|  | PRINTER'S NO. 438 |
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**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

SENATE BILL

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| No. | 6 | Session of  2024 |

INTRODUCED BY

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT

AN ACT

Establishing a County Board of Elections primary office and prohibiting the creation of satellite offices or dropboxes.

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

Section 1. The county commissioners shall provide the county board of elections with a suitable and adequate primary office, properly furnished for keeping its records, holding its public sessions and otherwise performing its public duties.

Section 2. The board of elections shall give an elector an absentee ballot to be returned, sealed in the official absentee ballot envelopes, to an employee at the primary office of the county board of elections, which shall retain the ballot, unopened, until the canvassing of all absentee ballots. If the elector is unable to appear at the office of the county board of elections to receive the ballot, the board shall give the elector's absentee ballot to an authorized representative of the elector who is designated in writing by the elector. The authorized representative shall deliver the absentee ballot to the elector and return the completed absentee ballot, sealed in the official absentee ballot envelopes, to an employe at the primary office of the county board of elections, which shall retain the ballot, unopened, until the canvassing of all absentee ballots. If the elector is unable to appear at the office of the county board of elections or unable to obtain assistance from an authorized representative, the county board of elections may provide an authorized representative or ask the judge of the court of common pleas in the county in which the elector is qualified to vote to direct a deputy sheriff of the county to deliver the absentee ballot to the elector if the elector is at a physical location within the county and return the completed absentee ballot, sealed in the official absentee ballot envelopes, to an employe at the primary office of the county board of elections. If there is no authorized representative and a deputy sheriff is unavailable to deliver an absentee ballot under this section, the judge may direct a constable to make such delivery in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Section 3. Voting by Absentee Electors.--At any time after receiving an official absentee ballot, but on or before eight o'clock P.M. the day of the election, the elector shall, in secret, proceed to mark the ballot only in black lead pencil, indelible pencil or blue, black or blue-black ink, in fountain pen or ball point pen, and then fold the ballot, enclose and securely seal the same in the envelope on which is printed, stamped or endorsed "Official Election Ballot." This envelope shall then be placed in the second one, on which is printed the form of declaration of the elector, and the address of the elector's county board of election and the local election district of the elector. The elector shall then fill out, date and sign the declaration printed on such envelope. Such envelope shall then be securely sealed and the elector shall send same by mail, postage prepaid, except where franked, or deliver it in person to an employee of said county board of election at the primary office located in the county.

Section 4. County Board of Elections are prohibited from creating any satellite office or dropbox to disperse or collect absentee ballots. Failure to adhere to this Section may result in the loss of state appropriations to the County Board of Elections in future fiscal years.

Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately.