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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE BILL**

No. **246** Session of  
1961

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INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. WARE, BELL, CONFAIR AND  
KELLER, FEBRUARY 20, 1961.

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS,  
FEBRUARY 20, 1961.

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**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  
commissioners imposing penalties for violation of the act and codi-  
fying revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto and re-

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EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter stricken through  
is to be omitted from bill.  
Underscoring 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 certain wives and dependents of persons in the actual military service of the United States to cast absentee ballots without being registered and enrolled as electors

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows

1 Section 1 The definition of "absentee elector" in section 102 Part  
2 1 of section 1302-B and section 1304-B act of June 3 1937 (P L 1333)  
3 known as the "Pennsylvania Election Code" added January 8 1960 (P  
4 L 2135) are amended to read

5 Section 102 Definitions The following words when used in this act  
6 shall have the following meanings unless otherwise clearly apparent  
7 from the context

8 \* \* \*

9 (y) The term "absentee elector" shall mean any qualified elector of  
10 this Commonwealth properly registered and enrolled who (1) on the  
11 occurrence of any election is unavoidably absent from the county of his  
12 voting residence by reason of his duties business or occupation or who  
13 (2) on the occurrence of any election is unable to attend at his proper  
14 polling place by reason of illness or physical disability but shall not in-

1 elude a "qualified elector in actual military service" or a "qualified bed-  
 2 ridden or hospitalized veteran" as defined in this section or any person  
 3 committed to and confined in a penal institution or a mental institution

4 The term "absentee elector" shall include the wife or dependent of a per-  
 5 son in actual military service of the United States when such wife or  
 6 dependent is a qualified elector of this Commonwealth and is absent from  
 7 county of voting residence on the occurrence of any election by reason of  
 8 accompanying such person in actual military service to his place of duty

9 Such wife or dependent need not be registered and enrolled

10 Section 1302-B Form of Application Certificate and Declaration

11 The county board of elections shall prepare and have printed a form  
 12 all three parts of which shall be printed on one side of a sheet of paper  
 13 not larger than eight and one-half inches by thirteen inches as follows

14 Part 1 Application for Absentee Ballot (Voter complete two copies  
 15 of Part 1 and deliver both to the chief clerk county board of elections  
 16 in your county)

17 I declare that I reside at .....  
 18 (post office address of applicant) in the .....  
 19 ..... (voting district or precinct) of the  
 20 ..... (city borough town or town-

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1 ship) in ..... County Common-

2 wealth of Pennsylvania that I am a registered elector entitled to vote

3 therein at the next election that I am registered as a .....

4 ..... (if primary election give party

5 enrollment otherwise leave blank) and that I hereby apply for an official

6 absentee ballot for the reason that (1) I expect to be unavoidably absent

7 from said county on the day of such election because of duties occupa-

8 tion or business (2) I expect to be unable to attend my proper polling

9 place on the day of such election because of illness or physical disability

10 on the advice of my physician whose signature appears below (mark out

11 the reason not applicable)

12 ..... ..

13 (Date of signature)

(Signature of applicant)

14 I declare that I have advised applicant as stated above

15 Send ballot to .....

16 (Fill in if applicant is in hospital or confined away from residence)

17 .....

(Signature of physician)

19 (Required only if reason (2) is not

20 marked out in application above)

1        If not registered and enrolled the wife or dependent of a person in  
2        the actual military service of the United States may in the above ap-  
3        plication give party preference in lieu of stating registration when  
4        applying for an absentee ballot to be cast in a primary election

5            \* \* \*

6        Section 1304-B Issuance of Official Absentee Ballots Envelopes and  
7        Certificates Upon delivery to him of an application for an official absen-  
8        tee ballot as prescribed by section 1303-B the chief clerk of the county  
9        board of elections shall compare the signature and voting residence of  
10       the applicant upon such application with the signature and voting resi-  
11       dence of applicant in the permanent registration records of the board of  
12       registration commissioners and if he is satisfied that applicant is entitled  
13       to vote as stated in the application and has no reason to believe to the  
14       contrary he shall enter in ink on the appropriate district register in the  
15       the place provided to signify the applicant's having voted at the election  
16       the letter "A" and he shall sign Part 2 on both the original and dupli-  
17       cate of the application and he shall hand or mail to the applicant the  
18       following

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1 (a) One official absentee ballot which shall be in the same form as  
2 regular and official ballots except that it shall be printed upon blue  
3 paper and shall have printed on the back thereof in addition to any other  
4 matter now required by law the words "Official Absentee Ballot"

5 (b) A gummed envelope approximating the size known commercially  
6 as number six and three-quarters with the words "Official Absentee Bal-  
7 lot" printed upon it and nothing else Such envelope is hereafter re-  
8 ferred to as the first envelope

9 (c) The original of the form prescribed by section 1302-B Parts 1  
10 and 2 of which shall have been completed as aforesaid

11 (d) A gummed envelope approximating the size known commer-  
12 cially as number ten on which there shall be printed as addressee the  
13 name and post office address of the county board of elections and in the  
14 upper left corner the words "Absentee Elector" Such envelope is here-  
15 after referred to as the second envelope

16 (e) When application is made for the official absentee ballot by the  
17 wife or dependent of a person in actual military service of the United  
18 States when such wife or dependent is a qualified elector but is not regis-  
19 tered or enrolled the chief clerk need not compare the signatures and

- 1 addresses as required above before complying with the provisions of this
- 2 section

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

.....  
 Chief Clerk, Senate

.....  
 President pro tempore, Senate

.....  
 Speaker, House of Representatives

Approved The ..... day of ..... A. D. 1961.

.....  
 Governor