
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 473 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY WEBSTER, HILL-EVANS, GIRAL, PIELLI, SANCHEZ,
GUENST, SCHLOSSBERG, STEELE AND CEPEDA-FREYTIZ,
FEBRUARY 4, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 4, 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 absentee electors, further
12 providing for applications for official absentee ballots;
13 and, in voting by qualified mail-in electors, further
14 providing for applications for official mail-in ballots.

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

17 Section 1. Section 1302(i) of the act of June 3, 1937
18 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is
19 amended by adding a paragraph to read:

20 Section 1302. Applications for Official Absentee Ballots.--*

21 * *

22 (i) * * *

23 (1.1) No private organization or individual, other than the

1 Secretary of the Commonwealth, may send an application for an
2 absentee ballot to a qualified registered elector by mail or
3 electronic means.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. Section 1302-D(f) and (g) of the act are amended
6 to read:

7 Section 1302-D. Applications for official mail-in ballots.

8 * * *

9 (f) Form.--

10 (1) Application for an official mail-in ballot shall be
11 on physical and electronic forms prescribed by the Secretary
12 of the Commonwealth. The application shall state that a voter
13 who applies for a mail-in ballot under section 1301-D shall
14 not be eligible to vote at a polling place on election day
15 unless the elector brings the elector's mail-in ballot to the
16 elector's polling place, remits the ballot and the envelope
17 containing the declaration of the elector to the judge of
18 elections to be spoiled and signs a statement subject to the
19 penalties under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn
20 falsification to authorities) to the same effect.

21 (2) The physical application forms shall be made freely
22 available to the public at county board of elections,
23 municipal buildings and at other locations designated by the
24 Secretary of the Commonwealth. The electronic application
25 forms shall be made freely available to the public through
26 publicly accessible means. No written application or personal
27 request shall be necessary to receive or access the
28 application forms.

29 (3) No private organization or individual, other than
30 the Secretary of the Commonwealth, may send an application

1 for an official mail-in ballot to an elector by mail or
2 electronic means.

3 (4) Copies and records of all completed physical and
4 electronic applications for official mail-in ballots shall be
5 retained by the county board of elections.

6 (g) Permanent mail-in voting list.--

7 (1) [Any] All qualified registered [elector may request
8 to] electors shall be placed on a permanent mail-in ballot
9 list file at any time during the calendar year. A mail-in
10 ballot application shall be mailed by the Secretary of the
11 Commonwealth to every person otherwise eligible to receive a
12 mail-in ballot application by the first Monday in February
13 each year or within 48 hours of receipt [of the request] and
14 approval of an application for voter registration, whichever
15 is later, so long as the person does not lose the person's
16 voting rights by failure to vote as otherwise required by
17 this act. A mail-in ballot application mailed to an elector
18 under this section, which is completed and timely returned by
19 the elector, shall serve as an application for any and all
20 primary, general or special elections to be held in the
21 remainder of that calendar year and for all special elections
22 to be held before the third Monday in February of the
23 succeeding year.

24 (1.1) A qualified registered elector shall be removed
25 from the permanent mail-in voter list file upon the request
26 of the qualified registered elector.

27 (2) The Secretary of the Commonwealth may develop an
28 electronic system through which all qualified electors may
29 apply for a mail-in ballot and request permanent mail-in
30 voter status under this section, provided the system is able

1 to capture a digitized or electronic signature of the
2 applicant.

3 (2.1) A county board of elections shall treat an
4 application or request received through the electronic system
5 as if the application or request had been submitted on a
6 paper form or any other format used by the county.

7 [(3) The transfer of a qualified registered elector on a
8 permanent mail-in voting list from one county to another
9 county shall only be permitted upon the request of the
10 qualified registered elector.]

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