

ASSEMBLY, No. 1966

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

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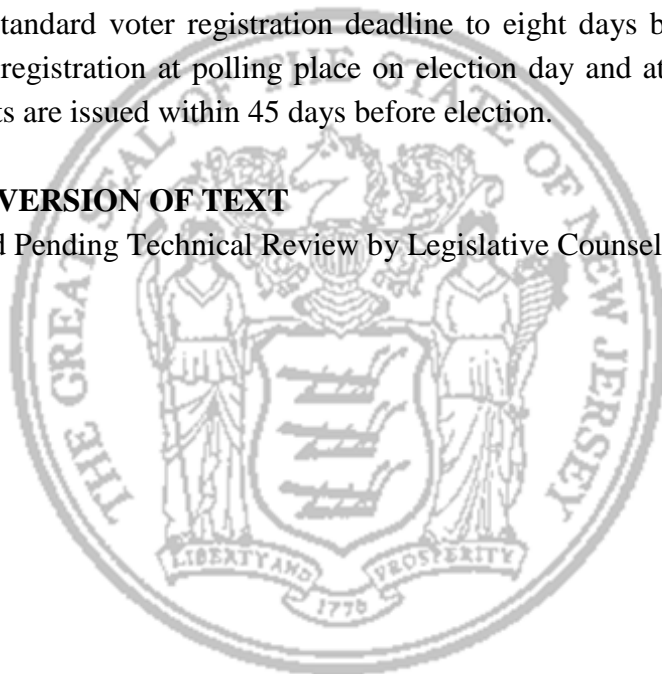
Assemblywomen Jasey, Timberlake, Assemblymen Benson, Spearman, Verrelli, Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Moriarty, Assemblywomen Speight, Mosquera, Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywoman Carter, Assemblymen Conaway, McKeon, Tully and Assemblywoman Swain

SYNOPSIS

Reduces standard voter registration deadline to eight days before election; allows voter registration at polling place on election day and at offices where mail-in ballots are issued within 45 days before election.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/2/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning voter registration and amending various parts
2 of the statutory law and supplementing chapter 31 of Title 19 of
3 the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. (New section) a. As used in this section:

9 “Applicant” means any person otherwise eligible to vote, but
10 who is not registered to vote for an election and is applying for such
11 registration pursuant to this section in person (1) at the person’s
12 assigned polling place on the day of an election, or (2) at an office
13 where a mail-in ballot may be issued under “The Vote By Mail
14 Law,” P.L.2009, c.79 (C.19:63-1 et seq.), for the period beginning
15 45 days before the election and ending at 3 P.M. the day before the
16 election.

17 “Identifying document” means (1) a current and valid photo
18 identification card that shows the applicant’s name and current
19 address; (2) a current utility bill, bank statement, government check
20 or pay check that shows the applicant’s name and current address;
21 (3) any other government document that shows the applicant’s name
22 and current address; or (4) any other identifying document that the
23 Secretary of State has determined to be acceptable for this purpose.

24 b. Notwithstanding any other law, rule, or regulation to the
25 contrary, an applicant may register to vote on the day of any
26 election at the polling place to which the applicant is assigned, or at
27 an office where a mail-in ballot may be issued under “The Vote By
28 Mail Law,” P.L.2009, c.79 (C.19:63-1 et seq.), for the period
29 beginning 45 days before the election and ending at 3 P.M. the day
30 before the election, by:

- 31 (1) presenting or submitting a copy of an identifying document;
32 (2) completing an appropriate voter registration form; and
33 (3) submitting an affidavit in which the applicant declares that
34 the applicant is not already properly registered to vote for the
35 election in which the applicant is voting, will have lived in the
36 county in which the applicant is voting for at least 30 days prior to
37 that election, has not previously voted in that election, and upon
38 voting will not thereafter vote in that election.

39 The commissioner of registration shall furnish to each polling
40 place and office where a mail-in ballot may be issued voter
41 registration forms and affidavit forms for the purposes of this
42 section.

43 c. The commissioner of registration shall designate an
44 individual at each office where a mail-in ballot may be issued to
45 receive and review the forms and affidavits provided for under

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 subsection b. of this section for an applicant registering to vote at
2 that office during the period beginning 45 days before the election
3 and ending at 3 P.M. the day before the election. The designee shall
4 read to an applicant, prior to accepting the forms and affidavits, the
5 penalty provision for voter fraud provided under subsection f. of
6 this section. The designee shall issue a temporary registration
7 certificate to a qualified applicant. The certificate shall be in
8 triplicate, with one copy to be retained by the designee, one copy to
9 be retained by the office, and one copy to be retained by the
10 applicant. The applicant shall be then permitted to vote either
11 immediately at the office or on election day at the applicant's
12 assigned polling place in a manner promulgated by the Secretary of
13 the State to allow verification of the applicant's identity and ensure
14 the security of the ballot.

15 d. The commissioner of registration shall designate an
16 individual in each polling place to receive and review the forms and
17 affidavits provided for under subsection b. of this section. The
18 designee shall read to an applicant, prior to accepting the forms and
19 affidavits, the penalty provision for voter fraud provided under
20 subsection f. of this section. The designee shall issue a temporary
21 registration certificate to a qualified applicant. The certificate shall
22 be in triplicate, with one copy to be retained by the designee, one
23 copy to be retained by the district board, and one copy to be
24 retained by the applicant. The applicant shall be permitted to vote at
25 the polling place in a manner promulgated by the Secretary of the
26 State to allow verification of the applicant's identity and ensure the
27 security of the ballot.

28 e. All forms and affidavits received by the commissioner's
29 designee pursuant to subsections c. and d. of this section shall be
30 delivered to the commissioner of registration as soon as possible,
31 and no later than within two days of completion. Upon receipt of
32 the voter registration forms completed pursuant to this section, the
33 commissioner shall:

34 (1) send to the registrant written notification that such registrant
35 is duly registered to vote. On the face of such notification in the
36 upper left-hand corner shall be printed the words: "Do Not Forward.
37 Return Postage Guaranteed. If not delivered in two days, return to
38 the Commissioner of Registration;"

39 (2) as soon as possible, enter the information provided for the
40 registrant on the completed registration form into the Statewide
41 voter registration system established pursuant to section 1 of
42 P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31);

43 (3) paste, tape, or photocopy the completed registration form
44 onto an original registration form, and paste or tape a copy of such
45 completed registration form onto a duplicate registration form, both
46 of which shall be filed as provided in R.S.19:31-10. Nothing in this

1 paragraph shall preclude any commissioner of registration from
2 keeping the original registration form on file; and

3 (4) in the case of a registrant currently registered in another
4 county of this State, notify the commissioner of registration of such
5 other county to delete such registrant's name from the list of
6 persons registered in such other county.

7 The commissioner shall notify a registrant of the reasons for any
8 refusal to approve that person's registration within two business
9 days of such determination.

10 f. An applicant who willfully or fraudulently registers more
11 than once, or who registers under any but the applicant's true name,
12 or attempts to vote more than once, or who willfully registers in any
13 election district where the applicant is not a resident at the time of
14 registering, is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. Any person
15 who aids and abets an applicant in violating the provisions of this
16 section is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

17

18 2. R.S.19:31-6 is amended to read as follows:

19 19:31-6. Any person qualified to vote in an election shall be
20 entitled to vote in the election if the person shall have registered to
21 vote on or before the **[21st]** eight day preceding the election by:

22 a. registering in person at any offices designated by the
23 commissioner of registration for providing and receiving
24 registration forms;

25 b. completing a voter registration form while applying for a
26 motor vehicle driver's license from an agent of the New Jersey
27 Motor Vehicle Commission, as provided for in section 24 of
28 P.L.1994, c.182 (C.39:2-3.2);

29 c. completing and returning to the Secretary of State or having
30 returned thereto a voter registration form received from a voter
31 registration agency, as defined in subsection a. of section 26 of
32 P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11), while applying for services or
33 assistance or seeking a recertification, renewal or change of address
34 at an office of that agency;

35 d. completing and returning to the Secretary of State a voter
36 registration form obtained from a public agency, as defined in
37 subsection a. of section 15 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.3);

38 e. completing and returning to the Secretary of State or having
39 returned thereto a voter registration form received from a door-to-
40 door canvass or mobile registration drive, as provided for in section
41 19 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.7);

42 f. completing and returning to the Secretary of State a federal
43 mail voter registration form, as prescribed in subsection (b) of
44 section 9 of the "National Voter Registration Act of 1993," (42
45 U.S.C. s. 1973gg et seq.);

46 g. completing and returning to the Secretary of State or the
47 appropriate county clerk an application for a federal postcard

1 application form to register to vote, as permitted pursuant to the
2 "Overseas Absentee Voting Act" (42 U.S.C. s. 1973ff-1 et seq.) and
3 section 4 of P.L.1976, c.23 (C.19:59-4);

4 h. completing a provisional ballot affirmation statement and
5 voting the provisional ballot in the previous election, if the person
6 who submitted the provisional ballot in that election is determined
7 not to be a registered voter; or

8 i. completing and submitting an online voter registration form
9 available on the Secretary of State's Internet website, as provided
10 under section 1 of P.L.2019, c.382 (C.19:31-6.4c).

11 Any person qualified to vote in the election shall be entitled to
12 vote in the election if the person registers at the person's assigned
13 polling place on the day of the election, or at an office where a
14 mail-in ballot may be issued for the period beginning 45 days
15 before the election and ending at 3 P.M. the day before the election,
16 as provided under section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
17 Legislature as this bill).

18 When the commissioner has designated a place or places other
19 than his office for receiving registrations, the commissioner shall
20 cause to be published a notice in a newspaper circulated in the
21 municipality wherein such place or places of registration shall be
22 located. Such notice shall be published pursuant to R.S.19:12-7.

23 Any office designated by the commissioner of registration for
24 receiving registration forms shall have displayed, in a conspicuous
25 location, registration and voting instructions. These instructions
26 shall be the same as those provided for polling places under
27 R.S.19:9-2 and shall be provided by the commissioner.

28 (cf: P.L.2019, c.382, s.2)

29

30 3. Section 1 of P.L.1966, c.177 (C.19:31-6.1) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Title to which
33 this act is a supplement, any person authorized by law to accept
34 applications for voter registration shall accept, during the **[20-day]**
35 period prior to any election or on the day of the election, as the case
36 may be, the application for registration of all eligible voters who
37 shall personally appear for registration before such person, or the
38 registration card mailed or delivered to such person **[**, but no
39 eligible voter so registered shall be entitled to vote in the election
40 immediately following said 20-day period**]**. Any person registered
41 **[**under the provisions of this act**]** after the eighth day preceding an
42 election at the locations and in the manner specified under
43 subsections a. through i. of R.S.19:31-6, subsection a. of section 15
44 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.3), and subsection a. of section 26 of
45 P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11) shall be advised that **[he]** the
46 person will not be eligible to vote in the election immediately
47 forthcoming but will be eligible to vote in elections held thereafter,

1 and that the person may vote at the election immediately
2 forthcoming if the person registers at the person's assigned polling
3 place on the day of the election, or at an office where a mail-in
4 ballot may be issued for the period beginning 45 days before the
5 election and ending at 3 P.M. the day before the election, as
6 provided under section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
7 Legislature as this bill).

8 Applications for registration pursuant to the provisions of this act
9 shall be received at such place or places as may be designated by
10 any duly authorized election official.

11 (cf: P.L.2005, c.139, s.9)

12

13 4. Section 15 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.3) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 15. a. As used in this section, "public agency" shall mean:

16 The Division of Worker's Compensation, the Division of
17 Employment Services and the Division of Unemployment and
18 Temporary Disability Insurance, established initially by section 5 of
19 P.L.1948, c.446 (C.34:1A-5), in the Department of Labor and
20 Workforce Development;

21 The Division of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury,
22 continued under section 24 of P.L.1948, c.92 (C.52:18A-24);

23 The New Jersey Transit Corporation, established pursuant to
24 section 4 of P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-4);

25 Any free county library established under the provisions of
26 article 1 of chapter 33 of Title 40 of the Revised Statutes;

27 Any regional library established under the provisions of
28 P.L.1962, c.134 (C.40:33-13.3 et seq.);

29 Any free public library established under the provisions of article
30 1 of chapter 54 of Title 40 of the Revised Statutes;

31 Any joint free public library established under the provisions of
32 P.L.1959, c.155 (C.40:54-29.3 et seq.);

33 Any public institution of higher education as included under the
34 provisions of N.J.S.18A:62-1;

35 Any eligible institution, as defined by subsection a. of section 3
36 of P.L.1979, c.132 (C.18A:72B-17), that receives financial
37 assistance, aid, or grants from State funds;

38 Any office or commercial establishment where State licenses or
39 permits, other than licenses or permits issued by a professional or
40 occupational board established under the laws of this State, are
41 available to individual members of the public; and

42 Any recruitment office of the New Jersey National Guard.

43 b. Any person entitled to register to vote may register as a
44 voter in the election district in which that person resides at any time
45 **【prior to the 21st】** on or before the eighth day preceding any
46 election by completing a registration form described in section 16
47 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.4) and submitting the form to the

1 commissioner of registration of the county wherein the person
2 resides or alternatively, in the case of a registration form provided
3 by the employees or agents of a public agency or a voter
4 registration agency, as defined in subsection a. of section 26 of
5 P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11), to those employees or agents or to
6 the **【Attorney General】** Secretary of State. Any registration form
7 addressed to a commissioner of registration may be mailed to or
8 delivered to the office of that commissioner, and in the case of a
9 registration form available at a public agency, the form shall be
10 mailed to the **【Attorney General】** Secretary of State or delivered to
11 the commissioner of registration in the county of the registrant. A
12 registration form postmarked, stamped or otherwise marked as
13 having been received from the registration applicant, on or before
14 the **【21st】** eighth day preceding any election shall be deemed
15 timely.

16 (cf: P.L.2005, c.139, s.10)

17

18 5. Section 16 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.4) is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 16. a. The Secretary of State shall cause to be prepared and
21 shall provide to each county commissioner of registration forms of
22 size and weight suitable for mailing, which shall require the
23 information required by R.S.19:31-3 in substantially the following
24 form:

25 VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

26 Print clearly in ink. Use ballpoint pen or marker.

27 (1) This form is being used as:

28 New registration

29 Address change

30 Name change

31 (2) Name:.....

32Last First Middle

33 (3) Are you a citizen of the United States of America? Yes

34 No

35 (4) Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? Yes

36 No

37 If you checked 'No' in response to either of these questions, do
38 not complete this form.

39 (5) Street Address where you live:

40

41 Street Address Apt. No.

42

43 (6) City or Town County Zip Code

44 (7) Address Where You Receive Your Mail (if different from
45 above):

46

1 (8) Date of Birth:
2
3 Month Day Year
4 (9) (a) Telephone Number (optional).....
5 (b) E-Mail Address (optional).....
6 (10) Name and address of Your Last Voter Registration
7
8
9

10 (11) If you are registering by mail to vote and will be voting for
11 the first time in your current county of residence, please provide
12 one of the following:
13 (a) your New Jersey driver's license
14 number:.....
15 (b) the last four digits of your Social Security
16 Number.....

17 OR submit with this form a copy of any one of the following
18 documents: a current and valid photo identification card; a current
19 utility bill, bank statement, government check, pay check or any
20 other government or other identifying document that shows your
21 name and current address. If you do not provide either your New
22 Jersey driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social
23 Security Number, or enclose a copy of one of the documents listed
24 above, you will be asked for identification when voting for the first
25 time, unless you are exempt from doing so under federal or State
26 law.

27 (12) Do you wish to declare a political party affiliation?
28 (Optional):
29 YES. Name of Party:
30 NO. I do not wish to declare a political party affiliation at
31 this time.

32 (13) I wish to receive a Mail-in Ballot for all future elections,
33 until I request otherwise in writing.

34 (14) Declaration - I swear or affirm that:
35 I am a U.S. citizen.
36 I live at the above address.
37 I will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the next
38 election.
39 I am not serving a sentence of incarceration due to a conviction
40 for an indictable offense under any federal or State laws.

41 I UNDERSTAND THAT ANY FALSE OR FRAUDULENT
42 REGISTRATION MAY SUBJECT ME TO A FINE OF UP TO
43 \$15,000, IMPRISONMENT UP TO FIVE YEARS, OR BOTH
44 PURSUANT TO R.S.19:34-1.
45
46 Signature or mark of the registrant Date

1 (15) If applicant is unable to complete this form, print the name
2 and address of individual who completed this form.

3

4 Name

5

6 Address

7 In addition, the form may include notice to the applicant of
8 information and options relating to the registration and voting
9 process, including but not limited to notice of qualifications
10 required of a registered voter; notice of the final day by which a
11 person must be registered to be eligible to vote in an election;
12 notice of the effect of a failure to provide required identification
13 information; a place at which the applicant may indicate availability
14 for service as a member of the district board of elections; a place at
15 which the applicant may indicate whether he or she requires a
16 polling place which is accessible to individuals with disabilities and
17 the elderly or whether he or she is legally blind; a place at which
18 the applicant may indicate a desire to receive additional information
19 concerning voting by mail; and if the application indicates a
20 political party affiliation, the voter is permitted to vote in the
21 primary election of a political party other than the political party in
22 which the voter was affiliated previously only if the voter
23 registration form with the change of political party affiliation is
24 filed prior to the 50th day next preceding the primary election. The
25 form may also include a space for the voter registration agency to
26 record whether the applicant registered in person, by mail or by
27 other means.

28 b. The reverse side of the registration form shall bear the
29 address of the Secretary of State or the commissioner of registration
30 to whom such form is supplied, and a United States postal permit
31 the charges upon which shall be paid by the State.

32 c. The Secretary of State shall cause to be prepared registration
33 forms of the size, weight and form described in subsection a. of this
34 section in both the English and Spanish language and shall provide
35 such forms to each commissioner of registration of any county in
36 which there is at least one election district in which bilingual
37 sample ballots must be provided pursuant to R.S.19:14-21,
38 R.S.19:49-4 or section 2 of P.L.1965, c.29 (C.19:23-22.4).

39 d. The commissioner of registration shall furnish such
40 registration forms upon request in person to any person or
41 organization in such reasonable quantities as such person or
42 organization shall request. The commissioner shall furnish no fewer
43 than two such forms to any person upon request by mail or by
44 telephone.

45 e. Each such registration form shall have annexed thereto
46 instructions specifying the manner and method of registration, and

1 the vote by mail option specified on the form, and stating the
2 qualifications for an eligible voter.

3 f. The Secretary of State shall also furnish such registration
4 forms and such instructions to the Director of the Division of
5 Workers' Compensation, the Director of the Division of
6 Employment Services, and the Director of the Division of
7 Unemployment and Temporary Disability Insurance in the
8 Department of Labor and Workforce Development; to the Director
9 of the Division of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury; to
10 the Executive Director of the New Jersey Transit Corporation; to
11 the appropriate administrative officer of any other public agency, as
12 defined by subsection a. of section 15 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-
13 6.3); to the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
14 Veterans' Affairs; and to the chief administrative officer of any
15 voter registration agency, as defined in subsection a. of section 26
16 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11).

17 g. All registration forms received by the Secretary of State in
18 the mail or forwarded to the Secretary of State shall be forwarded to
19 the commissioner of registration in the county of the registrant.
20 Each such form, and any registration form received otherwise by a
21 commissioner of registration, shall be forwarded to the county clerk
22 if the vote by mail option is selected on a form.

23 h. An application to register to vote received from the New
24 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission or a voter registration agency, as
25 defined in subsection a. of section 26 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-
26 6.11), shall be deemed to have been timely made for the purpose of
27 qualifying an eligible applicant as registered to vote in an election if
28 the date on which the commission or agency shall have received
29 that document in completed form, as indicated in the lower right
30 hand corner of the form, was not later than the **【21st】** eighth day
31 preceding that election.

32 i. Each commissioner of registration shall make note in the
33 permanent registration file of each voter who is required to provide
34 the personal identification information required pursuant to this
35 section, as amended, and R.S.19:15-17, R.S.19:31-5 and Pub.L.107-
36 252 (42 U.S.C.s. 15301 et seq.), to indicate the type of
37 identification provided by the voter and the date on which it is
38 provided. Prior to the June 2004 primary election, when such a
39 newly registered voter seeks to vote for the first time following his
40 or her registration, the voter will be required to provide such
41 personal identification information. Beginning with the June 2004
42 primary election, when such a newly registered voter seeks to vote
43 for the first time following his or her registration, the voter will not
44 be required to provide such information if he or she had previously
45 provided the personal identification information required pursuant
46 to this section. The required information shall be collected and

1 stored for the time and in the manner required pursuant to
2 regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

3 j. The Secretary of State shall amend the voter registration
4 application form if necessary to conform to the requirements of
5 applicable federal or State law.

6 k. In the event that the name of any political party entered on
7 the voter registration form by a voter who wishes to declare a
8 political party affiliation is not legible, the commissioner of
9 registration shall mail the voter a political party declaration form
10 and a letter explaining that the voter's choice was not understood
11 and that the voter should complete and return the declaration form
12 in order to be affiliated with a party.

13 (cf: P.L.2019, c.270, s.3)

14

15 6. Section 17 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.5) is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 17. a. Upon receipt of any completed registration form, the
18 commissioner of registration shall review it, and if it is found to be
19 in order, shall:

20 (1) Send to the registrant written notification that such registrant
21 is duly registered to vote. **【No】** Except as otherwise provided for
22 temporary registration certificates pursuant to section 1 of P.L. ,
23 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), no
24 registrant shall be considered a registered voter until the
25 commissioner of registration reviews the application submitted by
26 the registrant and deems it acceptable. On the face of such
27 notification in the upper left-hand corner shall be printed the words:
28 "Do Not Forward. Return Postage Guaranteed. If not delivered in 2
29 days, return to the Commissioner of Registration."

30 (2) In as timely a manner as possible, enter the information
31 provided for the registrant on the completed registration form, or
32 electronically transfer the information from an online voter
33 registration form completed pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2019,
34 c.382 (C.19:31-6.4c), into the Statewide voter registration system
35 established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31).

36 (3) Paste, tape, or photocopy the completed registration form
37 onto an original registration form, and shall paste or tape a copy of
38 such completed registration form onto a duplicate registration form,
39 both of which shall be filed as provided in R.S.19:31-10. Nothing
40 in this paragraph shall preclude any commissioner of registration
41 from keeping the original mail registration form on file.

42 (4) In the case of a registrant currently registered in another
43 county of this State, notify the commissioner of registration of such
44 other county to remove the individual's name from the registry list
45 of voters of the county and place into an appropriate retention file
46 all registration documents or material relating to that voter. The

1 commissioner of registration of the current county of the registrant
2 shall secure and maintain the entire voting history of that registrant.

3 b. The commissioner shall notify a registrant of the reasons for
4 any refusal to approve his registration within two business days of
5 such determination.

6 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.182.)
7 (cf: P.L.2019, c.382, s.3)

8

9 7. R.S.19:31-7 is amended to read as follows:

10 19:31-7. For the convenience of the voters the respective
11 municipal clerks or their duly authorized clerk or clerks in all
12 municipalities shall also be empowered to register applicants for
13 permanent registration up to and including the **[21st]** eighth day
14 preceding any election and after any such election in the manner
15 indicated above, subject to such rules and regulations as may be
16 prescribed by the commissioner, in counties having a
17 superintendent of elections, and the county board in all other
18 counties. Duly authorized clerk as used in this section shall mean a
19 clerk who resides within the municipality and has been approved by
20 the commissioner or the county board as the case may be. For this
21 purpose the commissioner shall forward to each municipal clerk a
22 sufficient supply of registration forms. The commissioners shall
23 keep a record of the serial numbers of these forms and shall
24 periodically make such checks as are necessary to accurately
25 determine if all such forms are satisfactorily accounted for. Each
26 municipal clerk shall transmit daily to the commissioner all of the
27 filled out registration forms that he may have in his office at the
28 time.

29 (cf: P.L.2005, c.139, s.12)

30

31 8. R.S.19:31-11 is amended to read as follows:

32 19:31-11. a. In all counties within the State, change of
33 residence notices shall be made by a written request, signed by the
34 registrant, forwarded to the commissioner by mail, and actually
35 received by the commissioner, or by calling in person at the office
36 of the commissioner, the county clerk, or the municipal clerk. The
37 commissioner shall provide change of residence notices in card
38 form for the use of any registered voter moving to another address
39 within the same election district or to another election district
40 within the same county. Copies of these notices shall also be
41 available at the office of the municipal clerk in each municipality
42 and at the office of the county clerk in each county. Each municipal
43 or county clerk shall transmit daily to the commissioner all the
44 filled out change of residence notices that may be in the municipal
45 or county clerk's office at the time. These notices shall be printed
46 upon cards, shall contain a blank form showing where the applicant
47 last resided and the address and exact location to which the

1 applicant has moved and shall have a line for the applicant's
2 signature, printed name and date of birth. Upon receipt of such
3 change of residence notice the commissioner shall cause the
4 signature to be compared with the registration forms of the
5 applicant and, if such signature appears to be of and by one and the
6 same legal voter, the commissioner shall cause the entry of the
7 change of residence to be made on those registration forms and the
8 registrant shall thereupon be qualified to vote in the election district
9 to which the registrant shall have so moved. If the commissioner is
10 not satisfied as to the signature on the request for a change of
11 residence, a confirmation notice as prescribed by subsection d. of
12 R.S.19:31-15 shall be sent by mail with postage prepaid to the
13 registrant at the new address.

14 The application for change of residence shall be filed with the
15 commissioner or municipal clerk or county clerk, as the case may
16 be, on or before the **【21st】** eighth day preceding any election.

17 b. In any county any voter who, prior to an election, shall move
18 within the same county after the time above prescribed for filing an
19 application for change of residence without having made
20 application for change of residence, or who has not returned a
21 confirmation notice sent to the voter by the commissioner of
22 registration of the county, if such a notice has been sent to the voter,
23 or who has not moved since the previous election but whose
24 registration information is missing or otherwise deficient, or has
25 otherwise failed to notify the commissioner of registration of the
26 voter's change of address within the county, shall be permitted to
27 vote in that election in the district to which the voter has moved,
28 upon making a written affirmation regarding the change of address
29 at the polling place of the district in which the voter resides on the
30 day of the election or at an office where a mail-in ballot may be
31 issued for the period beginning 45 days before the election and
32 ending at 3 P.M. the day before the election. No identifying
33 document shall be required from the voter for this affirmation. **【A】**
34 The voter shall be permitted to vote in a manner promulgated by the
35 Secretary of State that ensures the security of the ballot. If the voter
36 is casting a provisional ballot, a district board member shall provide
37 the voter with a provisional ballot, and an envelope with an
38 affirmation statement that conforms with the requirements for such
39 documents contained in subsection b. of section 7 of P.L.1999,
40 c.232 (C.19:53C-1). The voter shall complete the provisional ballot
41 and affirmation statement, place the ballot in the envelope, seal and
42 return it to the district board member. The board member shall
43 review the information in the affirmation statement for
44 completeness before forwarding it for inspection, tabulation and
45 notation by the county board of elections, as provided for by
46 sections 7 through 26 of P.L.1999, c.232 (C.19:53C-1 through
47 C.19:53C-20). The affirmation statement shall constitute a transfer

1 to the registrant's new residence for any subsequent election.
2 However, if the voter has moved from one residence to another
3 within the same election district at any time, the voter shall be
4 permitted to vote in such election district at any election in the same
5 manner as other voters at the polling place upon written affirmation
6 by the registrant to the district board member or official designated
7 by the commissioner of registration of the registrant's change of
8 address.

9 c. A voter who moves from an election district in one county to
10 an election district in another county prior to the close of
11 registration preceding an election shall register in the new county of
12 residence, in accordance with the provisions of R.S.19:31-6, in
13 order to be permitted to vote.

14 (cf: P.L.2005, c.139, s.13)

15 9. R.S.19:31-13 is amended to read as follows:

16 19:31-13. Whenever the registrant after his or her original
17 registration shall change his or her name due to marriage, divorce,
18 or by judgment of court, the registrant shall in person or by mail
19 submit to the commissioner of registration a written statement
20 notifying the commissioner of the change, which statement shall
21 take such form, and be printed on a postal card suitable for mailing
22 of such design, as the **【Attorney General】** Secretary of State shall
23 prescribe and shall be signed by the registrant. The commissioner,
24 upon receipt of such a notice of change of name, shall revise
25 accordingly the name of the registrant as it appears among the items
26 of information concerning the registrant included on the registrant's
27 registration forms, shall make a photographic copy of the notice of
28 name change submitted by the registrant, and shall affix the original
29 notice so submitted to the registrant's original registration form and
30 the photographic copy of that notice to the registrant's duplicate
31 registration record.

32 When notice of such change in name has not been received by or
33 filed with the commissioner prior to the **【21st】** eighth day
34 preceding any election, such person may be permitted to vote under
35 the name under which the person was registered prior to that change
36 at the first election following such change in name at which the
37 person shall appear to vote, after signing the signature copy register
38 with both the registered name and his or her new name. The
39 commissioner shall then revise accordingly the name of the
40 registrant as it appears on the registrant's registration forms, make a
41 photographic copy of the notice, and affix the original and copy of
42 the notice to the registrant's permanent registration forms as
43 hereinabove prescribed.

44 (cf: P.L.2005, c.139, s.14)

45

46 10. R.S.19:31-18 is amended to read as follows:

1 19:31-18. On or before the ~~【eighth】~~ fifth day preceding any
 2 general election the commissioner shall certify and transmit to the
 3 county clerk a complete list of all persons who are registered in
 4 each election district in each municipality in the county as of that
 5 day together with a statement as to the number of persons registered
 6 in each district. The list of registered voters shall include only the
 7 following information for each registered voter: name, address,
 8 date of birth, political party affiliation, and voting history. Except
 9 when so ordered by a court, the list of registered voters shall not
 10 include voter signatures. The list shall be drawn from the Statewide
 11 voter registration system, established pursuant to section 1 of
 12 P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31). It shall in figures state the total
 13 number of names of persons registered. Such lists shall be arranged
 14 substantially in the following form: Grand Street

Residence number or other designation	Name of voter
14	Jones, Charles M.
15	Smith, John M.

19 (cf: P.L.2005, c.145, s.13)

21 11. Section 9 of P.L.1999, c.232 (C.19:53C-3) is amended to
 22 read as follows:

23 9. Whenever a voter enters a polling place to vote on the day of
 24 an election and the circumstance of that voter matches the
 25 circumstance of a voter described in subsection b. of R.S.19:31-11,
 26 the district board shall query the voter and follow the appropriate
 27 procedure herein described.

28 a. If, at any time, the voter has moved from one residence to
 29 another in the same election district, the board shall permit the voter
 30 to vote at that polling place in the same manner as other voters at
 31 the polling place upon written affirmation by the voter to the district
 32 board.

33 b. If the voter has moved within a municipality but currently
 34 resides in an election district different from that listed for the voter
 35 by the commissioner of registration, the district board shall direct
 36 the voter to the appropriate election district and polling place for the
 37 voter and inform that person that: (1) the person must go to that
 38 polling place to vote; and (2) the person will be permitted to vote
 39 thereat by provisional ballot after completing an affirmation
 40 statement or by using any other manner of voting promulgated by
 41 the Secretary of State that ensures the security of the ballot, as
 42 provided under section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
 43 Legislature as this bill).

44 c. If the voter has moved within the county but currently
 45 resides in a municipality different from that listed for the voter by
 46 the commissioner of registration, the district board shall determine
 47 the appropriate election district and polling place for the voter and

1 inform that person that: (1) the person must go to that polling place
2 to vote; and (2) the person will be permitted to vote thereat by
3 provisional ballot after completing an affirmation statement or by
4 using any other manner of voting promulgated by the Secretary of
5 State that ensures the security of the ballot, as provided under
6 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
7 bill).

8 d. **【If, on or before the 21st day prior to the day of the election,**
9 the voter has moved into the county from another county or state
10 and has not registered to vote in that county, the board shall inform
11 the voter that he is not eligible to vote in that county at that
12 election.】 (Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c.) (pending before
13 the Legislature as this bill)

14 e. If, after the **【21st】** 30th day prior to the day of an election,
15 the voter has moved into the county from another county in this
16 State, the board shall inform the voter that: (1) the voter is not
17 eligible to vote in the county where he resides currently at that
18 election; and (2) the voter may be eligible to vote in the election
19 district where the voter resided prior to moving to the voter's
20 current residence.

21 f. If the voter's registration information has been marked by
22 the county commissioner of registration to indicate a problem
23 therewith, or if the voter's sample ballot has been returned as
24 undeliverable to the county or municipal clerk, as the case may be,
25 but the voter states that the voter has not moved prior to the day of
26 an election, but instead continues to reside at the same address the
27 voter resided at when voting previously, the voter shall be permitted
28 to vote in such election district in the same manner as other voters
29 at the polling place upon written affirmation to the district board of
30 that election district.

31 g. If the voter's registration information is missing, the voter
32 shall be permitted to vote by registering at the voter's assigned
33 polling place on the day of an election as provided under section 1
34 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
35 Alternatively, the voter shall be permitted to vote by provisional
36 ballot after completing the affirmation statement attached to the
37 envelope provided with the provisional ballot.

38 h. In accordance with the requirements of subsection (c) of
39 section 302 of Pub.L.107-252 (42 U.S.C.s.15482), whenever a voter
40 is voting as a result of a federal or State court order or any other
41 order extending the time established for closing the polls in effect
42 10 days before the date of an election, the voter may vote only by
43 provisional ballot. Any such ballot shall be separated by the county
44 board from other provisional ballots cast at the election and the
45 results shall be canvassed and recorded separately in the official
46 canvas for the election.

1 i. Any person who, pursuant to subsection b. of R.S.19:15-17,
2 votes by provisional ballot at the polling place because of his or her
3 failure to provide required personal identification information shall
4 be given until the close of business on the second day after the
5 election to provide the applicable county commissioner of
6 registration with the identification information. Failure to provide
7 the required personal identification information within that time
8 period shall result in the rejection of the ballot.

9 j. If the voter (1) has applied for a mail-in ballot and not
10 received either the ballot or an explanation for not receiving such a
11 ballot pursuant to notification by the county clerk or from the free-
12 access system established pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2004, c.88
13 (C.19:61-5) to provide such information; or (2) has applied for and
14 received a mail-in ballot and has not transmitted it to the county
15 board of elections or given it to a bearer for delivery to the county
16 board before the time for the opening of the polls on the day of an
17 election, the voter shall be permitted to vote at that election by
18 provisional ballot after completing the affirmation statement
19 attached to the envelope provided with the provisional ballot.

20 (cf: P.L.2009, c.79, s.34)

21
22 12. This act shall take effect on the 30th day next following
23 enactment, except the Secretary of State may take any anticipatory
24 administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for
25 the implementation of this act.

26
27
28 STATEMENT

29
30 This bill reduces the standard voter registration deadline from 21
31 days before election day to eight days before election day. The bill
32 also allows persons to register to vote at their assigned polling place
33 on election day, and at an office where a mail-in ballot may be
34 issued during the period beginning 45 days before the election and
35 ending at 3 P.M. the day before the election.

36 Under the bill, an applicant registering to vote at the polling
37 place on the day of any election, at an office where a mail-in ballot
38 may be issued under "The Vote By Mail Law" for the period
39 beginning 45 days before the election and ending at 3 P.M. the day
40 before the election, would be required to (1) present or submit a
41 copy of an identifying document; (2) complete an appropriate voter
42 registration form; and (3) submit an affidavit in which the applicant
43 declares that the applicant is not already properly registered to vote
44 for the election in which the applicant is voting, will have lived in
45 the county in which the applicant is voting for at least 30 days prior
46 to that election, has not previously voted in that election, and upon
47 voting will not thereafter vote in that election.

1 The bill requires the commissioner of registration to designate an
2 individual at each polling place, and at each office where a mail-in
3 ballot may be issued, to receive and review the forms and affidavits.
4 The commissioner's designee would be required to read to an
5 applicant, prior to accepting the forms and affidavits, the penalty
6 provision for voter fraud. The designee would then issue a
7 temporary registration certificate to a qualified applicant. The
8 certificate would be in triplicate, with one copy to be retained by
9 the designee, one copy to be retained by the office, and one copy to
10 be retained by the applicant. The applicant would then be permitted
11 to vote at the polling place on election day, or immediately at the
12 office where mail-in ballots are issued, as the case may be, in a
13 manner promulgated by the Secretary of the State to allow
14 verification of the applicant's identity and ensure the security of the
15 ballot.

16 The bill requires the commissioner of registration in each county
17 to furnish voter registration forms and affidavit forms to each
18 polling place and to each office where a mail-in ballot may be
19 issued. Under the bill, the completed forms and affidavits received
20 by the commissioner's designee at these locations would be
21 delivered to the commissioner as soon as possible, and no later than
22 within two days of completion. The bill directs the commissioner,
23 upon receiving these forms, to send to the registrant written
24 notification of the registrant's registration; to enter the information
25 into the Statewide voter registration system; to file the records as
26 required by current law; and, in the case of a registrant currently
27 registered in another county of this State, to notify the
28 commissioner of registration of such other county to delete such
29 registrant's name from the list of persons registered in such other
30 county. The bill also requires the commissioner to notify a
31 registrant of the reasons for any refusal to approve that person's
32 registration within two business days of such determination.

33 The bill also allows the county clerk of each county to accept
34 change of residence notices. Under current law, such notices are
35 accepted by each county commissioner of registration and each
36 municipal clerk.