

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1422 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY PUGH, PICKETT, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, WARNER, BERNSTINE,
GROVE, ROWE, FLICK, RYNCAVAGE, RADER AND WATRO, MAY 7, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 7, 2025

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 mail-in electors, further
12 providing for voting by mail-in electors.

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

15 Section 1. Section 1306-D(a) of the act of June 3, 1937
16 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is
17 amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to
18 read:

19 Section 1306-D. Voting by mail-in electors.

20 (a) General rule.--At any time after receiving an official
21 mail-in ballot, but on or before eight o'clock P.M. the day of
22 the primary or election, the mail-in elector shall, in secret,
23 proceed to mark the ballot only in black lead pencil, indelible

pencil or blue, black or blue-black ink, in fountain pen or ball point pen, and then fold the ballot, enclose and securely seal the same in the envelope on which is printed, stamped or endorsed "Official Election Ballot." This envelope shall then be placed in the second one, on which is printed the form of declaration of the elector, and the address of the elector's county board of election and the local election district of the elector. The elector shall then fill out, date and sign the declaration printed on such envelope. [Such envelope shall then be securely sealed and the elector shall send same by mail, postage prepaid, except where franked, or deliver it in person to said county board of election.]

* * *

(a.2) Return of completed mail-in ballots.--The elector shall, prior to eight o'clock P.M. on election day, return the elector's completed mail-in ballot by one of the following methods only:

(1) Delivery through the United States Postal Service to the offices of the elector's county board of elections.

(2) Delivery in person to the permanent offices of the elector's county board of elections during its regular hours of operation.

(3) Delivery to a ballot return location established under the following conditions:

(i) A ballot return location may only be operated on the premises of the permanent offices of the board of elections or at the county courthouse.

(ii) A ballot return location must be monitored by at least one inspector of elections from each of the two parties with the highest number of registered electors in

1 this Commonwealth. If the two inspectors of elections are
2 unavailable to appear at a ballot return location on any
3 particular day, a county may not operate the ballot
4 return location. Each inspector of elections shall
5 receive the same compensation provided for an election
6 under this act for each day on which the inspector
7 monitors a ballot return location.

8 (iii) The inspectors of election monitoring a ballot
9 return location shall verify the identification of each
10 individual returning a ballot consistent with the
11 provisions of this act. The inspectors of election shall
12 also ensure review of each ballot prior to the ballot's
13 return to ensure completeness of the declaration of the
14 elector, signature and date. If, upon inspection and
15 review of a ballot being returned, either inspector of
16 election believes the ballot or its method of return to
17 be in violation of any provision of this act, the ballot
18 shall be secured separately from all other ballots at the
19 ballot return location, and the inspectors of election
20 shall record the date, time, identity of the elector and
21 a record of each ballot being returned in potential
22 violation of this act. The county board of elections
23 shall determine whether the ballots are in violation of
24 any provision of this act and, only if the county board
25 of elections is satisfied that a ballot is not in
26 violation, shall direct the ballot to be pre-canvassed or
27 canvassed.

28 (iv) A ballot return location must be monitored by
29 video recording during hours of operation. The recording
30 shall be made available for public inspection and

1 retained for a period of two years.

2 (v) A ballot return location must be considered a
3 polling place for all requirements of this act, including
4 accessibility, access of observers and restriction of
5 political activity.

6 * * *

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