

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 258 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY DEASY, HOHENSTEIN, MADDEN, VENKAT, HILL-EVANS,
ZABEL, DELLOSO, SANCHEZ, BURGOS, RABB, GALLOWAY, D. WILLIAMS,
FIEDLER, FREEMAN, OTTEN AND PISCIOTTANO, MARCH 10, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 10, 2023

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 preparation for conduct of primaries and
12 elections, providing for applicability; and providing for
13 conduct of early voting in primaries and elections.

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

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

19 Section 1200. Applicability.--Except as provided in section
20 1207-A, this article shall apply to early voting in primaries
21 and elections.

22 Section 2. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

23 ARTICLE XII-A

1 CONDUCT OF EARLY VOTING

2 IN PRIMARIES AND ELECTIONS

3 Section 1201-A. Early voting period.

4 The county board shall provide for early voting to begin 15
5 days prior to the dates of elections and primaries established
6 in accordance with Article VI and to end 14 days after the
7 starting date.

8 Section 1202-A. Early voting sites.

9 The county board shall designate early voting sites where
10 electors may cast their ballots during the early voting period
11 established in accordance with section 1201-A. The sites shall
12 include the main office of the county board and the other sites
13 designated by the county board. The county board shall make
14 available at the sites the same equipment used on election day
15 as provided for in Article XI.

16 Section 1203-A. Days and times for opening and closing polls at
17 early voting sites.

18 The county board shall designate the days and hours that
19 early voting sites will be open. The sites throughout the county
20 shall:

21 (1) Have uniform days and hours.

22 (2) Be open eight hours each weekday.

23 (3) Be open a minimum of an aggregate eight hours each
24 weekend.

25 (4) Not open prior to 7 a.m. Eastern Standard Time or
26 close prior to 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

27 Section 1204-A. Voter's certificates and elector
28 identification.

29 As provided under section 1203, the county board shall
30 prepare a suitable number of voter's certificates at an early

1 voting site. An elector who appears to vote at an early voting
2 site shall complete a voter certificate and shall present to an
3 election officer identification as provided under section 1210.
4 Section 1205-A. Voting check list.

5 The county board shall maintain a voting check list as
6 provided for in section 1212 in a way to ensure that electors
7 are prohibited from casting additional ballots at either an
8 early voting site or on election day in their precinct.

9 Section 1206-A. Disposition of returns.

10 The county board shall track votes by precinct but may not
11 tabulate votes prior to the close of the polls on election day.

12 Section 1207-A. Applicability.

13 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article XII, the provisions
14 of this article shall apply to early voting in primaries and
15 elections.

16 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.