
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1830 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY RABB, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, WAXMAN, KAZEEM, CERRATO
AND ROZZI, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), entitled
2 "An act concerning elections, including general, municipal,
3 special and primary elections, the nomination of candidates,
4 primary and election expenses and election contests; creating
5 and defining membership of county boards of elections;
6 imposing duties upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth,
7 courts, county boards of elections, county commissioners;
8 imposing penalties for violation of the act, and codifying,
9 revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto; and
10 repealing certain acts and parts of acts relating to
11 elections," in election districts and polling places, further
12 providing for equipment and arrangement of polling places,
13 guard rail and number of voting compartments or voting
14 machines; in nomination of candidates, further providing for
15 casting of lots for position of names upon the primary
16 ballots or ballot labels and notice to candidates; and, in
17 ballots, further providing for form of official primary
18 ballot.

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

21 Section 1. Section 530 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,
22 No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended by
23 adding a subsection to read:

24 Section 530. Equipment and Arrangement of Polling Places;
25 Guard Rail; Number of Voting Compartments or Voting Machines.--

26 * * *

1 (a.1) The position of candidate names for the same office on
2 a ballot shall be randomized between polling places within an
3 election district in accordance with section 915.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. Sections 915 and 1002(b) and (c) of the act are
6 amended to read:

7 Section 915. [Casting of Lots for] Randomized Position of
8 Names Upon the Primary Ballots or Ballot Labels; Notice to
9 Candidates.--Immediately after the last day fixed for filing of
10 such nomination petitions with them, the Secretary of the
11 Commonwealth or the county board, as the case may be, shall fix
12 a day [for the casting of lots], in such manner as may be
13 prescribed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, or county
14 board, as the case may be, for the randomized position of names
15 upon the primary ballots or ballot labels between polling
16 places. The position of names within the same polling place
17 shall be uniform. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall give
18 at least two (2) days notice by mail of said date to all
19 candidates whose petitions have been received and filed in his
20 office, and the county board shall give at least two (2) days
21 notice of said date by posting thereof in a conspicuous place in
22 its office, and by publication once in at least two newspapers
23 of general circulation published in the county. All candidates
24 may appear in person, or by agent duly authorized by letter of
25 attorney, signed and acknowledged by an officer empowered to
26 take acknowledgments. In the event of any of said candidates not
27 being present in person or by representative at the time of
28 [casting of lots] randomization, it shall be the duty of the
29 Secretary of the Commonwealth or the county board, as the case
30 may be, to appoint some person to represent such absentee. After

1 said [lots are cast] randomization, the Secretary of the
2 Commonwealth or the county board, as the case may be, shall
3 accordingly establish the order in which the names of said
4 candidates are to appear upon the primary ballots or ballot
5 labels for each polling place, and certify the same for placing
6 upon the official primary ballots or ballot labels.

7 Section 1002. Form of Official Primary Ballot.--* * *

8 (b) On the back of each ballot shall be printed in prominent
9 type the words "OFFICIAL PRIMARY BALLOT OFPARTY FOR"
10 followed by the designation of the election district for which
11 it is prepared, the date of the primary and the facsimile
12 signatures of the members of the county board of elections. The
13 names of candidates shall in all cases be arranged under the
14 title of the office for which they are candidates, and be
15 printed thereunder in the order determined by [the casting of
16 lots] randomization as provided by [this act] section 915. Under
17 the title of such offices where more than one candidate is to be
18 voted for, shall be printed "Vote for not more than"
19 (the blank space to indicate the number of candidates to be
20 voted for the particular office.) At the right of the name of
21 each candidate there shall be a square of sufficient size for
22 the convenient insertion of a cross (x) or check (✓) mark. There
23 shall be left at the end of the list of candidates for each
24 office (or under the title of the office itself in case there be
25 no candidates who have filed nomination petitions therefor) as
26 many blank spaces as there are persons to be voted for, for such
27 office, in which space the elector may insert, by writing or
28 stamping, the name of any person whose name is not printed on
29 the ballot as a candidate for such office. Opposite or under the
30 name of each candidate, except candidates for the office of

1 President of the United States and candidates for delegate or
2 alternate delegate to a National Party Convention, who is to be
3 voted for by the electors of more than one county, shall be
4 printed the name of the county in which such candidate resides;
5 and opposite or under the name of each candidate except
6 candidates for delegate or alternate delegate to a National
7 Party Convention who is to be voted for by the electors of an
8 entire county or any congressional, senatorial or representative
9 district within the county, shall be printed the name of the
10 city, borough, township or ward, as the case may be, in which
11 such candidate resides.

12 (c) The ballot shall vary in form only as the names of
13 districts, offices, candidates and the random position of
14 candidate names or the provisions of this act may require.

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16 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.