

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3690

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

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Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman PAUL D. MORIARTY

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

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Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

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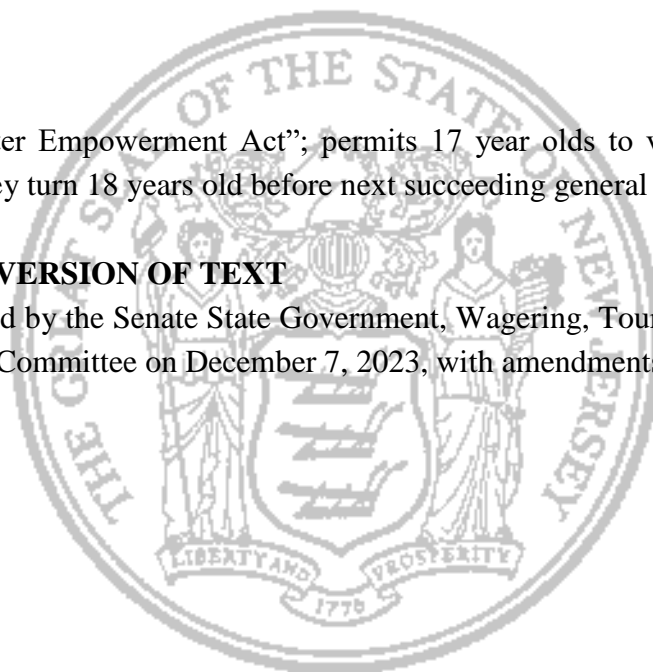
**Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey, Jaffer, Dunn, Carter,
Assemblymen Wimberly, Coughlin and Senator Turner**

SYNOPSIS

“New Voter Empowerment Act”; permits 17 year olds to vote in primary election if they turn 18 years old before next succeeding general election.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee on December 7, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility to vote in a primary election for the
 2 general election and designated as the “New Voter
 3 Empowerment Act,” amending R.S.19:31-5, and supplementing
 4 chapter 23 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

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

8
 9 1. (New section) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.19:4-1, or
 10 any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, any registered voter
 11 who is 17 years of age prior to the date on which a primary election for
 12 the general election is held shall be permitted to vote in that primary
 13 election if the registered voter attains 18 years of age on or before the
 14 day of the next succeeding general election.

15
 16 2. R.S.19:31-5 is amended to read as follows:

17 19:31-5. Each person, who is at least 17 years of age at the time he
 18 or she applies for registration, who resides in the district in which he or
 19 she expects to vote, who will be of the age of 18 years or more on or
 20 before the first election in which he or she expects to vote, who is a
 21 citizen of the United States, and who, if he or she continues to reside in
 22 the district until that election, will at the time have fulfilled all the
 23 requirements as to length of residence to qualify him or her as a legal
 24 voter, shall, unless otherwise disqualified, be entitled to be registered
 25 in such district. Each 17-year-old registrant shall be designated in the
 26 Statewide voter registration system as temporarily ineligible to vote
 27 until the registrant's 18th birthday , except as provided pursuant to
 28 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
 29 bill).

30 Whenever an individual registers by mail after January 1, 2003 to
 31 vote for the first time in his or her current county of residence, that
 32 individual shall provide either the individual's New Jersey driver's
 33 license number or the last four digits of the individual's Social Security
 34 Number, or shall submit with the voter registration form a copy of: (1)
 35 a current and valid photo identification card; (2) a current utility bill,
 36 bank statement, government check or pay check; (3) any other
 37 government document that shows the individual's name and current
 38 address; or (4) any other identifying document that the Attorney
 39 General has determined to be acceptable for this purpose. If the
 40 individual does not provide his or her New Jersey driver's license
 41 number or Social Security Number information or submit a copy of
 42 any one of these documents, either at the time of registration or at any
 43 time thereafter prior to attempting to vote, the individual shall be asked
 44 for identification when voting for the first time starting at the first
 45 election held after January 1, 2004 at which candidates are seeking

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SSG committee amendments adopted December 7, 2023.

1 federal office or thereafter. This requirement shall not apply to any
2 individual entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the "Uniformed
3 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act" (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1 et
4 seq.) or to any individual who is provided the right to vote other than
5 in person under section 3 of Pub.L.98-435, the "Voting Accessibility
6 for the Elderly and Handicapped Act," or any other voter entitled to
7 vote otherwise than in person under any other federal law. This
8 requirement shall also not apply to any individual who registers to vote
9 by appearing in person at any voter registration agency or to any
10 individual whose voter registration form is delivered to the county
11 commissioner of registration or to the Attorney General, as the case
12 may be, through a third party by means other than by mail delivery.

13 Once registered, the registrant shall not be required to register
14 again in such district as long as he or she resides therein, except when
15 required to do so by the commissioner, because of the loss of or some
16 defect in his or her registration record.

17 The registrant, when registered as provided in this Title, shall be
18 eligible to vote at any election to be held subsequent to such
19 registration, if he or she shall be a citizen of the United States of the
20 age of 18 years, except as provided pursuant to section 1 of
21 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and
22 shall have been a resident of the State for at least 30 days and of the
23 county at least 30 days, when the same is held, subject to any change
24 in his qualifications which may later disqualify him. No registrant
25 shall lose the right to vote, and no registrant's name shall be removed
26 from the registry list of the county in which the person is registered,
27 solely on grounds of the person's failure to vote in one or more
28 elections.

29 (cf: P.L.2015, c.222, s.1)

30

31 3. This act shall take effect on January ¹**1**st next following the
32 date of enactment **1, 2026¹**.