

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1357 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY SAVAL, L. WILLIAMS, KEARNEY, TARTAGLIONE, HAYWOOD, COMITTA, FONTANA, CAPPELLETTI AND MUTH, JUNE 4, 2026

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 4, 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 preparation for and conduct of primaries and  
 12 elections, further providing for peace officers, no police  
 13 officer to be within one hundred feet of polling place,  
 14 exceptions and presence of soldiers prohibited; and, in  
 15 penalties, further providing for police officers at polling  
 16 places.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. Sections 1207 and 1820 of the act of June 3, 1937  
 20 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, are  
 21 amended to read:

22 Section 1207. Peace Officers; No Police Officer or Federal  
 23 Law Enforcement Official to Be Within One Hundred Feet of  
 24 Polling Place; Exceptions; Presence of Soldiers Prohibited.--The  
 25 election officers, or any three qualified electors of any

1 election district, may call upon any mayor, chief burgess,  
2 sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, deputy constable, or police  
3 officer, to clear an avenue to the door of any polling place  
4 which is obstructed in such a way as to prevent electors from  
5 approaching, or to maintain order and quell any disturbance, if  
6 such arises. No police officer [in commission] or Federal law  
7 enforcement official, whether in uniform or in citizen's  
8 clothes, shall be within one hundred feet of a polling place or  
9 ballot return site during the conduct of any primary or  
10 election, unless in the exercise of his privilege of voting, [or  
11 for the purpose of serving warrants, or unless called upon to  
12 preserve the peace,] as provided by this act: Provided, however,  
13 That such prohibition shall not apply to such police officers  
14 assigned to a police station or headquarters located in a  
15 building or on the premises where the polling place is located  
16 and such police officers must be within one hundred (100) feet  
17 of the polling place to enter and exit such police station or  
18 headquarters: And provided further, That in no event may any  
19 police officer or Federal law enforcement official unlawfully  
20 use or practice any intimidation, threats, force or violence  
21 nor, in any manner, unduly influence or overawe any elector or  
22 prevent him from voting or restrain his freedom of choice, nor  
23 may any such police officer or Federal law enforcement official  
24 electioneer or directly or indirectly attempt to influence the  
25 election or electors while within one hundred (100) feet of a  
26 polling place or ballot return site as herein set forth: And  
27 provided further, That where polling places or ballot return  
28 sites are located in buildings or on premises where a police  
29 station or headquarters are located, the polling place or ballot  
30 return site shall be located in a separate room. No body of

1 troops in the Army of the United States or of this Commonwealth  
2 shall be present, either armed or unarmed, at any place of  
3 election or ballot return site within this Commonwealth during  
4 the time of any primary or election: Provided, however, That no  
5 officer or soldier shall be prevented from exercising the right  
6 of suffrage in the election district in which he resides, if  
7 otherwise qualified.

8 Section 1820. Police Officers at Polling Places.--Any police  
9 officer [in commission] or Federal law enforcement official,  
10 whether in uniform or in citizen's clothes, who shall be within  
11 one hundred (100) feet of a polling place or ballot return site  
12 during the conduct of any primary or election, except in the  
13 exercise of his privilege of voting [or for the purpose of  
14 serving warrants], or in accordance with the provisions of the  
15 exception set forth in section 1207 of this act where the police  
16 station or headquarters is located in the same building or on  
17 the premises where the polling place or ballot return site is  
18 located [or unless called upon to preserve the peace], as  
19 provided by this act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and,  
20 upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine not  
21 exceeding [five hundred (\$500)] three thousand (\$3,000) dollars,  
22 or to undergo an imprisonment of not more than one (1) year, or  
23 both, in the discretion of the court.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.