



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Joint State Government Commission
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Short summary in response to Act 12 of 2020
ELECTION LAW IN PENNSYLVANIA
Third Annual
REPORT OF THE ELECTION LAW ADVISORY BOARD
for the year ending June 30, 2023

The fiscal year 2022-2023 saw a substantial amount of activity and a number of changes for the Election Law Advisory Board. Seven vacancies in the board occurred; one person was replaced in February 2023, and the remaining six successors were appointed May 2023. Accordingly, this report may not represent the opinions of the new members. The newly reconfigured board may review or revise previously published recommendations or decide to move in other directions in general in the future. The Board, as composed during the fall of 2022 released an interim report in January 2023 that addressed many of the issues surrounding the use of mail-in ballots. Subsequent to that report, the board focused its discussions on election official training and voter identification. This report reflects the general consensus regarding the election director training recommendation as set forth by the board as it was composed from June 2022 to May 2023 and reflects the general discussion and debate regarding voter identification during that time period.

The Board recommended that Pennsylvania's election law be amended to provide for initial training for newly elected directors and continuing education for all directors. Training will be provided by the Pennsylvania Department of State Election Bureau or providers the bureau approves. Ample time is provided for directors to attain the training, and directors who have continuously served since the effective date of the mail-in ballots statute or those who have received certification from an approved certification entity are exempt from the initial training

requirements. The bureau's materials will be developed in consultation with representative associations of election directors and county commissioners.

The Board engaged in lengthy discussions surrounding the issue of voter identification. No conclusions or recommendations were reached for this report, but the report contains a discussion and review of the debate to date.

This report also provides updates on activities affecting the board's recommendations as proposed in its 2021, 2022, and January 2023 reports as well as current issues arising in election law. A brief summary of legislation introduced both federally and in Pennsylvania during the current sessions of Congress and the General Assembly that would affect Pennsylvania elections is also included.

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