

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE, Nos. 3519 and 3593**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 12, 2023

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 3519 and 3593.

This bill changes the dates of certain general election deadlines.

Under current law, the deadline for independent candidates to decline nomination for the general election is 70 days before the general election. The bill would change the deadline for independent candidates to decline nomination for the general election to 81 days before the general election.

The nomination petition filing deadline for new nomination petitions to fill a vacancy for independent candidates, school election candidates, and fire district candidates for the general election is 64 days before the general election. The bill would change the nomination petition filing deadline for new nomination petitions to fill a vacancy for independent candidates, school election candidates, and fire district candidates for the general election to 75 days before the general election.

The last day a vacancy can occur for primary election nominees for the general election is 56 days before the general election. The bill changes the last day a vacancy can occur for primary election nominees for the general election to 70 days before the general election.

The deadline for filling a primary nominee vacancy for the general election is 54 days before the general election. The bill would change the deadline for filling a primary nominee vacancy for the general election to 68 days before the general election.

The meeting of the county board of canvassers for the general election is 13 days after the election. The bill would require the meeting of the county board of canvassers for the general election to be 15 days after the election.

In current law, a candidate or voters requesting a recount of the votes may do so within a period of 17 days following such election. The bill changes the recount period to be 3 days after the certification of the results of the election.

The deadline for submission of non-binding county and municipality public questions to the county clerks for printing on the general election ballot is 81 days before the general election. The bill would change the deadline for submission of non-binding county and municipal public questions to the county clerks for printing on the general election ballot to 88 days before the general election.

The deadline for submission to the county clerk of municipal non-binding public questions adopted by the municipal governing body upon the filing of a qualified petition by the local electorate is 67 days before the general election. The bill would change the deadline for submission to the county clerk of municipal non-binding public questions adopted by the municipal governing body upon the filing of a qualified petition by the local electorate to 74 days before the general election.

In current law, a copy of the ordinance or resolution certified by the clerk or secretary of the governing body of any such municipality or county is delivered to the county clerk shall be printed on each sample ballot and official ballot to be printed for or used in such municipality or county, as the case may be, at the next ensuing general election, not less than 65 days before any such general election. The bill changes the deadline to not less than 74 days.

In current law, the impoundment period for voting machines used in the general election is 15 days following the general election. The bill would change the impoundment period for voting machines used in the general election to 13 days. Under the bill, the impoundment period would apply to voting machines that are exempt from the requirement to produce an individual permanent paper record for each vote cast.

The deadline for preparation of emergency and provisional ballot reports by each county board of election for the general election is within 15 days after the election or within 3 days of the certification of the results of the election. The bill changes the deadline for preparation of emergency and provisional ballot reports by each county board of election for the general election to certification day for the general election.

Under current law, there is no restriction on the dates a special school election is held relative to a primary election or general election. The bill allows the Commissioner of Education to change the date of any special school election if the authorized date is within 45 days of a primary election or general election.

This bill changes the permissive September special school election date from the last Tuesday to the third Tuesday in September, and changes the permissive December special school election date from the second Tuesday in December to “concurrently with the general election” which takes place in November. The bill also keeps at the 18th day preceding the annual April school election, and establishes a 60 days preceding a special school election, the deadline for the

secretary of each board of education to make, certify, and forward to the clerk of the county in which the school district is located, a statement designating the public question to be voted upon by the voters of the district.

The deadline to submit public questions for a November school board election to the county clerk by the school board secretary is 60 days before the general election. The bill changes the deadline to submit public questions for a November school board election to the county clerk by the school board secretary to 74 days before the general election.

The deadline for withdrawal of school board and fire district candidates is 70 days before the general election. The bill changes the deadline for withdrawal of school board and fire district candidates to 81 days before the general election.

In current law, there is no deadline to complete the audits required for certification of the general election results by counties. The bill requires that the audit begins 13 days after the general election, and will be complete before certification with necessary extensions given by the Secretary of State. This bill makes a technical change to replace references of "Attorney General" with "Secretary of State," consistent with the current law designation of the Secretary of State as the Chief Election Official in this State.

Under current law, the deadline for receipt of cure forms to the county board of elections is currently no later than 48 hours prior to the final certification of the results of the election. In the case of the general election, the bill changes that deadline for receipt of cure forms to the county board of elections to within 11 days of the general election.

The deadline for nomination petitions for municipal non-partisan candidates to be voted on at the November general election is 64 days. The bill changes the deadline for nomination petitions for municipal non-partisan candidates to be voted on at the November general election to 75 days.

Under current law, the deadline for changes to a nominating petition to be made and filed is 61 days. The bill changes the deadline to 72 days.

Under current law, the terms of local elected officials in municipalities with runoff elections expire and reorganize on January 1. The bill changes the terms of local elected officials in municipalities with runoff elections expire and reorganize to January 15. The bill changes also provide for the reorganization date of members of the municipal governing body whose term commences on January 15 to be held on that date or during a seven-day period beginning on that date, rather than on the second week in thereafter in January.

Under current law, there is no deadline for submission of initiative and referendum public questions to the county clerk for printing on the

general election ballot. The bill establishes a deadline of 74 days prior to the general election.

This bill prohibits fire district elections from being held between the period of 45 days prior to a primary or general election to the certification of the primary or general election.

Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 3519 and 3593 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 5175 (4R) of 2022-2023.