

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1493 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, GOODMAN, DERMODY, ULLMAN, DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, STURLA, IRVIN, A. DAVIS, BERNSTINE, McNEILL, KORTZ, RABB, MURT, CALTAGIRONE, KINSEY, SHUSTERMAN, READSHAW, MULLINS, YOUNGBLOOD, HILL-EVANS, DAVIDSON, McCLINTON, SOLOMON, KULIK, MATZIE, ISAACSON, DEASY, FRANKEL, DRISCOLL, CIRESI, NEILSON, WARREN, WEBSTER, SCHWEYER, DALEY, WARNER, HANBIDGE, KENYATTA, OTTEN, DAWKINS AND MADDEN, MAY 22, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 22, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
 2 Statutes, in voting procedures, further providing for  
 3 application for absentee ballots.

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

6 Section 1. Section 3302(a) of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania  
 7 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by  
 8 adding subsections to read:

9 § 3302. Application for absentee ballots.

10 (a) General rule.--Notwithstanding the provisions of Part IV  
 11 (relating to voter registration) or the act of June 3, 1937  
 12 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, the  
 13 following persons may make application for an absentee ballot by  
 14 sending a letter or other signed document to or by appearing in  
 15 person in accordance with subsection (e) at the county board of  
 16 elections in the county in which the person's voting address is

1 located:

2 (1) A registered elector who is unable to attend the  
3 polling place on the day of any primary or election because  
4 of illness or physical disability.

5 (2) A registered elector who expects to be absent from  
6 this Commonwealth or the municipality of residence because  
7 duties, occupation or business require the elector to be  
8 elsewhere the day of any primary or election.

9 (3) A county employee who cannot vote due to duties  
10 relating to the conduct of elections.

11 (4) A person who will not attend a polling place because  
12 of an observance of a religious holiday.

13 \* \* \*

14 (e) In-person appearance.--A qualified elector who appears  
15 during normal business hours at a county board of elections in  
16 the county in which the person's voting address is located shall  
17 be permitted to, at that time, apply for an absentee ballot,  
18 complete the application, submit the application, receive and  
19 complete the ballot and cast the ballot, subject to review and  
20 approval of the application in accordance with law.

21 (f) Reason for requesting absentee ballot.--A person's  
22 reason for applying for an application for an absentee ballot  
23 provided by subsection (a) may not be challenged.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.