
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1498 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY CABELL, KUTZ, HAMM, R. MACKENZIE, M. BROWN, ECKER,
KAUFFMAN, MENTZER, LEADBETER, FLOOD, HEFFLEY, MOUL, GREINER,
BARTON AND GROVE, JUNE 23, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 23, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), entitled
2 "An act concerning elections, including general, municipal,
3 special and primary elections, the nomination of candidates,
4 primary and election expenses and election contests; creating
5 and defining membership of county boards of elections;
6 imposing duties upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth,
7 courts, county boards of elections, county commissioners;
8 imposing penalties for violation of the act, and codifying,
9 revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto; and
10 repealing certain acts and parts of acts relating to
11 elections," in preliminary provisions, further providing for
12 definitions; in the Secretary of the Commonwealth, further
13 providing for powers and duties of the Secretary of the
14 Commonwealth; and, in county boards of elections, further
15 providing for powers and duties of county boards.

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

18 Section 1. Section 102(z.5) of the act of June 3, 1937
19 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is
20 amended to read:

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

24 * * *

1 (z.5) The words "proof of identification" shall mean:

2 [(1) In the case of an elector who has a religious objection
3 to being photographed, a valid-without-photo driver's license or
4 a valid-without-photo identification card issued by the
5 Department of Transportation.

6 (2) For an elector who appears to vote under section 1210, a
7 document that:

8 (i) shows the name of the individual to whom the document
9 was issued and the name substantially conforms to the name of
10 the individual as it appears in the district register;

11 (ii) shows a photograph of the individual to whom the
12 document was issued;

13 (iii) includes an expiration date and is not expired,
14 except:

15 (A) for a document issued by the Department of
16 Transportation which is not more than twelve (12) months past
17 the expiration date; or

18 (B) in the case of a document from an agency of the Armed
19 forces of the United States or their reserve components,
20 including the Pennsylvania National Guard, establishing that the
21 elector is a current member of or a veteran of the United States
22 Armed Forces or National Guard which does not designate a
23 specific date on which the document expires, but includes a
24 designation that the expiration date is indefinite; and

25 (iv) was issued by one of the following:

26 (A) The United States Government.

27 (B) The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

28 (C) A municipality of this Commonwealth to an employee of
29 that municipality.

30 (D) An accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution

1 of higher learning.

2 (E) A Pennsylvania care facility.

3 (3) For a qualified absentee elector under section 1301 or a
4 qualified mail-in elector under section 1301-D:

5 (i) in the case of an elector who has been issued a current
6 and valid driver's license, the elector's driver's license
7 number;

8 (ii) in the case of an elector who has not been issued a
9 current and valid driver's license, the last four digits of the
10 elector's Social Security number;

11 (iii) in the case of an elector who has a religious
12 objection to being photographed, a copy of a document that
13 satisfies paragraph (1); or

14 (iv) in the case of an elector who has not been issued a
15 current and valid driver's license or Social Security number, a
16 copy of a document that satisfies paragraph (2).]

17 (1) In the case of any elector, at least one of the
18 following:

19 (i) the elector's driver's license;

20 (ii) in the case of an elector who has a religious objection
21 to being photographed, a copy of a valid-without-photo driver's
22 license or a valid-without-photo identification card issued by
23 the Department of Transportation;

24 (iii) the elector's voter registration card with scannable
25 identification number and a copy of the elector's signature, as
26 issued by a county under section 302;

27 (iv) a document from an agency of the armed forces of the
28 United States or their reserve components, including the
29 Pennsylvania National Guard, establishing that the elector is a
30 current member of or a veteran of the United States Armed Forces

1 or National Guard which does not designate a specific date on
2 which the document expires, but includes a designation that that
3 expiration date is indefinite;

4 (v) a document issued by the secretary under section 201(n);

5 (vi) an affidavit provided to an elector by elections
6 officers, on which the elector shall affirm his or her identity,
7 including his or her signature and the last four digits of his
8 or her Social Security number. The affidavit shall include
9 disclosure of the penalties under section 1802; or

10 (vii) a document that shows the name and photograph of the
11 individual to whom the document was issued, includes an
12 expiration date and is not expired and is issued by one of the
13 following:

14 (A) The United States Government.

15 (B) The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

16 (C) A municipality of this Commonwealth to an employe of
17 that municipality.

18 (D) An accredited public or private institution of higher
19 learning located in this Commonwealth.

20 (E) A care facility located in this Commonwealth.

21 (2) (Reserved).

22 * * *

23 Section 2. Sections 201 and 302 of the act are amended by
24 adding subsections to read:

25 Section 201. Powers and Duties of the Secretary of the
26 Commonwealth.--The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall exercise
27 in the manner provided by this act all powers granted to him by
28 this act, and shall perform all the duties imposed upon him by
29 this act, which shall include the following:

30 * * *

1 (i) To provide to any registered elector upon request, and
2 free of charge, a durable photo identification card which may be
3 used for the purposes of voting.

4 Section 302. Powers and Duties of County Boards.--The county
5 boards of elections, within their respective counties, shall
6 exercise, in the manner provided by this act, all powers granted
7 to them by this act, and shall perform all the duties imposed
8 upon them by this act, which shall include the following:

9 * * *

10 (g) To provide to each registered elector in a county,
11 within one year of the effective date of this subsection and
12 upon new or updated registration after the effective date of
13 this subsection, or at the request of an elector, a durable
14 voter registration card, including a scannable identification
15 code and a likeness of a registered elector's signature. A
16 county board of elections shall investigate the circumstances of
17 any registration card returned as undeliverable by the United
18 States Postal Service. The investigation shall include
19 contacting the applicant, further attempts to have his or her
20 registration card delivered and the correction or
21 reconsideration of his or her registration status and registered
22 address, if they are found to be incorrect.

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