

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2483 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, SAPPEY, SCHLOSSBERG, LEE, SANCHEZ, ULLMAN, HILL-EVANS, RAVENSTAHL, WEBSTER, DONATUCCI, HARKINS, DALEY, MERSKI, SCHWEYER, DELLOSO, WARREN, NEILSON, A. DAVIS, FRANKEL AND GAINEY, MAY 4, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 4, 2020

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 voting by qualified absentee electors, further
 12 providing for canvassing of official absentee ballots and
 13 mail-in ballots.

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

16 Section 1. Section 1308(g)(2) of the act of June 3, 1937
 17 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code,
 18 amended October 31, 2019 (P.L.552, No.77), is amended to read:

19 Section 1308. Canvassing of Official Absentee Ballots and
 20 Mail-in Ballots.--* * *

21 (g) * * *

22 (2) [The county board of elections shall meet no earlier

1 than the close of polls on the day of the election and no later
2 than the third day following the election to begin canvassing
3 the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots received under this
4 subsection and subsection (h) (2).] Notwithstanding any other
5 provision of law, the county board of elections may meet within
6 fourteen days prior to the close of polls on the day of the
7 election and shall meet no later than the third day following
8 the election to begin canvassing absentee ballots and mail-in
9 ballots received under this section and subsection (h) (2). The
10 canvass shall continue through the eighth day following the
11 election. The contents of absentee ballots and mail-in ballots
12 shall remain confidential until the close of polls on the day of
13 the election and, thereafter, shall be disclosed only as
14 provided by law. One authorized representative of each candidate
15 in an election and one representative from each political party
16 shall be permitted to remain in the room in which the absentee
17 ballots and mail-in ballots are canvassed. Representatives shall
18 be permitted to challenge any absentee elector or mail-in
19 elector in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (3).

20 * * *

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.