

No. 1989-101

AN ACT

SB 1332

Providing for the alteration of election districts; and conferring powers and duties upon county boards of elections and the Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Election District Alteration and Data Reporting Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Bureau.” The Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation of the Department of State.

“Secretary.” The Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Section 3. Restrictions on alteration.

(a) General rule.—Except as provided in subsection (b), an election district may not be established, abolished, divided or consolidated during the period from January 1, 1990, through March 29, 1992.

(b) Exception.—During the period from January 1, 1990, through March 29, 1992, an election district may be divided or election districts may be combined if the following are met:

(1) In the case of the division of an election district, the boundary of each resulting district is composed entirely of clearly visible physical features conforming with the census block lines or portions of the original boundary of the election district which was divided.

(2) In the case of the combination of election districts, the boundary of each resulting district is composed entirely of portions of the original boundaries of the election districts which were combined.

(c) Procedure.—If an alteration of an election district under subsection (b) is sought, the following shall apply:

(1) The county board of elections shall notify the bureau, in writing, of the proposed alteration. The notice shall include a map and a description of the proposed boundary of any new district or districts.

(2) Before a county board of elections may petition the court for a change in the boundary of an election district under the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, the secretary must make a determination that the board has complied with subsection (b). Any of the following constitute evidence of the determination under this paragraph:

(i) A certification by the secretary that the determination has been made.

(ii) A certification by the board that notice under this paragraph has been given to the bureau and that the secretary has not acted within 45 days of the notice.

Section 4. Alterations after period of restriction.

(a) General rule.—After March 29, 1992, an election district may be established, abolished, divided or consolidated if the boundary of each resulting district is composed entirely of clearly visible physical features conforming with census block lines from the most recently completed Federal decennial census.

(b) Report.—Within 30 days of an alteration under subsection (a), the county board of elections shall submit to the bureau a report, including a map and a verbal description, of the boundaries of each resulting district.

Section 5. Reports.

(a) Initial report of existing districts.—Within six months of the effective date of this act, each county board of elections shall submit to the bureau a report, including maps and verbal descriptions, of the boundaries of every election district within the county. All reports filed under section 3 or 4 shall be filed as amendments to this initial report.

(b) Retention of reports.—The bureau shall retain at all times the reports of the current boundaries of all election districts, including maps and verbal descriptions. Copies of such reports shall be made available to the General Assembly, on request, and to the public for a fee, as established by the department.

Section 6. Election results; registration.

(a) Election results.—In addition to any other reports, returns or certifications required by any other law, within 30 days after a primary, municipal, special or general election, the county board of elections shall submit to the bureau a report stating the total number of votes cast in each voting district for each candidate for the following offices:

- (1) A Statewide office.
- (2) State Senator.
- (3) State Representative.
- (4) United States Representative.

(b) Registration.—Within 30 days after the close of registration of any primary, municipal or general election, the county board of elections shall submit to the bureau a report containing the total number of registered voters for each political party in each voting district.

Section 7. Regulations.

The secretary may promulgate regulations to administer this act.

Section 8. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 22nd day of December, A. D. 1989.

ROBERT P. CASEY