

# SENATE, No. 4051

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 30, 2023

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN**  
**District 20 (Union)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Requires court to respond within 24 hours for election-related actions arising within 14 days of election; authorizes ELEC to petition court to suspend campaign accounts of persons who violate campaign finance laws.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning election and campaign finance matters before  
2 the courts and supplementing chapter 1 of Title 19 of the Revised  
3 Statutes and P.L.1973, c.83 (C.19:44A-1 et seq.).  
4

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

8 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever an  
9 election-related cause of action authorized pursuant to the  
10 provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes is brought before a  
11 court of competent jurisdiction in this State in the 14 days  
12 preceding the election to which the cause of action relates, the court  
13 shall render an initial judgment within 24 hours, or in the shortest  
14 amount of time deemed practicable by the court.

15 If the court finds an action brought under the provisions of Title  
16 19 of the Revised Statutes to be frivolous, the court may impose  
17 reasonable penalties on the parties, as the court may deem  
18 appropriate.  
19

20 2. Upon a finding that any person, including any candidate,  
21 treasurer, candidate committee or joint candidates committee,  
22 political committee, continuing political committee, political party  
23 committee, or legislative leadership committee, violated State  
24 campaign finance laws as set forth in P.L.1973, c.83 (C.19:44A-1 et  
25 seq.), the Election Law Enforcement Commission may petition the  
26 Superior Court to immediately suspend, on a temporary or  
27 permanent basis, the campaign accounts affiliated with the person,  
28 including the candidate, treasurer, candidate committee or joint  
29 candidates committee, political committee, continuing political  
30 committee, political party committee or legislative leadership  
31 committee, found to be responsible for the violation.  
32

33 3. This act shall take effect immediately.  
34  
35

36 STATEMENT  
37

38 This bill requires that any time a cause of action authorized by  
39 the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes, the State's  
40 election laws, is brought in this State in the 14 days preceding an  
41 election the court will provide an initial judgment within 24 hours.  
42 If the court finds an action brought under the provisions of Title 19  
43 to be frivolous, this bill allows for the court to impose reasonable  
44 penalties on the parties who bring the suit, within the discretion of  
45 the court.

46 This bill also authorizes the Election Law Enforcement  
47 Commission (ELEC) to petition the Superior Court to immediately  
48 suspend, temporarily or permanently, the campaign accounts of

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- 1 persons, including the candidate, treasurer, candidate committee or
- 2 joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political
- 3 committee, political party committee, or legislative leadership
- 4 committee, who violate State campaign finance laws.