
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 692 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY M. DALEY, DUNBAR, V. BROWN, SCHWEYER, MILLARD,
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DIAMOND, RAVENSTAHL, MULLERY, GABLER AND YOUNGBLOOD,
MARCH 3, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 3, 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 for electronic submission of
5 changes to registration and further providing for preparation
6 and distribution of applications; in changes in records,
7 further providing for change of enrollment of political
8 party; in penalties, further providing for altering
9 registration; and conferring powers and imposing duties on
10 the Department of State.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 1321 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania
14 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:
15 § 1321. Methods of voter registration.

16 An individual qualified to register to vote under section
17 1301(a) (relating to qualifications to register) may apply to
18 register as follows:

19 * * *

20 (5) Under section 1325.1 (relating to electronic voter

1 registration application).

2 Section 2. Title 25 is amended by adding sections to read:

3 § 1325.1. Electronic voter registration application.

4 (a) Submission.--An application to register to vote may be
5 submitted by an electronic voter registration application on the
6 Internet website of the department in the manner provided under
7 this section.

8 (b) Establishment.--The department shall develop an
9 electronic voter application within 90 days of the effective
10 date of this section. The electronic voter application may not
11 be put into use until the department, the Department of
12 Transportation and each commission have developed a process and
13 the infrastructure necessary for the effective use of the
14 application as contemplated by this section. The electronic
15 voter registration application shall comply with the
16 requirements under section 1327 (relating to preparation and
17 distribution of applications). The applicant shall enter the
18 data requested on the electronic voter registration application
19 and affirmatively attest to the truth of the information being
20 provided by the applicant. Once submitted by the applicant, the
21 department shall obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's
22 signature from the applicant's driver's license or the
23 applicant's identification card issued by the Department of
24 Transportation under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1510(b) (relating to issuance
25 and content of driver's license) and transfer the application to
26 the SURE system. If the department determines that a signature
27 is not in the database of the Department of Transportation, the
28 department shall print and mail the completed voter registration
29 application to the applicant with instructions to sign and mail
30 the application to the appropriate commission. Use of the

1 electronic voter registration application by the applicant shall
2 constitute the applicant's consent to the use of the applicant's
3 signature on the applicant's driver's license or identification
4 card for voter registration purposes.

5 (c) Duties of department.--The following shall apply:

6 (1) Within 24 months following the effective date of
7 this subsection, the department shall promulgate regulations
8 necessary to implement the provisions of this section and
9 section 1325.2 (relating to electronic submission of changes
10 to registration). Prior to the promulgation, the department
11 shall publish implementation guidelines as a notice in the
12 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

13 (2) The department shall develop and employ security
14 measures to ensure the security and integrity of registration
15 applications and change registration applications submitted
16 electronically under this section and section 1325.2.

17 (d) Time.--Voter registration under this section may be made
18 at any time. If an electronic voter registration application is
19 submitted later than 30 days before an election, the application
20 shall be retained by the department and transferred to the SURE
21 system as soon as practicable following the election.

22 § 1325.2. Electronic submission of changes to registration.

23 (a) Changing information.--A registered elector may change
24 information in the elector's voter registration records by using
25 the electronic voter registration application developed by the
26 department under section 1325.1 (relating to electronic voter
27 registration application) or a form developed by the department
28 for the changes, as determined by the department. The changes
29 that may be made electronically are as follows:

30 (1) A change in the enrollment of political designation.

1 (2) The enrollment of a political designation if,
2 although registered, the elector has not previously enrolled
3 as a member of a party.

4 (3) The registered elector's name.

5 (4) The registered elector's address.

6 (b) Submission.--The provisions of section 1325.1 regarding
7 the truth of the information, use of the elector's signature on
8 file with the Department of Transportation and other
9 verification by the elector of the elector's identity shall
10 apply to a submission for a change to the elector's registration
11 records under this section. Use by a registered elector of an
12 electronic voter registration application or other form
13 developed by the department under subsection (a) for changes to
14 the elector's registration records shall constitute the
15 elector's consent to the use of the elector's signature on the
16 elector's driver's license or identification card for the
17 purposes of making the changes.

18 Section 3. Sections 1327(a) (3) and (4) and (b) (3), 1503 and
19 1704(a) of Title 25 are amended to read:

20 § 1327. Preparation and distribution of applications.

21 (a) Form.--

22 * * *

23 (3) Any person who assists in the completion of the
24 registration application shall sign or, in the case of
25 registration under section 1325.1 (relating to electronic
26 voter registration application), electronically sign the
27 application and indicate the person's address. In the case of
28 those registering under sections 1323 (relating to
29 application with driver's license application) and 1325
30 (relating to government agencies), the person providing

1 assistance shall insert the person's initials or employee or
2 agent identification number on a separate or detachable
3 portion of the application or computer data file.

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

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

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

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

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

4 (v) Notice that the commission will mail by
5 nonforwardable mail to the applicant a voter's
6 identification card upon acceptance of the application
7 and that the applicant should contact the commission if
8 the identification card is not received within 14 days
9 from the date the application is sent to the registration
10 office or submitted electronically to the department
11 under section 1325.1.

12 (vi) Notice that registration is not complete until
13 the application is processed and accepted by the
14 commission or the department if submitted electronically
15 under section 1325.1.

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:
29 (i) providing the last four digits of the
30 applicant's Social Security number; and

1 (ii) the applicant's driver's license number or the
2 applicant's identification number issued by the
3 Department of Transportation under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1510(b)
4 (relating to issuance and content of driver's license).

5 * * *

6 § 1503. Change of enrollment of political party.

7 By the deadline for registration, a registered elector who
8 desires to change the enrollment of political designation or
9 who, although registered, has not previously enrolled as a
10 member of a party may appear before a commissioner, registrar or
11 clerk or may submit an application by mail under section 1324
12 (relating to application by mail) [and state in a signed] or
13 electronically under section 1325.2 (relating to electronic
14 submission of changes to registration). In cases other than
15 submission under section 1325.2, the elector shall state in a
16 signed writing the political party in which the registered
17 elector desires to be enrolled. If the signature of the elector
18 is verified by comparison with the registered elector's
19 signature as it appears on file with the commission, the
20 commissioner, registrar or clerk shall make the change in its
21 registration records. [If] In cases other than submission under
22 section 1325.2, if supported by other evidence of identity, a
23 mark may be made in lieu of a signature by a registered elector
24 who is unable to write. The mark must be made in the presence of
25 a witness who must sign the registration application. For
26 submissions under section 1325.2, the elector shall follow the
27 procedure for verification of the elector's identity set forth
28 in section 1325.1 (relating to electronic voter registration
29 application).

30 § 1704. Altering registration.

1 (a) Prohibition.--No registrar, commissioner, clerk or
2 assistant [or], commission employee or other individual may do
3 any of the following:

4 (1) Intentionally insert or permit to be inserted an
5 entry in a registration record without a proper application
6 under this part or without requiring the proper evidence of
7 the right of the applicant to be registered.

8 (2) Intentionally materially alter a registration record
9 after the entries have been made unless the alteration is in
10 accordance with this part. This paragraph does not apply to
11 an alteration pursuant to an order of a court of common pleas
12 or of a commission.

13 (3) Intentionally submit false information regarding a
14 change of party enrollment or name or address on a
15 registration record of another individual.

16 * * *

17 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.