

# HOUSE BILL 771



**House Bill 771 is designed to empower poll workers to verify the identity of every registered voter every time.**

## ***What is the general overview of this bill?***

House Bill 771 would require voter ID to be shown at the polls. This legislation would rely on existing forms of identification, which would most commonly be a driver's license or state ID card. There also is an option for voters to sign an affidavit that carries perjury penalties.

## ***Why seek voter ID via the standard legislative process rather than a constitutional amendment?***

A constitutional amendment would need to pass in two consecutive sessions and then be voted on by the public. It would push this issue down the road by several years.

We can do voter ID with more expediency than a constitutional amendment. We also can update the Election Code with clarity, rather than pass a vague amendment that would put the Department of State in the driver's seat to develop the guidelines.

## ***What are the provisions for someone who arrives to vote without an ID?***

There is an entire list of alternate documents the person can show at the poll. It includes a residential lease, a tax document or an insurance policy. The person also can sign an affidavit under penalty of perjury or get someone who knows him or her personally to sign an affidavit as well.

## ***What are the perjury penalties?***

The person could be found guilty of a first-degree misdemeanor and ordered to pay a fine up to \$10,000 or undergo imprisonment of up to five years.

## ***Doesn't Pennsylvania already have voter ID?***

Currently, a voter must show identification only the first time he or she casts a ballot at a specific election precinct. Voters casting a ballot by mail provide a driver's license or Social Security number.

## ***Do other states have voter ID requirements?***

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 36 states have laws that request or require voters to show some form of identification at the polls.

## ***Didn't Pennsylvania already try to require ID at every precinct?***

Yes. Act 18 of 2012 attempted to require photo identification. However, the Commonwealth Court ruled against the law, saying the way it was designed was burdensome. That law did not allow many commonly used identification cards.

## ***When would this initiative go into effect if signed into law during the 2025 Legislative Session?***

Jan. 1, 2027

## ***Would voter ID disenfranchise certain groups of voters?***

The bill as written provides for many different forms of identification along with the affidavits. It would not create a barrier to voting.

We already are required to show identification in so many aspects of our daily lives – whether at a cash register, a doctor's office or even a library.

## ***What are the public's views on voter ID?***

Polling time and again has indicated support for voter ID. This support transcends party affiliation, geography, race and socioeconomic factors.

A nationwide survey found 81% of people support voter ID. (Pew Research Center, 2024)

A PA-specific poll found 73% of people support voter ID. (Franklin & Marshall College, 2024)

## ***I heard House Bill 771 would allow undocumented immigrants to vote. Is this true?***

Absolutely not. Only registered voters would be permitted to vote. Registered voters always have been – and always will be – citizens.

## ***Do you believe there was fraud in past elections?***

There are a few, limited instances of fraud reported after every election. This bill, though, is about improving voter confidence and hopefully increasing turnout in the process.

**Greater use of voter ID would give peace of mind to voters AND poll workers.**