

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 488 Session of  
2023

---

INTRODUCED BY YOUNG, HOHENSTEIN, SIEGEL, MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG,  
HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, WARREN, CIRESI, D. WILLIAMS, FIEDLER,  
FLEMING, DEASY, FREEMAN, FRANKEL, OTTEN, KHAN, O'MARA,  
KINSEY, VENKAT, MALAGARI, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, GUENST, INNAMORATO,  
HANBIDGE AND BURGOS, MARCH 16, 2023

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 16, 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 voting by qualified absentee electors, further  
12 providing for canvassing of official absentee ballots and  
13 mail-in ballots; and, in Election Integrity Grant Program,  
14 further providing for funding for elections.

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

17 Section 1. Section 1308(g)(1.1) of the act of June 3, 1937  
18 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is  
19 amended to read:

20 Section 1308. Canvassing of Official Absentee Ballots and  
21 Mail-in Ballots.--\* \* \*

22 (g) \* \* \*

1 (1.1) The county board of elections shall meet no earlier  
2 than [seven o'clock A.M. on] twenty-one (21) days prior to  
3 election day to pre-canvass all ballots received prior to the  
4 meeting. A county board of elections shall provide at least  
5 forty-eight hours' notice of a pre-canvass meeting by publicly  
6 posting a notice of a pre-canvass meeting on its publicly  
7 accessible Internet website. One authorized representative of  
8 each candidate in an election and one representative from each  
9 political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in  
10 which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are pre-  
11 canvassed. No person observing, attending or participating in a  
12 pre-canvass meeting may disclose the results of any portion of  
13 any pre-canvass meeting prior to the close of the polls.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 2. Section 1602-A(j)(1) of the act, added July 11,  
16 2022 (P.L.1577, No.88), is repealed:

17 Section 1602-A. Funding for elections.

18 \* \* \*

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

22 [(1) The county shall begin pre-canvassing at 7 a.m. on  
23 election day and shall continue without interruption until  
24 each mail-in ballot and absentee ballot received by 7 a.m. on  
25 election day is pre-canvassed.]

26 \* \* \*

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