
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 489 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY YOUNG, HOHENSTEIN, SIEGEL, MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG,
GUENST, HILL-EVANS, GIRAL, SANCHEZ, WARREN, D. WILLIAMS,
FIEDLER, FREEMAN, KINKEAD, FRANKEL, OTTEN, KHAN, O'MARA,
KINSEY, BULLOCK, DONAHUE, VENKAT, MALAGARI, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ,
VITALI 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] at least once before election day to
3 pre-canvass all ballots received prior to the meeting. The
4 county board of elections may complete the tasks specified under
5 paragraph (4)(i), (ii) and (iii) at any point during the period
6 beginning seven (7) days before election day, including the day
7 before election day, if the county board of elections completes
8 a pre-canvass of all absentee ballots and mail-in ballots
9 received prior to the Friday before election day. A county board
10 of elections shall provide at least forty-eight hours' notice of
11 a pre-canvass meeting by publicly posting a notice of a pre-
12 canvass meeting on its publicly accessible Internet website. One
13 authorized representative of each candidate in an election and
14 one representative from each political party shall be permitted
15 to remain in the room in which the absentee ballots and mail-in
16 ballots are pre-canvassed. No person observing, attending or
17 participating in a pre-canvass meeting may disclose the results
18 of any portion of any pre-canvass meeting prior to the close of
19 the polls.

20 * * *

21 Section 2. Section 1602-A(j)(1) of the act, added July 11,
22 2022 (P.L.1577, No.88), is amended to read:

23 Section 1602-A. Funding for elections.

24 * * *

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

28 [(1) The county shall begin pre-canvassing at 7 a.m. on
29 election day and shall continue without interruption until
30 each mail-in ballot and absentee ballot received by 7 a.m. on

1 election day is pre-canvassed.]

2 * * *

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