
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 126 (S.298). An act relating to voter protections

Subjects: Elections; conduct of elections; voter protections; voter checklists; candidate disclosures; campaign finance

This act is also titled and may be cited as the “Voter Protections Act of 2026.” It creates a new criminal offense prohibiting interference with voters and election officials. It prohibits the imposition or application by the State or a municipality of any voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or a standard, practice, or procedure in a manner that results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote based on race or color, membership in a language minority group, or having a disability, and empowers the Attorney General’s Office to bring civil actions if there is a violation thereof. It amends law regarding voter checklists to require that any person wishing to obtain a copy of a municipality’s portion of the statewide voter checklist, or any other municipal voter checklist, to swear or affirm that the person will not use the information in a manner contrary to law. It, through May 30, 2027, suspends any enforcement and penalties for candidates for statewide office, legislative office, and some county offices who delinquent file their financial disclosures, as well as require that the State Ethics Commission provide informational resources to these candidates and answer their questions regarding the financial disclosures. It requires the State Ethics Commission and the Secretary of State’s Office to report recommendations on how to best manage candidate disclosure forms. It will amend two definitions in campaign finance law, first, by modifying the definition of “expenditure” to now explicitly include any costs incurred for the provision of monitoring systems, protective detail, and cybersecurity related to a candidate’s security, and, second, by modifying the definition of “political committee” or “political action committee” to now mean an individual or entity that accepts contributions and makes expenditures in any amounts in any two-year general election cycle for the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more candidates, influencing an election, or advocating a position on a public question in any election.

Effective Date: June 8, 2026