

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1396 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY McCLINTON, MAY 5, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 5, 2025

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 district election officers, further providing
 13 for compensation of district election officers; in election
 14 districts and polling places, providing for ballot drop
 15 boxes; in electronic voting systems, further providing for
 16 definitions and for supplies, preparation of the voting
 17 system and of polling places, providing for pre-election
 18 logic and accuracy testing, repealing provisions relating to
 19 statistical sample and providing for post-election ballot
 20 audit; providing for electronic poll books and for electronic
 21 poll books and election infrastructure equipment bonds; in
 22 preparation for and conduct of primaries and elections,
 23 further providing for manner of applying to vote, persons
 24 entitled to vote, voter's certificates, entries to be made in
 25 district register, numbered lists of voters and challenges
 26 and for deadline for receipt of valid voter registration
 27 application; providing for in-person early voting; in voting
 28 by qualified absentee electors, further providing for date of
 29 application for absentee ballot, for approval of application
 30 for absentee ballot, for envelopes for official absentee
 31 ballots and for voting by absentee electors; in voting by
 32 qualified mail-in electors, further providing for
 33 applications for official mail-in ballots, for date of
 34 application for mail-in ballot, for approval of application
 35 for mail-in ballot, for envelopes for official mail-in

1 ballots and for voting by mail-in electors; in returns of
2 primaries and elections, further providing for computation of
3 returns by county board, certification and issuance of
4 certificates of election; in Election Integrity Grant
5 Program, further providing for funding for elections; in
6 recounts and contests, further providing for opening ballot
7 boxes upon petition of electors alleging fraud or error and
8 deposit or bond, for recanvassing voting machines upon
9 petition of electors alleging fraud or error and for
10 correction of returns, decision not to be final and evidence
11 for prosecution; in penalties, further providing for
12 interference with primaries and elections, frauds and
13 conspiracy; making an appropriation; and making an editorial
14 change.

15 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
16 Statutes, in registration system, further providing for SURE
17 system; in voter registration, further providing for
18 qualifications to register, for methods of voter
19 registration, for application with driver's license
20 application and for government agencies and for approval of
21 registration applications; and, in changes in records,
22 repealing provisions relating to removal notices, to transfer
23 of registration and to change of enrollment of political
24 party and further providing for death of registrant.

25 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
26 hereby enacts as follows:

27 Section 1. Section 102(q.1) of the act of June 3, 1937
28 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is
29 amended and the section is amended by adding subsections to
30 read:

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

34 * * *

35 (q.1) The word "pre-canvass" shall mean the inspection and
36 opening of all envelopes containing official absentee ballots or
37 mail-in ballots, the removal of such ballots from the envelopes
38 and [the counting, computing and tallying of the votes reflected
39 on the ballots.] the preparation of those ballots for scanning,
40 including unfolding, straightening and duplicating if the ballot
41 is damaged in some way that prevents it from being scanned but
42 where the voter's intent is still clear. It shall also include

1 scanning the ballot into a voting machine or other automatic
2 tabulating device, if the equipment used by the county board of
3 elections permits a ballot to be scanned without tabulating or
4 counting the votes on the ballot scanned. The term does not
5 include the examination of unopened absentee or mail-in ballot
6 envelopes for processing, detecting voter errors or recording or
7 publishing of the votes reflected on the ballots.

8 * * *

9 (z.7) The words "ballot drop box" shall mean a secure
10 receptacle established by a county board of elections or county
11 election official by which a voted absentee ballot or mail-in
12 ballot may be deposited by hand by the qualified elector, or an
13 authorized third party.

14 (z.8) The words "photo identification" shall include an
15 electronic or digital representation of a photo identification
16 of an individual issued by a system maintained by the
17 Commonwealth or an agency, county, municipality, school district
18 or institution of higher education of this Commonwealth,
19 displayed on a smartphone or other electronic device.

20 Section 2. Section 412.2(a) and Article V heading of the act
21 are amended to read:

22 Section 412.2. Compensation of District Election Officers.--

23 (a) In all counties regardless of class, judges of election,
24 inspectors of election, clerks and machine operators shall be
25 paid compensation as fixed by the county board of elections for
26 each election, which amount shall be at least [~~\$75 and not more~~
27 ~~than \$200]~~ \$175.

28 * * *

29 ARTICLE V

30 Election Districts [~~and~~], Polling Places and Ballot Drop Boxes

1 Section 3. Article V of the act is amended by adding a
2 subarticle to read:

3 (b.1) Ballot Drop Boxes

4 Section 531.1. Ballot drop box locations to be selected by
5 county board of elections.

6 (a) County board duties.--

7 (1) The county board of elections shall select and fix
8 the ballot drop box locations within the county for each
9 election and may, after notifying the secretary and for
10 emergency purposes only, change the ballot drop box locations
11 within the county.

12 (2) The county board of elections shall inform the
13 secretary of the ballot drop box locations at least 65 days
14 prior to the primary election, municipal election or general
15 election.

16 (3) The county board of elections shall publicly
17 announce, not less than 55 days prior to any primary
18 election, municipal election or general election, by posting
19 at its office in a conspicuous place and prominently featured
20 on the county's publicly accessible Internet website, a list
21 of the ballot drop box locations within the county. The list
22 must include the address, dates and hours of operation of the
23 ballot drop boxes, ballot return deadline, contact
24 information for the county board of elections and
25 accessibility information. The list shall be available for
26 public inspection at an office of the county board of
27 elections.

28 (4) For a special election not being held during a
29 primary election, municipal election or general election:

30 (i) the county board of elections shall inform the

1 secretary of the ballot drop box locations no later than
2 10 days after the date a writ of election is issued; and

3 (ii) the county board of elections shall publicly
4 announce, no later than 20 days after the date a writ of
5 election is issued by posting at its office in a
6 conspicuous place and prominently featured on the
7 county's publicly accessible Internet website, a list of
8 the ballot drop box locations within the county. The list
9 must include the address, dates and hours of operation of
10 the ballot drop boxes, ballot return deadline, contact
11 information for the county board of elections and
12 accessibility information. The list must be available for
13 public inspection at an office of the county board of
14 elections.

15 (5) If an additional ballot drop box is added, or a
16 ballot drop box is moved for an emergency, the county board
17 of elections must notify the secretary immediately and
18 simultaneously update the county's publicly accessible
19 Internet website with the new locations.

20 (6) A county board of elections shall immediately
21 forward to the correct county board of elections any out-of-
22 county absentee ballots and mail-in ballots deposited in the
23 county board of elections' ballot drop box. County boards of
24 election shall accept receipt of absentee ballots and mail-in
25 ballots from other county boards of election up until 8:00
26 p.m. on election day.

27 (b) Minimum ballot drop box requirement.--

28 (1) Each county must provide at least two ballot drop
29 boxes within the county for each primary election, special
30 election, municipal election or general election. The ballot

1 drop boxes must be arrayed throughout the county. The county
2 board of elections may add additional ballot drop boxes.
3 Nothing in this section shall limit counties to only two
4 ballot drop boxes if the county board of elections deems
5 additional ballot drop boxes are appropriate.

6 (2) In addition to the ballot drop boxes required under
7 paragraph (1), the county board of elections in a county with
8 a population over 100,000 must provide additional ballot drop
9 boxes equal to at least one additional ballot drop box for
10 every 50,000 registered voters over 100,000 as determined on
11 the date of the November election of the preceding year.

12 (c) Prohibition.--A county or municipality may not prohibit
13 or inhibit the use of ballot drop boxes.

14 Section 531.2. Signage, hours of operation and security.

15 (a) Label.--Each ballot drop box must be labeled "Official
16 Ballot Drop Box" and must include the following:

17 (1) Specific points identifying the slot where ballots
18 are to be inserted. A ballot drop box may have more than one
19 ballot slot.

20 (2) Language stating counterfeiting, forging, tampering
21 with or destroying ballots is a second-degree misdemeanor
22 under sections 1816, 1817 and 1827.

23 (3) A statement that third-party return of a ballot is
24 prohibited unless the individual returning the ballot:

25 (i) is rendering assistance to a disabled voter or
26 an emergency absentee voter as authorized by law;

27 (ii) is a member of the same household as the voter;

28 (iii) is the voter's parent, grandparent or adult
29 child; or

30 (iv) is a caregiver.

1 (4) A statement requesting that the designated county
2 elections official shall be notified immediately if the
3 ballot drop box is full, not functioning or is damaged,
4 including a telephone number and email address for the
5 designated county elections official.

6 (5) Signage that states "You are returning your
7 ballot to (name of county) County. If you are registered to
8 vote in another county, your ballot will be forwarded but
9 will not be considered timely received unless and until it's
10 received by your county of registration by 8:00 p.m. on
11 election day" or substantially similar language.

12 (b) Surveillance and security.--Except for ballot drop boxes
13 provided under section 531.1(e), while available, the ballot
14 drop box shall be under video surveillance, securely fastened to
15 a stationary surface or an immovable object for the duration of
16 its deployment during an election. The ballot drop box must be
17 constructed to securely receive and hold the absentee ballots
18 and mail-in ballots and have a unique identifying number. The
19 ballot drop box shall be secured by a lock and shall include a
20 tamper-evident seal. Only the county board of elections, a
21 county election official or an individual designated by the
22 county board of elections shall have access to the means to
23 unfasten the lock.

24 (c) Duties of secretary.--The secretary shall develop
25 standards and issue appropriate directives for additional
26 security measures at ballot drop box locations.

27 (d) Access.--Ballot drop boxes must be made available for
28 use by voters at least 30 days before the next occurring primary
29 election, special election, municipal election or general
30 election. At least one ballot drop box per county must be made

1 available 24 hours a day for use by voters.

2 Section 531.3. Removal of absentee ballots and mail-in ballots.

3 (a) Ballot removal.--Absentee and mail-in ballots must be
4 removed from each ballot drop box at least once every day by at
5 least two individuals. Both individuals must be a county
6 election official or an individual designated by the county
7 board of elections. Each individual removing ballots from any
8 ballot drop box shall carry proper identification.

9 (b) Collection and chain of custody requirement.--Conforming
10 with the requirements of this section and any other directives
11 of the secretary, each county board of elections shall utilize
12 ballot collection and chain of custody procedures. The
13 department shall create a paper or electronic form, entitled the
14 Ballot Drop Box Collection Form, to be used when retrieving
15 absentee ballots and mail-in ballots from the ballot drop boxes.

16 (c) Form required.--A Ballot Drop Box Collection Form must
17 be completed by the county election officials and individuals
18 designated by the county board of elections each time they
19 remove absentee ballots and mail-in ballots from a ballot drop
20 box and return absentee ballots and mail-in ballots to the
21 county board of elections in a secured transport container. A
22 Ballot Drop Box Collection Form must include the following
23 information:

24 (1) The ballot drop box location and the unique
25 identifying number of the ballot drop box.

26 (2) The date and time ballots were emptied from the
27 ballot drop box.

28 (3) The names of the individuals removing the ballots
29 from the ballot drop box and the name of the individual who
30 secured and relocked the ballot drop box.

1 (4) The name of the county election official or designee
2 receiving the secured transport container.

3 (5) The date and time the county election official or
4 designee received the secured transport container.

5 (6) The number of ballots delivered in the secured
6 transport container.

7 (d) Transportation and security.--Absentee ballots and mail-
8 in ballots from ballot drop boxes must be returned to the county
9 board of elections in secured transport containers and
10 immediately taken to a secure location established by the county
11 board of elections to be held until ballots are pre-canvassed
12 under this act. A county election official or individual
13 designated by the county board of elections shall take control
14 of the secured transport container and inspect the container for
15 tampering. The county election official or individual designated
16 by the county board of elections receiving the ballots shall
17 complete the Ballot Drop Box Collection Form.

18 (e) Interference prohibited.--An individual may not
19 interfere with the emptying of ballot drop boxes. An individual
20 who interferes with the removal of ballots from a ballot drop
21 box or inhibits or prevents a voter or authorized agent from
22 lawfully depositing a ballot commits a criminal offense under
23 section 1849.

24 Section 3.1. Section 1101-A of the act is amended by adding
25 definitions to read:

26 Section 1101-A. Definitions.--As used in this article:

27 * * *

28 "Ballot set" means one of any number of ballot types each
29 used for a particular method of voting, including absentee
30 ballot voting, mail-in ballot voting, voting in-person at a

1 polling place and voting by emergency paper ballot.

2 "Ballot style" means a ballot's particular array of election
3 contests and candidates specific to an election district. Each
4 ballot set shall comprise ballots with various ballot styles.

5 * * *

6 Section 3.2. Section 1110-A(d) and (e) of the act are
7 amended to read:

8 Section 1110-A. Supplies; Preparation of the Voting System
9 and of Polling Places.--* * *

10 [(d) On or before the fortieth day preceding any election,
11 the county board of elections shall mail to the chairman of the
12 county committee of each political party which shall be entitled
13 under existing laws to participate in primary elections within
14 the county, and to the chairman or presiding officer of any
15 organization of citizens within the county which has as its
16 purpose or among its purposes the investigation or prosecution
17 of election frauds and which has registered its name and address
18 and the names of its principal officers with the county board of
19 elections at least fifty days before the election, a written
20 notice stating the times when and the place or places where
21 preparation of the system and its components for use in the
22 several election districts in the county or municipality will be
23 started. One representative of each such political party,
24 certified by the respective chairman of the county committee of
25 such party, and one representative of each such organization of
26 citizens, certified by the respective chairman or presiding
27 officer of such organization shall be entitled to be present
28 during the preparation of the voting system and its components
29 and to see that they are properly prepared and are in proper
30 condition and order for use. Such representatives shall not

1 interfere with the preparation of the system and its components,
2 and the county board may make reasonable rules and regulations
3 governing the conduct of such representatives.

4 (e) Prior to the delivery of any automatic tabulating
5 equipment to any election district the county board of elections
6 shall examine or cause to have examined such equipment and shall
7 make a certificate stating:

8 (1) the identifying number and election district designation
9 of the equipment;

10 (2) that the equipment is suitable for use in the particular
11 election district designated;

12 (3) that the equipment has been tested to ascertain that it
13 will accurately compute the votes cast for all offices and all
14 questions;

15 (4) that the offices and questions on the official ballot
16 correspond in all respects with the ballot labels assigned to
17 such particular election district;

18 (5) that the public counter and the counters for each
19 candidate position and each question are all set at zero and
20 that element that generates a printed record of the results of
21 the election is functioning correctly; and

22 (6) the number on the seal with which the equipment is
23 sealed.]

24 * * *

25 Section 3.3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

26 Section 1110.1-A. Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy Testing.--

27 (a) Prior to an election in which an electronic voting system

28 is to be used, the county board of elections shall complete

29 logic and accuracy testing for the electronic voting system in

30 accordance with this section to ensure that voting equipment

1 functions as expected and votes are accurately tabulated.

2 (b) Logic and accuracy testing shall be sufficient to
3 determine that:

4 (1) The electronic voting system is properly programmed.

5 (2) The election is correctly defined on the electronic
6 voting system.

7 (3) All of the input, output and communication devices for
8 the electronic voting system are working properly.

9 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), logic and
10 accuracy testing shall be completed as soon as ballots are
11 available.

12 (2) If a proceeding is pending in a Federal or State court
13 that would affect the contents of a ballot, logic and accuracy
14 testing shall be completed no later than the eleventh day prior
15 to the election.

16 (d) During logic and accuracy testing, the county board of
17 elections shall:

18 (1) For each voting device that will or may be used in the
19 upcoming election:

20 (i) Generate a report that shows the contest order and
21 confirm that the contest order as reported matches the expected
22 contest order.

23 (ii) Mark, in all available languages using the touchscreen
24 and any other assistive device provided by the manufacturer, and
25 print ballots for each ballot style using a predetermined voting
26 pattern designed such that each contest, and each choice within
27 each contest, is given a unique number of votes.

28 (iii) Review the printed ballots to ensure that the ballots
29 were accurately printed and the votes contained on the printed
30 ballot match the choices designated by the tester.

1 (iv) Scan the printed ballots to ensure that the ballots
2 will scan and generate the expected results.

3 (v) Shut down, lock and seal the voting device.

4 (vi) Execute a written statement specifying:

5 (A) The electronic voting devices tested.

6 (B) The results of the testing.

7 (C) The protective counter numbers, if applicable, of each
8 tabulation device.

9 (D) The number of the seal securing each tabulation device
10 at the conclusion of testing.

11 (E) Any problems reported to the county board of elections
12 as a result of the testing.

13 (F) The identifying number and election district designation
14 of the device.

15 (G) Whether each device tested is satisfactory or
16 unsatisfactory.

17 (2) For each piece of automatic tabulating equipment that
18 will or may be used in the upcoming election:

19 (i) Generate a report that shows the total number of votes
20 for all contests and candidates and confirm that the totals show
21 as zero for all contests and candidates.

22 (ii) Scan premarked ballots for each ballot style using a
23 predetermined voting pattern designed such that each contest,
24 and each choice within each contest, is given a unique number of
25 votes.

26 (iii) Generate a report that shows the vote totals for each
27 contest and candidate and compare the reported results to the
28 expected results to ensure that the automatic tabulating
29 equipment will generate the expected results.

30 (iv) Reset all vote totals, shut down, lock and seal the

1 automated tabulating equipment.

2 (v) Execute a written statement specifying:

3 (A) The automatic tabulation equipment tested.

4 (B) The results of the testing.

5 (C) The protective counter numbers, if applicable, of each
6 tabulation device.

7 (D) The number of the seal securing each tabulation device
8 at the conclusion of testing.

9 (E) Any problems reported to the county board of elections
10 as a result of the testing.

11 (F) Whether each device tested is satisfactory or
12 unsatisfactory.

13 (e) The Secretary of the Commonwealth may:

14 (1) Prescribe additional requirements relating to logic and
15 accuracy testing as the Secretary of the Commonwealth deems
16 appropriate.

17 (2) Issue directives and instructions for the implementation
18 and administration of this section, but only if the directives
19 and instructions do not conflict with the requirements of this
20 section.

21 (f) No later than forty-eight hours prior to beginning logic
22 and accuracy testing, the county board of elections shall give
23 notice of the times and places in which the logic and accuracy
24 testing will be conducted as follows:

25 (1) The county board of elections shall mail the notice to:

26 (i) The chairperson of the county committee of each
27 political party that is entitled to participate in primary
28 elections within the county.

29 (ii) The chairperson or presiding officer of each
30 organization within the county whose purpose includes the

1 investigation or prosecution of election frauds and that has
2 registered its name and address and the names of its principal
3 officers with the county board of elections by the first Monday
4 in February of the year.

5 (2) The county board of elections shall post the notice on
6 its publicly accessible Internet website.

7 (3) The county board of elections shall publish the notice
8 in accordance with section 106, with the notice to be published
9 once.

10 (g) The county board of elections shall allow in-person
11 observation of logic and accuracy testing in accordance with the
12 following procedures:

13 (1) One representative from each political party whose
14 chairperson is entitled to receive notice under subsection (f)
15 (1)(i) may observe the logic and accuracy testing, if the
16 representative is certified by the chairperson of the county
17 committee of the party.

18 (2) One representative of each organization entitled to
19 receive notice under subsection (f)(1)(ii) may observe the logic
20 and accuracy testing if the representative is certified by the
21 chairperson or presiding officer of the organization.

22 (3) A registered elector of the county who gives the county
23 board of elections at least twenty-four hours' notice may
24 observe the logic and accuracy testing.

25 (4) A representative or a registered elector who observes
26 the logic and accuracy testing may not interfere with the
27 testing.

28 (5) The county board of elections may make reasonable rules
29 and regulations governing the conduct of the representatives and
30 registered electors during the logic and accuracy testing. The

1 rules and regulations must be published as part of the notice
2 required under subsection (f).

3 (h) No later than five days after completing logic and
4 accuracy testing, the county board of elections shall certify
5 compliance with the requirements of this section to the
6 Secretary of the Commonwealth in a manner and on a form as
7 prescribed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The Department
8 of State shall post each certification received by the Secretary
9 of the Commonwealth under this subsection to its publicly
10 accessible Internet website.

11 (i) If the county board of elections fails to comply with
12 this section or with any directive or instruction issued by the
13 Secretary of the Commonwealth under this section, the following
14 shall apply:

15 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the failure shall
16 not constitute competent evidence in any administrative,
17 legislative or judicial proceeding, including any petition for
18 recount under section 1404(e), 1701, 1702 or 1703.

19 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary of the
20 Commonwealth may bring an action to enforce this section and may
21 introduce as evidence the failure of the county board of
22 elections to comply with this section or any directive or
23 instruction issued by the Secretary of the Commonwealth under
24 this section.

25 (3) The failure shall not be cause or justification for
26 delaying or refusing to perform any duty assigned under this
27 act, including the county board of elections' duty to receive,
28 canvass, compute or certify the returns of each election under
29 section 302(k).

30 Section 4. Section 1117-A of the act is repealed:

1 [Section 1117-A. Statistical Sample.--The county board of
2 elections, as part of the computation and canvass of returns,
3 shall conduct a statistical recount of a random sample of
4 ballots after each election using manual, mechanical or
5 electronic devices of a type different than those used for the
6 specific election. The sample shall include at least two (2) per
7 centum of the votes cast or two thousand (2,000) votes whichever
8 is the lesser.]

9 Section 5. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

10 Section 1117.1-A. Post-Election Ballot Audit.--(a) After
11 each regularly scheduled primary and general election, each
12 county board of elections shall participate in a bipartisan
13 post-election ballot audit in accordance with the following:

14 (1) The audit shall include a review of a random sample of
15 paper ballots cast in one or more selected Statewide or county
16 contests.

17 (2) The audit shall be facilitated by the department.

18 (3) The audit shall include the contested race at the top of
19 the ballot and, if existing, an additional Statewide contest to
20 be randomly selected by the department. The following are not
21 eligible for selection:

22 (i) An uncontested race.

23 (ii) A race for which a full recount has been ordered.

24 (4) The department shall identify, approve and employ an
25 audit method that provides a high statistical confidence that
26 the election outcome in each audited Statewide contest is
27 correct. All department-approved audit methods shall be
28 consistent with best practices in the field, including methods
29 approved by the National Academies of Sciences and the American
30 Statistical Association.

1 (5) The department shall direct and oversee the process to
2 randomly select the ballots necessary to confirm the accuracy of
3 the election outcome for the Statewide races, based on the
4 statistical methods and on the margin between the winning and
5 the losing candidate or measure.

6 (6) As soon as practicable following the completion of the
7 audit, the department shall publish detailed audit data that
8 allows the public to verify the random sample, audit
9 calculations and audit results on its publicly accessible
10 Internet website. No data published may reveal the contents of
11 any ballot.

12 (7) The department and each county shall provide public
13 notice in accordance with 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open
14 meetings) of the time and place of the audit processes. The
15 audit shall be conducted in public view to permit observation
16 and within feasible election operations. The county board may
17 establish reasonable restrictions to prevent members of the
18 public from interfering with the audit process. A member of the
19 public may not:

20 (i) Touch ballots or other official materials.

21 (ii) In any way impede the process.

22 (8) The audit:

23 (i) Shall take into account all forms of validly cast
24 ballots, including in-person, absentee, mail-in and provisional
25 ballots.

26 (ii) May include hand-marked, ballot marking device-marked
27 and disability tool-marked ballots.

28 (9) Each official participating in the audit shall swear or
29 affirm that the participant will support, obey and defend the
30 Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of

1 Pennsylvania and that the participant will discharge the duties
2 of the audit with fidelity.

3 (10) Each official participating in the audit shall ensure
4 that each ballot examined during the audit is protected from
5 loss, substitution, alteration or addition.

6 (11) The department shall provide any necessary
7 instructions, software and other materials to the county boards
8 to carry out these audits.

9 (12) The secretary shall promulgate rules, regulations and
10 procedures as necessary to implement this section.

11 (13) The audit process and oversight, including ballot
12 review and reporting of votes, shall be conducted by teams of no
13 less than two officials and no greater than three officials
14 representing a partisan balance which shall include the two
15 principal political parties, and may include additional
16 unaffiliated voters. Each audit team member shall be appointed
17 by the county board of elections from a pool of competent
18 persons who are qualified registered electors of the county and
19 who meet the above criteria. Any audit team vacancy occurring at
20 any time preceding or on the day of the audit shall be filled by
21 appointment by the county board of elections according to the
22 above criteria.

23 (b) The following shall apply:

24 (1) The post-election ballot audits must be completed during
25 the official canvass before a county board finalizes the
26 certification of official election returns before the third
27 Monday after the primary or general election.

28 (2) The secretary may extend the county certification
29 deadline if the extension:

30 (i) is necessary to complete the audit; and

1 (ii) does not impair other deadlines.

2 (3) If the results of the audit confirm to a high degree of
3 statistical confidence that the originally reported contest
4 outcome was correct, the contests shall be certified by the
5 county and the secretary.

6 (4) If the initial audit result fails to confirm to a high
7 degree of statistical confidence that the originally reported
8 contest outcome was correct, the following shall apply:

9 (i) Within forty-eight (48) hours, the secretary shall
10 direct relevant counties to commence appropriate action to
11 confirm or determine the outcome.

12 (ii) The action may include further investigation or
13 expanding the size and scope of the ballot sample, including, if
14 necessary, a full recount of all ballots cast for the audited
15 contest.

16 (5) If the official results of a full recount conclude a
17 different outcome than the originally reported results, the
18 winner determined by the full recount shall replace the
19 originally reported winner and the county and the secretary
20 shall certify the results as determined by the full recount.

21 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
22 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
23 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

24 "Department" shall mean the Department of State of the
25 Commonwealth.

26 "Paper ballot" shall mean the original of all forms of
27 validly cast and counted ballots, including qualified in-person,
28 absentee, mail-in and provisional ballots, and may include hand
29 marked, ballot marking device-marked and disability tool-marked
30 ballots.

1 "Post-election ballot audit" shall mean a post-election
2 process that involves inspection of a random sample of paper
3 ballots to verify votes cast in one or more selected contests,
4 as determined and facilitated by the department.

5 "Secretary" shall mean the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

6 Section 6. The act is amended by adding articles to read:

7 ARTICLE XI-C

8 ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS

9 Section 1101-C. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this article
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Board." The county board of elections.

14 "Department." The Department of State of the Commonwealth.

15 "Electronic poll books." A secure and self-contained
16 electronic record system examined, approved and certified by the
17 secretary, constituting the voters' certificates, voting check
18 list, numbered lists of voters, district register and general
19 register for the county that:

20 (1) has the ability to enable a poll worker to perform
21 by electronic means each of the same functions performed
22 using a paper district register during an election;

23 (2) receives and stores electronically the name,
24 address, date of birth, identifying municipality, particular
25 election district from which the voter is registered,
26 signature of voters and any other necessary voter
27 information;

28 (3) securely downloads and uploads voter information in
29 concert with the SURE system;

30 (4) contains information regarding whether a registered

1 voter already voted in the particular election, requested an
2 absentee or mail-in ballot or returned an absentee or mail-in
3 ballot;

4 (5) allows real-time transmission of information to and
5 from SURE and other electronic poll books regarding updates
6 to voter registration and voter history records.

7 (6) if used at a polling place on election day,
8 redirects an in-person voter to their correct polling place;

9 (7) provides an auditable record of the district
10 register for a particular election; and

11 (8) has any other capability or standard deemed
12 appropriate by the secretary.

13 "Secretary." The Secretary of the Commonwealth.

14 "SURE system." The Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors
15 established under 25 Pa.C.S. § 1222 (relating to SURE system).
16 Section 1102-C. Use.

17 (a) Standards.--Each board shall use electronic poll books
18 that meet the minimum standards published by the secretary under
19 section 1103-C in all early voting locations and precincts on
20 election day for each primary and election held after December
21 31, 2026. Electronic poll books shall serve as the district
22 register and shall be used as all of the following in each
23 voting location allowed for by law in this Commonwealth:

24 (1) Voters' certificates.

25 (2) Voting check lists.

26 (3) Numbered lists of voters.

27 (4) District registers.

28 (5) For the management of district registers during
29 elections.

30 (6) Any other use deemed appropriate by the secretary.

1 (b) Poll book standards.--An electronic poll book may not be
2 used by a county board of elections unless it meets the
3 standards established and published by the secretary under
4 section 1103-C and is examined, approved and certified in
5 accordance with the secretary's directive. The secretary shall
6 have the authority to decertify and prohibit from use any
7 electronic poll book that at any point does not meet the
8 standards under this section or as set forth in the secretary's
9 directive.

10 Section 1103-C. Standards.

11 (a) General.--The secretary, in coordination with the Office
12 of Administration and Office of Information Technology, shall,
13 upon request by a commercial electronic poll book vendor or
14 county board of elections, examine commercially available
15 electronic poll books and, upon successful completion of the
16 examination, approve examined poll books for use. The secretary
17 shall issue a directive establishing requirements and
18 specifications which shall define the minimum standards
19 required, capabilities and security requirements of electronic
20 poll books for certification by the secretary. The requirements
21 and specifications shall include compatibility with the SURE
22 system, screen size, technology documentation, user safety,
23 accessibility, durability, device and system security standards,
24 data encryption, audit log, data and power backup, signature
25 capture requirements, voter data fields and any other
26 requirements identified as necessary to meet the needs for each
27 voting location allowed by law in this Commonwealth. The
28 secretary, in issuing such directive, shall take appropriate
29 measures to protect against the disclosure of sensitive
30 information relating to security and infrastructure.

1 (b) Compatibility.--To have compatibility with the SURE
2 system, an electronic poll book must include the ability to
3 import the records of each registered voter in the election
4 district and county and update those records before election
5 day, to record edits to the records on election day, and to
6 export to the SURE system each of the election activity and
7 voter participation information that occurs each day and the
8 capability to generate a report of all election activity and
9 participation information for manual entry into the SURE system.

10 (c) Prohibited interest.--The secretary, the department
11 staff involved with implementation, maintenance or upkeep of the
12 SURE system or electronic poll books or any member of a board
13 may not hold a pecuniary interest in an electronic poll book
14 company, components of an electronic poll book or in the design,
15 manufacture or sale of an electronic poll book.

16 (d) Access to poll books.--The county board shall secure
17 each electronic poll book and prohibit third-party access not
18 authorized by the secretary. The secretary shall develop
19 standards and issue a directive for secure storage of electronic
20 poll books during and at any time before or after an election.
21 Failure of a county board or election worker to comply with the
22 secretary's directive may result in a decertification or
23 decommissioning of the county's electronic poll books and fines
24 as prescribed by the secretary.

25 (e) Standards and requirements.--The secretary shall develop
26 standards and requirements for a board to ensure that a paper
27 version of the district register and all necessary documents,
28 including numbered list of voters, are available at a polling
29 place on election day and can be updated in the event of a
30 failure of or inability to use an electronic poll book.

1 Section 1104-C. Funding for acquisition.

2 (a) Declaration of policy.--The General Assembly finds and
3 declares that funding of the acquisition of electronic poll
4 books for the management of voter data for each polling place in
5 this Commonwealth is in the best interest of this Commonwealth.

6 (b) Appropriation.--The General Assembly appropriates
7 \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the department for the
8 examination and approval of commercially available electronic
9 poll books that shall be compatible with the SURE system and for
10 the development and implementation of a secure electronic poll
11 book network to be used by counties.

12 ARTICLE XI-D

13 ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS AND

14 ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE EQUIPMENT BONDS

15 Section 1101-D. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this article
17 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
18 context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 "Account." The County Electronic Poll Book and Election
20 Infrastructure Equipment Reimbursement Account established under
21 section 1106-D.

22 "Authority." The Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing
23 Authority.

24 "Bond." Any type of revenue obligation, including a bond or
25 series of bonds, note, certificate or other instrument, issued
26 by the authority for the benefit of the department under this
27 article.

28 "Bond administrative expenses." Expenses incurred to
29 administer bonds as provided under the Financing Law, or as
30 necessary to ensure compliance with Federal or State law.

1 "Bond obligations." The principal of a bond and any premium
2 and interest payable on a bond, together with any amount owed
3 under a related credit agreement or a related resolution of the
4 authority authorizing a bond.

5 "Credit agreement." A loan agreement, a revolving credit
6 agreement, an agreement establishing a line of credit, a letter
7 of credit or another agreement that enhances the marketability,
8 security or creditworthiness of a bond.

9 "Department." The Department of State of the Commonwealth.

10 "Election infrastructure equipment." The following apply:

11 (1) Hardware or software, or both, that is used by a
12 county in running elections. The term includes, but is not
13 limited to:

14 (i) mail-ballot processing equipment, such as
15 envelope openers; and

16 (ii) information technology equipment, such as:

17 (A) broadband, Internet or cellular
18 infrastructure; or

19 (B) intrusion detection sensors, deployed to
20 enhance the security of electronic voting systems,
21 electronic poll books and other election systems by
22 detecting and reporting hacking attempts and other
23 election security breaches.

24 (2) The term does not include electronic voting systems
25 or electronic poll books.

26 "Electronic poll book." The components of electronic poll
27 books as defined in section 1101-C.

28 "Electronic voting system." As defined in section 1101-A.

29 "Financing Law." The act of August 23, 1967 (P.L.251,
30 No.102), known as the Economic Development Financing Law.

1 Section 1102-D. Bond issuance.

2 (a) Declaration of policy.--The General Assembly finds and
3 declares that funding for electronic poll books and election
4 infrastructure equipment, including interest, through the
5 authority, is in the best interest of this Commonwealth.

6 (b) Authority.--Notwithstanding any other law, the following
7 shall apply:

8 (1) The department may be a project applicant under the
9 Financing Law and may apply to the authority for the funding
10 of electronic poll books and election infrastructure
11 equipment.

12 (2) The authority may issue bonds under the Financing
13 Law, consistent with this article, to finance a project or
14 projects consisting of funding the purchase, replacement or
15 lease of electronic poll books by the counties, the
16 reimbursement to the counties for their cost to purchase or
17 lease electronic poll books and for the purchase or lease of
18 election infrastructure equipment by the counties.

19 (3) Participation of an industrial and commercial
20 development authority shall not be required to finance the
21 projects or to issue the bonds described under this article.

22 (c) Debt or liability.--

23 (1) Bonds issued under this article shall not be a debt
24 or liability of the Commonwealth and shall not create or
25 constitute an indebtedness, liability or obligation of the
26 Commonwealth.

27 (2) Bond obligations and bond administrative expenses
28 shall be payable solely from revenues or money pledged or
29 available for repayment as authorized under this article.
30 This paragraph shall include the proceeds of any issuance of

1 bonds.

2 (3) Each bond shall contain on the bond's face a
3 statement that:

4 (i) the authority is obligated to pay the principal
5 or interest on the bonds only from the revenues or money
6 pledged or available for repayment as authorized under
7 this article;

8 (ii) neither the Commonwealth nor a county is
9 obligated to pay the principal or interest; and

10 (iii) the full faith and credit of the Commonwealth
11 or any county is not pledged to the payment of the
12 principal of or the interest on the bonds.

13 Section 1103-D. Criteria for bond issuance.

14 (a) Application.--

15 (1) The department shall apply to the authority to issue
16 bonds to provide financing to the department to:

17 (i) reimburse each county for the county's cost to
18 purchase or lease electronic poll books;

19 (ii) fund a county's purchase or lease of electronic
20 poll books; or

21 (iii) fund the purchase or lease of election
22 infrastructure equipment.

23 (2) The choice of the funding options under paragraph
24 (1)(i) or (ii) and the choice of type of electronic poll
25 books shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of the
26 Commonwealth.

27 (b) Issuance.--Bonds may be issued in one or more series,
28 and each series may finance reimbursement grants to one or more
29 counties.

30 (c) Terms.--

1 (1) The department, with the approval of the Office of
2 the Budget, shall specify in its application to the
3 authority:

4 (i) the maximum principal amount of the bonds for
5 each bond issue; and

6 (ii) the maximum term of the bonds consistent with
7 applicable law.

8 (2) The total principal amount for all bonds, not
9 including refunding bonds, issued under this article may not
10 exceed \$60,000,000.

11 (3) The term of the bonds issued under this article may
12 not exceed 10 years from the respective date of original
13 issuance.

14 (d) Expiration.--For the purpose of this article, the
15 authorization to issue bonds, except for the authorization to
16 issue refunding bonds, shall expire December 31, 2027.

17 Section 1104-D. Issuance of bonds and sources of payments.

18 (a) Issuance.--The authority shall consider issuing the
19 bonds upon application by the department. Bonds issued under
20 this article shall be subject to the provisions of the Financing
21 Law, unless otherwise specified under this article.

22 (b) Service agreement authorized.--The authority and the
23 department may enter into an agreement or service agreement to
24 effectuate this article, including an agreement to secure bonds
25 issued for the purposes under section 1102-D(b), pursuant to
26 which the department shall agree to pay the bond obligations and
27 bond administrative expenses to the authority in each fiscal
28 year that the bonds or refunding bonds are outstanding in
29 amounts sufficient to timely pay in full the bond obligations,
30 bond administrative expenses and any other financing costs due

1 on the bonds issued for the purposes under section 1102-D(b).
2 The department's payment of the bond obligations, bond
3 administrative expenses and other financing costs due on the
4 bonds as service charges under an agreement or service agreement
5 shall be subject to and dependent upon the appropriation of
6 funds by the General Assembly to the department for payment of
7 the service charges. The service agreement may be amended or
8 supplemented by the authority and the department in connection
9 with the issuance of any series of bonds or refunding bonds
10 authorized under this article.

11 Section 1105-D. Sale of bonds.

12 The authority shall offer the bonds for sale by means of a
13 public, competitive sale or by means of a negotiated sale based
14 on the authority's determination of which method will produce
15 the most benefit to counties and the Commonwealth.

16 Section 1106-D. Deposit of bond proceeds.

17 The net proceeds of bonds, other than refunding bonds,
18 exclusive of costs of issuance, reserves and any other financing
19 charges, shall be transferred by the authority to the State
20 Treasurer for deposit into a restricted account established in
21 the State Treasury and held solely for the purposes under
22 section 1102-D(b) to be known as the County Electronic Poll Book
23 and Election Infrastructure Equipment Reimbursement Account. The
24 department shall pay out the bond proceeds to the counties from
25 the account in accordance with this article.

26 Section 1107-D. Payment of bond-related obligations.

27 For each fiscal year in which bond obligations and bond
28 administrative expenses will be due, the authority shall notify
29 the department of the amount of bond obligations and the
30 estimated amount of bond administrative expenses in sufficient

1 time, as determined by the department, to permit the department
2 to request an appropriation sufficient to pay bond obligations
3 and bond administrative expenses that will be due and payable in
4 the following fiscal year. The authority's calculation of the
5 amount of bond obligations and bond administrative expenses that
6 will be due shall be subject to verification by the department.
7 Section 1108-D. Commonwealth not to impair bond-related
8 obligations.

9 The Commonwealth pledges that it shall not do any of the
10 following:

11 (1) Limit or alter the rights and responsibilities of
12 the authority or the department under this article, including
13 the responsibility to:

14 (i) pay bond obligations and bond administrative
15 expenses; and

16 (ii) comply with any other instrument or agreement
17 pertaining to bonds.

18 (2) Alter or limit the service agreement under section
19 1104-D(b).

20 (3) Impair the rights and remedies of the holders of
21 bonds, until each bond issued and the interest on the bond
22 are fully met and discharged.

23 Section 1109-D. Personal liability.

24 The members, directors, officers and employees of the
25 department and the authority shall not be personally liable as a
26 result of good faith exercise of the rights and responsibilities
27 granted under this article.

28 Section 1110-D. Annual report.

29 No later than March 1 of the year following the first full
30 year in which bonds have been issued under this article and for

1 each year thereafter in which bond obligations existed in the
2 prior year, the department shall submit an annual report to the
3 chair and minority chair of the Appropriations Committee of the
4 Senate, the chair and minority chair of the Appropriations
5 Committee of the House of Representatives, the chair and
6 minority chair of the State Government Committee of the Senate
7 and the chair and minority chair of the State Government
8 Committee of the House of Representatives and publish the report
9 on the department's publicly accessible Internet website
10 providing all data available on bonds issued or existing in the
11 prior year. The report shall include existing and anticipated
12 bond principal, interest and administrative costs, revenue,
13 repayments, refinancing, overall benefits to counties and any
14 other relevant data, facts and statistics that the department
15 believes necessary in the content of the report.

16 Section 1111-D. County electronic poll book and election
17 infrastructure expenses.

18 (a) Application.--

19 (1) A county may apply to the department to receive
20 funding or reimbursement for:

21 (i) the purchase or lease of electronic poll books;

22 and

23 (ii) the purchase or lease of election
24 infrastructure equipment.

25 (2) Each county shall apply for funding on a form
26 containing information and documentation prescribed by the
27 department no later than July 1, 2026. The department may
28 allow a county to submit one or more applications.

29 (b) Documentation for prior purchase or lease.--If a county
30 seeks reimbursement of the county's cost to purchase or lease by

1 capital lease electronic poll books or election infrastructure
2 equipment that the county purchased or leased before the date
3 that the county submits its application to the department, the
4 county's application shall include documentation prescribed by
5 the department to substantiate the county's cost to purchase or
6 lease the electronic poll books or election infrastructure
7 equipment, including copies of fully executed electronic poll
8 book contracts, fully executed copies of election infrastructure
9 equipment contracts, invoices and proof of payment to the vendor
10 of the electronic poll book or election infrastructure
11 equipment.

12 (c) Documentation for subsequent purchase or lease.--If a
13 county seeks funding to purchase or lease electronic poll books
14 or election infrastructure equipment that the county will
15 purchase or lease after the date that the county submits its
16 application to the department, the county's application shall
17 include documentation prescribed by the department to
18 substantiate the county's estimate to purchase or lease the
19 electronic poll books or election infrastructure equipment,
20 including copies of fully executed electronic poll book
21 contracts or election infrastructure equipment bids or price
22 quotes submitted to the county and other price estimates or cost
23 proposals.

24 (d) Review.--The department shall review each county's
25 application on a rolling basis and shall either approve or deny
26 each county's application within 90 days of the date the
27 application is received by the department. A county may
28 supplement or amend submitted applications during the 90-day
29 review period in consultation with the department.

30 (e) Approval for prior purchase or lease.--If the department

1 approves a county's application submitted under subsection (b),
2 the department and the county shall enter into a written grant
3 agreement through which the department shall reimburse the
4 county at the amount determined under subsection (g).

5 (f) Approval for subsequent purchase or lease.--If the
6 department approves a county's application submitted under
7 subsection (c), the department and the county shall enter into a
8 written grant agreement through which the department shall
9 provide funding to the county to purchase or lease electronic
10 poll books or election infrastructure equipment at the amount
11 determined under subsection (g). The county shall hold the grant
12 money in an account of the county that is separate from each
13 other county account. The county shall deliver quarterly reports
14 to the department of the electronic poll book costs or election
15 infrastructure equipment costs paid from the grant money in a
16 form prescribed by the department. The county shall return any
17 unspent grant money to the department within 30 days of the
18 expiration of the grant agreement.

19 (g) Payments.--

20 (1) A county shall only receive amounts under this
21 section to the extent that the department has bond proceeds
22 available in the account from which to make payments.

23 (2) Except as provided under paragraph (3), a county
24 which submitted an application approved under subsection (e)
25 or (f) may receive 100% of the total amount submitted under
26 subsection (b) or (c) which may be reimbursed or paid.

27 (3) If the total amount submitted by all counties under
28 paragraph (2) exceeds the total amount available for
29 reimbursement or payment, a county may receive a portion of
30 the amount available equal to the total amount submitted by

1 the county under subsection (b) or (c) which may be
2 reimbursed or paid, divided by the total amount submitted by
3 all counties under subsection (b) or (c) which may be
4 reimbursed or paid.

5 Section 7. Sections 1210(a.4) (2), (5) (i), (ii) and (7) and
6 (d) and 1231(b) (1), (3) and (4) of the act are amended to read:

7 Section 1210. Manner of Applying to Vote; Persons Entitled
8 to Vote; Voter's Certificates; Entries to Be Made in District
9 Register; Numbered Lists of Voters; Challenges.--* * *

10 (a.4) * * *

11 (2) Prior to voting the provisional ballot, the elector
12 shall be required to sign an affidavit stating the following:

13 I do solemnly swear or affirm that my name is _____,
14 that my date of birth is _____, and at the time that I
15 registered I resided at _____ in the municipality of
16 _____ in _____ County of the Commonwealth of
17 Pennsylvania and that this is the only ballot that I cast in
18 this election.

19 Signature of Voter/Elector

20 Current Address

21 Check the Reason for Casting the Provisional Ballot.

22 [Signed by Judge of Elections and minority inspector]

23 * * *

24 (5) (i) Except as provided in subclause (ii), if it is
25 determined that the individual was registered and entitled to
26 vote at the election district where the ballot was cast, the
27 county board of elections shall compare the signature on the
28 provisional ballot envelope with the signature on the elector's
29 registration form and, if the signatures are determined to be
30 genuine, shall count the ballot if the county board of elections

1 confirms that the individual did not cast any other ballot,
2 including an absentee ballot, in the election. Except as
3 provided in subclause (ii), if it is determined that the
4 individual voting the provisional ballot was registered and
5 eligible to vote in the Commonwealth but not at the election
6 district where the ballot was cast, the county board of
7 elections shall compare the signature on the provisional ballot
8 envelope with the signature on the elector's registration form
9 and, if the signatures are determined to be genuine, shall open
10 the envelope and only count that portion of the ballot that the
11 individual would have been eligible to vote in his proper
12 election district.

13 (ii) A provisional ballot shall not be counted if:

14 (A) either the provisional ballot envelope under clause (3)
15 or the affidavit under clause (2) is not signed by the
16 individual;

17 (B) the signature required under clause (3) and the
18 signature required under clause (2) are either not genuine or
19 are not executed by the same individual;

20 [(C) a provisional ballot envelope does not contain a
21 secrecy envelope;]

22 (D) in the case of a provisional ballot that was cast under
23 subsection (a.2)(1)(i), within six calendar days following the
24 election the elector fails to appear before the county board of
25 elections to execute an affirmation or the county board of
26 elections does not receive an electronic, facsimile or paper
27 copy of an affirmation affirming, under penalty of perjury, that
28 the elector is the same individual who personally appeared
29 before the district election board on the day of the election
30 and cast a provisional ballot and that the elector is indigent

1 and unable to obtain proof of identification without the payment
2 of a fee;

3 (E) in the case of a provisional ballot that was cast under
4 subsection (a.2)(1)(ii), within six calendar days following the
5 election, the elector fails to appear before the county board of
6 elections to present proof of identification and execute an
7 affirmation or the county board of elections does not receive an
8 electronic, facsimile or paper copy of the proof of
9 identification and an affirmation affirming, under penalty of
10 perjury, that the elector is the same individual who personally
11 appeared before the district election board on the day of the
12 election and cast a provisional ballot; or

13 (F) the elector's absentee ballot or mail-in ballot is
14 timely received by a county board of elections[.], unless the
15 board determines that the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot will
16 not be counted due to a reason unrelated to the elector's
17 eligibility to vote in the election.

18 * * *

19 [(7) The following shall apply:

20 (i) Except as provided in subclause (ii), if it is
21 determined that the individual voting the provisional ballot was
22 eligible to vote in the county in which the ballot was cast but
23 not at the election district where the ballot was cast, the
24 county board of elections shall open the envelope and only count
25 that portion of the ballot that the individual would have been
26 eligible to vote in his proper election district and at the
27 election district where the vote was cast if:

28 (A) the county board of elections confirms that the
29 individual did not cast any other ballot, including an absentee
30 ballot, in the election; and

1 (B) the individual casting the provisional ballot is a
2 resident of the county in which the provisional ballot was cast.

3 (ii) In the event that the individual casting the
4 provisional ballot is not found to be a resident of the county
5 in which the provisional ballot was cast, the ballot shall not
6 be counted.

7 (iii) In the event that the board of elections determines,
8 based on an evidentiary record, that the individual
9 intentionally and wilfully cast a provisional ballot in an
10 election district in which the individual was not eligible to
11 vote, the ballot shall not be counted.]

12 * * *

13 (d) No person, except a qualified elector who is in actual
14 military or naval service under a requisition of the President
15 of the United States or by the authority of this Commonwealth,
16 and who votes under the provisions of Article XIII of this act,
17 shall be entitled or permitted to vote at any primary or
18 election at any polling place outside the election district in
19 which he resides, nor shall he be permitted to vote in the
20 election district in which he resides, unless he has been
21 personally registered as an elector and his registration card
22 appears in the district register of such election district,
23 except by order of the court of common pleas as provided in this
24 act[, and any person, although personally registered as an
25 elector, may be challenged by any qualified elector, election
26 officer, overseer, or watcher at any primary or election as to
27 his identity, as to his continued residence in the election
28 district or as to any alleged violation of the provisions of
29 section 1210 of this act, and if challenged as to identity or
30 residence, he shall produce at least one qualified elector of

1 the election district as a witness, who shall make affidavit of
2 his identity or continued residence in the election district]:

3 Provided, however, That no person shall be entitled to vote as a
4 member of a party at any primary, unless he is registered and
5 enrolled as a member of such party upon the district register,
6 which enrollment shall be conclusive as to his party membership
7 and shall not be subject to challenge on the day of the primary.

8 * * *

9 Section 1231. Deadline for Receipt of Valid Voter
10 Registration Application.--* * *

11 (b) In the administration of voter registration, each
12 commission shall ensure that an applicant who is a qualified
13 elector is registered to vote in an election when the applicant
14 has met any of the following conditions:

15 (1) In the case of voter registration with a motor vehicle
16 driver's license application under 25 Pa.C.S. § 1323 (relating
17 to application with driver's license application), if the valid
18 voter registration application is received by the [appropriate
19 commission] Department of Transportation not later than fifteen
20 days before the election.

21 * * *

22 (3) In the case of voter registration at a voter
23 registration agency under 25 Pa.C.S. § 1325 (relating to
24 government agencies), if the valid voter registration
25 application is received by the appropriate commission or the
26 Department of State not later than fifteen days before the
27 election.

28 (4) In any other case, if the valid voter registration
29 application of the applicant is received by the appropriate
30 commission or the Department of State not later than fifteen

1 days before the election.

2 * * *

3 Section 8. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

4 ARTICLE XII-A

5 IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

6 Section 1201-A. Conduct.

7 (a) Authority.--Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,
8 each county board shall provide for a period of in-person early
9 voting as provided for under this article.

10 (b) Issuance of ballots and voting booths.--

11 (1) A registered elector may request to vote early in
12 person at any early voting location in the county of their
13 residence. The county board shall issue a ballot to the
14 registered elector or, in the case of an electronic voting
15 system under Article XI-A, permit the registered elector to
16 vote on the county voting system for in-person early voting.
17 Except as otherwise provided under this article, a registered
18 elector who appears for early voting must vote on the
19 premises designated by the county board for early voting.

20 (2) On the dates for early voting prescribed under
21 section 1203-A, each county board shall provide ballots or
22 voting booths with electronic voting systems certified by the
23 secretary and other suitable equipment for voting on the
24 premises of the county board and at any other early voting
25 location established by the county board for the conduct of
26 early voting in accordance with this article. Each ballot
27 style must be available in each early voting location,
28 allowing any registered voter of the county to vote in any of
29 the early voting locations.

30 (3) In conducting early voting under this article, an

1 early voting election official shall verify:

2 (i) that the voter is a registered elector;

3 (ii) the election district in which the voter is
4 registered;

5 (iii) the proper ballot of the election district in
6 which the registered elector resides and is entitled to
7 vote before providing an early voting ballot to the
8 applicant, in accordance with section 1210; and

9 (iv) the applicant's registration from the most
10 recent district register provided by the county board. If
11 the applicant is not listed, the election official shall
12 contact the office of the county board.

13 (4) The election official shall maintain a list of all
14 voters who appeared to vote in person. At the end of each
15 early voting day, or at regular intervals during each early
16 voting day if practicable, the list of voters who appeared
17 and cast an early voting ballot shall be transmitted to the
18 county board and entered into the SURE system.

19 (c) Lists of early voters.--The county board shall maintain
20 a list of each registered elector in each election district who
21 votes. The list must be maintained for each election district in
22 the county and updated daily. The county board shall deliver an
23 updated district register listing voters who have already voted
24 at each early voting location before the start of early voting
25 the following day. All electronic poll books shall be updated to
26 reflect the same.

27 (d) General register.--The county board shall indicate in
28 the general register, or any other system used to update voter
29 histories in real time, whether a voter has voted early in the
30 election. A voter who is listed in the general register as

1 having voted early shall not be permitted to vote by any other
2 method permitted by law, including at their polling place on any
3 primary or election day.

4 (e) Provisional ballot.--Notwithstanding any other provision
5 in this section, any voters who believe they have been
6 erroneously listed as having voted shall be permitted to vote a
7 provisional ballot in accordance with section 1210.

8 Section 1202-A. Early voting locations.

9 (a) Minimum location requirement.--A county board shall
10 establish at least one early voting locations for in-person
11 early voting in the county, which may be located at an office of
12 the county board.

13 (b) Minimum population requirement.--In addition to the
14 requirement under subsection (a), a county board shall establish
15 one early voting location for in-person early voting for every
16 100,000 voters registered in that county as of the date of the
17 prior election. At least one location shall be in the same
18 municipality as the county seat.

19 (c) Additional locations.--In addition to the requirements
20 for early voting locations under subsections (a) and (b), a
21 county board may establish additional early voting locations for
22 in-person early voting.

23 (d) Location.--Early voting locations may be located in any
24 location eligible to be selected as a polling place under
25 Article V.

26 (e) Voting.--A registered elector entitled to early voting
27 may vote early at any early voting location established by the
28 county board in their county of residence.

29 (f) Factors.--For an early voting location established under
30 this section or section 1204-A and not located at an office of

1 the county board, the sites must be geographically located to
2 provide all voters in the county an equal opportunity to cast a
3 ballot, as much as practicable, and must provide sufficient
4 nonpermitted parking to accommodate the anticipated number of
5 voters arriving by vehicle. Although the selection of an early
6 voting site is a matter of discretion of the county board, the
7 county board shall consider the following factors:

8 (1) proximity to public transportation lines and
9 availability of parking;

10 (2) proximity to communities which will provide the
11 greatest opportunity for residents of rural areas to vote
12 during the early voting period;

13 (3) proximity to nursing homes, hospitals, long-term
14 care facilities, and public universities or community
15 colleges;

16 (4) travel time to the early voting location;

17 (5) commuter traffic patterns;

18 (6) geographic features that may affect an elector's
19 equitable access to early voting locations;

20 (7) population density;

21 (8) use of existing voting locations that typically
22 serve a significant number of electors;

23 (9) use of public buildings that are known to electors
24 in the county, especially to the extent that using the
25 buildings results in cost savings compared to other potential
26 locations; and

27 (10) if private locations are considered or designated
28 as early voting locations, methods and standards to ensure
29 the security of voting conducted at the locations.

30 (g) Accessibility.--Early voting locations shall be

1 accessible to persons with disabilities.

2 (h) Prohibition.--An individual, if within an early voting
3 location or temporary early voting location, may not
4 electioneer or solicit votes for a political party, political
5 body or candidate. Written or printed material may not be posted
6 within the early voting location or temporary early voting
7 location, except as required under this act.

8 (i) Distance.--Except for a county designee, watcher, person
9 in the course of voting, including a person delivering an
10 absentee or mail-in ballot to a ballot drop box located in the
11 early voting location, person lawfully giving assistance to a
12 voter and peace and police officer, if permitted under this act,
13 an individual must remain at least 10 feet distant from the
14 early voting location or temporary early voting location during
15 the progress of the voting.

16 (j) Early voting location officials.--

17 (1) The county board shall designate a county employee
18 or, if a county employee is unavailable, appoint a duly
19 elected judge of elections from any election district in the
20 county to serve as the presiding election officer in charge
21 at an early voting location.

22 (2) The county board shall also appoint as many
23 additional election officials and clerks as needed to
24 sufficiently staff and operate an early voting location.

25 (3) If appointing election officials at early voting
26 locations, the county board shall appoint individuals from
27 different political parties, including nonaffiliated voters.

28 (4) The duties of the election officials in carrying out
29 the procedures of voting at early voting locations shall
30 comply with the duties of district election officers under

1 this act.

2 (5) All individuals appointed to serve at early voting
3 locations must attend training provided by the county board
4 before they can serve at the early voting location.

5 (6) An election officer, elected or appointed in an
6 election district, may be appointed as an election official
7 or clerk in an early voting location, unless prohibited by
8 law.

9 (7) The secretary shall issue requirements and
10 qualifications for training and appropriate daily rates, as
11 permitted by law, for compensation at staff at early voting
12 locations.

13 (k) Watcher.--Each candidate and each party or political
14 body may appoint one watcher consistent with section 417 who
15 shall be present within the early voting location or temporary
16 early voting location from the time that county designees meet
17 prior to the opening of the early voting location or temporary
18 early voting location until the time that county designees
19 depart the early voting location or temporary early voting
20 location. A watcher must be a qualified elector of the county in
21 which the watcher serves and must show their certificates if
22 requested to do so.

23 (l) Voters permitted to vote.--When the hour for closing the
24 early voting location arrives on each day of the early voting
25 period, all qualified electors who have already qualified, and
26 are inside the enclosed space, shall be permitted to vote.
27 Qualified electors who are in the early voting location outside
28 the enclosed space waiting to vote and voters who are in line
29 either inside or outside of the early voting location waiting to
30 vote, shall be permitted to vote.

1 Section 1203-A. Period for early voting.

2 (a) Commencement and ending.--The period for in-person early
3 voting shall begin on the 11th day preceding the date of an
4 election and extend through the Sunday before election day.

5 (b) Schedules.--Except as provided under subsection (c),
6 each early voting location must remain open beginning the 11th
7 day before an election for no less than 8 hours and no more than
8 12 hours a day between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. as determined by the
9 county board of elections.

10 (c) Emergency closure.--Notwithstanding subsection (b), a
11 county board may close an early voting location if the building
12 in which the early voting location is located has been closed by
13 a State, county or local agency in response to a severe weather
14 emergency or other emergency. The county board shall notify the
15 Secretary of the Commonwealth of each closure and shall make
16 reasonable efforts to provide notice to the public of an
17 alternative early voting location under section 1204-A.

18 (d) Security of ballots and voting equipment.--The county
19 board shall ensure that each ballot, scanner and other voting
20 equipment used during the early voting period are secured in
21 accordance with Article XI-A. The following shall apply:

22 (1) At the beginning of each day of early voting, the
23 early voting location officials shall examine every ballot
24 box, scanner and tabulator, if applicable, to ensure that
25 they remain locked and sealed. Upon completion of their
26 examination, the early voting location officials shall sign a
27 declaration attesting to the same on a form prescribed by the
28 Secretary of the Commonwealth.

29 (2) At the end of each day of early voting, the early
30 voting location officials shall examine every ballot box,

1 scanner and tabulator, if applicable, to ensure that they
2 remain locked and sealed. Upon completion of their
3 examination, the early voting location officials shall sign a
4 declaration attesting to the same on a form prescribed by the
5 Secretary of the Commonwealth.

6 (3) All voting equipment and materials shall be stored
7 in a secure and locked location and access to the locked
8 storage location shall be limited only to designated election
9 officials. A daily written record of persons who entered the
10 locked locations shall be kept and transmitted to the county
11 board at the end of the early voting period.

12 (4) At the conclusion of each day of early voting, the
13 ballot box containing paper ballots or voter verified paper
14 records shall be emptied and the paper ballots or voter
15 verified paper records shall be placed in a secure transit
16 container, locked and sealed with a tamper evident seal. The
17 ballots shall be transported by at least two election
18 officials from the early voting location or others designated
19 by the county board to the county board for secure storage
20 until official canvass of votes.

21 (5) At the conclusion of the early voting period,
22 election officials shall follow the procedures for closing
23 the polls as provided for in this act. All voting materials,
24 paper ballots, voter verified paper records and all digital
25 storage devices shall be securely transmitted to the county
26 board for inclusion in the official tally of the election
27 returns. Provided, that no results of early voting shall be
28 disclosed until after the close of the polls on primary or
29 election day.

30 (6) The secretary shall issue directives or instructions

1 for secure chain of custody protocols for early voting
2 locations consistent with national best practices.

3 Section 1204-A. Designation of temporary early voting
4 locations.

5 (a) Temporary early voting locations.--In addition to early
6 voting locations established under section 1202-A, the county
7 board may establish temporary early voting locations for early
8 voting due to an emergency closure under section 1202-A or any
9 other reason. Temporary early voting locations may be located in
10 any location eligible to be selected as a polling place under
11 Article V.

12 (b) Applicability of schedule.--

13 (1) The schedules for the conduct of early voting under
14 section 1203-A(b) shall apply to temporary early voting
15 locations unless an exception is granted by the secretary.

16 (2) Early voting at temporary early voting locations may
17 be conducted on one or more days and during hours established
18 by the county board.

19 (3) The schedules for the conduct of early voting at a
20 temporary early voting location shall not need to be uniform
21 among the temporary early voting locations.

22 (4) (i) Except as provided under subparagraph (ii), a
23 county board establishing or changing a temporary early
24 voting location shall publish the information required
25 under section 1206-A at least 10 days before early voting
26 begins.

27 (ii) If a temporary early voting location is
28 established or changed within 10 days of early voting
29 beginning or is established or changed after early voting
30 begins, the county board shall:

1 (A) publish the information required under
2 section 1206-A as soon as the county board determines
3 the temporary early voting location; and

4 (B) post the same on the county's publicly
5 accessible Internet website.

6 Section 1205-A. Public buildings.

7 (a) Early voting locations.--

8 (1) Upon request by a county board, the governing body
9 of a municipality shall make public buildings within the
10 county available as early voting locations without charge. A
11 request to use a public building shall include reasonably
12 necessary time before and after the period that early voting
13 will be conducted at the public building.

14 (2) A municipality making a public building available as
15 an early voting location shall ensure that any portion of the
16 building made available is accessible to voters with
17 disabilities and elderly voters.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school may
19 only be used as an in-person early voting location if voting can
20 occur separately without access to other areas of the school or
21 school children and the location and access comply with the
22 general security procedures in force at the school.

23 Section 1206-A. Publication of early voting locations and
24 schedules.

25 (a) Notice.--No later than 30 days before an election, the
26 county board shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation
27 in the county a schedule stating:

28 (1) the location of each early voting location;

29 (2) the location of each temporary early voting
30 location; and

1 (3) the dates and hours that early voting will be
2 conducted at each early voting and temporary early voting
3 location.

4 (b) Posting requirements.--Each county board shall post a
5 copy of the schedule at an office or other location that is to
6 be used as an early voting or temporary early voting location.
7 The schedule must be posted continuously and updated for a
8 period beginning not later than the 10th day before the
9 commencement of early voting and ending on the last day of the
10 early voting period.

11 (c) Copies.--The county board must make copies of the
12 schedule available to the public in reasonable quantities
13 without charge during the period of posting.

14 (d) Electronic posting.--

15 (1) If the county board maintains a publicly accessible
16 Internet website, the county board shall make the schedule
17 available on the website no later than 30 days before the
18 election.

19 (2) A municipality within the county that maintains a
20 publicly accessible Internet website shall also make the
21 schedule available on the website no later than 30 days
22 before the election.

23 (e) Prohibition and exception after schedule publication.--

24 (1) Additional early voting locations may not be
25 established after the schedule is published under this
26 section.

27 (2) Additional temporary early voting locations may be
28 established after the schedule is published if the temporary
29 early voting locations are open to each registered elector.
30 The locations, dates and hours of each additional temporary

1 early voting location shall be reported to the Secretary of
2 the Commonwealth and posted on the county board's, the
3 county's and any municipality located within the county's
4 publicly accessible Internet website.

5 Section 1207-A. List of early voting locations.

6 No later than 30 days before the commencement of early
7 voting, each county board shall provide the Secretary of the
8 Commonwealth with a list of each early voting location and the
9 hours each location will be open for early voting. The secretary
10 shall develop a tool on the department's publicly accessible
11 Internet website for voters to locate early voting location and
12 temporary early voting locations in their counties.

13 Section 1208-A. Results.

14 Results of early voting may not be made available to the
15 public other than through the tabulation process used for votes
16 cast on election day, after the closing of polls.

17 Section 1209-A. Directives of secretary.

18 (a) General rule.--The secretary shall issue a directive to
19 counties specifying in-person early voting polling procedures
20 and best practices to ensure uniform implementation in every
21 county.

22 (b) Additional directives.--The secretary may issue
23 additional directives as necessary in order to facilitate the
24 administration of early voting and temporary early voting
25 locations.

26 Section 9. Sections 1302.1(a), 1302.2(c), 1304 and 1306 of
27 the act are amended to read:

28 Section 1302.1. Date of Application for Absentee Ballot.--

29 (a) Except as provided in subsection (a.3), applications for
30 absentee ballots shall be received in [the] an office of the

1 county board of elections not earlier than fifty (50) days
2 before the primary or election, except that if a county board of
3 elections determines that it would be appropriate to its
4 operational needs, any applications for absentee ballots
5 received more than fifty (50) days before the primary or
6 election may be processed before that time. Applications for
7 absentee ballots shall be processed if received not later than
8 five o'clock P.M. of the first Tuesday prior to the day of any
9 primary or election.

10 * * *

11 Section 1302.2. Approval of Application for Absentee
12 Ballot.--* * *

13 (c) The county board of elections, upon receipt of any
14 application of a qualified elector required to be registered
15 under the provisions of preceding section 1301, shall determine
16 the qualifications of such applicant by verifying the proof of
17 identification and comparing the information set forth on such
18 application with the information contained on the applicant's
19 permanent registration card. If the board is satisfied that the
20 applicant is qualified to receive an official absentee ballot,
21 the application shall be marked "approved." Such approval
22 decision shall be final and binding, except that challenges may
23 be made only on the ground that the applicant was not a
24 qualified elector. Such challenges must be made to the county
25 board of elections prior to five o'clock p.m. on the Friday
26 prior to the election or prior to the pre-canvass of an
27 elector's absentee ballot, whichever is earlier: Provided,
28 however, That a challenge to an application for an absentee
29 ballot shall not be permitted on the grounds that the elector
30 used an application for an absentee ballot instead of an

1 application for a mail-in ballot or on the grounds that the
2 elector used an application for a mail-in ballot instead of an
3 application for an absentee ballot.

4 * * *

5 Section 1304. Envelopes for Official Absentee Ballots.--

6 (a) The county boards of election shall provide two
7 additional envelopes for each official absentee ballot of such
8 size and shape as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the
9 Commonwealth, in order to permit the placing of one within the
10 other and both within the mailing envelope. On the smaller of
11 the two envelopes to be enclosed in the mailing envelope shall
12 be printed, stamped or endorsed the words "Official Election
13 Ballot," and nothing else. On the larger of the two envelopes,
14 to be enclosed within the mailing envelope, shall be printed,
15 stamped or endorsed to conform with election mail design
16 requirements from the United States Postal Service, a prepaid
17 reply mail option under subsection (b), the form of the
18 declaration of the elector, and the name and address of the
19 county board of election of the proper county. The larger
20 envelope shall also contain information indicating the local
21 election district of the absentee voter. Said form of
22 declaration and envelope shall be as prescribed by the Secretary
23 of the Commonwealth and shall contain among other things a
24 statement of the electors qualifications, together with a
25 statement that such elector has not already voted in such
26 primary or election. The mailing envelope addressed to the
27 elector shall contain the two envelopes, the official absentee
28 ballot, lists of candidates, when authorized by section 1303
29 subsection (b) of this act, the uniform instructions in form and
30 substance as prescribed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth and

1 nothing else.

2 (b) The county board of election shall provide prepaid
3 postage for the larger of the two additional envelopes. The
4 county board of election shall utilize a United States Postal
5 Service prepaid reply mail option.

6 (c) The county board of election shall include on both the
7 mailing envelope and larger envelope uniquely serialized United
8 States Postal Service Intelligent Mail barcodes which shall
9 include a service type identifier or an equivalent successor
10 barcode or identifier that allows mail tracking of uniquely
11 serialized barcoded envelopes as specified by the Secretary of
12 the Commonwealth.

13 Section 1306. Voting by Absentee Electors.--(a) (1) Except
14 as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), at any time after
15 receiving an official absentee ballot, but on or before eight
16 o'clock P.M. the day of the primary or election, the elector
17 shall, in secret, proceed to mark the ballot only in black lead
18 pencil, indelible pencil or blue, black or blue-black ink, in
19 fountain pen or ball point pen, and then fold the ballot,
20 enclose and securely seal the same in the envelope on which is
21 printed, stamped or endorsed "Official Election Ballot." This
22 envelope shall then be placed in the second one, on which is
23 printed the form of declaration of the elector, and the address
24 of the elector's county board of election and the local election
25 district of the elector. The elector shall then [fill out, date
26 and] sign the declaration printed on such envelope. Such
27 envelope shall then be securely sealed and the elector shall
28 send same by mail, postage prepaid, except where franked, or
29 deliver it in person to [said] a county board of election[.] or
30 at a ballot drop box.

1 (2) Any elector, spouse of the elector or dependent of the
2 elector, qualified in accordance with the provisions of section
3 1301, subsections (e), (f), (g) and (h) to vote by absentee
4 ballot as herein provided, shall be required to include on the
5 form of declaration a supporting declaration in form prescribed
6 by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to be signed by the head
7 of the department or chief of division or bureau in which the
8 elector is employed, setting forth the identity of the elector,
9 spouse of the elector or dependent of the elector.

10 (3) Any elector who has filed his application in accordance
11 with section 1302 subsection (e) (2), and is unable to sign his
12 declaration because of illness or physical disability, shall be
13 excused from signing upon making a declaration which shall be
14 witnessed by one adult person in substantially the following
15 form: I hereby declare that I am unable to sign my declaration
16 for voting my absentee ballot without assistance because I am
17 unable to write by reason of my illness or physical disability.
18 I have made or received assistance in making my mark in lieu of
19 my signature.

20 (Mark)
21 (Date)
22
23 (Complete Address of Witness) (Signature of Witness)

24 (b) (1) Any elector who receives and votes an absentee
25 ballot pursuant to section 1301 shall not be eligible to vote at
26 a polling place on election day. The district register at each
27 polling place shall clearly identify electors who have received
28 and voted absentee ballots as ineligible to vote at the polling
29 place, and district election officers shall not permit electors
30 who voted an absentee ballot to vote at the polling place.

1 (2) An elector who requests an absentee ballot and who is
2 not shown on the district register as having voted the ballot
3 may vote by provisional ballot under section 1210(a.4)(1).

4 (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), an elector who requests
5 an absentee ballot and who is not shown on the district register
6 as having voted the ballot may vote at the polling place if the
7 elector remits the ballot and the envelope containing the
8 declaration of the elector to the judge of elections to be
9 spoiled and the elector signs a statement subject to the
10 penalties under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn
11 falsification to authorities) in substantially the following
12 form:

13 I hereby declare that I am a qualified registered elector who
14 has obtained an absentee ballot or mail-in ballot. I further
15 declare that I have not cast my absentee ballot or mail-in
16 ballot, and that instead I remitted my absentee ballot or
17 mail-in ballot and the envelope containing the declaration of
18 the elector to the judge of elections at my polling place to
19 be spoiled and therefore request that my absentee ballot or
20 mail-in ballot be voided.

21 (Date)

22 (Signature of Elector).....(Address of Elector)

23 (Local Judge of Elections)

24 (c) Except as provided under 25 Pa.C.S. § 3511 (relating to
25 receipt of voted ballot), a completed absentee ballot must be
26 received in the office of the county board of elections no later
27 than eight o'clock P.M. on the day of the primary or election.

28 (d) (1) Nothing under this section shall be construed to
29 prohibit an individual from returning an absentee ballot for an
30 elector, if the individual is:

- 1 (i) rendering assistance to a disabled voter or an emergency
2 absentee voter as authorized by law;
3 (ii) returning the completed ballot of another member of the
4 individual's household;
5 (iii) returning the completed ballot of a family member; or
6 (iv) returning the completed ballot of an elector under the
7 individual's care.

8 (2) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "family
9 member" means a parent, grandparent or adult child.

10 Section 10. Section 1308(a), (b) and (g)(1)(ii), (1.1), (2)
11 and (4)(ii) and (iii) of the act are amended and subsection (g)
12 is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

13 Section 1308. Canvassing of Official Absentee Ballots and
14 Mail-in Ballots.--(a) The county boards of election, upon
15 receipt of official absentee ballots in sealed official absentee
16 ballot envelopes as provided under this article and mail-in
17 ballots as in sealed official mail-in ballot envelopes as
18 provided under Article XIII-D, shall [safely keep the ballots in
19 sealed or locked containers until they are to be canvassed by
20 the county board of elections. An absentee ballot, whether
21 issued to a civilian, military or other voter during the regular
22 or emergency application period, shall be canvassed in
23 accordance with subsection (g). A mail-in ballot shall be
24 canvassed in accordance with subsection (g).] mark the date of
25 receipt in the voter's record and shall examine the ballot
26 envelope containing the declaration of the elector to verify
27 completion of the declaration as required under sections 1306
28 and 1306-D. The following shall apply:

29 (1) If the declaration of the elector has been completed as
30 required under sections 1306 and 1306-D, the absentee and mail-

1 in ballots shall be safely kept until the ballots are to be pre-
2 canvassed or canvassed by the county board of elections. An
3 absentee ballot, notwithstanding if the absentee ballot is
4 issued to a civilian, military or other voter, shall be pre-
5 canvassed or canvassed in accordance with subsection (g). A
6 mail-in ballot shall be pre-canvassed in accordance with
7 subsection (g).

8 (2) If the declaration of the elector has not been signed as
9 required under sections 1306 and 1306-D, the county board of
10 elections shall enter into the voter's record in the voter
11 registration system that the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot
12 has a defect with the voter's declaration requiring correction
13 in order for the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot to be
14 counted. The following shall apply:

15 (i) Within twenty-four (24) hours of a finding under this
16 paragraph, the county board of elections shall notify the voter
17 by electronic or telephonic means of the error, if the voter's
18 email or phone number is included in the voter's record or
19 application and shall provide an Absentee Ballot and Mail-in
20 Ballot Cure Form. The county board shall notify all such voters
21 by letter. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall create a form
22 that is accessible by and can be completed through paper,
23 electronic and telephonic means. The form shall contain a
24 location for the voter to place the voter's Pennsylvania
25 driver's license or Department of Transportation identification
26 card number or last four digits of the voter's Social Security
27 number and instructions on how to return the form. Instead of
28 providing a driver's license, Department of Transportation
29 identification card number or the last four digits of the
30 voter's Social Security number, a voter may provide a legible

1 copy or photograph of a government-issued document, including an
2 official Federal, State, county or municipal document which
3 lists the voter's name, a student identification document issued
4 by an institution of higher education as defined in section
5 118(c) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as
6 the Public School Code of 1949, in this Commonwealth or a
7 utility bill, telephone bill, bank statement, government check,
8 paycheck or tax or rent receipt which lists the voter's name.
9 The cure shall include the following attestation in
10 substantially the following form:

11 I hereby declare that I am a qualified registered elector in
12 this election who requested and returned an absentee ballot
13 or mail-in ballot to (county) and that I have not and will
14 not vote more than one ballot in this election.

15 (Date)

16 (Signature of Elector)

17 (ii) The Absentee Ballot and Mail-in Ballot Cure Form and
18 instructions on how to return the form shall be made available
19 on the Department of State and each county board of election's
20 publicly accessible Internet website.

21 (iii) If the voter completes and returns the Absentee Ballot
22 and Mail-in Ballot Cure Form before noon on the sixth day after
23 the election, the voter's ballot shall be counted as provided
24 under subsection (g) (4) (iii). If the voter fails to complete and
25 return the form before noon on the sixth day after the election,
26 the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot shall be set aside and
27 declared void. The voter may return the Absentee Ballot and
28 Mail-in Ballot Cure Form by email, fax, text message or other
29 form of electronic submission, mail or delivery in person to the
30 county board of elections.

1 (iv) The county board of elections shall provide the voter
2 with information on how to vote by provisional ballot on
3 election day instead of completing an Absentee Ballot and Mail-
4 In Ballot Cure Form.

5 (v) Within twenty-four (24) hours of a finding under
6 paragraph (2), counties shall compile a list of voters eligible
7 to cure defective ballots and must make the list available to
8 the public, including posting it to the counties' publicly
9 accessible Internet website.

10 [(b) Watchers shall be permitted to be present when the
11 envelopes containing official absentee ballots and mail-in
12 ballots are opened and when such ballots are counted and
13 recorded.]

14 * * *

15 (g) (1) * * *

16 (ii) An absentee ballot cast by any absentee elector as
17 defined in section 1301(i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n), an
18 absentee ballot under section [1302(a.3)] 1302.1(a.3) or a mail-
19 in ballot cast by a mail-in elector shall be canvassed in
20 accordance with this subsection if the absentee ballot or mail-
21 in ballot is received in [the] an office of the county board of
22 elections or delivered to a ballot drop box no later than eight
23 o'clock P.M. on the day of the primary or election.

24 (1.1) The county board of elections shall meet no earlier
25 than [seven] nine o'clock A.M. on the seventh day prior to
26 election day and no later than seven o'clock A.M. on election
27 day to pre-canvass all ballots received prior to the meeting.
28 The pre-canvass meeting may continue until eight o'clock P.M. on
29 election day. A county board of elections shall provide at least
30 forty-eight hours' notice of a pre-canvass meeting by publicly

1 posting a notice of a pre-canvass meeting on its publicly
2 accessible Internet website. One authorized representative of
3 each candidate in an election and one representative from each
4 political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in
5 which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are pre-
6 canvassed. No person observing, attending or participating in a
7 pre-canvass meeting may disclose the results of any portion of
8 any pre-canvass meeting prior to the close of the polls.

9 (2) The county board of elections shall meet no earlier than
10 the close of polls on the day of the election and no later than
11 the [third] day following the election to begin canvassing
12 absentee ballots and mail-in ballots not included in the pre-
13 canvass meeting. The meeting under this paragraph shall continue
14 until all absentee ballots and mail-in ballots received prior to
15 the close of the polls have been canvassed. The county board of
16 elections shall not record or publish any votes reflected on the
17 ballots prior to the close of the polls. The canvass process
18 shall continue through the eighth day following the election for
19 valid military-overseas ballots timely received under 25 Pa.C.S.
20 § 3511 (relating to receipt of voted ballot). A county board of
21 elections shall provide at least forty-eight hours' notice of a
22 canvass meeting by publicly posting a notice on its publicly
23 accessible Internet website. One authorized representative of
24 each candidate in an election and one representative from each
25 political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in
26 which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are canvassed.

27 * * *

28 (4) All absentee ballots which have not been challenged
29 under section 1302.2(c) and all mail-in ballots which have not
30 been challenged under section 1302.2-D(a)(2) and that have been

1 verified under paragraph (3) shall be counted and included with
2 the returns of the applicable election district as follows:

3 * * *

4 (ii) [If] Notwithstanding sections 1306 and 1306-D, if any
5 of the envelopes on which are printed, stamped or endorsed the
6 words "Official Election Ballot" contain any text, mark or
7 symbol which reveals the identity of the elector, the elector's
8 political affiliation or the elector's candidate preference,
9 [the envelopes and the ballots contained therein shall be set
10 aside and declared void.] or the ballot is not sealed inside the
11 Official Election Ballot envelope, the presence of such text,
12 mark or symbol or the failure to seal the ballot in the Official
13 Election Ballot envelope shall not be a fatal defect to the
14 ballot. The county board of elections shall place the voted
15 absentee ballot or voted mail-in ballot into an Official
16 Election Ballot envelope in a manner as to maintain the secrecy
17 of the voted absentee ballot or voted mail-in ballot. The
18 Official Election Ballot envelope shall be sealed and shall be
19 pre-canvassed or canvassed in accordance with subparagraph
20 (iii).

21 (iii) The county board shall then break the seals of such
22 envelopes, remove the ballots and count, compute and tally the
23 votes. If an absentee ballot or mail-in ballot is damaged or
24 defective so that the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot cannot
25 properly be counted by the automatic tabulating equipment, the
26 county board shall make and substitute a true duplicate copy for
27 the damaged absentee ballot or mail-in ballot. Each duplicate
28 absentee ballot or mail-in ballot shall be clearly labeled
29 "duplicate" and shall bear a serial number which shall be
30 recorded on the damaged or defective absentee ballot or mail-in

1 ballot.

2 * * *

3 (8) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall develop an
4 electronic system through which qualified electors may track and
5 verify the status of the qualified elector's absentee or mail-in
6 ballot, including, but not limited to, the dates that the ballot
7 was mailed by the county board, received by the county board,
8 pre-canvassed and accepting for counting, pre-canvassed and in
9 need of cure or rejected for a flaw not subject to cure, along
10 with details of the defect or reason for rejection.

11 * * *

12 Section 11. Sections 1302-D(g), 1302.1-D(a) and 1302.2-D(a)
13 (3) of the act are amended to read:

14 Section 1302-D. Applications for official mail-in ballots.

15 * * *

16 (g) Permanent mail-in voting list.--

17 (1) [Any qualified registered elector may request to be
18 placed on a permanent mail-in ballot list file at any time
19 during the calendar year. A mail-in ballot application shall
20 be mailed to every person otherwise eligible to receive a
21 mail-in ballot application by the first Monday in February
22 each year or within 48 hours of receipt of the request,
23 whichever is later, so long as the person does not lose the
24 person's voting rights by failure to vote as otherwise
25 required by this act. A mail-in ballot application mailed to
26 an elector under this section, which is completed and timely
27 returned by the elector, shall serve as an application for
28 any and all primary, general or special elections to be held
29 in the remainder of that calendar year and for all special
30 elections to be held before the third Monday in February of

1 the succeeding year.] Any qualified registered elector may
2 request to be placed on a permanent mail-in ballot list at
3 any time during the calendar year by submitting a mail-in
4 ballot application and checking a box on the application that
5 affirms their decision to permanently receive mail-in ballots
6 for future elections. If the application is approved, the
7 qualified registered elector shall be placed on the permanent
8 mail-in voting list and receive permanent mail-in voter
9 status under this section. A qualified registered elector who
10 has requested and been approved for permanent mail-in voter
11 status shall receive a mail-in ballot for all primary,
12 general or special elections until the elector revokes their
13 permanent mail-in voter status or ceases being a qualified
14 elector as provided in this act.

15 (2) The Secretary of the Commonwealth [may] shall
16 develop an electronic system through which all qualified
17 electors may apply for a mail-in ballot and request permanent
18 mail-in voter status under this section, provided the system
19 is able to capture a digitized or electronic signature of the
20 applicant. A county board of elections shall treat an
21 application or request received through the electronic system
22 as if the application or request had been submitted on a
23 paper form or any other format used by the county.

24 (3) The transfer of a qualified registered elector on a
25 permanent mail-in voting list from one county to another
26 county shall only be permitted upon the request of the
27 qualified registered elector.

28 (4) By the first Monday in February each year, a notice
29 developed by the department shall be sent to every elector on
30 the permanent mail-in ballot list advising the elector that

1 they will receive a mail-in ballot for any primary, general
2 or special elections until the elector revokes their
3 permanent mail-in voter status or ceases being a qualified
4 elector.

5 Section 1302.1-D. Date of application for mail-in ballot.

6 (a) General rule.--Applications for mail-in ballots shall be
7 received in the office of the county board of elections not
8 earlier than 50 days before the primary or election, except that
9 if a county board of elections determines that it would be
10 appropriate to the county board of elections' operational needs,
11 any applications for mail-in ballots received more than 50 days
12 before the primary or election may be processed before that
13 time. [Applications] Except as provided in subsection (a.1),
14 applications for mail-in ballots shall be processed if received
15 not later than five o'clock P.M. [of the first Tuesday] on the
16 fourteenth day prior to the day of any primary or election.

17 * * *

18 Section 1302.2-D. Approval of application for mail-in ballot.

19 (a) Approval process.--The county board of elections, upon
20 receipt of any application of a qualified elector under section
21 1301-D, shall determine the qualifications of the applicant by
22 verifying the proof of identification and comparing the
23 information provided on the application with the information
24 contained on the applicant's permanent registration card. The
25 following shall apply:

26 * * *

27 (3) Challenges must be made to the county board of
28 elections prior to five o'clock p.m. on the Friday prior to
29 the election or prior to the pre-canvass of an elector's
30 mail-in ballot, whichever is earlier: Provided, however, That

1 a challenge to an application for a mail-in ballot shall not
2 be permitted on the grounds that the elector used an
3 application for a mail-in ballot instead of an application
4 for an absentee ballot or on the grounds that the elector
5 used an application for an absentee ballot instead of an
6 application for a mail-in ballot.

7 * * *

8 Section 12. Sections 1304-D(a) and 1306-D(a) of the act are
9 amended and the sections are amended by adding subsections to
10 read:

11 Section 1304-D. Envelopes for official mail-in ballots.

12 (a) Additional envelopes.--The county boards of election
13 shall provide two additional envelopes for each official mail-in
14 ballot of a size and shape as shall be prescribed by the
15 Secretary of the Commonwealth, in order to permit the placing of
16 one within the other and both within the mailing envelope. On
17 the smaller of the two envelopes to be enclosed in the mailing
18 envelope shall be printed, stamped or endorsed the words
19 "Official Election Ballot," and nothing else. On the larger of
20 the two envelopes, to be enclosed within the mailing envelope,
21 shall be printed, stamped or endorsed to conform with election
22 mail design requirements from the United States Postal Service,
23 a prepaid reply mail option pursuant to subsection (a.1), the
24 form of the declaration of the elector and the name and address
25 of the county board of election of the proper county. The larger
26 envelope shall also contain information indicating the local
27 election district of the mail-in voter.

28 (a.1) Prepaid postage.--The county board of elections shall
29 provide prepaid postage for the larger of the two additional
30 envelopes. The county board of elections shall utilize a United

1 States Postal Service prepaid reply mail option.

2 (a.2) Mail tracking.--The county board of elections shall
3 include on both the mailing envelope and larger envelope
4 uniquely serialized United States Postal Service Intelligent
5 Mail barcodes which shall include a service type identifier or
6 an equivalent successor barcode or identifier that the allows
7 mail tracking as specified by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

8 * * *

9 Section 1306-D. Voting by mail-in electors.

10 (a) General rule.--At any time after receiving an official
11 mail-in ballot, but on or before eight o'clock P.M. the day of
12 the primary or election, the mail-in elector shall, in secret,
13 proceed to mark the ballot only in black lead pencil, indelible
14 pencil or blue, black or blue-black ink, in fountain pen or ball
15 point pen, and then fold the ballot, enclose and securely seal
16 the same in the envelope on which is printed, stamped or
17 endorsed "Official Election Ballot." This envelope shall then be
18 placed in the second one, on which is printed the form of
19 declaration of the elector, and the address of the elector's
20 county board of election and the local election district of the
21 elector. The elector shall then [fill out, date and] sign the
22 declaration printed on such envelope. Such envelope shall then
23 be securely sealed and the elector shall send same by mail,
24 postage prepaid, except where franked, or deliver it in person
25 to said county board of election[.] or at a ballot drop box.

26 * * *

27 (d) Construction.--

28 (1) Nothing under this section shall be construed to
29 prohibit an individual from returning a mail-in ballot for an
30 elector, if the individual is:

- 1 (i) rendering assistance to a disabled voter as
2 authorized by law;
3 (ii) returning the completed ballot of another
4 member of the individual's household;
5 (iii) returning the completed ballot of a family
6 member; or
7 (iv) returning the completed ballot of an elector
8 under the individual's care.

9 (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) (iii), the term
10 "family member" means a parent, grandparent or adult child.

11 Section 13. Sections 1404(f), 1602-A(j)(1), 1701(a), (a.1)
12 (2)(ii), (b), (d) and (e), 1702(a)(1) and (2)(ii)(B), (a.1),
13 (b.1) and (b.2), 1703(a)(1) and 1827 of the act are amended to
14 read:

15 Section 1404. Computation of Returns by County Board;
16 Certification; Issuance of Certificates of Election.--

17 * * *

18 (f) As the returns from each election district are read,
19 computed and found to be correct or corrected as aforesaid, they
20 shall be recorded on the blanks prepared for the purpose until
21 all the returns from the various election districts which are
22 entitled to be counted shall have been duly recorded, when they
23 shall be added together, announced and attested by the clerks
24 who made and computed the entries respectively and signed by the
25 members of the county board. Returns under this subsection shall
26 be considered unofficial for [five (5)] three (3) days. The
27 county board shall submit the unofficial returns to the
28 Secretary of the Commonwealth by five o'clock P. M. on the
29 Tuesday following the election. The submission shall be as
30 directed by the secretary for public office which appears on the

1 ballot in every election district in this Commonwealth or for a
2 ballot question which appears on the ballot in every election
3 district in this Commonwealth. At the expiration of [five (5)]
4 three (3) days after the completion of the computation of votes,
5 in case no petition for a recount or recanvass has been filed in
6 accordance with the provisions of this act, or upon the
7 completion of the recount or recanvass if a petition therefor
8 has been filed within [five (5)] three (3) days after the
9 completion of the computation of votes, the county board shall
10 certify the returns so computed in said county in the manner
11 required by this act, unless upon appeals taken from any
12 decision, the court of common pleas shall have directed any
13 returns to be revised, or unless in case of a recount, errors in
14 the said returns shall have been found, in which case said
15 returns shall be revised, corrected and certified accordingly.
16 The county board shall thereupon, in the case of elections,
17 issue certificates of election to the successful candidates for
18 all county, city, borough, township, ward, school district, poor
19 district and election offices, and local party offices to be
20 filled by the votes of the electors of said county, or of any
21 part thereof.

22 * * *

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] no later
29 than 7 a.m. on election day and shall continue without
30 interruption until each mail-in ballot and absentee ballot

1 timely received [by 7 a.m. on election day] is [pre-
2 canvassed] canvassed.

3 * * *

4 Section 1701. Opening Ballot Boxes upon Petition of Electors
5 Alleging Fraud or Error; Deposit or Bond.--(a) Except as set
6 forth in subsection (a.1), the court of common pleas, or a judge
7 thereof, of the county in which any election district is located
8 in which ballots were used, shall open the ballot box of such
9 election district used at any general, municipal, special or
10 primary election held therein, and cause the entire vote thereof
11 to be correctly counted by persons designated by such court or
12 judge, if three qualified electors of the election district
13 shall file, as hereinafter provided, a petition duly verified by
14 them, alleging that upon information which they consider
15 reliable they believe that fraud or error, although not manifest
16 on the general return of votes made therefrom, was committed in
17 the computation of the votes cast for all offices or for any
18 particular office or offices in such election district, or in
19 the marking of the ballots, or otherwise in connection with such
20 ballots. It shall [not] be necessary for the petitioners to
21 specify in their petition the particular act of fraud or error
22 which they believe to have been committed, [nor] and to offer
23 evidence to substantiate the allegations of their petition.

24 (a.1) In cases resulting from a recount or recanvass order
25 by the Secretary of the Commonwealth under section 1404(g), all
26 of the following apply:

27 * * *

28 (2) To obtain relief under clause (1):

29 * * *

30 (ii) It is [not] necessary for the petitioners to specify in

1 their petition the particular act of fraud or error which they
2 believe to have been committed [nor] and to offer evidence to
3 substantiate the allegations of their petition.

4 (b) Every petition for the opening of a ballot box under the
5 provisions of this section shall be filed in the office of the
6 prothonotary of the proper county, accompanied by a deposit of
7 cash in the amount of [fifty (\$50.00)] eight hundred fifty
8 (\$850) dollars, or by a bond signed by the petitioners as
9 principals and by a corporate surety to be approved by the
10 court, in the amount of [one hundred (\$100.00)] one thousand
11 five hundred (\$1,500) dollars, conditioned upon the payment to
12 the county treasurer for the use of the county of the sum of
13 [fifty (\$50.00)] eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars, in the
14 event that, upon the opening of the ballot box, it shall not
15 appear that fraud or substantial error was committed in the
16 computation of the votes cast on the ballots contained therein,
17 or fraud in the marking of the ballots contained therein, or
18 otherwise in connection with such ballots.

19 * * *

20 (d) If, upon opening any such ballot box, it shall appear
21 that fraud or substantial error was committed in the computation
22 of the votes cast on the ballots contained therein, or fraud in
23 the marking of the ballots contained therein, or otherwise in
24 connection with such ballots, it shall be the duty of the court
25 to certify such fact to the prothonotary and thereupon the
26 prothonotary shall return to the petitioners the said sum of
27 [fifty (\$50.00)] eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars, or if the
28 petitioners shall have filed a bond in lieu of cash, to mark
29 said bond cancelled and notify the petitioners that he has done
30 so.

1 (e) If, upon opening any ballot box under the provisions of
2 this section, it shall not appear that fraud or substantial
3 error was committed in the computation of the votes cast on the
4 ballots contained therein, or fraud in the marking of the
5 ballots contained therein, or otherwise in connection with such
6 ballots, the persons upon whose petition such ballot box shall
7 have been opened shall forfeit to the county the sum of [~~fifty~~
8 ~~(\$50.00)~~] eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars. If said
9 petitioners shall have deposited the said sum in cash with the
10 prothonotary at the time of filing the petition, the
11 prothonotary, upon certification of the court that fraud or
12 substantial error was not discovered, shall pay said sum
13 deposited with him to the county treasurer; and if the
14 petitioners shall have filed with their petition a bond in the
15 sum of [~~one hundred (\$100.00)~~] one thousand five hundred
16 (\$1,500) dollars, it shall be the duty of the county treasurer
17 forthwith to collect from the principals or surety on said bond,
18 the sum of [~~fifty (\$50.00)~~] eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars,
19 and costs of suit, and for this purpose, he is hereby authorized
20 to institute any necessary legal proceedings. When so collected,
21 the said sum of [~~fifty (\$50.00)~~] eight hundred fifty (\$850)
22 dollars shall be paid over to the county treasurer.

23 * * *

24 Section 1702. Recanvassing Voting Machines upon Petition of
25 Electors Alleging Fraud or Error.--(a) Judicial proceedings
26 shall be as follows:

27 (1) Except as set forth in clause (2), the court of common
28 pleas, or a judge thereof, of the county in which any election
29 district is located, shall make visible the registering counters
30 of the voting machine or machines used in such election district

1 at any primary or election, and without unlocking the machine
2 against voting, shall recanvass the vote cast therein, if three
3 qualified electors of the election district shall file a
4 petition, duly verified by them, alleging that, upon information
5 which they consider reliable, they believe that fraud or error,
6 although not manifest on the general return of votes made
7 therefrom, was committed in the canvassing of the votes cast on
8 such machine or machines. It shall [not] be necessary for the
9 petitioners to specify in their petition the particular act of
10 fraud or error they believe to have been committed, [nor] and to
11 offer evidence to substantiate the allegations of their
12 petition.

13 (2) In cases resulting from a recount or recanvass ordered
14 by the Secretary of the Commonwealth under section 1404(g), all
15 of the following apply:

16 * * *

17 (ii) To obtain relief under subclause (i):

18 * * *

19 (B) It is [not] necessary for the petitioners to specify in
20 their petition the particular act of fraud or error they believe
21 to have been committed [nor] and to offer evidence to
22 substantiate the allegations of the petition.

23 (a.1) Every petition for the recanvassing of votes cast in
24 the voting machine, or voting machines of an election district,
25 under the provisions of this section, shall be filed in the
26 office of the prothonotary of the proper county accompanied by a
27 deposit of cash in the amount of [fifty (\$50)] eight hundred
28 fifty (\$850) dollars, or by a bond signed by the petitioners as
29 principals and by a corporate surety to be approved by the court
30 in the amount of [one hundred (\$100)] one thousand five hundred

1 (\$1,500) dollars, conditioned upon the payment to the county
2 treasurer for the use of the county of the sum of [fifty (\$50)]
3 eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars, in the event that upon the
4 recanvassing of the votes cast in a voting machine or voting
5 machines, it does not appear that fraud or substantial error was
6 committed in the canvassing of the votes cast on such machine or
7 otherwise in connection with such voting machines.

8 * * *

9 (b.1) If, upon the recanvassing of the votes in any voting
10 machine, it shall appear that fraud or substantial error was
11 committed in the computation of the votes cast on the voting
12 machine or otherwise in connection with such voting machine, it
13 shall be the duty of the court to certify such fact to the
14 prothonotary, and thereupon the prothonotary shall return to the
15 petitioners the said sum of [fifty (\$50)] eight hundred fifty
16 (\$850) dollars, or if the petitioners shall have filed a bond,
17 in lieu of cash, to mark said bond cancelled and notify the
18 petitioners that he has done so.

19 (b.2) If, upon the recanvassing of the votes in any voting
20 machine under the provisions of this section, it shall not
21 appear that fraud or substantial error was committed in the
22 computation of the votes cast in the voting machine or otherwise
23 in connection with such voting machine, the persons upon whose
24 petition such voting machine was recanvassed shall forfeit to
25 the county the sum of [fifty (\$50)] eight hundred fifty (\$850)
26 dollars. If said petitioners shall have deposited the said sum
27 in cash with the prothonotary at the time of filing the
28 petition, the prothonotary, upon certification of the court that
29 fraud or substantial error or otherwise in connection with such
30 machine was not discovered, shall pay said sum deposited with

1 him to the county treasurer, and if the petitioners shall have
2 filed with their petition a bond in the sum of [~~one hundred~~
3 ~~(\$100)~~] one thousand five hundred (\$1,500) dollars, it shall be
4 the duty of the county treasurer forthwith to collect from the
5 principals or surety on said bond the sum of [~~fifty (\$50)~~] eight
6 hundred fifty (\$850) dollars and costs of suit, and for this
7 purpose he is hereby authorized to institute any necessary legal
8 proceedings. When so collected, the said sum of [~~fifty (\$50)~~]
9 eight hundred fifty (\$850) dollars shall be paid over to the
10 county treasurer.

11 * * *

12 Section 1703. Correction of Returns; Decision Not to Be
13 Final; Evidence for Prosecution.--

14 (a) (1) Any petition to open a ballot box or to recanvass
15 the votes on a voting machine or an electronic voting system
16 pursuant to sections 1701 and 1702 shall be filed no later than
17 [~~five (5)~~] three (3) days after the completion of the
18 computational canvassing of all returns of the county by the
19 county board. If any error or fraud is found the court shall
20 grant the interested parties an additional five (5) days to file
21 petitions requesting additional ballot boxes to be opened or
22 voting machines or electronic voting systems to be recanvassed.

23 (i) Except as set forth in subclause (ii):

24 (A) a recount or recanvass shall include all election
25 districts in which ballots were cast for the office in question;
26 and

27 (B) petitions, accompanied by the appropriate money or bond,
28 must be filed in each election district in accordance with this
29 act.

30 (ii) Subclause (i) shall not apply if a petitioner under

1 section 1701 or 1702 pleads that a particular act of fraud or
2 error occurred and offers prima facie evidence supporting the
3 allegation.

4 (iii) The county board shall have three (3) days to file a
5 response to any petition for recount filed with the court.

6 * * *

7 Section 1827. Interference with Primaries and Elections;
8 Frauds; Conspiracy.--If any person shall prevent or attempt to
9 prevent any election officers from holding any primary or
10 election, under the provisions of this act, or shall use or
11 threaten any violence to any such officer; or shall interrupt or
12 improperly interfere with him in the execution of his duty; or
13 shall block up or attempt to block up the avenue to the door of
14 any polling place; or shall use or practice any intimidation,
15 threats, force or violence with design to influence unduly or
16 overawe any elector, or to prevent him from voting or restrain
17 his freedom of choice; or shall prepare or present to any
18 election officer a fraudulent voter's certificate not signed in
19 the polling place by the elector whose certificate it purports
20 to be; or shall deposit fraudulent ballots in the ballot box; or
21 shall register fraudulent votes upon any voting machine; or
22 shall tamper with any district register, voting check list,
23 numbered lists of voters, ballot box, ballot drop box or voting
24 machine; or shall conspire with others to commit any of the
25 offenses herein mentioned, or in any manner to prevent a free
26 and fair primary or election, he shall be guilty of a felony of
27 the third degree, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
28 sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding fifteen thousand (\$15,000)
29 dollars, or to undergo an imprisonment of not more than seven
30 (7) years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

1 Section 14. Section 1222(c) of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding paragraphs to read:
3 § 1222. SURE system.

4 * * *

5 (c) Requirements.--The SURE system shall be developed as a
6 single, uniform integrated computer system. All commissions
7 shall be connected electronically to the SURE system and shall
8 maintain their registration records in the system. The SURE
9 system shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

10 * * *

11 (22) Facilitate the use of electronic poll books.

12 (23) Contain a code to enable identification and
13 tracking of preregistration status.

14 (24) Automatically activate the registration of a
15 preregistrant no later than the 18th birthday of the
16 preregistrant.

17 * * *

18 Section 15. Section 1301(a) of Title 25 is amended and the
19 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:
20 § 1301. Qualifications to register.

21 (a) Eligibility.--An individual who will be at least 18
22 years of age on the day of the next election, who has been a
23 citizen of the United States for at least one month prior to the
24 next election and who has resided in this Commonwealth and the
25 election district where the individual offers to vote for at
26 least 30 days prior to the next ensuing election [**and has not**
27 **been confined in a penal institution for a conviction of a**
28 **felony within the last five years]** shall be eligible to register
29 as provided in this chapter.

30 (a.1) Preregistration.--Notwithstanding subsection (a),

1 every individual who is otherwise qualified to register and is
2 16 years of age or older may preregister and update the
3 individual's preregistered information by any means authorized
4 under this part for individuals 18 years of age or older. Upon
5 reaching 18 years of age, the individual is automatically
6 registered.

7 * * *

8 Section 16. Sections 1323(a)(1), (c)(1), (2), (3), (3.1) and
9 (4) of Title 25 are amended, subsections (b) and (c) are amended
10 by adding introductory paragraphs and the section is amended by
11 adding a subsection to read:

12 § 1323. Application with driver's license application.

13 * * *

14 (a) General rule.--

15 (1) The Department of Transportation shall provide for
16 simultaneous application for voter registration in
17 conjunction with the process under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1510
18 (relating to issuance and content of driver's license). An
19 application under this subsection shall serve as an
20 application to register to vote unless the applicant [**fails**
21 **to sign the voter registration application.**] presents a
22 document for purposes of the driver's license application
23 demonstrating that the applicant is not a United States
24 Citizen, affirms that the applicant is not a United States
25 Citizen or declines to submit a voter registration
26 application under the process specified in this section. The
27 secretary has the primary responsibility for implementing and
28 enforcing the driver's license voter registration system
29 created under this section. The secretary, in consultation
30 with the Secretary of Transportation, may promulgate

1 regulations for implementing this section.

2 * * *

3 (b) Process.--Except as provided in subsection (c.1)(2):

4 * * *

5 (c) Transmission.--Except as provided in subsection (c.1)
6 (2):

7 (1) The Department of Transportation shall forward
8 completed applications or contents of the completed voter
9 registration applications in [machine-readable] an electronic
10 format to the department by the close of registration for the
11 ensuing election.

12 (2) The department shall transmit the material to the
13 appropriate commission [within ten days] on the next business
14 day after the date of its receipt by the Department of
15 Transportation. [If a voter registration application is
16 received by the Department of Transportation within five days
17 before the last day to register before an election, the
18 application shall be transmitted to the appropriate
19 commission not later than five days after the date of its
20 receipt by the Department of Transportation.]

21 (3) Upon receipt of the completed voter registration
22 information from the department, the commission shall make a
23 record of the date of the receipt of the application and
24 process the application. [No applicant shall be deemed
25 eligible to vote until the commission has received and
26 approved the application.]

27 (3.1) After the Department of Transportation is
28 connected to the SURE system and notwithstanding paragraphs
29 (1), (2) and (3), the Department of Transportation shall
30 transmit electronically the contents of a completed voter

1 registration application within five days of receipt of the
2 application. Upon receipt of the information from the
3 Department of Transportation, a commission shall make a
4 record of the date of the receipt of the application and
5 process the application in accordance with section 1328
6 (relating to approval of registration applications). If the
7 commission of the county of residence has not been connected
8 to the SURE system, the Department of Transportation shall
9 forward the completed application or contents of the
10 completed application to the department in accordance with
11 paragraph (1). No applicant shall be deemed eligible to vote
12 until the commission has received and approved an application
13 in accordance with section 1328.]

14 (4) [Changes of address shall comply with] If the
15 application submitted under subsection (a)(3) is for change
16 of address, the following shall apply:

17 (i) [Before the Department of Transportation is
18 connected to the SURE system, the Department of
19 Transportation shall notify the department of changes of
20 address received under subsection (a)(3). The department
21 shall notify the commission of the county of the
22 registrant's former residence. After the Department of
23 Transportation is connected to the SURE system, the
24 Department of Transportation shall notify the commission
25 of the county of the registrant's former residence.] If
26 the registrant has moved to an address outside this
27 Commonwealth, the [commission] department shall notify
28 the commission of the county of the registrant's former
29 residence, which shall verify the address change in
30 accordance with section 1901 (relating to removal of

1 electors). [Except as provided in subparagraph (ii), if
2 the registrant confirms in accordance with section
3 1901(d) that he has moved to another county, the
4 commission shall cancel the registration and forward the
5 registrant's registration information to the commission
6 of the registrant's new county of residence. Except as
7 provided in subparagraph (ii), if the registrant has
8 moved to an address within the commission's jurisdiction,
9 the commission shall promptly update the registration
10 record of the registrant in accordance with section 1328.
11 All changes of address received by the Department of
12 Transportation under this section at least 30 days before
13 an election must be processed by the commission for the
14 ensuing election. For the purpose of this paragraph, the
15 term "registration information" means the registration
16 card and any other record of registration maintained by a
17 commission.

18 (ii) In the case of changes of address received by
19 the Department of Transportation which do not contain a
20 signature of the registrant, the commission receiving the
21 change of address notification shall mail a notice to the
22 registrant at the new residence address requesting
23 verification of the address change. If the change of
24 address is to a new residence outside the commission's
25 jurisdiction, the commission shall mail the following
26 notice:

27 Date.....

28 Office of the Registration Commission

29 County, Pennsylvania

30 (Address and Telephone No. of County)

1 We have been notified by the Department of Transportation
2 that you recently changed your address
3 from (old residence address)
4 to (new residence address) and that this
5 change of address is to serve as a change of address for
6 voter registration purposes. Unless you notify this
7 office within ten days from the date of this notice that
8 this information is not correct, your voter registration
9 will be transferred to County. You may notify
10 this office by writing your residence address, the date
11 and your signature on the bottom of this form and mailing
12 this notice to this office. You need not notify this
13 office if this information is correct.

14

15 Chief Clerk

16 If the address change is within the commission's
17 jurisdiction, the commission shall mail a voter's
18 identification card to the registrant at the new
19 residence address.

20 (iii) If the registrant does not return the notice
21 under subparagraph (ii) within the ten-day period, the
22 commission shall process the change of address according
23 to subparagraph (i). If the registrant notifies the
24 commission that the information is incorrect and the
25 commission is satisfied with the registrant's explanation
26 of the discrepancy, the address of the registrant's
27 registration shall remain unchanged. If the verification
28 notification or voter identification card is returned by
29 the post office as undeliverable as addressed or with a
30 forwarding address, the commission shall send a

1 confirmation notice to the registrant's address of former
2 residence in accordance with section 1901(d)(2).]

3 (ii) If the registrant has moved to another county
4 within this Commonwealth, the department shall notify the
5 commission of the county of the registrant's new
6 residence, which shall process the application in
7 accordance with section 1328(b)(5) (relating to approval
8 of registration applications).

9 (iii) If the registrant has moved to a different
10 address in the same county, the department shall notify
11 the commission of the county of the registrant, which
12 shall update the registration record of the registrant in
13 accordance with section 1328.

14 * * *

15 (c.1) Individuals entitled to voter registration
16 application.--

17 (1) The Department of Transportation shall transmit
18 voter registration information to the department under
19 paragraph (3) within five days of receipt of an application
20 if the applicant presented a document as part of the driver's
21 license application demonstrating that the applicant is a
22 United States citizen.

23 (2) The Department of Transportation may not provide an
24 application for voter registration as part of a driver's
25 license application under subsection (b) and may not transmit
26 voter registration information to the department under
27 subsection (c) or subsection (c.1) if the applicant:

28 (i) presents a document for purposes of the driver's
29 license application demonstrating that the applicant is
30 not a United States citizen at the time of the driver's

1 license application; or
2 (ii) makes an affirmation that the applicant is not
3 a United States citizen at the time of the driver's
4 license application, if the affirmation is required for
5 purposes of the driver's license application.

6 (3) The voter registration information transmitted under
7 paragraph (1) shall be determined and prescribed by the
8 secretary and the Secretary of Transportation. Upon receipt
9 of voter registration information for an applicant under
10 paragraph (1), a commission shall promptly process the
11 application or update the registration record of the
12 registrant in accordance with section 1328.

13 * * *

14 Section 17. Section 1325(a) introductory paragraph and (b)
15 (4) of Title 25 are amended to read:

16 § 1325. Government agencies.

17 (a) General rule.--The secretary shall administer a system
18 whereby all offices in this Commonwealth that provide public
19 assistance, each county clerk of orphans' court, including each
20 marriage license bureau, all offices in this Commonwealth that
21 provide State-funded programs primarily engaged in providing
22 services to persons with disabilities [and], each institution
23 that is part of the State System of Higher Education, all armed
24 forces recruitment centers and additional offices as designated
25 by the secretary, do all of the following:

26 * * *

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

1 * * *

2 (4) The statement "In order to be qualified to register
3 to vote, you must be at least 18 years of age on the day of
4 the next election, you must have been a citizen of the United
5 States for at least one month prior to the next election and
6 have resided in Pennsylvania and the election district where
7 you plan to vote for at least 30 days prior to the next
8 election[, and you must not have been confined in a penal
9 institution for a conviction of a felony within the last five
10 years]."

11 * * *

12 Section 18. Section 1328(b)(4), (5), (6) and (7), (c)(1)
13 introductory paragraph and (2) and (d) of Title 25 are amended
14 and subsections (b) and (c) are amended by adding paragraphs to
15 read:

16 § 1328. Approval of registration applications.

17 * * *

18 (b) Decision.--A commission shall do one of the following:

19 * * *

20 (4) [Process a voter registration application in
21 accordance with subsection (c) and update its registration
22 records] Promptly update the applicant's existing
23 registration record if the commission finds during its
24 examination under subsection (a) all of the following:

25 (i) The application requests [registration] any
26 change of information on the applicant's registration
27 record other than a change under paragraph (7) or (8).

28 (ii) The application contains the required
29 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified
30 elector of the county.

1 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered
2 elector of the county.

3 (4.1) Take no further action if the commission finds
4 during its examination under subsection (a) all of the
5 following:

6 (i) The application requests registration.

7 (ii) The application contains the required
8 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified
9 elector of the county.

10 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered
11 elector of the county.

12 (iv) The information on the application exactly
13 matches the information contained in the SURE system.

14 (5) [Process a voter registration application in
15 accordance with subsection (c) and request transfer of
16 registration records] Transfer the registration record in
17 accordance with subsection (d) if the commission finds during
18 its examination under subsection (a) all of the following:

19 (i) The application requests registration.

20 (ii) The application contains the required
21 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified
22 elector of the county.

23 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered
24 elector of another county.

25 (6) [Process a voter registration application in
26 accordance with subsection (c) and request transfer of
27 registration records in accordance with subsection (d) if the
28 commission finds during its examination under subsection (a)
29 all of the following:]

30 (i) The application requests a transfer of

1 registration.

2 (ii) The application contains the required
3 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified
4 elector of the county.

5 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered
6 elector of another county.] (Reserved).

7 (7) Process a voter registration application in
8 accordance with subsection (c) and update its registration if
9 the commission finds during its examination under subsection
10 (a) all of the following:

11 (i) The application requests a change of address, change of party or any other change affecting the voter's
12 identification card other than a change of name.

14 (ii) The application contains the required
15 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified
16 elector of the county.

17 (iii) The applicant is currently a registered
18 elector of the county.

19 * * *

20 (9) Process a voter registration application in
21 accordance with subsection (c) if the commission finds during
22 its examination under subsection (a) all of the following:

23 (i) the application contains voter registration
24 information transmitted under section 1323(c.1)(1); and

25 (ii) the application contains the required
26 information indicating that the applicant is a qualified
27 elector of the county.

28 (10) Process a voter registration application in
29 accordance with subsection (c) and update its registration if
30 the commission finds during its examination under subsection

1 (a) the following:

2 (i) the application contains voter registration
3 information transmitted under section 1323(c.1) (1);

4 (ii) the applicant is currently a registered elector
5 of the Commonwealth; and

6 (iii) the application contains name or address
7 information that differs from the information contained
8 in the SURE system for the applicant.

9 (c) Processing of voter registration.--

10 (1) When a commission has [accepted] processed a voter
11 registration application under subsection (b) (3) or (9), the
12 commission shall assign each applicant a unique
13 identification number in the SURE system. The commission
14 shall mail a wallet-sized voter's identification card to the
15 individual by first class nonforwardable mail, return postage
16 guaranteed, which shall serve as notice of the acceptance of
17 the application. The card shall contain all of the following:

18 * * *

19 (1.1) When a commission has processed a voter
20 application under subsection (b) (9), the commission shall, by
21 first class nonforwardable mail, return postage guaranteed,
22 mail to the applicant a wallet-sized voter's identification
23 card and a document that gives the applicant an opportunity
24 to:

25 (i) Decline voter registration.

26 (ii) Affiliate with a political party.

27 (2) When a commission has [accepted] processed a voter
28 registration application under subsection [(b) (4), (5), (6),
29 (7) or (8),] (b) (7), (8) or (10) or has transferred a
30 registration record under subsection (d), the commission

1 shall mail a wallet-sized voter's identification card to the
2 individual by first class nonforwardable mail, return postage
3 guaranteed, which shall serve as notice of the acceptance of
4 the application. The card shall contain all of the following:

5 (i) Name and address of the individual.

6 (ii) Name of municipality of residence.

7 (iii) Identification of the individual's ward and
8 district.

9 (iv) The effective date of registration.

10 (v) Designation of party enrollment and date of
11 enrollment.

12 (vi) A space for the individual's signature or mark.

13 (vii) The SURE registration number of the
14 individual.

15 (viii) A statement that the individual must notify
16 the commission within ten days from the date it was
17 mailed if any information on the card is incorrect;
18 otherwise, the information shall be deemed correct for
19 voter registration purposes.

20 * * *

21 (6) If an individual whose application was processed
22 under subsection (b) (9) declines voter registration under
23 subsection (c) (1.1) (i) within 21 days after the mailing of
24 the card or if the individual's voter registration
25 information transmitted under section 1323(c) (2) or (c.1) (1)
26 was incorrect due to an error by the Department of
27 Transportation, the commission shall cancel the individual's
28 voter registration information from the SURE system, notify
29 the individual by first class nonforwardable mail, return
30 postage guaranteed of the cancellation and deem the

1 individual to have never registered to vote or attempted to
2 register to vote. The department may direct commissions to
3 exclude certain applications containing voter registration
4 information transmitted under section 1323(c) (2) or (c.1) (1)
5 from the procedures in this section if an applicant is a
6 program participant under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6703 (relating to
7 Address Confidentiality Program).

8 (d) Transfer of registration records.--

9 (1) If, during application under section 1322 (relating
10 to in-person voter registration), 1323 (relating to
11 application with driver's license application), including a
12 change of address under section 1323(c) (4) (ii), 1324
13 (relating to application by mail) or 1325 (relating to
14 government agencies), an individual discloses that the
15 individual is a registered elector of another county or is
16 found to be registered in another county, the commission of
17 the individual's new county of residence shall transfer the
18 voter record from the commission of the individual's former
19 county of residence, process the application under subsection
20 (c) (2), and direct a [cancellation] notice of transfer to the
21 commission of the individual's former county of residence in
22 accordance with regulations promulgated under this part.

23 (2) [Upon receipt of a notice transmitted in accordance
24 with paragraph (1), the commission of the individual's former
25 county of residence shall investigate. If the commission
26 finds that the individual is a registered elector of the
27 county, the commission shall verify the address change with
28 the registered elector in accordance with this part. Upon
29 verifying that the registered elector has moved to another
30 county of residence, the commission shall cancel the

1 registered elector's registration, transfer a copy of the
2 canceled registration record to the commission of the
3 registered elector's new county of residence and retain a
4 record of the transfer. The commission of both counties shall
5 promptly update information contained in their registration
6 records.] (Reserved).

7 * * *

8 Section 19. Sections 1501, 1502 and 1503 of Title 25 are
9 repealed:

10 [§ 1501. Removal notices.

11 (a) Form.--

12 (1) A commission shall make removal notices available to
13 electors who are registered in the county.

14 (2) The notice shall be printed upon cards suitable for
15 mailing, addressed to the office of the commission. The
16 notice shall provide the following information:

17 (i) The address of present residence, including
18 municipality.

19 (ii) The address of last registration, including
20 municipality.

21 (iii) Date of removal to present residence.

22 (iv) Signature.

23 (3) The notice shall contain a statement that the
24 registered elector may, by filling out properly and signing a
25 removal notice and returning it to the office of the
26 commission, secure the transfer of registration effective as
27 to elections at least 30 days after the date of removal into
28 the new district.

29 (4) The notice shall contain a warning to the registered
30 elector that the notice will not be accepted as an

1 application for transfer of the elector's registration unless
2 the signature thereon can be identified by the commission as
3 the elector's signature as it appears on file with the
4 commission.

5 (5) The notice shall contain a warning to the registered
6 elector that the notice must be received by the commission
7 not later than 30 days before an election. If mailed, the
8 notice must be postmarked not later than the deadline for
9 registration or, in the case of an illegible or missing
10 postmark, received within five days of the close of
11 registration.

12 (b) Use.--A registered elector who removes residence from
13 one place to another within the same county must notify the
14 commission by filing a removal notice under subsection (a) or a
15 signed request for renewal that contains the information
16 required in subsection (a) with the commission not later than
17 the registration deadline before an election. If mailed, the
18 notice or request must be postmarked not later than the deadline
19 for registration or, in the case of an illegible or missing
20 postmark, received within five days of the close of
21 registration. The following apply:

22 (1) An official registration application of an elector
23 who has registered by mail qualifies as a removal notice.

24 (2) A registered elector who removes residence from one
25 place to another within the same county and who has not yet
26 filed a removal notice with the commission shall be permitted
27 to vote once at the elector's former polling place following
28 removal if, at the time of signing the voter's certificate,
29 the elector files with the judge of election a signed removal
30 notice properly filled out. Removal notices under this

1 paragraph shall be returned to the commission with the voting
2 check list, and the commission shall proceed to transfer the
3 registration of the elector under section 1502 (relating to
4 transfer of registration) and shall promptly update
5 information contained in its registration records. A
6 registered elector may vote in the election district of the
7 elector's former residence not more than one time following
8 the elector's removal.

9 (3) A registered elector who removes residence from one
10 county to another county and who is not registered to vote in
11 the new county of residence shall be permitted to vote in the
12 election district in the former county of residence if, at
13 the time of signing the elector's certificate, the elector
14 files with the judge of election a signed affirmation
15 declaring the elector's new residence. A registered elector
16 may vote in the election district of the elector's former
17 residence not more than one time following the elector's
18 removal. Affirmations made under this paragraph shall be
19 returned to the commission of the elector's former county of
20 residence with the voting checklist, and that commission
21 shall proceed to transfer the registration of the elector
22 under section 1502. Upon receipt of the transfer notice, the
23 commission of the elector's new county of residence shall
24 immediately process the transfer of the elector in accordance
25 with section 1328 (relating to approval of registration
26 applications). Both commissions shall promptly update
27 information contained in their registration records.

28 § 1502. Transfer of registration.

29 (a) General rule.--Upon timely receipt of notification of
30 removal under section 1501(b) (relating to removal notices), the

1 commission shall proceed as follows:

2 (1) The signature on the notification document shall be
3 compared with the signature of the registered elector as it
4 appears on file with the commission.

5 (2) If the signature appears authentic, the commission
6 shall enter the change of residence on the registered
7 elector's registration records.

8 (3) If a request for transfer which is determined to be
9 authentic under paragraph (2) shows a removal within the
10 period of 30 days preceding an election, the commission,
11 after such election, shall enter the change of residence on
12 the registered elector's registration record. The commission
13 shall advise the registered elector promptly in writing of
14 its action.

15 (4) When a registered elector has filed with a
16 commission a notice that the elector has moved from the
17 county to another county, if the signature appears authentic
18 the commission shall enter the change of residence on the
19 elector's registration records, cancel the registration of
20 the elector and notify the commission of the elector's new
21 county of residence to register the elector. Upon receipt of
22 the transfer notice, the commission of the elector's new
23 county of residence shall immediately process the transfer of
24 the elector in accordance with section 1328 (relating to
25 approval of registration applications).

26 (5) If a request for transfer which is determined to be
27 authentic under paragraph (4) shows a removal within the
28 period of 30 days preceding an election, the commission,
29 after such election, shall enter the change of residence on
30 the elector's registration records, cancel the registration

1 of the elector and notify the commission of the elector's new
2 county of residence to register the elector. Upon receipt of
3 the transfer notice, the commission of the elector's new
4 county of residence shall immediately process the transfer of
5 the elector in accordance with section 1328.

6 (6) A commission shall promptly update information
7 contained in its registration records.

8 (b) Electors unable to write.--A registered elector who is
9 unable to sign the notification document may affix a mark to the
10 notification document. The mark must be affixed in the presence
11 of a witness who must sign the notification document.

12 § 1503. Change of enrollment of political party.

13 By the deadline for registration, a registered elector who
14 desires to change the enrollment of political designation or
15 who, although registered, has not previously enrolled as a
16 member of a party may appear before a commissioner, registrar or
17 clerk or may submit an application by mail under section 1324
18 (relating to application by mail) and state in a signed writing
19 the political party in which the registered elector desires to
20 be enrolled. If the signature of the elector is verified by
21 comparison with the registered elector's signature as it appears
22 on file with the commission, the commissioner, registrar or
23 clerk shall make the change in its registration records. If
24 supported by other evidence of identity, a mark may be made in
25 lieu of a signature by a registered elector who is unable to
26 write. The mark must be made in the presence of a witness who
27 must sign the registration application.]

28 Section 20. Section 1505(a) and (b) of Title 25 are amended
29 to read:

30 § 1505. Death of registrant.

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

10 (b) Other sources.--A commission may also utilize
11 information obtained from the department through the
12 department's membership with the Electronic Registration
13 Information Center or its successor, published newspaper
14 obituaries, letters testamentary or letters of administration
15 issued by the office of the registrar of wills to cancel and
16 remove the registration of an elector, provided that such
17 removals are uniform, nondiscriminatory and in compliance with
18 the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110, 42 U.S.C. §
19 1973 et seq.). The commission shall promptly update information
20 contained in its registration records.

21 * * *

22 Section 21. This act shall take effect as follows:

23 (1) The following provisions shall take effect
24 immediately:

25 (i) The following amendments or additions to the act
26 of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the
27 Pennsylvania Election Code:

28 Article XI-C.

29 Article XI-D.

30 (ii) The following amendments or additions to 25

1 Pa.C.S.:

2 Section 1222(c)(22).

3 (iii) This section.

4 (2) The following provisions shall take effect January

5 1, 2026, or immediately, whichever is later:

6 (i) The following amendments or additions to the

7 Pennsylvania Election Code:

8 Section 102(z.7).

9 Section 412.2(a).

10 Article V heading.

11 Subarticle (b.1) of Article V.

12 Section 1210(a.4)(2), (5)(i), (ii) and (7) and

13 (d).

14 Section 1302.1(a).

15 Section 1302.2(c).

16 Section 1304.

17 Section 1306.

18 Section 1308(a), (b) and (g)(1)(ii), (1.1), (2),

19 (4)(ii) and (iii) and (8).

20 Section 1302-D(g).

21 Section 1302.1-D(a).

22 Section 1302.2-D(a)(3).

23 Section 1304-D(a), (a.1) and (a.2).

24 Section 1306-D(a) and (d).

25 Section 1602-A(j)(1).

26 (ii) The following amendments or additions to 25

27 Pa.C.S.:

28 Section 1222(c)(23) and (24).

29 Section 1301(a) and (a.1).

30 Section 1325(a) introductory paragraph and (b)

1 (4).

2 Section 1505(a) and (b).

3 (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect January
4 1, 2027.