

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1367 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY L. WILLIAMS, COLLETT, HAYWOOD, FONTANA,
TARTAGLIONE, KIM, KEARNEY, COSTA, CAPPELLETTI AND SCHWANK,
JUNE 5, 2026

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 5, 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 preliminary provisions, further providing for
12 definitions; in voting by qualified absentee electors,
13 further providing for approval of application for absentee
14 ballot and for canvassing of official absentee ballots and
15 mail-in ballots; in voting by qualified mail-in electors,
16 further providing for approval of application for mail-in
17 ballot; and, in Election Integrity Grant Program, further
18 providing for funding for elections.

19 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
20 hereby enacts as follows:

21 Section 1. Sections 102(q.1), 1302.2(c), 1308(g)(1.1) and
22 (2), 1302.2-D(a)(3) and 1602-A(j)(1) of the act of June 3, 1937
23 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, are
24 amended to read:

25 Section 102. Definitions.--The following words, when used in

1 this act, shall have the following meanings, unless otherwise
2 clearly apparent from the context:

3 * * *

4 (q.1) The word "pre-canvass" shall mean the inspection and
5 opening of all envelopes containing official absentee ballots or
6 mail-in ballots, the removal of such ballots from the envelopes
7 and the [counting, computing and tallying of the votes reflected
8 on the ballots.] preparation of the ballots for scanning,
9 including unfolding, straightening and duplicating, if the
10 ballot is damaged in some way that prevents it from being
11 scanned, but where the voter's intent is still clear. The term
12 includes scanning the ballot into a voting machine or other
13 automatic tabulating device, if the equipment used by the county
14 board of elections permits a ballot to be scanned without
15 tabulating or counting the votes on the ballot scanned. The term
16 does not include the examination of unopened absentee or mail-in
17 ballot envelopes for processing, detecting voter errors or
18 recording or publishing of the votes reflected on the ballots.

19 * * *

20 Section 1302.2. Approval of Application for Absentee
21 Ballot.--

22 * * *

23 (c) The county board of elections, upon receipt of any
24 application of a qualified elector required to be registered
25 under the provisions of preceding section 1301, shall determine
26 the qualifications of such applicant by verifying the proof of
27 identification and comparing the information set forth on such
28 application with the information contained on the applicant's
29 permanent registration card. If the board is satisfied that the
30 applicant is qualified to receive an official absentee ballot,

1 the application shall be marked "approved." Such approval
2 decision shall be final and binding, except that challenges may
3 be made only on the ground that the applicant was not a
4 qualified elector. Such challenges must be made to the county
5 board of elections prior to five o'clock p.m. on the Friday
6 prior to the election or prior to the pre-canvass of an
7 elector's absentee ballot, whichever is earlier: Provided,
8 however, That a challenge to an application for an absentee
9 ballot shall not be permitted on the grounds that the elector
10 used an application for an absentee ballot instead of an
11 application for a mail-in ballot or on the grounds that the
12 elector used an application for a mail-in ballot instead of an
13 application for an absentee ballot.

14 * * *

15 Section 1308. Canvassing of Official Absentee Ballots and
16 Mail-in Ballots.--* * *

17 (g) * * *

18 (1.1) The county board of elections shall meet no earlier
19 than [seven] nine o'clock A.M. on the seventh day prior to
20 election day and no later than seven o'clock A.M. on election
21 day to pre-canvass all ballots received prior to the meeting.
22 The pre-canvass meeting may continue until eight o'clock P.M. on
23 election day. A county board of elections shall provide at least
24 forty-eight hours' notice of a pre-canvass meeting by publicly
25 posting a notice of a pre-canvass meeting on its publicly
26 accessible Internet website. One authorized representative of
27 each candidate in an election and one representative from each
28 political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in
29 which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are pre-
30 canvassed. No person observing, attending or participating in a

1 pre-canvass meeting may disclose the results of any portion of
2 any pre-canvass meeting prior to the close of the polls.

3 (2) The county board of elections shall meet no earlier than
4 the close of polls on the day of the election and no later than
5 the [third] day following the election to begin canvassing
6 absentee ballots and mail-in ballots not included in the pre-
7 canvass meeting. The meeting under this paragraph shall continue
8 until all absentee ballots and mail-in ballots received prior to
9 the close of the polls have been canvassed. The county board of
10 elections shall not record or publish any votes reflected on the
11 ballots prior to the close of the polls. The canvass process
12 shall continue through the eighth day following the election for
13 valid military-overseas ballots timely received under 25 Pa.C.S.
14 § 3511 (relating to receipt of voted ballot). A county board of
15 elections shall provide at least forty-eight hours' notice of a
16 canvass meeting by publicly posting a notice on its publicly
17 accessible Internet website. One authorized representative of
18 each candidate in an election and one representative from each
19 political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in
20 which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are canvassed.

21 * * *

22 Section 1302.2-D. Approval of application for mail-in ballot.

23 (a) Approval process.--The county board of elections, upon
24 receipt of any application of a qualified elector under section
25 1301-D, shall determine the qualifications of the applicant by
26 verifying the proof of identification and comparing the
27 information provided on the application with the information
28 contained on the applicant's permanent registration card. The
29 following shall apply:

30 * * *

1 (3) Challenges must be made to the county board of
2 elections prior to five o'clock p.m. on the Friday prior to
3 the election or prior to the pre-canvass of an elector's
4 mail-in ballot, whichever is earlier: Provided, however, That
5 a challenge to an application for a mail-in ballot shall not
6 be permitted on the grounds that the elector used an
7 application for a mail-in ballot instead of an application
8 for an absentee ballot or on the grounds that the elector
9 used an application for an absentee ballot instead of an
10 application for a mail-in ballot.

11 * * *

12 Section 1602-A. Funding for elections.

13 * * *

14 (j) Grant agreement.--The grant agreement between the
15 department and the county under this section shall include the
16 following requirements for counties:

17 (1) The county shall begin pre-canvassing [at] no later
18 than 7 a.m. on election day and shall continue without
19 interruption until each mail-in ballot and absentee ballot
20 timely received [by 7 a.m. on election day is pre-canvassed]
21 is canvassed.

22 * * *

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.