
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. **229** Session of
1961

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. WEINER AND SEYLER,
FEBRUARY 20, 1961.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS,
FEBRUARY 20, 1961.

AN ACT

Amending the act of June 3 1937 (P L 1333) entitled "An act concern-
ing elections including general municipal special and primary elec-
tions the nomination of candidates primary and election expenses
and election contests creating and defining membership of county
boards of elections imposing duties upon the Secretary of the
Commonwealth courts county boards of elections county com-
missioners imposing penalties for violation of the act and codify-
ing revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto and re-

EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter stricken through
is to be omitted from bill.
Underlining indicates new matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter
stricken from existing law.

pealing certain acts and parts of acts relating to elections" authorizing assistance in voting to be given absentee electors

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

hereby enacts as follows

1 Section 1 Section 1218 act of June 3 1937 (P L 1333) known as the

2 "Pennsylvania Election Code" is amended to read

3 Section 1218 Assistance in Voting

4 (a) No voter shall be permitted to receive any assistance in voting
5 at any primary or election unless there is recorded upon his registration
6 card his declaration that because of illiteracy he is unable to read the
7 names on the ballot or on the voting machine labels or that he has a
8 physical disability which renders him unable to see or mark the ballot or
9 operate the voting machine or to enter the voting compartment or vot-
10 ing machine booth without assistance the exact nature of such disability
11 being recorded on such registration card and unless the election officers
12 are satisfied that he still suffers from the same disability Before he
13 shall be permitted to receive assistance such voter shall state distinctly
14 and audibly under oath or affirmation which shall be administered to him
15 by the judge of election the reason why he requires assistance In the
16 case of any absentee elector such oath or affirmation shall be admin-

1 istered to the absentee elector by any person qualified to administer an
2 oath or affirmation

3 (b) Any elector except an absentee elector who is entitled to receive
4 assistance in voting under the provisions of this section shall be per-
5 mitted by the judge of election to select a registered elector of the elec-
6 tion district to enter the voting compartment or voting machine booth
7 with him to assist him in voting such assistance to be rendered inside the
8 voting compartment or voting machine booth Any absentee elector who
9 is entitled to receive assistance in voting under the provisions of this
10 section may select any person to assist him in voting such assistance to be
11 recorded on a form furnished by the county board of elections and sent
12 to the secretary of such county board with the absentee ballot in the
13 manner otherwise provided by this act

14 (c) In every case of assistance under the provisions of this section
15 the judge of election shall forthwith enter in writing in a book to be
16 furnished by the county board of elections to be known as the record of
17 assisted voters (1) the voter's name (2) a statement of the facts which
18 entitle him to receive assistance and (3) the name of the person furnish-
19 ing the assistance The record of assisted voters shall be returned by the
20 judge of election to the county board of elections with the other papers

1 as hereinafter provided and said county board shall permit the same to be
2 examined only upon the written order of a judge of the court of common
3 pleas Provided however That such record shall be subject to subpoena to
4 the same extent to which other election records may be subpoenaed And
5 provided further That the county election board shall permit any registra-
6 tion commission to examine any records of assisted voters without a
7 court order in order that the registration commission may ascertain
8 whether electors who have declared at the time of registration their
9 need for assistance actually did receive assistance when voting at any
10 election Subject to all other provisions of this subsection the absentee
11 elector's name the statement of the facts which entitle him to receive
12 assistance and the name of the person furnishing the assistance shall be
13 entered in a book known as the record of assisted voters by the county
14 board of elections

15 Section 2 The act is amended by adding after section 1305-B a new
16 section to read

17 Section 1305-B.1 Absentee Electors Requiring Assistance Any ab-
18 sentee elector requiring and authorized to receive assistance for the
19 reasons stated in section 1218 of this act in regard to inability to read

1 see or mark the ballot shall cause the forms and information necessary
 2 to be inserted thereon to be placed with the marked ballot in the first
 3 envelope described in subsection (b) of section 1304-B and sealed in the
 4 envelope with the marked ballot

5 Section 3 This act shall take effect immediately

We certify that this bill has passed the Senate and the House of Representatives.

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Chief Clerk, Senate

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President pro tempore, Senate

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Speaker, House of Representatives

Approved The day of A. D. 1961.

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Governor