

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1618 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY DAVIDSON, JUNE 14, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 14, 2021

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)(1.1) of the act of June 3, 1937
 17 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code,
 18 amended March 27, 2020 (P.L.41, No.12), is amended to read:

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

21 (g) * * *

22 (1.1) The county board of elections shall meet [no earlier
 23 than seven o'clock A.M. on] at least once before election day to
 24 pre-canvass all ballots received prior to the meeting. The

1 county board of elections may complete the tasks specified under
2 paragraph (4) (i), (ii) and (iii) at any point during the period
3 beginning seven (7) days before election day, including the day
4 before election day, if the county board of elections completes
5 a pre-canvass of all absentee ballots and mail-in ballots
6 received prior to the Friday before election day. A county board
7 of elections shall provide at least forty-eight hours' notice of
8 a pre-canvass meeting by publicly posting a notice of a pre-
9 canvass meeting on its publicly accessible Internet website. One
10 authorized representative of each candidate in an election and
11 one representative from each political party shall be permitted
12 to remain in the room in which the absentee ballots and mail-in
13 ballots are pre-canvassed. No person observing, attending or
14 participating in a pre-canvass meeting may disclose the results
15 of any portion of any pre-canvass meeting prior to the close of
16 the polls.

17 * * *

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