

SENATE, No. 4796

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 8, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator BRIAN P. STACK
District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires early voting for each election held in certain counties.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT requiring early voting for each election held in certain
2 counties, amending P.L.1981, c.379, and amending and
3 supplementing P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.).
4

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

8 1. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 1. a. In addition to all other forms of voting provided for by this
11 Title, a registered voter shall be permitted to vote at a specially
12 designated polling place before the day of certain primary and
13 general elections in this State. This procedure shall be known as
14 early voting. The early voting period shall:

15 (1) start on the 7th calendar day before a non-presidential
16 primary election for a non-presidential general election and end on
17 the second calendar day before that non-presidential primary
18 election;

19 (2) start on the 7th calendar day before a presidential primary
20 election for a presidential general election and end on the second
21 calendar day before that presidential primary election; or

22 (3) start on the 10th calendar day before a general election and
23 end on the second calendar day before that general election.

24 The voting process during the early voting period shall be
25 conducted using electronic poll books and optical-scan voting
26 machines that read hand-marked paper ballots or other voting
27 machines that produce a voter-verifiable paper ballot. Any
28 municipality conducting regular municipal elections in May
29 pursuant to the provisions of the "Uniform Nonpartisan Elections
30 Law," P.L.1981, c.379 (C.40:45-5 et seq.), may, by an ordinance
31 adopted by its governing body, also conduct early voting for the
32 regular municipal election, in accordance with the provisions of this
33 act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.). If adopted by a municipal
34 governing body, the early voting period for a regular municipal
35 election in May shall start on the 4th calendar day before the regular
36 municipal election, except that the municipal governing body may
37 adopt an ordinance to allow the early voting period to start on the
38 **[eighth]** 8th calendar day before the regular municipal election and
39 end on the second calendar day before that regular municipal
40 election.

41 An early voting period shall only be permitted for a non-
42 presidential or presidential primary election and a general election
43 in this State and, if adopted by a municipal governing body, a
44 regular municipal election conducted in May. Pursuant to the
45 provisions of this act and Title 19 of the Revised Statutes and in

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 accordance with procedures that may be established by the
2 Secretary of State for verifying eligible voters, each county board of
3 elections shall verify that a registered voter is qualified to vote in
4 the election and shall prescribe the manner by which a registered
5 voter may vote during such period.

6 b. (1) For the primary and the general election, each county
7 board of elections shall designate at least three, but not more than
8 five, public locations within each county as the sites for early
9 voting to occur, except that the county board shall designate at least
10 five, but not more than seven, public locations for early voting if
11 the number of registered voters in the county is at least 150,000, but
12 less than 300,000, and shall designate at least seven, but not more
13 than 10, public locations for early voting if the number of registered
14 voters in the county is 300,000 or more. This provision shall not be
15 interpreted to prevent county boards of elections, at their discretion,
16 from establishing additional locations in excess of the five, seven,
17 or 10 location limits respectively set forth herein, provided,
18 however, that the State shall be required to provide reimbursement
19 for the costs of locations up to and including the five, seven, or 10
20 respective limits established herein and shall not be required to
21 provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond those limits
22 under section 6 of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). The
23 number of registered voters in each county shall be determined
24 ahead of the selection of early voting sites pursuant to a uniform
25 standard which shall be developed by the Secretary of State through
26 the rulemaking process pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
27 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). Whenever possible,
28 early voting locations shall be geographically located so as to
29 ensure both access in the part of the county that features the greatest
30 concentration of population, according to the most recent federal
31 decennial census of the United States, and access in various
32 geographic areas of the county. All early voting locations shall be
33 public facilities, such as county courthouses, public libraries, and
34 the offices of the municipal clerk, county clerk, and county board of
35 elections or places of public accommodation as provided under
36 Title 10 of the Revised Statutes. No public school building and no
37 building used as a public school, as that term is defined under
38 N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall, however, be designated as an early voting
39 location. The locations shall be designated at the same time as all
40 other polling places are designated by the board of elections. In the
41 event of a tie vote among members of the county board with respect
42 to the selection of sites for early voting, the county clerk shall cast
43 the deciding vote. Once early voting locations are designated in
44 each county, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if deemed
45 necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate
46 significant changes in the number of registered voters within each
47 county, reflect the population distribution and density within each
48 county, or because of similar circumstances. The Secretary of State

1 may develop the criteria to be used by county boards of election to
2 revise the location of early voting sites and shall prescribe how
3 often such revision shall take place.

4 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the
5 voter's county.

6 (2) Whenever a municipality that conducts regular municipal
7 elections in May chooses to participate in early voting for the
8 regular municipal election, the county board of elections shall
9 designate at least one public location, but not more than three public
10 locations, within the municipality as the site or sites for early voting
11 to occur. This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent a county
12 board of elections, at its discretion, from establishing additional
13 locations in excess of the three location limit set forth herein,
14 provided, however, that the State shall be required to provide
15 reimbursement for the costs of locations up to and including the
16 three location limit established herein and shall not be required to
17 provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond that limit
18 under section 6 of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). Whenever
19 possible, each such location shall be geographically located in the
20 part of the municipality that features the greatest concentration of
21 population according to the most recent federal decennial census of
22 the United States. All early voting locations shall be public
23 facilities, such as municipal courthouses and the offices of the
24 municipal clerk or places of public accommodation as provided
25 under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes. No public school building
26 and no building used as a public school, as that term is defined
27 under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall be designated as an early voting
28 location. The locations shall be designated at the same time as all
29 other polling places are designated by the board of elections. In the
30 event of a tie vote among members of the county board with respect
31 to the selection of sites for early voting, the municipal clerk shall
32 cast the deciding vote. Once early voting locations are designated
33 in each municipality, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if
34 deemed necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate
35 significant changes in the number of registered voters within each
36 municipality, reflect the population distribution and density within
37 each municipality, or because of similar circumstances. The
38 Secretary of State may develop the criteria to be used by county
39 boards of election to revise the location of early voting sites and
40 shall prescribe how often such revision shall take place.

41 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the
42 voter's municipality.

43 c. Each early voting site in a county or municipality shall be
44 open for early voting on Monday through Saturday from at least 10
45 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Sunday from at least 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Any
46 voter who is on line at the time scheduled for the closing of an early
47 voting site shall be permitted to vote.

1 d. The election officers responsible for conducting early voting
2 shall be the same as those responsible for conducting a primary and
3 a general election, as appropriate, pursuant to this Title. The
4 number of such officers and their hours of service shall be as
5 determined by each county board of elections. The compensation
6 for such officers shall be the same as provided to district board of
7 election members serving at a school election pursuant to
8 R.S.19:45-6 or that required pursuant to Article I, paragraph 23 of
9 the New Jersey Constitution, whichever is greater.

10 e. The restrictions governing the conduct of voters at a polling
11 place on the days that early voting occurs, the procedures governing
12 who is permitted in a polling place on such occasions and the
13 prohibition on electioneering within 100 feet of a polling place
14 during an election, or within 200 feet of a polling place during an
15 election if the electioneering prohibition is extended at the
16 discretion of a county board of elections, shall be as provided in
17 chapters 15, 34, 50 and 52 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes and
18 every other applicable section of this Title.

19 f. In real time using the electronic poll books each day during
20 the early voting period, and prior to the start of each regularly
21 scheduled primary and general election, and regular municipal
22 election in each non-partisan municipality choosing to participate in
23 early voting, each county board shall make such changes as may be
24 necessary to the voter's record in the Statewide voter registration
25 system to indicate that a voter has voted in that election using the
26 early voting procedure.

27 g. (1) Each county board shall be responsible for forming and
28 executing a written plan to ensure, to the greatest extent possible,
29 the integrity of the voting process and the security of ballots used
30 during the early voting period, including the security of voting
31 machines, voted ballots, and election records. The plan shall be
32 based on guidelines established by the Secretary of State and shall
33 be submitted thereto no later than December 15 of each year. The
34 Secretary of State shall review and, if deemed necessary thereby,
35 require changes to a plan no later than February 1 of each year.
36 Each plan shall specify a chain of custody and security plan for the
37 voting machines, and a chain of custody for the voted ballots and
38 election records and materials, and shall require, among other
39 specifications deemed necessary by the Secretary of State and
40 county boards of election, that all voted ballots shall be transferred
41 at the end of each early voting day to county boards of election for
42 safekeeping. After the voted ballots are transferred to the county
43 board of elections at the end of each early voting day, a county
44 board may elect to impound those voted ballots on a secure server
45 or by any other means deemed appropriate by the Secretary of State.
46 The voted ballots shall not be canvassed until the closing of the
47 polls on election day as required pursuant to section 4 of this act,
48 P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-4). The results of the voted ballots cast

1 during early voting shall remain confidential and shall be disclosed
2 only in accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised
3 Statutes, regulations, and guidelines concerning the disclosure of
4 election results, and a violation shall be subject to the penalties
5 established by law.

6 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, in the
7 year in which P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.) becomes law, each
8 county board shall submit its plan to the Secretary of State within
9 30 days following the effective date of this act and the Secretary of
10 State shall review it and, if deemed necessary thereby, require
11 changes in the plan within 45 days following the effective date of
12 this act.

13 h. Each county board shall make certain that each polling place
14 used for early voting shall be accessible to individuals with
15 disabilities and the elderly, in compliance with the "Americans
16 With Disabilities Act of 1990" (42 U.S.C. s.12101 et seq.), and that
17 each polling place provides such voters, including the blind and
18 visually impaired, the same opportunity for access and
19 participation, including privacy and independence, as other voters
20 in compliance with the "Help America Vote Act of 2002" (52
21 U.S.C. s.20901 et seq.).

22 i. The Secretary of State shall establish a printing on demand
23 ballot and elections system. At a minimum, the system shall be
24 compatible with the Statewide voter registration system established
25 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31) and any
26 electronic poll books provided by section 1 of P.L.2019, c.80
27 (C.19:31-35). Each polling place used for early voting shall have a
28 computer, tablet, or other electronic device to print provisional
29 ballots for voters required to vote by provisional ballot in
30 accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes
31 or due to an equipment malfunction as further provided under
32 section 3 of P.L.2019, c.80 (C.19:31-37), or any other election
33 related material, if needed. A computer, tablet, or other electronic
34 device and the printer used to print election materials at a polling
35 place shall not be used unless it has been certified by the Secretary
36 of State. The Secretary of State shall adopt and publish standards
37 and regulations governing the certification and use of computer,
38 tablets, or other electronic devices and printers to print election
39 materials at each polling place used for early voting. The Secretary
40 of State shall not certify a computer, tablet, or other electronic
41 device or printer unless it is in compliance with the secretary's
42 standards.

43 j. Each polling place used for early voting shall also have such
44 appropriate supplies, ballots, and other materials deemed necessary
45 by the Secretary of State or as is required currently for a polling
46 place on the day of any election by Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

47 k. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, or any other
48 law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, in a county with a

1 population density equal to or greater than 15,000 people per square
2 mile, early voting shall be required to be conducted in accordance
3 with the provisions of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
4 the Legislature as this bill).

5 (cf: P.L.2026, c.8, s.1)

6
7 2. (New section) a. In addition to all other forms of voting
8 provided for by this Title, a registered voter in a county with a
9 population density equal to or greater than 15,000 people per square
10 mile shall be permitted to vote at a specially designated polling
11 place before the day of each primary, general, municipal, school
12 district, and fire district election in this State. The early voting
13 period shall:

14 (1) start on the 7th calendar day before a non-presidential
15 primary election for a non-presidential general election and end on
16 the second calendar day before that non-presidential primary
17 election;

18 (2) start on the 7th calendar day before a presidential primary
19 election for a presidential general election and end on the second
20 calendar day before that presidential primary election;

21 (3) start on the 10th calendar day before a general election and
22 end on the second calendar day before that general election; or

23 (4) start on the 4th calendar day before each municipal, school
24 district, or fire district election and end on the second calendar day
25 before that municipal, school district, or fire district election.

26 The voting process during the early voting period required by
27 this section shall be conducted using electronic poll books and
28 optical-scan voting machines that read hand-marked paper ballots or
29 other voting machines that produce a voter-verifiable paper ballot.
30 Each municipality conducting regular municipal elections in May
31 pursuant to the provisions of the "Uniform Nonpartisan Elections
32 Law," P.L.1981, c.379 (C.40:45-5 et seq.), if located in a county
33 with a population density equal to or greater than 15,000 people per
34 square mile, shall also conduct early voting for the regular
35 municipal election, in accordance with the provisions of this
36 section. The early voting period for a regular municipal election in
37 May shall start on the 4th calendar day before the regular municipal
38 election, except that the municipal governing body may adopt an
39 ordinance to allow the early voting period to start on the 8th
40 calendar day before the regular municipal election and end on the
41 second calendar day before that regular municipal election.

42 An early voting period shall be permitted for a non-presidential
43 or presidential primary election, a general election, a regular
44 municipal election conducted in May, a school district election, and
45 a fire district election in this State. Pursuant to the provisions of
46 this section and Title 19 of the Revised Statutes and in accordance
47 with procedures that may be established by the Secretary of State
48 for verifying eligible voters, each county board of elections shall

1 verify that a registered voter is qualified to vote in the election and
2 shall prescribe the manner by which a registered voter may vote
3 during such period.

4 b. (1) For the primary and the general election, each county
5 board of elections shall designate at least three, but not more than
6 five, public locations within each county as the sites for early
7 voting to occur, except that the county board shall designate at least
8 five, but not more than seven, public locations for early voting if
9 the number of registered voters in the county is at least 150,000, but
10 less than 300,000, and shall designate at least seven, but not more
11 than 10, public locations for early voting if the number of registered
12 voters in the county is 300,000 or more. This provision shall not be
13 interpreted to prevent county boards of elections, at their discretion,
14 from establishing additional locations in excess of the five, seven,
15 or 10 location limits respectively set forth herein, provided,
16 however, that the State shall be required to provide reimbursement
17 for the costs of locations up to and including the five, seven, or 10
18 respective limits established herein and shall not be required to
19 provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond those limits
20 under section 6 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). The number of
21 registered voters in each county shall be determined ahead of the
22 selection of early voting sites pursuant to a uniform standard which
23 shall be developed by the Secretary of State through the rulemaking
24 process pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
25 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). Whenever possible, early voting
26 locations shall be geographically located so as to ensure both access
27 in the part of the county that features the greatest concentration of
28 population, according to the most recent federal decennial census of
29 the United States, and access in various geographic areas of the
30 county. All early voting locations shall be public facilities, such as
31 county courthouses, public libraries, and the offices of the
32 municipal clerk, county clerk, and county board of elections or
33 places of public accommodation as provided under Title 10 of the
34 Revised Statutes. No public school building and no building used as
35 a public school, as that term is defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall,
36 however, be designated as an early voting location. The locations
37 shall be designated at the same time as all other polling places are
38 designated by the board of elections. In the event of a tie vote
39 among members of the county board with respect to the selection of
40 sites for early voting, the county clerk shall cast the deciding vote.
41 Once early voting locations are designated in each county, county
42 boards of election shall evaluate and, if deemed necessary, revise
43 these locations in order to accommodate significant changes in the
44 number of registered voters within each county, reflect the
45 population distribution and density within each county, or because
46 of similar circumstances. The Secretary of State may develop the
47 criteria to be used by county boards of election to revise the

1 location of early voting sites and shall prescribe how often such
2 revision shall take place.

3 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the
4 voter's county.

5 (2) Whenever a municipality conducts early voting for the
6 regular municipal election, the county board of elections shall
7 designate at least one public location, but not more than three public
8 locations, within the municipality as the site or sites for early voting
9 to occur. This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent a county
10 board of elections, at its discretion, from establishing additional
11 locations in excess of the three location limit set forth herein,
12 provided, however, that the State shall be required to provide
13 reimbursement for the costs of locations up to and including the
14 three location limit established herein and shall not be required to
15 provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond that limit
16 under section 6 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). Whenever
17 possible, each such location shall be geographically located in the
18 part of the municipality that features the greatest concentration of
19 population according to the most recent federal decennial census of
20 the United States. All early voting locations shall be public
21 facilities, such as municipal courthouses and the offices of the
22 municipal clerk or places of public accommodation as provided
23 under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes. No public school building
24 and no building used as a public school, as that term is defined
25 under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall be designated as an early voting
26 location. The locations shall be designated at the same time as all
27 other polling places are designated by the board of elections. In the
28 event of a tie vote among members of the county board with respect
29 to the selection of sites for early voting, the municipal clerk shall
30 cast the deciding vote. Once early voting locations are designated
31 in each municipality, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if
32 deemed necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate
33 significant changes in the number of registered voters within each
34 municipality, reflect the population distribution and density within
35 each municipality, or because of similar circumstances. The
36 Secretary of State may develop the criteria to be used by county
37 boards of election to revise the location of early voting sites and
38 shall prescribe how often such revision shall take place.

39 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the
40 voter's municipality.

41 (3) For a school district's annual school board election or a
42 special school board election on a day other than the general
43 election, the county board of elections shall designate at least one
44 public location, but not more than three public locations, within the
45 school district as the site or sites for early voting to occur. This
46 provision shall not be interpreted to prevent a county board of
47 elections, at its discretion, from establishing additional locations in
48 excess of the three location limit set forth herein, provided,

1 however, that the State shall be required to provide reimbursement
2 for the costs of locations up to and including the three location limit
3 established herein and shall not be required to provide
4 reimbursement for additional locations beyond that limit under
5 section 6 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). Whenever possible, each
6 such location shall be geographically located in the part of the
7 school district that features the greatest concentration of population
8 according to the most recent federal decennial census of the United
9 States. All early voting locations shall be public facilities, such as
10 municipal courthouses and the offices of the municipal clerk or
11 places of public accommodation as provided under Title 10 of the
12 Revised Statutes. No public school building and no building used
13 as a public school, as that term is defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1,
14 shall be designated as an early voting location. The locations shall
15 be designated at the same time as all other polling places are
16 designated by the board of elections. In the event of a tie vote
17 among members of the county board with respect to the selection of
18 sites for early voting, the municipal clerk shall cast the deciding
19 vote. Once early voting locations are designated in each school
20 district, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if deemed
21 necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate
22 significant changes in the number of registered voters within each
23 school district, reflect the population distribution and density within
24 each school district, or because of similar circumstances. The
25 Secretary of State may develop the criteria to be used by county
26 boards of election to revise the location of early voting sites and
27 shall prescribe how often such revision shall take place.

28 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the
29 voter's school district.

30 (4) For a fire district election on a day other than the general
31 election, the county board of elections shall designate at least one
32 public location, but not more than three public locations, within the
33 fire district as the site or sites for early voting to occur. This
34 provision shall not be interpreted to prevent a county board of
35 elections, at its discretion, from establishing additional locations in
36 excess of the three location limit set forth herein, provided,
37 however, that the State shall be required to provide reimbursement
38 for the costs of locations up to and including the three location limit
39 established herein and shall not be required to provide
40 reimbursement for additional locations beyond that limit under
41 section 6 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). Whenever possible, each
42 such location shall be geographically located in the part of the fire
43 district that features the greatest concentration of population
44 according to the most recent federal decennial census of the United
45 States. All early voting locations shall be public facilities, such as
46 municipal courthouses and the offices of the municipal clerk or
47 places of public accommodation as provided under Title 10 of the
48 Revised Statutes. No public school building and no building used

1 as a public school, as that term is defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1,
2 shall be designated as an early voting location. The locations shall
3 be designated at the same time as all other polling places are
4 designated by the board of elections. In the event of a tie vote
5 among members of the county board with respect to the selection of
6 sites for early voting, the municipal clerk shall cast the deciding
7 vote. Once early voting locations are designated in each fire
8 district, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if deemed
9 necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate
10 significant changes in the number of registered voters within each
11 fire district, reflect the population distribution and density within
12 each fire district, or because of similar circumstances. The
13 Secretary of State may develop the criteria to be used by county
14 boards of election to revise the location of early voting sites and
15 shall prescribe how often such revision shall take place.

16 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the
17 voter's fire district.

18 c. Each early voting site in a county or municipality shall be
19 open for early voting on Monday through Saturday from at least 10
20 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Sunday from at least 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Any
21 voter who is on line at the time scheduled for the closing of an early
22 voting site shall be permitted to vote.

23 d. The election officers responsible for conducting early voting
24 shall be the same as those responsible for conducting a primary, a
25 general election, a municipal election, a school district election, or a
26 fire district election, as appropriate, pursuant to this Title. The
27 number of such officers and their hours of service shall be
28 determined by each county board of elections. The compensation
29 for such officers shall be the same as provided to district board of
30 election members serving at a school election pursuant to
31 R.S.19:45-6 or that required pursuant to Article I, paragraph 23 of
32 the New Jersey Constitution, whichever is greater.

33 e. The restrictions governing the conduct of voters at a polling
34 place on the days that early voting occurs, the procedures governing
35 who is permitted in a polling place on such occasions, and the
36 prohibition on electioneering within 100 feet of a polling place
37 during an election, or within 200 feet of a polling place during an
38 election if the electioneering prohibition is extended at the
39 discretion of a county board of elections, shall be as provided in
40 chapters 15, 34, 50, and 52 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes and
41 every other applicable section of this Title.

42 f. In real time using the electronic poll books each day during
43 the early voting period, and prior to the start of each regularly
44 scheduled primary and general election, regular municipal election
45 in each non-partisan municipality, each school district election, and
46 each fire district election, each county board shall make such
47 changes as may be necessary to the voter's record in the Statewide

1 voter registration system to indicate that a voter has voted in that
2 election using the early voting procedure.

3 g. (1) Each county board shall be responsible for forming and
4 executing a written plan to ensure, to the greatest extent possible,
5 the integrity of the voting process and the security of ballots used
6 during the early voting period, including the security of voting
7 machines, voted ballots, and election records. The plan shall be
8 based on guidelines established by the Secretary of State and shall
9 be submitted thereto no later than December 15 of each year. The
10 Secretary of State shall review and, if deemed necessary thereby,
11 require changes to a plan no later than February 1 of each year.
12 Each plan shall specify a chain of custody and security plan for the
13 voting machines, and a chain of custody for the voted ballots and
14 election records and materials, and shall require, among other
15 specifications deemed necessary by the Secretary of State and
16 county boards of election, that all voted ballots shall be transferred
17 at the end of each early voting day to county boards of election for
18 safekeeping. After the voted ballots are transferred to the county
19 board of elections at the end of each early voting day, a county
20 board may elect to impound those voted ballots on a secure server
21 or by any other means deemed appropriate by the Secretary of State.
22 The voted ballots shall not be canvassed until the closing of the
23 polls on election day as required pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2021,
24 c.40 (C.19:15A-4). The results of the voted ballots cast during early
25 voting shall remain confidential and shall be disclosed only in
26 accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes,
27 regulations, and guidelines concerning the disclosure of election
28 results, and a violation shall be subject to the penalties established
29 by law.

30 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, in the
31 year of the effective date of this act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
32 before the Legislature as this bill), becomes law, each county board
33 shall submit its plan to the Secretary of State within 30 days
34 following the effective date of this act and the Secretary of State
35 shall review the plan and, if deemed necessary thereby, require
36 changes in the plan within 45 days following the effective date of
37 this act.

38 h. Each county board shall make certain that each polling place
39 used for early voting shall be accessible to individuals with
40 disabilities and the elderly, in compliance with the "Americans
41 With Disabilities Act of 1990" (42 U.S.C. s.12101 et seq.), and that
42 each polling place provides such voters, including the blind and
43 visually impaired, the same opportunity for access and
44 participation, including privacy and independence, as other voters
45 in compliance with the "Help America Vote Act of 2002" (52
46 U.S.C. s.20901 et seq.).

47 i. The Secretary of State shall establish a printing on demand
48 ballot and elections system. At a minimum, the system shall be

1 compatible with the Statewide voter registration system established
2 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31) and any
3 electronic poll books provided by section 1 of P.L.2019, c.80
4 (C.19:31-35). Each polling place used for early voting shall have a
5 computer, tablet, or other electronic device to print provisional
6 ballots for voters required to vote by provisional ballot in
7 accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes
8 or due to an equipment malfunction as further provided under
9 section 3 of P.L.2019, c.80 (C.19:31-37), or any other election
10 related material, if needed. A computer, tablet, or other electronic
11 device and the printer used to print election materials at a polling
12 place shall not be used unless it has been certified by the Secretary
13 of State. The Secretary of State shall adopt and publish standards
14 and regulations governing the certification and use of computer,
15 tablets, or other electronic devices and printers to print election
16 materials at each polling place used for early voting. The Secretary
17 of State shall not certify a computer, tablet, or other electronic
18 device or printer unless it is in compliance with the secretary's
19 standards.

20 j. Each polling place used for early voting shall also have such
21 appropriate supplies, ballots, and other materials deemed necessary
22 by the Secretary of State or as is required currently for a polling
23 place on the day of any election by Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.
24

25 3. Section 6 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6) is amended to read
26 as follows:

27 6. In compliance with the provisions of Article VIII, Section II,
28 paragraph 5 of the New Jersey Constitution, upon application for
29 reimbursement by a county governing body or a municipal
30 governing body, as may be appropriate, to the Secretary of State
31 and approval of the application by the Director of the Division of
32 Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury, a county
33 or municipality shall be reimbursed by the State for any additional
34 costs incurred by the county or municipality as a result of the
35 provisions of **【this act,】** P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.) and
36 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
37 as this bill).

38 (cf: P.L.2021, c.40, s.6)
39

40 4. Section 3 of P.L.1981, c.379 (C.40:45-7) is amended to read
41 as follows:

42 3. Except as may otherwise be provided by law for initial
43 elections conducted in a municipality following its adoption of a
44 plan or form of government, or a charter or an amendment thereto,
45 regular municipal elections shall be held in each municipality
46 governed by this act on the second Tuesday in May, or the day of
47 the general election in November if chosen by the municipality

1 pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2009, c.196 (C.40:45-
2 7.1), in the years in which municipal officers are to be elected. The
3 municipal election shall be held at the same place or places and
4 conducted in the same manner, so far as possible, as the general
5 election. The election officers shall be those provided for
6 conducting the general election.

7 A municipality holding municipal elections on the second
8 Tuesday in May, in addition to those elections and by an ordinance
9 adopted by its governing body, may also conduct early voting for
10 those municipal elections, in accordance with the provisions of
11 P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.). A municipality holding
12 municipal elections on the day of the general election in November
13 shall conduct early voting in accordance with the provisions of
14 P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.). A municipality located in a
15 county with a population density equal to or greater than 15,000
16 people per square mile holding municipal elections on the second
17 Tuesday in May, or on the day of the general election, in addition to
18 those elections, shall also conduct early voting for those municipal
19 elections, in accordance with section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)
20 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

21 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Secretary of
22 State may change in any year the date provided for a regular
23 municipal election if the date coincides with a period of religious
24 observance that limits significantly the usual activities of the
25 followers of a particular religion or that would result in significant
26 religious consequences for such followers. The secretary shall
27 inform the municipal clerks, county clerks and boards of election of
28 the adjustment no later than the first working day in January of the
29 year in which the adjustments are to occur.

30 As used in this section, "a period of religious observance" means
31 any day or portion thereof on which a religious observance imposes
32 a substantial burden on an individual's ability to vote.
33 (cf: P.L.2021, c.40, s.21)

34
35 5. This act shall take effect January 1 next following the date of
36 enactment.

37 38 39 STATEMENT

40
41 This bill requires early voting for each election held in a county
42 with a population density equal to or greater than 15,000 people per
43 square mile.

44 Under current law, registered voters are permitted to vote at a
45 specially designated polling place before the day of certain primary
46 and general elections in this State. A municipality that holds an
47 election on the second Tuesday in May is permitted, but not
48 required, to conduct early voting for that election. This bill requires

1 municipalities in counties with a population density equal to or
2 greater than 15,000 people per square mile to conduct early voting
3 for such elections. This bill also requires that early voting be made
4 available to registered voters in counties with a population density
5 equal to or greater than 15,000 people per square mile for school
6 district and fire district elections.

7 Under current law, the State of New Jersey is required to
8 reimburse jurisdictions for any additional costs incurred by the
9 county or municipality as a result of the requirements to provide
10 early voting, including, but not limited to, operating a certain
11 number of early voting locations for certain elections. Under this
12 bill, for counties with a population density equal to or greater than
13 15,000 people per square mile, the State will be required to also
14 reimburse jurisdictions for any additional costs incurred by the
15 county or municipality as a result of the requirements to provide
16 early voting under the bill, including, but not limited to, operating a
17 certain number of early voting locations for the required municipal,
18 school district, and fire district elections.

19 People who live in high-density areas may benefit from
20 additional voting days because larger populations in small areas can
21 create greater demand at polling places, making early voting
22 opportunities useful in reducing the pressure on each polling
23 location.