
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1261 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, STREET, TARTAGLIONE, SCHWANK, COSTA,
DINNIMAN AND HUGHES, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to voter
3 registration, further providing for definitions; in
4 registration system, further providing for SURE system; in
5 voter registration, further providing for qualifications to
6 register, for government agencies, for time and for
7 preparation and distribution of applications; and, in changes
8 in records, further providing for death of registrant.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 1102 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania
12 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:

13 § 1102. Definitions.

14 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent
15 provisions of this part which are applicable to specific
16 provisions of this part, the following words and phrases when
17 used in this part shall have the meanings given to them in this
18 section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 * * *

20 "Preregistrant." A person who is at least 16 years of age,
21 but not yet 18 years of age, who is otherwise eligible to

1 register to vote in accordance with this part.

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

8 * * *

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

11 § 1222. SURE system.

12 * * *

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

18 * * *

19 (22) Contain a code to enable identification and
20 tracking of preregistration status.

21 (23) Automatically activate the registration of a
22 preregistrant no later than the preregistrant's 18th
23 birthday.

24 * * *

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

27 § 1301. Qualifications to register.

28 (a) Eligibility.--[An] Except as provided in subsection
29 (a.1), an individual [who] shall be eligible to register to vote
30 if the individual:

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

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

8 (3) has not been confined in a penal institution for a
9 conviction of a felony within the last five years shall be
10 eligible to register as provided in this chapter.

11 (a.1) Preregistration.--Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), a
12 preregistrant may preregister to vote, provided that the
13 preregistrant may not vote in any election before reaching 18
14 years of age. The department shall provide guidance within 90
15 days of the effective date of this subsection to assist
16 commissions in implementing preregistration.

17 * * *

18 Section 4. Section 1325(b)(4) of Title 25 is amended to
19 read:

20 § 1325. Government agencies.

21 * * *

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

26 * * *

27 (4) The statement "In order to be qualified to register
28 to vote, you must be at least 18 years of age on the day of
29 the next election, you must have been a citizen of the United
30 States for at least one month prior to the next election and

1 have resided in Pennsylvania and the election district where
2 you plan to vote for at least 30 days prior to the next
3 election, and you must not have been confined in a penal
4 institution for a conviction of a felony within the last five
5 years[."]. You may preregister to vote if you are at least 16
6 years of age, provided you may not vote in an election until
7 you reach 18 years of age."

8 * * *

9 Section 5. Section 1326(c) of Title 25 is amended by adding
10 a paragraph to read:

11 § 1326. Time.

12 * * *

13 (c) Special rules.--

14 * * *

15 (3) In the case of preregistration, each commission
16 shall:

17 (i) enter preregistration information into the SURE
18 system upon receipt of the information; and

19 (ii) ensure that each preregistrant is actively
20 registered to vote no later than the preregistrant's 18th
21 birthday.

22 Section 6. Sections 1327(a)(4)(iii) and (b)(1)(ii) and
23 1505(a) of Title 25 are amended to read:

24 § 1327. Preparation and distribution of applications.

25 (a) Form.--

26 * * *

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

1 applicant's digitized or electronic signature. The
2 registration application shall contain the following
3 information; however, the information may be provided on a
4 separate form for voter registration made under section 1323
5 or 1325:

6 * * *

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

18 * * *

19 (b) Registration declaration.--

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

23 * * *

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

28 * * *

29 § 1505. Death of registrant.

30 (a) Department of Health.--A commission shall cancel the

1 registration of a registered elector or the preregistration of a
2 preregistrant reported dead by the Department of Health. The
3 Department of Health shall, within 60 days of receiving notice
4 of the death of an individual [18] 16 years of age or older,
5 send the name and address of residence of that individual to a
6 commission in a manner and on a form prescribed by the
7 department. The commission shall promptly update information
8 contained in its registration records.

9 * * *

10 Section 7. This act shall take effect in 60 days.