

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1262 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, SOLOMON, MADDEN, PROBST, KHAN, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, GUENST, HOWARD, CIRESI AND INGLIS, APRIL 17, 2025

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 14, 2026

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 reporting by candidate and political committees
13 and other persons, for late contributions and independent
14 expenditures, for oath of compliance, perjury,
15 disqualification from office and commercial use, for residual
16 funds and for place of filing, providing for manner of filing
17 and for inability to file reports or statements
18 electronically by deadline and further providing for late
19 filing fee and certificate of filing, for additional powers
20 and duties of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and for
21 reports by business entities and publication by Secretary of
22 the Commonwealth.

23 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
24 hereby enacts as follows:

25 Section 1. Section 1626(a) and (h) of the act of June 3,
26 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election
27 Code, are amended and the section is amended by adding a

1 subsection to read:

2 Section 1626. Reporting by Candidate and Political
3 Committees and other Persons.--

4 (a) Each treasurer of a political committee and each
5 candidate for election to public office shall file with the
6 appropriate supervisor reports of receipts and expenditures on
7 forms, designed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, if the
8 amount received or expended or liabilities incurred shall exceed
9 the sum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). Should such an
10 amount not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), then the
11 candidate or the treasurer of the committee shall file a [sworn]
12 statement to that effect with the appropriate supervisor rather
13 than the report required by this section.

14 * * *

15 (h) All reports or statements required to be filed pursuant
16 to this section shall be filed pursuant to [section 1630]
17 sections 1629 and 1631.1. All reports and statements required by
18 this section shall cover the campaign activity of a candidate
19 only from the last prior report or statement.

20 * * *

21 (k) All reports or statements required to be filed with the
22 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall be filed electronically
23 using the electronic filing system developed by the Secretary of
24 the Commonwealth under section 1640(6) consistent with the
25 purposes of this subsection. A report or statement submitted
26 electronically must:

27 (1) require an electronic signature from the treasurer or
28 assistant treasurer at the time of the filing of the report or
29 statement. In addition, a report filed by a political committee,
30 authorized by a candidate and created solely for the purpose of

1 influencing an election on behalf of that candidate must be
2 signed, using an electronic signature, stating that, to the best
3 of the candidate's knowledge, the political committee has not
4 violated any provision of this act; and

5 (2) be made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904
6 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

7 Section 2. Sections 1628, 1629 heading, (a) and (b), 1630
8 and 1631(1) of the act are amended to read:

9 Section 1628. Late Contributions and Independent
10 Expenditures.--Any candidate or political committee, authorized
11 by a candidate and created solely for the purpose of influencing
12 an election on behalf of that candidate, which receives any
13 contribution or pledge of five hundred dollars (\$500) or more,
14 and any person making an independent expenditure, as defined by
15 this act, of five hundred dollars (\$500) or more after the final
16 pre-election report has been deemed completed shall report such
17 contribution, pledge or expenditure to the appropriate
18 supervisor. Such report shall be sent by the candidate, chairman
19 or treasurer of the political committee within twenty-four (24)
20 hours of receipt of the contribution. It shall be the duty of
21 the supervisor to confirm the substance of such report. [The
22 report shall be made by telegram, mailgram, overnight mail or
23 facsimile transmission. Any] The reports filed with the
24 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall be filed electronically in
25 accordance with section 1631.1. If the candidate or political
26 committee is not required to file electronically, the report
27 shall be filed by facsimile, electronic mail or overnight mail
28 courier service. Except for reports required to be filed
29 electronically, a candidate [in] on his own behalf, or chairman,
30 treasurer or candidate [in] on behalf of the political committee

1 may also comply with this section by appearing personally before
2 such supervisor and reporting such late contributions or
3 pledges.

4 Section 1629. [Oath of Compliance; Perjury;] Unsworn
5 Falsification; Disqualification from Office; Commercial Use.--

6 [(a) Each report shall be subscribed and sworn to by the
7 individual submitting the report. In addition, any report filed
8 by a political committee, authorized by a candidate and created
9 solely for the purpose of influencing an election on behalf of
10 that candidate, must be accompanied by an affidavit from that
11 candidate which provides that, to the best of the candidate's
12 knowledge, the political committee has not violated any
13 provision of this act.]

14 (b) Any wilfully false, fraudulent or misleading statement
15 or entry made by any candidate or treasurer in any statement or
16 report [under oath] as required by this article, shall
17 constitute the crime of [perjury] unsworn falsification to
18 authorities, and be punishable as such according to the laws of
19 this Commonwealth.

20 * * *

21 Section 1630. Residual Funds.--

22 (a) In the event that a candidate or political committee
23 terminates its financial activity as such, then the disbursement
24 of any residual funds remaining in such an account shall be made
25 in the following manner:

26 (1) any such funds may be used for any expenditure as
27 defined by this article; [and]

28 (2) may be returned, pro rata, to the contributors by the
29 candidate or treasurer of the political committee[. A final
30 report must be made by the next January 31 in accordance with

1 section 1627.]; or

2 (3) may be donated to a nonprofit organization.

3 (b) A final report must be made by the next January 31 in
4 accordance with section 1627.

5 (c) For purposes of this section:

6 (1) "Affiliated" means serving as an officer, on the board
7 of directors, as a paid employee or as a contractor of a
8 nonprofit organization.

9 (2) "Family member" means a spouse or child.

10 ~~(3) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization that is <--~~
11 ~~qualified by the Internal Revenue Service as meeting the~~
12 ~~requirements of 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) (relating to exemption~~
13 ~~from tax on corporations, certain trusts, etc.) organized under~~
14 ~~the laws of this Commonwealth that is not affiliated with a~~
15 ~~candidate or the chairman or treasurer of a political committee,~~
16 ~~including a family member of the candidate, chairman or~~
17 ~~treasurer.~~

18 (3) "NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS: <--

19 (I) QUALIFIED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AS MEETING THE
20 REQUIREMENTS OF 26 U.S.C. § 501(C)(3) (RELATING TO EXEMPTION
21 FROM TAX ON CORPORATIONS, CERTAIN TRUSTS, ETC.);

22 (II) ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH; AND

23 (III) NOT AFFILIATED WITH A CANDIDATE OR THE CHAIRMAN OR
24 TREASURER OF A POLITICAL COMMITTEE, INCLUDING A FAMILY MEMBER OF
25 THE CANDIDATE, CHAIRMAN OR TREASURER.

26 Section 1631. Place of Filing.--

27 Any statement or report required by this article to be filed,
28 shall be done in the following manner:

29 (1) (i) Any candidate, individual, or committee required to
30 file a report concerning any candidate shall file that statement

1 or report in the office of the supervisor with whom the
2 candidate filed a nomination paper, nomination certificate,
3 nomination petitions or with the supervisor with whom the
4 candidate would have filed such if he had sought nomination in
5 that manner.

6 [(ii) All candidates and political committees, authorized by
7 candidates and created solely for the purpose of influencing the
8 election of such candidates, who must file reports with the
9 Secretary of the Commonwealth, shall also file copies of their
10 reports in the county in which the candidate resides.]

11 (iii) All candidates and political committees, authorized by
12 candidates and created solely for the purpose of influencing the
13 election of such candidates, who must file reports with the
14 Secretary of the Commonwealth as required by this subsection,
15 must only file reports electronically with the Secretary of the
16 Commonwealth.

17 * * *

18 Section 3. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

19 Section 1631.1. Manner of Filing.--

20 (a) All reports and statements required to be filed with the
21 Secretary of the Commonwealth pursuant to sections 1626, 1627,
22 1628 and 1641 shall be filed with the Secretary of the
23 Commonwealth using the electronic filing system developed by the
24 Secretary of the Commonwealth under section 1640(6).

25 (b) A report or statement filed electronically shall:

26 (1) be made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904
27 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities);

28 (2) include the electronic signature of the treasurer or
29 assistant treasurer of the political committee serving at the
30 time of the filing of the report or statement; and

1 (3) for a report or statement filed by a candidate or a
2 candidate's political committee, include the electronic
3 signature of the candidate, stating that, to the best of the
4 candidate's knowledge, the political committee has not violated
5 a provision of this act.

6 (c) (1) A candidate or political committee not able to file
7 electronically the report or statement required by this section
8 shall request an exemption from the Secretary of the
9 Commonwealth. The candidate or political committee upon approval
10 of the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall file reports and
11 statements on forms developed by the Secretary of the
12 Commonwealth.

13 (2) In order to request an exemption for electronic
14 submissions or reports or statements, the candidate or political
15 committee must demonstrate technological hardship. As used in
16 this clause, the term "technological hardship" means a lack of
17 computer or Internet access or a disability that prevents
18 electronic filing.

19 (d) (1) A principal may authorize another person to prepare
20 the contents of the report or statement, including entry of data
21 into the electronic filing system as required under subsection
22 (a).

23 (2) Each principal authorizing another to act under clause
24 (1) must:

25 (i) review the contents of the report or statement prepared
26 under clause (1); and

27 (ii) file in the electronic filing system the approval of
28 the contents of the report or statement and verification of its
29 accuracy, in accordance with subsection (b). The approval shall
30 be transmitted personally by the principal and not on the

1 principal's behalf by any other person.

2 (3) No report or statement shall be considered complete or
3 filed until all necessary approvals and verifications shall have
4 been submitted by each principal required to file.

5 (4) As used in this subsection, "principal" shall mean any
6 person required to file any report or statement electronically
7 with the Secretary of the Commonwealth in accordance with this
8 section.

9 Section 1631.2. Inability to File Reports or Statements
10 Electronically by Deadline.--

11 (a) All reports or statements filed with the Secretary of
12 the Commonwealth under section 1631.1 are subject to the
13 following:

14 (1) If a candidate or political committee cannot file a
15 report or statement on the day on which the report or statement
16 is due because of the unavailability of the Department of
17 State's electronic filing system under section 1640(6) at the
18 time the candidate or political committee attempts to file the
19 report or statement, the principal shall immediately notify the
20 Department of State in a manner designated by the Secretary of
21 the Commonwealth. If the Internet website is unavailable and the
22 candidate or political committee has notified the department,
23 the candidate or political committee shall have until 11:59
24 o'clock P.M. on the next day following the deadline to file the
25 report or statement electronically and the principal shall file
26 a statement affirming that the principal was unable to file the
27 report or statement on time because of the unavailability of the
28 Department of State's electronic filing system at the time the
29 principal attempted to file the report or statement on the day
30 the report or statement was due. The affirmation statement shall

1 be due at the same time as the statement or report filed under
2 this subsection. The report or statement shall not be considered
3 filed until the affirmation statement is filed.

4 (2) If a candidate or political committee is unable to file
5 as required under clause (1) because the Department of State's
6 electronic filing system remains unavailable, the principal
7 shall notify the Department of State each day a report or
8 statement cannot be filed due to the unavailability of the
9 Department of State's electronic filing system. The candidate or
10 political committee shall have until 11:59 o'clock P.M. on the
11 next day to electronically file the report or statement or
12 notify the Department of State a second time of the
13 inaccessibility of the department's electronic filing system.
14 The principal shall file a statement affirming that the
15 principal was unable to file the report or statement on time
16 because of the unavailability of the Department of State's
17 electronic filing system. The affirmation statement shall be
18 due at the same time as the statement or report filed under this
19 subsection. The report or statement shall not be considered
20 filed until the affirmation statement is filed.

21 (b) The Department of State may provide for an alternative
22 method of electronic filing if the department's electronic
23 filing system remains unavailable.

24 (c) For cause shown, the Secretary of the Commonwealth may
25 waive late filing fees for reports or statements filed after the
26 deadline but which are the subject of notifications as
27 prescribed by this section.

28 (d) As used in this section, the term "unavailability of the
29 Department of State's electronic filing system" shall mean a
30 failure of the system within the Department of State's technical

1 environment that does not allow access to the system by an
2 individual. The term does not include:

3 (1) a network issue between the user's computer and the
4 Department of State's environment; or

5 (2) a failure of any part of the user's computer or internal
6 network.

7 Section 4. Section 1632(a) of the act is amended and the
8 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

9 Section 1632. Late Filing Fee; Certificate of Filing.--

10 (a) A late filing fee for each report or statement of
11 expenditures and contributions required to be filed with the
12 county board of elections which is not filed within the
13 prescribed period shall be imposed as follows. Such fee shall be
14 ten dollars (\$10) for each day or part of a day excluding
15 Saturdays, Sundays and holidays that a report or statement is
16 overdue. An additional fee of ten dollars (\$10) is due for each
17 of the first six (6) days that a report or statement is overdue.
18 The maximum fee payable with respect to a single report or
19 statement is two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). [A supervisor]
20 The county board of elections shall receive an overdue report or
21 statement even if any late filing fee due has not been paid but
22 the report or statement shall not be considered filed until all
23 fees have been paid upon the receipt by the supervisor of an
24 overdue report. No further late filing fees shall be incurred
25 notwithstanding the fact that the report or statement is not
26 considered filed. The late filing fee is the personal liability
27 of the candidate or treasurer of a political committee and
28 cannot be paid from contributions to the candidate or committee,
29 nor may such fee be considered an expenditure. A report or
30 statement of expenditures and contributions shall be deemed to

1 have been filed within the prescribed time if the letter
2 transmitting the report or statement which is received by the
3 [supervisor] county board of elections is transmitted by first
4 class mail and is postmarked by the United States Postal Service
5 on the day prior to the final day on which the report or
6 statement is to be received: Provided, That this sentence shall
7 not be applicable to the reporting requirements contained in
8 section 1628.

9 (a.1) For reports or statements required to be
10 electronically filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the
11 penalty for each report or statement that is not filed within
12 the prescribed period shall be twenty dollars (\$20) a day for
13 the first six (6) days the report or statement is late and one
14 hundred dollars (\$100) a day for day seven (7) and each day
15 thereafter. The maximum penalty for late reports or statements
16 is five hundred dollars (\$500) for each required filing. The
17 late filing fee shall be the personal responsibility of the
18 candidate or treasurer of a political committee and cannot be
19 paid from contributions to the candidate or committee nor may
20 the fee be considered an expenditure. The Secretary of the
21 Commonwealth shall receive an overdue report or statement
22 notwithstanding whether a late filing fee due has not been paid.
23 A report or statement shall not be considered filed until all
24 fees have been paid upon the receipt by the Secretary of the
25 Commonwealth of an overdue report or statement.

26 * * *

27 Section 5. Sections 1640 and 1641(a) of the act are amended
28 to read:

29 Section 1640. Additional Powers and Duties of the Secretary
30 of the Commonwealth.--(a) The Secretary of the Commonwealth

1 shall have the following additional powers and duties:

2 (1) To serve as the State clearing house for information
3 concerning the administration of this act.

4 (2) To prescribe suitable rules and regulations to carry out
5 the provisions of this act.

6 (3) To develop the prescribed forms required by the
7 provisions of this article for the making of the reports and
8 statements required to be filed with the supervisor.

9 (4) To prepare a manual setting forth recommended uniform
10 methods of bookkeeping and reporting which shall be furnished by
11 the supervisor to the person required to file such reports and
12 statements as required by this article.

13 (5) To examine the contributions to State legislative and
14 Statewide candidates and publish a list of all those political
15 committees who have contributed to candidates and who have
16 failed to file reports as required by this act within six (6)
17 days of their failure to comply.

18 (6) To create and maintain a searchable computer database
19 and electronic filing system that contains the information
20 necessary for the proper administration of this article,
21 including information on contributions and expenditures by all
22 candidates and all political committees and distribution of
23 money, and including public access through the Internet. The
24 database must be designed with an emergency recovery system to
25 ensure that campaign expense records are not lost in the case of
26 an emergency, natural disaster or other event that could cause
27 the system to malfunction.

28 (7) To establish a training program on the electronic filing
29 system and make it available to a candidate or political
30 committee.

1 (8) To ensure that all information contained in a statement
2 or report filed that is not on the electronic filing system be
3 entered into the electronic filing system as soon as practicable
4 but no later than four (4) business days after its receipt by
5 the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

6 (b) The Department of State shall issue to a registrant
7 under 25 Pa.C.S. Ch. 13 (relating to voter registration) an
8 electronic receipt that includes a confirmation number and the
9 date and time of filing.

10 Section 1641. Reports by Business Entities; Publication by
11 Secretary of the Commonwealth.--

12 (a) Any business entity including but not limited to a
13 corporation, company, association, partnership or sole
14 proprietorship, which has been awarded non-bid contracts from
15 the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions during the
16 preceding calendar year, shall report electronically in
17 accordance with section 1631.1 by February 15 of each year to
18 the Secretary of the Commonwealth an itemized list of all
19 political contributions known to the business entity by virtue
20 of the knowledge possessed by every officer, director,
21 associate, partner, limited partner or individual owner that has
22 been made by:

23 (1) any officer, director, associate, partner, limited
24 partner, individual owner or members of their immediate family
25 when the contributions exceed an aggregate of one thousand
26 dollars (\$1,000) by any individual during the preceding year; or

27 (2) any employe or members of his immediate family whose
28 political contribution exceeded one thousand dollars (\$1,000)
29 during the preceding year.

30 For the purposes of this subsection, "immediate family" means a

1 person's spouse and any unemancipated child.

2 * * *

3 Section 6. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall transmit
4 notice to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in
5 the next available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin when the
6 electronic filing system developed by the Secretary of the
7 Commonwealth is available for use.

8 Section 7. This act shall take effect as follows:

9 (1) The following provisions shall take effect
10 immediately:

11 This section.

12 Section 6 of this act.

13 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect 120 days
14 after publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the notice
15 under section 6 of this act.