

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2131**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Caputo and Assemblywoman Haider**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides police officers may be present at senior residential center being used as polling place under certain circumstances.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT providing that police officers may be present at a senior  
2 residential center being used as a polling place under certain  
3 circumstances and amending R.S.19:6-16.

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

7  
8 1. R.S.19:6-16 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:6-16. a. The commission, committee, board or official having  
10 charge of the police department in any county or municipality shall  
11 not assign police officers to any district board in that county or  
12 municipality, in order to enforce the election laws, maintain order,  
13 peace and quiet during the hours of registry and election, assist the  
14 board by performing the duties of a board member, or serve at the  
15 polling place of that district board, or in order to perform other  
16 routine purposes related to the conduct of elections, except that a  
17 district board, superintendent of elections, or a county clerk may  
18 request that a police officer or sheriff's officer be assigned to  
19 transport specific election materials to a polling place or from a  
20 polling place to the district board or county clerk and a police  
21 officer or sheriff's officer may be assigned for that purpose. The  
22 commission, committee, board or official having charge of the  
23 police department in any county or municipality may assign one or  
24 more police officers to a senior residential center **that has reported**  
25 **a threat or safety concern** at the request of the center, and any such  
26 officer assigned to a senior residential center shall be in plain  
27 clothes and shall not interfere with any person present at the  
28 location for the purpose of voting.

29 If the center requests that a police officer be assigned, the center  
30 shall promptly notify the district board and the district board shall  
31 follow the same procedure for notification in the manner specified  
32 in subsection b. of this section. Once notified, the county board of  
33 elections or superintendent of elections shall notify the Secretary of  
34 State in the same manner specified in subsection b. of this section.

35 b. Nothing in subsection a. of this section, subsection b. of 16  
36 R.S.19:6-15, or subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.306  
37 (C.19:6-15.1) shall be construed to prohibit the dispatch, detail, or  
38 assignment of a police officer or other law enforcement officer due  
39 to a request for assistance made to the commission, committee,  
40 board, body, authority, or official having charge of the police  
41 department in any county or municipality, or to any other law  
42 enforcement agency, for assistance with regard to a specific  
43 emergency, allegation of criminal conduct, or disturbance that  
44 exists at the time the request for assistance is made. The police  
45 officers or law enforcement officers responding to the request for

**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 assistance shall take any prompt actions as may be available and as  
2 may be necessary in order to address the emergency, allegation, or  
3 disturbance and ensure the continued orderly conduct of the election  
4 and election processes, and shall remain present at that location  
5 during the conduct of the election only as long as necessary to  
6 investigate, address, and remove that specific emergency or  
7 disturbance.

8 The district board shall promptly notify the county board of  
9 elections or superintendent of elections, as appropriate, of the  
10 dispatch of any police officer or other law enforcement officer in  
11 response to a request for assistance in accordance with this  
12 subsection. The county board of elections or superintendent of  
13 elections, as appropriate, shall promptly notify the Secretary of  
14 State of the dispatch of that police officer or other law enforcement  
15 officer. The Secretary of State, county boards of elections, and  
16 superintendents of elections shall maintain a record of all dispatches  
17 issued and reported pursuant to this section, which shall include, but  
18 need not be limited to, the time of the dispatch, polling place  
19 location, reason for the dispatch, name of the police or law  
20 enforcement officer, the police or law enforcement officer's badge  
21 number, the duration of the police or law enforcement officer's  
22 presence, and the immediate outcome of the dispatch. Information  
23 obtained pursuant to this section is deemed to be a public or  
24 government record and shall be subject to disclosure as provided in  
25 the public records law, P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.).  
26 (cf: P.L.2021, c.459, s.3)

27  
28 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

29  
30 STATEMENT

31  
32 This bill provides that one or more police officers may be present  
33 at a senior residential center being used as a polling place if there is  
34 a request by the center. The bill specifies that the officers must be  
35 in plain clothes.

36 Under current law, police officers are permitted to be present at a  
37 senior residential center being used as a polling place when there is  
38 a threat or safety concern. The provision of current law that  
39 prohibits any such officer from interfering with any person present  
40 at the location for the purpose of voting will remain in place.

41 The bill also requires the center notify the district board if the  
42 center requests a police officer, the district board then will notify  
43 the county board of elections or superintendent of elections who  
44 will notify the Secretary of State.

45 The bill will take effect immediately.