

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1564 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY LAWRENCE, BARRAR, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, FEE, GROVE, PHILLIPS-HILL, KAUFFMAN, KIRKLAND, KNOWLES, MURT, PEIFER, READSHAW, SAYLOR, TALLMAN AND TRUITT, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

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," further providing for qualifications for elected  
 12 State office.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. Section 102 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,  
 16 No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended by  
 17 adding subsections to read:

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

21 \*\*\*

22 (z.6) The words "controlled substance" shall mean a drug,

1 substance or immediate precursor included in Schedules I through  
2 V of section 4 of the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64),  
3 known as "The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic  
4 Act."

5 (z.7) The words "testing laboratory" shall mean a laboratory  
6 that is certified by the United States Department of Health and  
7 Human Services to conduct drug and specimen validity tests on  
8 urine specimens for Federal agencies.

9 Section 2. Sections 630.1, 910 and 951(e) of the act,  
10 amended May 12, 2006 (P.L.178, No.45), are amended to read:

11 Section 630.1. Affidavits of Candidates.--Each candidate for  
12 any State, county, city, borough, incorporated town, township,  
13 school district or poor district office, or for the office of  
14 United States Senator or Representative in Congress, selected as  
15 provided in section 630 of this act, shall file with the  
16 nomination certificate an affidavit stating--(a) his residence,  
17 with street and number, if any, and his post-office address; (b)  
18 his election district, giving city, borough, town or township;  
19 (c) the name of the office for which he consents to be a  
20 candidate; (d) that he is eligible for such office; (e) that he  
21 will not knowingly violate any provision of this act, or of any  
22 law regulating and limiting election expenses and prohibiting  
23 corrupt practices in connection therewith; (f) unless he is a  
24 candidate for judge of a court of common pleas, the Philadelphia  
25 Municipal Court or the Traffic Court of Philadelphia, or for the  
26 office of school board in a district where that office is  
27 elective or for the office of justice of the peace, that he is  
28 not a candidate for the same office of any party or political  
29 body other than the one designated in such certificate; (g) that  
30 he is aware of the provisions of section 1626 of this act

1 requiring election and post-election reporting of campaign  
2 contributions and expenditures; [and] (h) that he is not a  
3 candidate for an office which he already holds, the term of  
4 which is not set to expire in the same year as the office  
5 subject to the affidavit[.]; and (i) in the case of a candidate  
6 for State office, that the candidate has undergone controlled  
7 substance testing conducted by a testing laboratory no more than  
8 thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for filing the affidavit  
9 and that the controlled substance testing report indicates that  
10 the candidate has not used a controlled substance without a  
11 prescription from a physician. Each candidate for State office  
12 who submits an affidavit under this section shall append to the  
13 affidavit the controlled substance testing report.

14 Section 910. Affidavits of Candidates.--Each candidate for  
15 any State, county, city, borough, incorporated town, township,  
16 ward, school district, poor district, election district, party  
17 office, party delegate or alternate, or for the office of United  
18 States Senator or Representative in Congress, shall file with  
19 his nomination petition his affidavit stating--(a) his  
20 residence, with street and number, if any, and his post-office  
21 address; (b) his election district, giving city, borough, town  
22 or township; (c) the name of the office for which he consents to  
23 be a candidate; (d) that he is eligible for such office; (e)  
24 that he will not knowingly violate any provision of this act, or  
25 of any law regulating and limiting nomination and election  
26 expenses and prohibiting corrupt practices in connection  
27 therewith; (f) unless he is a candidate for judge of a court of  
28 common pleas, the Philadelphia Municipal Court or the Traffic  
29 Court of Philadelphia, or for the office of school director in a  
30 district where that office is elective or for the office of

1 justice of the peace that he is not a candidate for nomination  
2 for the same office of any party other than the one designated  
3 in such petition; (g) if he is a candidate for a delegate, or  
4 alternate delegate, member of State committee, National  
5 committee or party officer, that he is a registered and enrolled  
6 member of the designated party; (h) if he is a candidate for  
7 delegate or alternate delegate the presidential candidate to  
8 whom he is committed or the term "uncommitted"; (i) that he is  
9 aware of the provisions of section 1626 of this act requiring  
10 pre-election and post-election reporting of campaign  
11 contributions and expenditures; [and] (j) that he is not a  
12 candidate for an office which he already holds, the term of  
13 which is not set to expire in the same year as the office  
14 subject to the affidavit[.]; and (k) in the case of a candidate  
15 for State office, that the candidate has undergone controlled  
16 substance testing conducted by a testing laboratory no more than  
17 thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for filing the affidavit  
18 and that the controlled substance testing report indicates that  
19 the candidate has not used a controlled substance without a  
20 prescription from a physician. Each candidate for State office  
21 who submits an affidavit under this section shall append to the  
22 affidavit the controlled substance testing report. In cases of  
23 petitions for delegate and alternate delegate to National  
24 conventions, the candidate's affidavit shall state that his  
25 signature to the delegate's statement, as hereinafter set forth,  
26 if such statement is signed by said candidate, was affixed to  
27 the sheet or sheets of said petition prior to the circulation of  
28 same. In the case of a candidate for nomination as President of  
29 the United States, it shall not be necessary for such candidate  
30 to file the affidavit required in this section to be filed by

1 candidates, but the post-office address of such candidate shall  
2 be stated in such nomination petition.

3 Section 951. Nominations by Political Bodies.--\* \* \*

4 (e) There shall be appended to each nomination paper offered  
5 for filing an affidavit of each candidate nominated therein,  
6 stating--(1) the election district in which he resides; (2) the  
7 name of the office for which he consents to be a candidate; (3)  
8 that he is eligible for such office; (4) that he will not  
9 knowingly violate any provision of this act, or of any law  
10 regulating and limiting election expenses, and prohibiting  
11 corrupt practices in connection therewith; (5) that his name has  
12 not been presented as a candidate by nomination petitions for  
13 any public office to be voted for at the ensuing primary  
14 election, nor has he been nominated by any other nomination  
15 papers filed for any such office; (6) that in the case where he  
16 is a candidate for election at a general or municipal election,  
17 he was not a registered and enrolled member of a party thirty  
18 (30) days before the primary held prior to the general or  
19 municipal election in that same year; (7) that, in the case  
20 where he is a candidate for election at a special election, he  
21 is not a registered and enrolled member of a party; [and] (8)  
22 that he is not a candidate for an office which he already holds,  
23 the term of which is not set to expire in the same year as the  
24 office subject to the affidavit[.]; and (9) in the case of a  
25 candidate for State office, that the candidate has undergone  
26 controlled substance testing conducted by a testing laboratory  
27 no more than thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for filing  
28 the affidavit and that the controlled substance testing report  
29 indicates that the candidate has not used a controlled substance  
30 without a prescription from a physician. Each candidate for

1 State office who submits an affidavit under this section shall  
2 append to the affidavit the controlled substance testing report.

3 Section 3. Section 976 first paragraph of the act, amended  
4 February 19, 1986 (P.L.29, No.11), is amended to read:

5 Section 976. Examination of Nomination Petitions,  
6 Certificates and Papers; Return of Rejected Nomination  
7 Petitions, Certificates and Papers.--When any nomination  
8 petition, nomination certificate or nomination paper is  
9 presented in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth or  
10 of any county board of elections for filing within the period  
11 limited by this act, it shall be the duty of the said officer or  
12 board to examine the same. No nomination petition, nomination  
13 paper or nomination certificate shall be permitted to be filed  
14 if--(a) it contains material errors or defects apparent on the  
15 face thereof, or on the face of the appended or accompanying  
16 affidavits; or (b) it contains material alterations made after  
17 signing without the consent of the signers; or (c) it does not  
18 contain a sufficient number of signatures as required by law;  
19 Provided, however, That the Secretary of the Commonwealth or the  
20 county board of elections, although not hereby required so to  
21 do, may question the genuineness of any signature or signatures  
22 appearing thereon, and if he or it shall thereupon find that any  
23 such signature or signatures are not genuine, such signature or  
24 signatures shall be disregarded in determining whether the  
25 nomination petition, nomination paper or nomination certificate  
26 contains a sufficient number of signatures as required by law;  
27 or (d) in the case of nomination petitions, if nomination  
28 petitions have been filed for printing the name of the same  
29 person for the same office, except the office of judge of a  
30 court of common pleas, the Philadelphia Municipal Court or the

1 Traffic Court of Philadelphia, or the office of school director  
2 in districts where that office is elective or the office of  
3 justice of the peace upon the official ballot of more than one  
4 political party; or (e) in the case of nomination papers, if the  
5 candidate named therein has filed a nomination petition for any  
6 public office for the ensuing primary, or has been nominated for  
7 any such office by nomination papers previously filed; or (f) if  
8 the nomination petitions or papers are not accompanied by the  
9 filing fee or certified check required for said office; or (g)  
10 in the case of nomination papers, the appellation set forth  
11 therein is identical with or deceptively similar to the words  
12 used by any existing party or by any political body which has  
13 already filed nomination papers for the same office, or if the  
14 appellation set forth therein contains part of the name, or an  
15 abbreviation of the name or part of the name of an existing  
16 political party, or of a political body which has already filed  
17 nomination papers for the same office[.]; or (h) in the case of  
18 a candidate for State office, if the nomination petitions,  
19 papers or certificates are not accompanied by a controlled  
20 substance testing report, as required under sections 630.1, 910,  
21 951 and 981.1. The invalidity of any sheet of a nomination  
22 petition or nomination paper shall not affect the validity of  
23 such petition or paper if a sufficient petition or paper remains  
24 after eliminating such invalid sheet. The action of said officer  
25 or board in refusing to receive and file any such nomination  
26 petition, certificate or paper, may be reviewed by the court  
27 upon an application to compel its reception as of the date when  
28 it was presented to the office of such officer or board:  
29 Provided, however, That said officer or board shall be entitled  
30 to a reasonable time in which to examine any petitions,

1 certificates or papers, and to summon and interrogate the  
2 candidates named therein, or the persons presenting said  
3 petitions, certificates or papers, and his or their retention of  
4 same for the purpose of making such examination or interrogation  
5 shall not be construed as an acceptance or filing.

6 \* \* \*

7 Section 4. Section 981.1 of the act, amended May 12, 2006  
8 (P.L.178, No.45), is amended to read:

9 Section 981.1. Affidavits of Candidates.--Each candidate for  
10 any State, county, city, borough, incorporated town, township,  
11 ward, school district, poor district or election district  
12 office, or for the office of United States Senator or  
13 Representative in Congress, selected as provided in sections 979  
14 and 980 of this act, shall file with the substituted nomination  
15 certificate an affidavit stating--(a) his residence, with street  
16 and number, if any, and his post-office address; (b) his  
17 election district, giving city, borough, town or township; (c)  
18 the name of the office for which he consents to be a candidate;  
19 (d) that he is eligible for such office; (e) that he will not  
20 knowingly violate any provision of this act, or of any law  
21 regulating and limiting election expenses and prohibiting  
22 corrupt practices in connection therewith; (f) unless he is a  
23 candidate for judge of a court of common pleas, the Philadelphia  
24 Municipal Court or the Traffic Court of Philadelphia, or for the  
25 office of school board in a district where that office is  
26 elective or for the office of justice of the peace, that he is  
27 not a candidate for the same office of any party or political  
28 body other than the one designated in such certificate; (g) that  
29 he is aware of the provisions of section 1626 of this act  
30 requiring election and post-election reporting of campaign



1 contributions and expenditures; [and] (h) that he is not a  
2 candidate for an office which he already holds, the term of  
3 which is not set to expire in the same year as the office  
4 subject to the affidavit[.]; and (i) in the case of a candidate  
5 for State office, that the candidate has undergone controlled  
6 substance testing conducted by a testing laboratory no more than  
7 thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for filing the affidavit  
8 and that the controlled substance testing report indicates that  
9 the candidate has not used a controlled substance without a  
10 prescription from a physician. Each candidate for State office  
11 who submits an affidavit under this section shall append to the  
12 affidavit the controlled substance testing report.

13 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.