

No. 196

AN ACT

To further amend subsections (a) and (b) of section 16 of the act, approved the twenty-ninth day of April, one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven (Pamphlet Laws 487), entitled "An act to provide for the permanent personal registration of electors in boroughs, towns, and townships as a condition of their right to vote at elections and primaries, and their enrollment as members of political parties as a further condition of their right to vote at primaries; prescribing certain procedure for the conduct of elections and primaries and the challenge and proof of qualifications of electors; requiring the county commissioners of the various counties to act as a registration commission therefor; and prescribing the powers and duties of citizens, parties, political bodies, registration commissions, commissioners, registrars, inspectors of registration and other appointees of registration commissions, county election boards, election officers, municipal officers, departments and bureaus, police officers, courts, judges, prothonotaries, sheriffs, county commissioners, peace officers, county treasurers, county controllers, registrars of vital statistics, certain public utility corporations, real estate brokers, rental agents, and boards of school directors; and imposing penalties," by further providing for hours of registration; and removing certain obsolete provisions.

"The Permanent Registration Act for Boroughs, Towns, and Townships."

Subsections (a) and (b) of section 16, act of April 29, 1937, P. L. 487, as last amended by act of March 5, 1947, P. L. 24, further amended.

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

Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 16 of the act, approved the twenty-ninth day of April, one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven (Pamphlet Laws 487), entitled "An act to provide for the permanent personal registration of electors in boroughs, towns, and townships as a condition of their right to vote at elections and primaries, and their enrollment as members of political parties as a further condition of their right to vote at primaries; prescribing certain procedure for the conduct of elections and primaries and the challenge and proof of qualifications of electors; requiring the county commissioners of the various counties to act as a registration commission therefor; and prescribing the powers and duties of citizens, parties, political bodies, registration commissions, commissioners, registrars, inspectors of registration and other appointees of registration commissions, county election boards, election officers, municipal officers, departments and bureaus, police officers, courts, judges, prothonotaries, sheriffs, county commissioners, peace officers, county treasurers, county controllers, registrars of vital statistics, certain public utility corporations, real estate brokers, rental agents, and boards of school directors; and imposing penalties," as last amended by the act, approved the fifth day of March, one thousand nine hundred forty-seven (Pamphlet Laws 24), are hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 16. Days and Hours of Registration; Places of Registration; Use of Polling Places; Payment of Rentals; Use of School Buildings; Public Notice.—

(a) From and after the first day of May, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, each commission, or any commissioner or a registrar or clerk appointed by the commission, shall, during ordinary business hours, and during such additional hours as the commission shall from time to time prescribe, on each day, except Sunday, holidays, the day of each election and each primary, the fifty days next preceding each general election and each primary, thirty-five (35) days next preceding each municipal election, and the thirty days next following each election and the five days next following each primary, at the office of the commission and at such additional places in the boroughs, towns, and townships as the commission may from time to time designate, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) herein, receive personal applications from persons who claim that they are entitled to be registered as electors of any borough, town, or township and who appear for registration [: Provided, however, That in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, applications for personal registration shall be received up to and including the first day of September, anything in this section to the contrary notwithstanding: And provided further, That in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, each commission shall arrange to have two (2) registrars present to receive applications for the personal registrations of electors at the polling place or some suitable place in each election district in the boroughs, towns, and townships of such county on at least three separate days prior to the thirtieth day previous to the primary election to be held in the year one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven (one of them being in June and another in July and the third day being in August). Of the two registrars who shall sit in each election district prior to the thirtieth day previous to the primary in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, one shall be a member of the party enrolling the largest number of voters within the election district for the preceding November election, and the other shall be a member of the party enrolling the second largest number of voters within the election district for such election. Such registrars shall be appointed by the commission for the year of one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, and shall hold office only during such year. No person shall be so appointed unless his name is suggested in writing by the county chairman of the party which is entitled to a registrar in such district as herein provided, unless the county chairman of the proper party

fails to make such suggestion on or before the nineteenth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, in which case the commission may appoint any qualified person].

(b) The commission by its own action may, or upon the signed petition of a least one hundred qualified electors of any borough, town or township requesting the same shall cause at least two registrars to sit, not later than fifty days prior to the primary or general election, and thirty-five (35) days prior to each municipal election for the purpose of receiving personal applications for registrations, applications for change of party enrollment, and removal notices from electors of said borough, town or township at a suitable and conveniently located place in said borough, town or township for at least one day and not more than three days continuously *between such practicable and reasonable hours, not less than six (6) hours each day, as the commission shall prescribe, or if the commission fails to so prescribe, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 3 P. M. and between the hours of 7 P. M. and 10 P. M.* Such petitions to be effective shall be filed with the commission at least sixty-five days prior to any primary or general election and at least fifty (50) days prior to each municipal election. Immediately upon such motion of the commission or immediately upon the receipt of any such petition, the commission shall notify, in writing, the county chairman of the political parties enrolling the largest and second largest number of voters within the county at the preceding November election of the filing of said petition and of the number of registrars the commission will appoint to serve in said boroughs, towns, and townships. Not later than the third day after receipt of said notice, said chairman shall submit to the commission a list of qualified electors of the county to serve as registrars for said days. Of the registrars appointed by the commission for such registration days, an equal number shall be appointed from the names on each of the lists so submitted: Provided, however, That if either or both of said chairmen shall fail to submit such list within the time herein provided, the commission shall appoint an equal number of persons from the list actually submitted, and an equal number of any qualified electors of the county, or shall appoint as all of such registrars, any qualified electors of the county, as the case may be.

Section 2. The provisions of this act shall become effective immediately upon final enactment.

APPROVED—The 30th day of June, A. D. 1951.

JOHN S. FINE