

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 306 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY GAINNEY, SCHLOSSBERG, RABB, SIMS, STURLA, KINSEY, DONATUCCI, ISAACSON, SOLOMON, YOUNGBLOOD, DERMODY, HILL-EVANS, T. DAVIS, LONGIETTI, FREEMAN, DEASY, FRANKEL, McCLINTON, DAVIDSON, RAVENSTAHL AND WARREN, FEBRUARY 1, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 1, 2019

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 automatic
 4 registration of qualified electors and further providing for
 5 time and for approval of registration applications.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 1321 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania
 9 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

10 § 1321. Methods of voter registration.

11 (a) General rule.--An individual qualified to register to
 12 vote under section 1301(a) (relating to qualifications to
 13 register) may apply to register as follows:

14 (1) Under section 1322 (relating to in-person voter
 15 registration).

16 (2) Under section 1323 (relating to application with
 17 driver's license application).

18 (3) Under section 1324 (relating to application by

1 mail).

2 (4) Under section 1325 (relating to government
3 agencies).

4 (b) Automatic registration.--An individual qualified to
5 register to vote under section 1301(a) shall be registered as
6 provided in section 1325.1 (relating to automatic registration
7 of qualified electors).

8 Section 2. Title 25 is amended by adding a section to read:
9 § 1325.1. Automatic registration of qualified electors.

10 (a) Collection of information.--The secretary shall by rule
11 establish a schedule by which the Department of Transportation,
12 the Department of Human Services and the Department of Military
13 and Veterans Affairs shall provide to the department the legal
14 name, age, residence, citizenship information and signature for
15 each individual who is qualified to register to vote under
16 section 1301(a) (relating to qualifications to register).

17 (b) Registration application.--For the purposes of this
18 section, the information identified in subsection (a) shall
19 constitute a completed voter registration application.

20 (c) Notification of eligibility.--Upon receiving the
21 information prescribed in subsection (a), the department shall
22 provide the information to the commission in the county in which
23 the qualified elector resides.

24 (d) Notice of registration to qualified electors.--Upon
25 approval, the commission shall provide to the qualified elector
26 a notice of pending registration and additional information as
27 prescribed in section 1328(c)(2.1) (relating to approval of
28 registration applications).

29 (e) Regulations.--The secretary shall promulgate regulations
30 necessary to implement this section.

1 Section 3. Sections 1326(b) and 1328(a), (b) and (c) of
2 Title 25 are amended by adding paragraphs to read:

3 § 1326. Time.

4 * * *

5 (b) Deadlines.--In the administration of voter registration,
6 each commission shall ensure that any applicant who is a
7 qualified elector is registered to vote in an election when the
8 applicant has met any of the following conditions:

9 * * *

10 (5) In the case of automatic voter registration under
11 section 1325.1 (relating to automatic registration of
12 qualified electors), if a qualified elector provided notice
13 under section 1325.1(c) does not decline to be registered as
14 an elector using the method prescribed by the commission
15 within 21 calendar days after the commission issues the
16 notice, the qualified elector's information collected under
17 subsection 1325.1(a) shall constitute a completed
18 registration.

19 * * *

20 § 1328. Approval of registration applications.

21 (a) Examination.--Upon receiving a voter registration
22 application, a commissioner, clerk or registrar of a commission
23 shall do all of the following:

24 * * *

25 (3) Examine the information provided under section
26 1325.1(a) (relating to automatic registration of qualified
27 electors) to determine all of the following:

28 (i) Whether the application is complete.

29 (ii) Whether the applicant is a qualified elector.

30 (iii) Whether the applicant has an existing

1 registration record. After the commission is connected to
2 the SURE system, the commissioner, clerk or registrar
3 shall search the SURE system on a Statewide basis to
4 determine if the applicant has an existing registration
5 record.

6 (b) Decision.--A commission shall do one of the following:

7 * * *

8 (9) In the case of automatic voter registration as
9 provided in section 1325.1, process a voter registration
10 application in accordance with subsection (c).

11 (10) In the case of automatic voter registration as
12 provided in section 1325.1, reject a voter registration
13 application, indicate the rejection and the reasons for the
14 rejection and notify the department of the rejection and the
15 reason, if the commission finds during its examination under
16 subsection (a) any of the following:

17 (i) The application was not properly completed and,
18 after reasonable efforts by the commission to ascertain
19 the necessary information, the application remains
20 incomplete or inconsistent.

21 (ii) The applicant is not a qualified elector.

22 A rejection shall be made no later than 21 days after the
23 information is received pursuant to the provisions of section
24 1325.1.

25 (c) Processing of voter registration.--

26 * * *

27 (2.1) When a commission has accepted a voter
28 registration application under subsection (b) (9), the
29 commission shall mail to each qualified elector by first
30 class nonforwardable mail, return postage guaranteed, a

1 notice of the process to:

2 (i) Decline registration as a qualified elector.

3 (ii) Enroll in a political party.

4 (2.2) If the commission does not receive a request to
5 stop registration 21 days after the issuance of the notice,
6 the commission shall assign the applicant a unique
7 identification number in the SURE system and mail a wallet-
8 sized voter's identification card to the individual by first
9 class nonforwardable mail, return postage guaranteed, which
10 shall serve as notice of the acceptance of the application.
11 The card shall contain all of the following:

12 (i) A raised Great Seal of the Commonwealth.

13 (ii) Name and address of the individual.

14 (iii) Name of municipality of residence.

15 (iv) Identification of the individual's ward and
16 district.

17 (v) The effective date of registration.

18 (vi) Designation of party enrollment and date of
19 enrollment.

20 (vii) A space for the individual's signature or
21 mark.

22 (viii) The unique identification number of the
23 individual.

24 (ix) A statement that the individual shall notify
25 the commission within ten days from the date it was
26 mailed if any information on the card is incorrect;
27 otherwise, the information shall be deemed correct for
28 voter registration purposes.

29 * * *

30 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 90 days.