

# SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 3595

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2023

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3595.

As amended, this bill changes the dates of certain primary election deadlines.

Under current law, the deadline for creating, abolishing, dividing, or consolidating an election district by county boards of elections is 75 days before the primary election. This bill would change the deadline for creating, abolishing, dividing, or consolidating an election district by county boards of elections to 82 days before the primary election.

The deadline for the Secretary of State to submit notification to the county clerks and the county boards of elections of the available offices and public questions for the upcoming general election is 67 days before the primary election. This bill would change the deadline for the Secretary of State to submit notification to the county clerks and the county boards of elections of the available offices and public questions for the upcoming general election to 74 days before the primary election.

The deadline for county clerks to send notice to municipal clerks of federal, state, and county offices to be elected at the general election is 57 days before the primary election. This bill would change the deadline for county clerks to send notice to municipal clerks of federal, state, and county offices to be elected at general election to 64 days before the primary election.

The deadline for the clerk of every county to deliver to the clerk of each municipality and to the county board in counties of the first class, a notice that each officer who is voted for by the voters of the entire county or of voters of more than one municipality within the county, will be chosen at the ensuing general election is not later than the 57th day prior to the election. This bill would change the deadline for the clerk of every county to deliver to the clerk of each municipality and to the county board in counties of the first class, a notice that each officer who is voted for by the voters of the entire county or of voters of more than one municipality within the county, will be chosen at the ensuing general election to that no later than the 71st day preceding the primary election for the general election.

The deadline for every county clerk to have ready for the printer the official ballot is on or before the 45th day prior to a non-federal primary election and on or before the 50th day prior to a federal primary election or any general election. This bill would change the deadline for the preparation of the official election ballot for printing to be on or before the 60th day before the primary election and to be on or before the 64th day before the general election.

The deadline for municipal clerks to send notice to county clerks of the public offices to be elected at the general election is 57 days before the primary election. This bill would change the deadline for municipal clerks to send notice to county clerks of the public offices to be elected at the general election to 71 days before the primary election.

The deadline for the State committee to notify county committees, and the county committees to notify municipal clerks, of the number of county committee seats to be filled at the primary election is currently April 1 of each year. This bill would change the deadline for the State committee to notify county committees, and the county committees to notify municipal clerks, of the number of county committee seats to be filled at the primary election to 74 days before the primary election.

The deadline for filing a certificate to fill a vacancy of a primary election candidate by the appointed vacancy committee is 56 days before the primary election. This bill would change the deadline for filing a certificate to fill a vacancy to 62 days before the primary election.

The deadline for the certification of nominees by the Secretary of State, the certification of nominees by the county clerks, and the drawing of ballot positions is 54 days before the primary election. This bill would change the deadline for the certification of nominees by the Secretary of State to 61 days before the primary election. Additionally, this bill would change the deadline for the certification of nominees by county clerks to 60 days before the primary election.

The deadline for the county clerk, or the county clerk's deputy, or the municipal clerk or the municipal clerk's deputy, as the case may be, to draw the ballot placement for names of candidates at the primary election for the general election is 54 days prior to the election. The bill would change the deadline for the county clerk, or the county clerk's deputy, or the municipal clerk or the municipal clerk's deputy, as the case may be, to draw the ballot placement for names of candidates at the primary election for the general election to 61 days.

The deadline for the occurrence of a vacancy for county or municipal offices, other than county commissioner, is changed to the 70th day before the general election, which is the deadline under current law.

The deadline for county or municipal offices, other than county commissioner, for the statement of selection to be filed with the county clerk is not later than the close of business on the 55th day preceding

the date of the general election. The bill changes the deadline for a political party to file a statement of selection to the 68th day preceding the date of the general election.

The deadline for county or municipal offices, other than county commissioner, for candidates who are nominated for direct nomination by petition for the general election to file with the county clerk is at least 64 days prior to the general election. The bill changes the deadline for filing a direct nomination by petition to 75 days before the general election.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments require that no later than the 71st day preceding the primary election for the general election, the clerk of every county deliver to the clerk of each municipality and to the county board in counties of the first class, a notice that each officer who is voted for by the voters of the entire county or of voters of more than one municipality within the county, will be chosen at the ensuing general election. Current law requires this action not later than the 57th day.

The committee amendments change the deadline for the drawing of ballot positions from 54 to 61 days, instead of 60 days.

The committee amendments change the deadline for the preparation of the official election ballot for printing to the 60th day before the primary election and the 64th day before the general election. Under current law, every county clerk is required to have ready for the printer on or before the 45th day prior to a non-federal primary election a copy of the contents of official ballots, except that every county clerk is required to have those ballots ready for the printer on or before the 50th day prior to a federal primary election or any general election.

The committee amendments change the following deadlines for filling vacancies in county or municipal offices, other than county commissioners, before the general election:

(1) The deadline for the occurrence of the vacancy is changed to the 70th day before the general election.

(2) The deadline for a political party to file a statement of selection is changed to the 68th day preceding the date of the general election.

(3) The deadline for filing a direct nomination by petition is changed to 75 days before the general election.