

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2598 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY DAWKINS, N. NELSON, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS,
KRAJEWSKI, KINSEY, ISAACSON, SCHLOSSBERG, WEBSTER, HARRIS,
HOHENSTEIN, SIMS AND McCLINTON, MAY 13, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 13, 2022

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 election districts and polling places, further
12 providing for polling places to be selected by county board;
13 and, in qualifications of electors, further providing for
14 residence of electors.

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

17 Section 1. Section 526 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,
18 No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended by
19 adding a subsection to read:

20 Section 526. Polling Places to Be Selected by County
21 Board.--* * *

22 (a.1) The county board of elections in a county of the first
23 class shall provide an additional polling place in the county

1 prison for individuals registering their residence at the prison
2 under section 703(4) (ii).

3 * * *

4 Section 2. Section 703 of the act is amended to read:

5 Section 703. Residence of Electors.--For the purpose of
6 registration and voting, no person shall be deemed to have
7 gained a residence by reason of his presence, or lost it by
8 reason of his absence, [while] in any of the following
9 circumstances:

10 (1) Being employed in the service, either civil or military,
11 of this [State] Commonwealth or of the United States[, nor
12 while].

13 (2) Being engaged in the navigation of the waters of the
14 State or of the United States, or on the high seas[, nor while].

15 (3) Being a student of any institution of learning[, nor
16 while kept in any poorhouse or other asylum].

17 (4) Being in an institution at public expense[, nor while
18 confined in public prison, except that any]. This paragraph does
19 not apply to any of the following:

20 (i) A veteran who resides in a home for disabled and
21 indigent soldiers and sailors, operated and maintained by the
22 Commonwealth [of Pennsylvania, and who possesses all the
23 qualifications for voting. [, may gain a residence for
24 registration and voting at the home for disabled and indigent
25 soldiers and sailors. The provisions of this amendment shall not
26 be construed to affect the voting rights of bedridden or
27 hospitalized veterans who choose to vote as absentee electors by
28 the use of veteran's official ballots.] Such a veteran may elect
29 to use that residence for registration and voting or elect to
30 vote as an absentee elector by the use of an absentee ballot.

1 (ii) An individual who is incarcerated in a county prison in
2 a county of the first class and who is awaiting trial or
3 sentencing or serving a sentence for a misdemeanor or summary
4 offense. Such an individual may elect to utilize that residence
5 for registration and voting or elect to vote as an absentee
6 elector by the use of an absentee ballot.

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