
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1111 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY MASSER, RIGBY, CIRESI, MOUL AND FREEMAN,
APRIL 27, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 27, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in prohibitions, penalties and
3 enforcement, further providing for political activity.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 2705(b), (c) and (e) of Title 71 of the
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended and the section
8 is amended by adding a subsection to read:

9 § 2705. Political activity.

10 * * *

11 [(b) Political activities prohibited.--An individual in the
12 classified service may not take an active part in political
13 management or in a political campaign. Activities prohibited by
14 this subsection include the following:

15 (1) Serving as an officer of a political party, a member
16 of a national, State or local committee of a political party
17 or an officer or member of a committee of a partisan
18 political club, or being a candidate for any of these

1 positions.

2 (2) Organizing or reorganizing a political party
3 organization or political club.

4 (3) Directly or indirectly soliciting, receiving,
5 collecting, handling, disbursing or accounting for
6 assessments, contributions or other money for a partisan
7 political purpose.

8 (4) Organizing, selling tickets to, promoting or
9 actively participating in a fundraising activity of a
10 candidate in a partisan election or a political party or
11 political club.

12 (5) Taking an active part in managing the political
13 campaign of a candidate for public office in a partisan
14 election or a candidate for political party office.

15 (6) Becoming a candidate or campaigning for an elective
16 public office in a partisan election.

17 (7) Soliciting votes in support of or in opposition to a
18 candidate for public office in a partisan election or a
19 candidate for political party office.

20 (8) Acting as recorder, watcher, challenger or similar
21 officer at the polls on behalf of a political party or a
22 candidate in a partisan election.

23 (9) Driving voters to the polls on behalf of a political
24 party or a candidate in a partisan election.

25 (10) Endorsing or opposing a candidate for public office
26 in a partisan election or a candidate for political party
27 office in a political advertisement, broadcast, campaign,
28 literature or similar material.

29 (11) Serving as a delegate, alternate or proxy to a
30 political party convention.

1 (12) Addressing a convention, caucus, rally or similar
2 gathering of a political party in support of or in opposition
3 to a partisan candidate for public office or political party
4 office.

5 (13) Initiating or circulating a partisan nominating
6 petition.

7 (14) Soliciting, paying, collecting or receiving a
8 contribution at or in the workplace from an employee for a
9 political party, political fund or other partisan recipient.

10 (15) Paying a contribution in the workplace to an
11 employee who is the employer or employing authority of the
12 individual making the contribution for a political party,
13 political fund or other partisan recipient.]

14 (c) Rights.--An employee or individual to whom subsection
15 (a) [or (b)] applies shall retain the right to and may engage in
16 the following activities:

17 (1) Register and vote in an election.

18 (2) Express an opinion as an individual privately and
19 publicly on political subjects and candidates.

20 (3) Display a political picture, sticker, badge or
21 button when not on duty and at locations other than the
22 workplace.

23 (4) Participate in the nonpartisan activities of a
24 civic, community, social, labor or professional organization,
25 or a similar organization.

26 (5) Be a member of a political party or other political
27 organization or club and participate in the organization's or
28 club's activities to the extent consistent with this section.

29 (6) Attend a political convention, rally, fundraising
30 function or other political gathering.

1 (7) Sign a political petition as an individual.

2 (8) Make a financial contribution to a political party
3 or organization.

4 (9) Be politically active in connection with a question
5 that is not specifically identified with a political party,
6 such as a constitutional amendment, referendum, approval of a
7 municipal ordinance or other question or issue of similar
8 character.

9 (10) Otherwise participate fully in public affairs,
10 except as prohibited by law, in a manner that does not
11 materially compromise efficiency or integrity as an employee
12 or the neutrality, efficiency or integrity of a Commonwealth
13 agency.

14 (c.1) Political management and campaigns.--In addition to
15 the activities permitted under subsection (c), an individual in
16 the classified service may take an active part in political
17 management or in a political campaign. Activities permitted
18 include, but are not limited to, the following:

19 (1) Serving as an officer of a political party, a member
20 of a national, State or local committee of a political party
21 or an officer or member of a committee of a partisan
22 political club, or being a candidate for any of these
23 positions.

24 (2) Organizing or reorganizing a political party
25 organization or political club.

26 (3) Directly or indirectly soliciting, receiving,
27 collecting, handling, disbursing or accounting for
28 assessments, contributions or other funds for a partisan
29 political purpose.

30 (4) Organizing, selling tickets to, promoting or

1 actively participating in a fundraising activity of a
2 candidate in a partisan election or of a political party or
3 political club.

4 (5) Taking an active part in managing the political
5 campaign of a candidate for public office in a partisan
6 election or a candidate for political party office.

7 (6) Becoming a candidate for, or campaigning for, an
8 elective public office in a partisan election.

9 (7) Soliciting votes in support of or in opposition to a
10 candidate for public office in a partisan election or a
11 candidate for political party office.

12 (8) Acting as recorder, watcher, challenger or similar
13 officer at the polls on behalf of a political party or a
14 candidate in a partisan election.

15 (9) Driving voters to the polls on behalf of a political
16 party or a candidate in a partisan election.

17 (10) Endorsing or opposing a candidate for public office
18 in a partisan election or a candidate for political party
19 office in a political advertisement, broadcast, campaign,
20 literature or similar material.

21 (11) Serving as a delegate, alternate or proxy to a
22 political party convention.

23 (12) Addressing a convention, caucus, rally or similar
24 gathering of a political party in support of or in opposition
25 to a partisan candidate for public office or political party
26 office.

27 (13) Initiating or circulating a partisan nominating
28 petition.

29 * * *

30 (e) Further prohibition or limitation.--The provisions of

1 subsection (c) or (c.1) do not authorize an employee to engage
2 in political activity while on duty or while in a uniform which
3 identifies the individual as an employee. The head of an agency
4 may prohibit or limit the participation of an employee or class
5 of employees of the agency in an activity permitted under
6 subsection (c) or (c.1) if participation in the activity will
7 interfere with the efficient performance of official duties or
8 create a conflict or apparent conflict of interests. An employee
9 may not do any of the following:

10 (1) Solicit, pay, collect or receive a contribution at
11 or in the workplace from any employee for any political
12 party, political fund or other partisan recipient.

13 (2) Pay a contribution at or in the workplace to any
14 employee who is the employer or employing authority of the
15 person making the contribution for any political party,
16 political fund or other partisan recipient.

17 * * *

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.