
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1223 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY DEASY, RAVENSTAHL, COHEN, V. BROWN, THOMAS, DAVIS,
HARKINS, YOUNGBLOOD, O'BRIEN, DAVIDSON, KORTZ, SCHREIBER,
READSHAW, TRUITT, BIZZARRO, GOODMAN, FRANKEL, MULLERY,
SNYDER, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, DeLUCA, CARROLL, D. COSTA,
GIBBONS, BROWNLEE, SIMS, McCARTER AND ROZZI, MAY 14, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 14, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in voter registration, further providing for
3 methods of voter registration, providing for electronic voter
4 registration application and further providing for
5 preparation and distribution of applications; in changes in
6 records, further providing for change of enrollment of
7 political party; and conferring powers and imposing duties on
8 the Department of State.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 1321 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania
12 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

13 § 1321. Methods of voter registration.

14 An individual qualified to register to vote under section
15 1301(a) (relating to qualifications to register) may apply to
16 register as follows:

17 * * *

18 (5) Under section 1325.1 (relating to electronic voter
19 registration application).

1 Section 2. Title 25 is amended by adding a section to read:

2 § 1325.1. Electronic voter registration application.

3 (a) General rule.--An application to register to vote or to
4 change party enrollment or name or address on a current
5 registration may be submitted by electronic voter registration
6 application in the manner provided under this section.

7 (b) Establishment.--An electronic voter application shall be
8 established and implemented by the department within 90 days of
9 the effective date of this section. The electronic voter
10 registration application shall comply with the requirements
11 under section 1327 (relating to preparation and distribution of
12 applications). The secretary shall promulgate regulations
13 necessary to establish, implement and administer the electronic
14 voter registration application.

15 (c) Time.--Registration under this section may be made at
16 any time. If an electronic voter registration application is
17 submitted later than 30 days before the election, the
18 application shall be retained until the beginning of the next
19 period during which registration can be made.

20 Section 3. Sections 1327(a) (3) and (4) and (b) (3) and 1503
21 of Title 25 are amended to read:

22 § 1327. Preparation and distribution of applications.

23 (a) Form.--

24 * * *

25 (3) Any person who assists in the completion of the
26 registration application shall sign or, in the case of
27 registration under section 1325.1 (relating to electronic
28 voter registration application), electronically sign the
29 application and indicate the person's address. In the case of
30 those registering under sections 1323 (relating to

1 application with driver's license application) and 1325
2 (relating to government agencies), the person providing
3 assistance shall insert the person's initials or employee or
4 agent identification number on a separate or detachable
5 portion of the application or computer data file.

6 (4) A voter registration application, except a
7 registration application under section 1325.1, shall be
8 printed on stock of good quality and shall be of suitable
9 uniform size. [Nothing in this part shall prohibit the design
10 and use of an electronic voter registration application which
11 includes the applicant's digitized or electronic signature.]
12 The registration application, including a registration
13 application under section 1325.1, shall contain the following
14 information; however, the information may be provided on a
15 separate form for voter registration made under section 1323
16 or 1325:

17 (i) Notice that a registered elector does not need
18 to reregister unless the registered elector has moved.

19 (ii) Instructions on how to fill out and submit the
20 application and notification of when the application must
21 be submitted to a voter registration office or, for
22 registration under section 1325.1, electronically in
23 order to be registered for the ensuing election.

24 (iii) Notice that the applicant must be a citizen of
25 the United States for at least one month prior to the
26 next election and a resident of this Commonwealth and the
27 election district for at least 30 days and must be at
28 least 18 years of age by the day of the next ensuing
29 election and has not been confined in a penal institution
30 for a conviction of a felony within the last five years.

1 The notice required in this subparagraph shall be in
2 print identical to the declaration under subsection (b).

3 (iv) Notice that political party enrollment is
4 mandatory to vote in a primary election of a political
5 party.

6 (v) Notice that the commission will mail by
7 nonforwardable mail to the applicant a voter's
8 identification card upon acceptance of the application
9 and that the applicant should contact the commission if
10 the identification card is not received within 14 days
11 from the date the application is sent to the registration
12 office.

13 (vi) Notice that registration is not complete until
14 the application is processed and accepted by the
15 commission.

16 (vii) A warning to the applicant that making a false
17 registration or furnishing false information is perjury.
18 The notice required in this subparagraph shall be in
19 print identical to the declaration under subsection (b).

20 (viii) Instructions to Federal or State employees
21 who wish to retain voting residence in county of last
22 residence to so indicate on the application.

23 (ix) Notice that, if an individual declines to
24 register to vote, the fact that the individual has
25 declined to register will remain confidential and will be
26 used only for voter registration purposes. The notice
27 required in this subparagraph shall be in print identical
28 to the declaration under subsection (b).

29 (x) Notice that, if an individual does register to
30 vote, the office at which the individual submits a voter

1 registration application will remain confidential and
2 will be used for voter registration purposes only. The
3 notices required in this subparagraph shall be in print
4 identical to the declaration in subsection (b).

5 * * *

6 (b) Registration declaration.--

7 * * *

8 (3) The registration declaration shall contain the
9 printed name [and signature of the applicant and the date of
10 signing], date of signing and, except for applicants
11 submitting a registration under section 1325.1, the signature
12 of the applicant. An applicant unable to sign the voter
13 registration application shall make a mark before a person of
14 the applicant's choice other than the applicant's employer or
15 an agent of the applicant's union. The person shall insert
16 the person's name, address and telephone number. If the
17 person is an employee or agent of the Department of
18 Transportation or another agency as provided under section
19 1325 and is assisting the applicant in an official capacity,
20 the employee or agent shall insert the initials and
21 identification number of the employee or agent. In the case
22 of applicants registering under section 1323 or 1325, the
23 person providing assistance shall insert initials or employee
24 or agent identification number on a separate or detachable
25 portion of the application or computer data file. In the case
26 of an applicant registering under section 1325.1, the
27 applicant shall be required to verify the applicant's
28 identity by providing the last four digits of the applicant's
29 Social Security number, the applicant's driver's license
30 number or the applicant's identification number issued by the

1 Department of Transportation under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1510(b)
2 (relating to issuance and content of driver's license). In
3 the case of an applicant submitting an electronic voter
4 registration application to change party enrollment or name
5 or address on a current registration, the applicant may also
6 verify identity by providing the applicant's voter
7 identification number issued by the Department of
8 Transportation under section 206(b) of the act of June 3,
9 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election
10 Code.

11 * * *

12 § 1503. Change of enrollment of political party.

13 By the deadline for registration, a registered elector who
14 desires to change the enrollment of political designation or
15 who, although registered, has not previously enrolled as a
16 member of a party may appear before a commissioner, registrar or
17 clerk or may submit an application by mail under section 1324
18 (relating to application by mail) [and state in a signed] or
19 electronically under section 1325.1 (relating to electronic
20 voter registration application). The elector may state in a
21 signed or, in the case of an application submitted under section
22 1325.1, verified writing the political party in which the
23 registered elector desires to be enrolled. If the signature or
24 verification information of the elector is verified by
25 comparison with the registered elector's signature or
26 verification information as it appears on file with the
27 commission, the commissioner, registrar or clerk shall make the
28 change in its registration records. [If] In cases other than
29 submission of an application under section 1325.1, if supported
30 by other evidence of identity, a mark may be made in lieu of a

1 signature by a registered elector who is unable to write. The
2 mark must be made in the presence of a witness who must sign the
3 registration application. For applications submitted under
4 section 1325.1, an elector may verify identity by providing the
5 last four digits of the elector's Social Security number, the
6 elector's driver's license number, the elector's identification
7 number issued by the Department of Transportation under 75
8 Pa.C.S. § 1510(b) (relating to issuance and content of driver's
9 license) or the applicant's voter identification number issued
10 by the Department of Transportation under section 206(b) of the
11 act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the
12 Pennsylvania Election Code.

13 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.