



## SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

### Senate Bill 263 Printer's No. 245

Prime Sponsor: Senator Baker  
Committee: State Government

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#### **SYNOPSIS:**

Amends the Pennsylvania Election Code (Code) to eliminate the requirement for disabled voters with permanent absentee voter status to submit a written statement every four years asserting that they remain disabled and continue to qualify for permanent absentee voter status.

#### **SUMMARY:**

Removes a provision from Subsection (e.1) of Section 1302 of the Code, which pertains to Applications for Official Absentee Ballots. The current provisions of this Section of the Code allow the placement of a voter, who is permanently disabled or bedridden and is unable to attend the polls or operate a voting machine, with the certification of an attending physician, on a permanently disabled absentee ballot list. The voter is automatically mailed an absentee ballot for each primary and general election, as long as a vote is cast in each prior election.

A disabled voter is not required to file a physician's certificate of disability with each application, but is required to submit a written statement every four years asserting their continuing disability.

In addition, Subsection (e.1) also provides that the county board of elections of the county of residence must be notified if the voter no longer claims a permanent disability.

In order to make the process less burdensome, the bill removes the current language in Subsection (e.1) relating to the requirement of submission of a written statement every four years.

Effective Date: 60 Days.

#### **BILL HISTORY:**

Referred to State Government, January 30, 2017. Similar legislation (SB334) was introduced and referred to the Senate State Government Committee during the 2015-2016 legislative session.

Prepared by: Totino 11/8/2017