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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 486 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, JAMES AND PICKETT, FEBRUARY 4, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY,  
FEBRUARY 4, 2025

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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 primary and election expenses, further  
12 providing for advertising.

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

15 Section 1. Section 1638(b)(3) of the act of June 3, 1937  
16 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is  
17 amended and subsections (a) and (b) are amended by adding  
18 paragraphs to read:

19 Section 1638. Advertising.--

20 (a) Whenever any person makes an expenditure for the purpose  
21 of financing communications expressly advocating the election or  
22 defeat of a candidate, or ballot questions, through any  
23 broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising

1 facility, direct mailing, or any other type of general public  
2 political advertising, such communication:

3 \* \* \*

4 (3) May not utilize artificially generated facsimiles of a  
5 human voice.

6 (b) \* \* \*

7 (3) Any person, firm or corporation, political committee or  
8 party or member thereof, violating any of the provisions of this  
9 section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction  
10 thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one  
11 thousand dollars (\$1,000), or to undergo an imprisonment of not  
12 less than one (1) month nor more than two (2) years, or both, in  
13 the discretion of the court. A fine issued for a conviction of a  
14 violation of subsection (a)(3) is the personal liability of the  
15 candidate or treasurer of a committee or party and cannot be  
16 paid from contributions to the candidate, committee or party.

17 (4) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall publish a list  
18 of all candidates and treasurers of committees and parties who  
19 have been convicted of a violation of subsection (a)(3) on the  
20 Department of State's publicly accessible Internet website.

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