

Student Handout Number 6.

“Pennsylvania: House Approves Restrictive Voter ID's”

“By a 103 to 96 margin, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives approved an election reform bill ([S.B. 824](#)) that includes restrictive voter ID provisions. The ID provisions were added in an amendment offered by [Rep. Daryl Metcalfe \(R-12\)](#). The bill would require all Pennsylvania voters to show a photo ID or county voter registration card, unless they dissent based on religious grounds. Other non-photo documentary identification (i.e., utility bills, credit cards, EBT cards, or library cards) would not be accepted. Likewise, voters who do not have adequate identification would not be permitted to cast a provisional or affidavit ballot. Voters in Pennsylvania are required only to provide a signature at the polls. The bill was sent to the Senate for consideration but was not taken up before the start of the summer recess.

If passed into law, Pennsylvania would join South Carolina in having the most restrictive voter ID requirements in the country. South Carolina is currently the only state that leaves voters without an option if they do not have a photo ID at the polls. A number of state photo ID requirements have been overturned by the courts because of their disparate impact on low-income communities and people of color. Advocates from the [ACLU](#) and the [NAACP](#) have threatened litigation in Pennsylvania if the Senate approves the restrictive voter ID requirement. *AP* 6/28/02 & 6/29/02, *Philadelphia Inquirer* 6/28/02 & 7/6/02.”