section at least 30 days before  
27 an election must be processed by the commission for the  
28 ensuing election. For the purpose of this paragraph, the  
29 term "registration information" means the registration  
30 card and any other record of registration maintained by a

1 commission.

2 (ii) In the case of changes of address received by  
3 the Department of Transportation which do not contain a  
4 signature of the registrant, the commission receiving the  
5 change of address notification shall mail a notice to the  
6 registrant at the new residence address requesting  
7 verification of the address change. If the change of  
8 address is to a new residence outside the commission's  
9 jurisdiction, the commission shall mail the following  
10 notice:

11 Date.....

12 Office of the Registration Commission

13 ..... County, Pennsylvania

14 ..... (Address and Telephone No. of County)

15 We have been notified by the Department of Transportation  
16 that you recently changed your address  
17 from ..... (old residence address)  
18 to ..... (new residence address) and that this  
19 change of address is to serve as a change of address for  
20 voter registration purposes. Unless you notify this  
21 office within ten days from the date of this notice that  
22 this information is not correct, your voter registration  
23 will be transferred to ..... County. You may notify  
24 this office by writing your residence address, the date  
25 and your signature on the bottom of this form and mailing  
26 this notice to this office. You need not notify this  
27 office if this information is correct.

28 .....

29 Chief Clerk

30 If the address change is within the commission's

1 jurisdiction, the commission shall mail a voter's  
2 identification card to the registrant at the new  
3 residence address.

4 (iii) If the registrant does not return the notice  
5 under subparagraph (ii) within the ten-day period, the  
6 commission shall process the change of address according  
7 to subparagraph (i). If the registrant notifies the  
8 commission that the information is incorrect and the  
9 commission is satisfied with the registrant's explanation  
10 of the discrepancy, the address of the registrant's  
11 registration shall remain unchanged. If the verification  
12 notification or voter identification card is returned by  
13 the post office as undeliverable as addressed or with a  
14 forwarding address, the commission shall send a  
15 confirmation notice to the registrant's address of former  
16 residence in accordance with section 1901(d)(2).]

17 (ii) If the registrant has moved to another county  
18 within this Commonwealth, the department shall notify the  
19 commission of the county of the registrant's new  
20 residence, which shall process the application in  
21 accordance with section 1328(b)(5) (relating to approval  
22 of registration applications).

23 (iii) If the registrant has moved to a different  
24 address in the same county, the department shall notify  
25 the commission of the county of the registrant, which  
26 shall update the registration record of the registrant in  
27 accordance with section 1328.

28 \* \* \*

29 (c.1) Individuals entitled to voter registration  
30 application.--

1           (1) The Department of Transportation shall transmit  
2 voter registration information to the department under  
3 paragraph (3) within five days of receipt of an application  
4 if the applicant: <--

5           (I) presented a document as part of the driver's  
6 license application demonstrating that the applicant is a  
7 United States citizen; OR <--

8           (II) IS CURRENTLY REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THIS  
9 COMMONWEALTH BASED ON INFORMATION FROM THE SURE SYSTEM  
10 PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY.

11           (2) The Department of Transportation may not provide an  
12 application for voter registration as part of a driver's  
13 license application under subsection (b) and may not transmit  
14 voter registration information to the department under  
15 subsection (c) or subsection (c.1) if the applicant:

16           (i) presents a document for purposes of the driver's  
17 license application demonstrating that the applicant is  
18 not a United States citizen at the time of the driver's  
19 license application; or

20           (ii) makes an affirmation that the applicant is not  
21 a United States citizen at the time of the driver's  
22 license application, if the affirmation is required for  
23 purposes of the driver's license application.

24           (3) The voter registration information transmitted under  
25 paragraph (1) shall be determined and prescribed by the  
26 secretary and the Secretary of Transportation. Upon receipt  
27 of voter registration information for an applicant under  
28 paragraph (1), a commission shall promptly process the  
29 application or update the registration record of the  
30 registrant in accordance with section 1328.

1 \* \* \*

2 Section 17. Section 1325(a) introductory paragraph and (b)  
3 (4) of Title 25 are amended to read:

4 § 1325. Government agencies.

5 (a) General rule.--The secretary shall administer a system  
6 whereby all offices in this Commonwealth that provide public  
7 assistance, each county clerk of orphans' court, including each  
8 marriage license bureau, all offices in this Commonwealth that  
9 provide State-funded programs primarily engaged in providing  
10 services to persons with disabilities [and], each institution  
11 that is part of the State System of Higher Education, all armed  
12 forces recruitment centers and additional offices as designated  
13 by the secretary, do all of the following:

14 \* \* \*

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

19 \* \* \*

20 (4) The statement "In order to be qualified to register  
21 to vote, you must be at least 18 years of age on the day of  
22 the next election, you must have been a citizen of the United  
23 States for at least one month prior to the next election and  
24 have resided in Pennsylvania and the election district where  
25 you plan to vote for at least 30 days prior to the next  
26 election[, and you must not have been confined in a penal  
27 institution for a conviction of a felony within the last five  
28 years]."

29 \* \* \*

30 Section 18. Section 1328(b) (4), (5), (6) and (7), (c) (1)

1 introductory paragraph and (2) and (d) of Title 25 are amended  
2 and subsections (b) and (c) are amended by adding paragraphs to  
3 read:

4 § 1328. Approval of registration applications.

5 \* \* \*

6 (b) Decision.--A commission shall do one of the following:

7 \* \* \*

8 (4) [Process a voter registration application in  
9 accordance with subsection (c) and update its registration  
10 records] Promptly update the applicant's existing  
11 registration record if the commission finds during its  
12 examination under subsection (a) all of the following:

13 (i) The application requests [registration] any  
14 change of information on the applicant's registration  
15 record other than a change under paragraph (7) or (8).

16 (ii) The application contains the required  
17 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified  
18 elector of the county.

19 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered  
20 elector of the county.

21 (4.1) Take no further action if the commission finds  
22 during its examination under subsection (a) all of the  
23 following:

24 (i) The application requests registration.

25 (ii) The application contains the required  
26 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified  
27 elector of the county.

28 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered  
29 elector of the county.

30 (iv) The information on the application exactly

1 matches the information contained in the SURE system.

2 (5) [Process a voter registration application in  
3 accordance with subsection (c) and request transfer of  
4 registration records] Transfer the registration record in  
5 accordance with subsection (d) if the commission finds during  
6 its examination under subsection (a) all of the following:

7 (i) The application requests registration.

8 (ii) The application contains the required  
9 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified  
10 elector of the county.

11 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered  
12 elector of another county.

13 (6) [Process a voter registration application in  
14 accordance with subsection (c) and request transfer of  
15 registration records in accordance with subsection (d) if the  
16 commission finds during its examination under subsection (a)  
17 all of the following:

18 (i) The application requests a transfer of  
19 registration.

20 (ii) The application contains the required  
21 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified  
22 elector of the county.

23 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered  
24 elector of another county.] (Reserved).

25 (7) Process a voter registration application in  
26 accordance with subsection (c) and update its registration if  
27 the commission finds during its examination under subsection  
28 (a) all of the following:

29 (i) The application requests a change of address,  
30 change of party or any other change affecting the voter's

1 identification card other than a change of name.

2 (ii) The application contains the required  
3 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified  
4 elector of the county.

5 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered  
6 elector of the county.

7 \* \* \*

8 (9) Process a voter registration application in  
9 accordance with subsection (c) if the commission finds during  
10 its examination under subsection (a) all of the following:

11 (i) the application contains voter registration  
12 information transmitted under section 1323(c.1)(1); and

13 (ii) the application contains the required  
14 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified  
15 elector of the county.

16 (10) Process a voter registration application in  
17 accordance with subsection (c) and update its registration if  
18 the commission finds during its examination under subsection  
19 (a) the following:

20 (i) the application contains voter registration  
21 information transmitted under section 1323(c.1)(1);

22 (ii) the applicant is currently a registered elector  
23 of the Commonwealth; and

24 (iii) the application contains name or address  
25 information that differs from the information contained  
26 in the SURE system for the applicant.

27 (c) Processing of voter registration.--

28 (1) When a commission has [accepted] processed a voter  
29 registration application under subsection (b) (3) or (9), the  
30 commission shall assign each applicant a unique



1 identification number in the SURE system. The commission  
2 shall mail a wallet-sized voter's identification card to the  
3 individual by first class nonforwardable mail, return postage  
4 guaranteed, which shall serve as notice of the acceptance of  
5 the application. The card shall contain all of the following:

6 \* \* \*

7 (1.1) When a commission has processed a voter  
8 application under subsection (b) (9), the commission shall, by  
9 first class nonforwardable mail, return postage guaranteed,  
10 mail to the applicant a wallet-sized voter's identification  
11 card and a document that gives the applicant an opportunity  
12 to:

13 (i) Decline voter registration.

14 (ii) Affiliate with a political party.

15 (2) When a commission has [accepted] processed a voter  
16 registration application under subsection [(b) (4), (5), (6),  
17 (7) or (8),] (b) (7), (8) or (10) or has transferred a  
18 registration record under subsection (d), the commission  
19 shall mail a wallet-sized voter's identification card to the  
20 individual by first class nonforwardable mail, return postage  
21 guaranteed, which shall serve as notice of the acceptance of  
22 the application. The card shall contain all of the following:

23 (i) Name and address of the individual.

24 (ii) Name of municipality of residence.

25 (iii) Identification of the individual's ward and  
26 district.

27 (iv) The effective date of registration.

28 (v) Designation of party enrollment and date of  
29 enrollment.

30 (vi) A space for the individual's signature or mark.

1           (vii) The SURE registration number of the  
2 individual.

3           (viii) A statement that the individual must notify  
4 the commission within ten days from the date it was  
5 mailed if any information on the card is incorrect;  
6 otherwise, the information shall be deemed correct for  
7 voter registration purposes.

8 \* \* \*

9       (6) If an individual whose application was processed  
10 under subsection (b) (9) declines voter registration under  
11 subsection (c) (1.1) (i) within 21 days after the mailing of  
12 the card or if the individual's voter registration  
13 information transmitted under section 1323(c) (2) or (c.1) (1)  
14 was incorrect due to an error by the Department of  
15 Transportation, the commission shall cancel the individual's  
16 voter registration information from the SURE system, notify  
17 the individual by first class nonforwardable mail, return  
18 postage guaranteed of the cancellation and deem the  
19 individual to have never registered to vote or attempted to  
20 register to vote. The department may direct commissions to  
21 exclude certain applications containing voter registration  
22 information transmitted under section 1323(c) (2) or (c.1) (1)  
23 from the procedures in this section if an applicant is a  
24 program participant under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6703 (relating to  
25 Address Confidentiality Program).

26 (d) Transfer of registration records.--

27       (1) If, during application under section 1322 (relating  
28 to in-person voter registration), 1323 (relating to  
29 application with driver's license application), including a  
30 change of address under section 1323(c) (4) (ii), 1324

1 (relating to application by mail) or 1325 (relating to  
2 government agencies), an individual discloses that the  
3 individual is a registered elector of another county or is  
4 found to be registered in another county, the commission of  
5 the individual's new county of residence shall transfer the  
6 voter record from the commission of the individual's former  
7 county of residence, process the application under subsection  
8 (c) (2), and direct a [cancellation] notice of transfer to the  
9 commission of the individual's former county of residence in  
10 accordance with regulations promulgated under this part.

11 (2) [Upon receipt of a notice transmitted in accordance  
12 with paragraph (1), the commission of the individual's former  
13 county of residence shall investigate. If the commission  
14 finds that the individual is a registered elector of the  
15 county, the commission shall verify the address change with  
16 the registered elector in accordance with this part. Upon  
17 verifying that the registered elector has moved to another  
18 county of residence, the commission shall cancel the  
19 registered elector's registration, transfer a copy of the  
20 canceled registration record to the commission of the  
21 registered elector's new county of residence and retain a  
22 record of the transfer. The commission of both counties shall  
23 promptly update information contained in their registration  
24 records.] (Reserved).

25 \* \* \*

26 Section 19. Sections 1501, 1502 and 1503 of Title 25 are  
27 repealed:

28 [§ 1501. Removal notices.]

29 (a) Form.--

30 (1) A commission shall make removal notices available to

1 electors who are registered in the county.

2 (2) The notice shall be printed upon cards suitable for  
3 mailing, addressed to the office of the commission. The  
4 notice shall provide the following information:

5 (i) The address of present residence, including  
6 municipality.

7 (ii) The address of last registration, including  
8 municipality.

9 (iii) Date of removal to present residence.

10 (iv) Signature.

11 (3) The notice shall contain a statement that the  
12 registered elector may, by filling out properly and signing a  
13 removal notice and returning it to the office of the  
14 commission, secure the transfer of registration effective as  
15 to elections at least 30 days after the date of removal into  
16 the new district.

17 (4) The notice shall contain a warning to the registered  
18 elector that the notice will not be accepted as an  
19 application for transfer of the elector's registration unless  
20 the signature thereon can be identified by the commission as  
21 the elector's signature as it appears on file with the  
22 commission.

23 (5) The notice shall contain a warning to the registered  
24 elector that the notice must be received by the commission  
25 not later than 30 days before an election. If mailed, the  
26 notice must be postmarked not later than the deadline for  
27 registration or, in the case of an illegible or missing  
28 postmark, received within five days of the close of  
29 registration.

30 (b) Use.--A registered elector who removes residence from

1 one place to another within the same county must notify the  
2 commission by filing a removal notice under subsection (a) or a  
3 signed request for renewal that contains the information  
4 required in subsection (a) with the commission not later than  
5 the registration deadline before an election. If mailed, the  
6 notice or request must be postmarked not later than the deadline  
7 for registration or, in the case of an illegible or missing  
8 postmark, received within five days of the close of  
9 registration. The following apply:

10 (1) An official registration application of an elector  
11 who has registered by mail qualifies as a removal notice.

12 (2) A registered elector who removes residence from one  
13 place to another within the same county and who has not yet  
14 filed a removal notice with the commission shall be permitted  
15 to vote once at the elector's former polling place following  
16 removal if, at the time of signing the voter's certificate,  
17 the elector files with the judge of election a signed removal  
18 notice properly filled out. Removal notices under this  
19 paragraph shall be returned to the commission with the voting  
20 check list, and the commission shall proceed to transfer the  
21 registration of the elector under section 1502 (relating to  
22 transfer of registration) and shall promptly update  
23 information contained in its registration records. A  
24 registered elector may vote in the election district of the  
25 elector's former residence not more than one time following  
26 the elector's removal.

27 (3) A registered elector who removes residence from one  
28 county to another county and who is not registered to vote in  
29 the new county of residence shall be permitted to vote in the  
30 election district in the former county of residence if, at

1 the time of signing the elector's certificate, the elector  
2 files with the judge of election a signed affirmation  
3 declaring the elector's new residence. A registered elector  
4 may vote in the election district of the elector's former  
5 residence not more than one time following the elector's  
6 removal. Affirmations made under this paragraph shall be  
7 returned to the commission of the elector's former county of  
8 residence with the voting checklist, and that commission  
9 shall proceed to transfer the registration of the elector  
10 under section 1502. Upon receipt of the transfer notice, the  
11 commission of the elector's new county of residence shall  
12 immediately process the transfer of the elector in accordance  
13 with section 1328 (relating to approval of registration  
14 applications). Both commissions shall promptly update  
15 information contained in their registration records.

16 § 1502. Transfer of registration.

17 (a) General rule.--Upon timely receipt of notification of  
18 removal under section 1501(b) (relating to removal notices), the  
19 commission shall proceed as follows:

20 (1) The signature on the notification document shall be  
21 compared with the signature of the registered elector as it  
22 appears on file with the commission.

23 (2) If the signature appears authentic, the commission  
24 shall enter the change of residence on the registered  
25 elector's registration records.

26 (3) If a request for transfer which is determined to be  
27 authentic under paragraph (2) shows a removal within the  
28 period of 30 days preceding an election, the commission,  
29 after such election, shall enter the change of residence on  
30 the registered elector's registration record. The commission

1 shall advise the registered elector promptly in writing of  
2 its action.

3 (4) When a registered elector has filed with a  
4 commission a notice that the elector has moved from the  
5 county to another county, if the signature appears authentic  
6 the commission shall enter the change of residence on the  
7 elector's registration records, cancel the registration of  
8 the elector and notify the commission of the elector's new  
9 county of residence to register the elector. Upon receipt of  
10 the transfer notice, the commission of the elector's new  
11 county of residence shall immediately process the transfer of  
12 the elector in accordance with section 1328 (relating to  
13 approval of registration applications).

14 (5) If a request for transfer which is determined to be  
15 authentic under paragraph (4) shows a removal within the  
16 period of 30 days preceding an election, the commission,  
17 after such election, shall enter the change of residence on  
18 the elector's registration records, cancel the registration  
19 of the elector and notify the commission of the elector's new  
20 county of residence to register the elector. Upon receipt of  
21 the transfer notice, the commission of the elector's new  
22 county of residence shall immediately process the transfer of  
23 the elector in accordance with section 1328.

24 (6) A commission shall promptly update information  
25 contained in its registration records.

26 (b) Electors unable to write.--A registered elector who is  
27 unable to sign the notification document may affix a mark to the  
28 notification document. The mark must be affixed in the presence  
29 of a witness who must sign the notification document.

30 § 1503. Change of enrollment of political party.

1 By the deadline for registration, a registered elector who  
2 desires to change the enrollment of political designation or  
3 who, although registered, has not previously enrolled as a  
4 member of a party may appear before a commissioner, registrar or  
5 clerk or may submit an application by mail under section 1324  
6 (relating to application by mail) and state in a signed writing  
7 the political party in which the registered elector desires to  
8 be enrolled. If the signature of the elector is verified by  
9 comparison with the registered elector's signature as it appears  
10 on file with the commission, the commissioner, registrar or  
11 clerk shall make the change in its registration records. If  
12 supported by other evidence of identity, a mark may be made in  
13 lieu of a signature by a registered elector who is unable to  
14 write. The mark must be made in the presence of a witness who  
15 must sign the registration application.]

16 Section 20. Section 1505(a) and (b) of Title 25 are amended  
17 to read:

18 § 1505. Death of registrant.

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

28 (b) Other sources.--A commission may also utilize  
29 information obtained from the department through the  
30 department's membership with the Electronic Registration



1 Information Center or its successor, published newspaper  
2 obituaries, letters testamentary or letters of administration  
3 issued by the office of the registrar of wills to cancel and  
4 remove the registration of an elector, provided that such  
5 removals are uniform, nondiscriminatory and in compliance with  
6 the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110, 42 U.S.C. §  
7 1973 et seq.). The commission shall promptly update information  
8 contained in its registration records.

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 21. This act shall take effect as follows:

11 (1) The following provisions shall take effect  
12 immediately:

13 (i) The following amendments or additions to the act  
14 of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the  
15 Pennsylvania Election Code:

16 Article XI-C.

17 Article XI-D.

18 (ii) The following amendments or additions to 25  
19 Pa.C.S.:

20 Section 1222(c)(22).

21 (iii) This section.

22 (2) The following provisions shall take effect January  
23 1, 2026, or immediately, whichever is later:

24 (i) The following amendments or additions to the  
25 Pennsylvania Election Code:

26 Section 102(z.7).

27 Section 412.2(a).

28 Article V heading.

29 Subarticle (b.1) of Article V.

30 Section 1210(a.4)(2), (5)(i), (ii) and (7) and

1 (d).  
2 Section 1302.1(a).  
3 Section 1302.2(c).  
4 Section 1304.  
5 Section 1306.  
6 Section 1308(a), (b) and (g)(1)(ii), (1.1), (2),  
7 (4)(ii) and (iii) and (8).  
8 Section 1302-D(g).  
9 Section 1302.1-D(a).  
10 Section 1302.2-D(a)(3).  
11 Section 1304-D(a), (a.1) and (a.2).  
12 Section 1306-D(a) and (d).  
13 Section 1602-A(j)(1).  
14 (ii) The following amendments or additions to 25  
15 Pa.C.S.:  
16 Section 1222(c)(23) and (24).  
17 ~~Section 1301(a) and (a.1).~~ <--  
18 Section 1325(a) introductory paragraph and (b)  
19 (4).  
20 Section 1505(a) and (b).  
21 (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect January  
22 1, 2027.