

ASSEMBLY, No. 1829

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman BALVIR SINGH
District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Directs Secretary of State to establish grant program for counties to improve paper ballot counting process; appropriates \$10 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a grant program for improving the State's
2 vote-by-mail process and making an appropriation.

3

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

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7 1. a. The Secretary of State shall establish a temporary
8 program to provide grants to county boards of elections. The
9 purpose of the grant program shall be for improving that county
10 board's paper ballot counting capabilities, including the counting of
11 vote-by-mail and provisional ballots.

12 b. In establishing the grant program pursuant to this section,
13 the Secretary of State shall:

14 (1) survey each county board of elections to collect information
15 regarding procedural and technological problems incurred during
16 the 2020 General Election hindering the paper ballot counting
17 process;

18 (2) analyze the results of the survey and develop a plan to
19 address the shortcomings that identifies concrete categories of
20 improvement areas that can be undertaken to improve the vote-by-
21 mail process;

22 (3) develop guidelines and procedures for the submission of
23 grant applications, and criteria for the evaluation of such
24 applications;

25 (4) establish terms and conditions for the awarding of a grant
26 under this section, and monitor grant recipients' compliance with
27 the terms and conditions; and

28 (5) require the recipient of a grant to report to the secretary
29 information relating to its use of grant funds.

30 c. No later than three years after the effective date of this act,
31 the Secretary of State shall submit a written report to the Governor
32 and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the
33 Legislature, on the effectiveness of the grant program in improving
34 paper ballot counting capabilities in the State.

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36 2. There is appropriated from the State General Fund to the
37 Department of State the sum of \$10,000,000 to effectuate the
38 provisions of this act, P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as
39 this bill).

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41 3. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire upon
42 the submittal by the secretary of the report required pursuant to
43 subsection c. of section 1 of this act.

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STATEMENT

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48 This bill directs the Secretary of State to establish a temporary
49 grant program for improving the vote-by-mail process in the State.

1 The purpose of the grant program would be for improving a county
2 board's paper ballot counting capabilities, including the counting of
3 vote-by-mail and provisional ballots.

4 Under the bill, in establishing the grant program, the Secretary of
5 State is required to:

6 (1) survey each county board of elections to collect information
7 regarding procedural and technological problems incurred during
8 the 2020 General Election hindering the paper ballot counting
9 process;

10 (2) analyze the results of the survey and develop a plan to
11 address the shortcomings that identifies concrete categories of
12 improvement areas that can be undertaken to improve the vote-by-
13 mail process;

14 (3) develop guidelines and procedures for the submission of
15 grant applications, and criteria for the evaluation of such
16 applications;

17 (4) establish terms and conditions for the awarding of a grant
18 under this section, and monitor grant recipients' compliance with
19 the terms and conditions; and

20 (5) require the recipient of a grant to report to the secretary
21 information relating to its use of grant funds.

22 The bill also requires the Secretary of State to submit a written
23 report to the Governor and the Legislature on the effectiveness of
24 the grant program in improving paper ballot counting capabilities in
25 the State.

26 Under the bill, \$10,000,000 is appropriated from the General
27 Fund to the Department of State to effectuate the provisions of the
28 bill.