

TO: Lester K. Fryer, Chairman, Local Government Committee

FROM: John H. Broujos, Counsel

SUBJECT: House Bill 78, Printer's No. 89 - Regulating Hours of County Court House and Offices.

REF: 16 PS 2301.1

ACT AND MUNICIPALITIES AFFECTED: Counties of the Third through Eighth Classes; Act of August 9, 1955 (P. L. 323), Section 2301 as amended by Section 2301.1.

RELATED LEGISLATION: In the 1970 Session, an identical bill was introduced - House Bill 2328 - was referred to committee, and no action was taken thereon.

PROVISIONS:

Purpose: To permit the county commissioners to determine, in Counties of the Third through Eighth Classes, when county offices and the court house shall be opened.

Section 1 (Section 2301.1): This section changes the existing law. The existing law provides that the county commissioners may close the county court house and all county offices all day on Saturdays throughout the year or during any specified period of the year, excepting voters registration offices when persons are eligible to register. Thus, now the county commissioners cannot close the offices when the voter registration is required to be opened according to the law established by the legislature.

The effect of this section is to permit the county commissioners to close the court house and all county offices, including voter registration offices, whenever the commissioners decide.

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UPDATE: 6 - 2 - 71

This bill was reported out Tuesday, May 25, as amended to provide that while the authority in the Commissioners to determine when the county offices shall be open would remain broad as provided in the bill, there would be a limitation in that the voter registration offices shall be open during ordinary business hours on the two Saturdays prior to termination of registration prior to the primary and general and municipal elections.

A separate registration law, 25 PS 951-16, provides that the registrar "shall during ordinary business hours . . . on each day, except Sunday, holidays, the day of election and primary, the 30 days next preceding each general, municipal, and primary election, and the 30 days next following each election, and the 5 days following each primary . . . receive personal applications . . ." for registration. The Legislative Reference Bureau has been requested to prepare an amendment to have this act conform to the provisions set forth in House Bill 78 as amended.