

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4209

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2023

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 4209 with committee amendments.

This amended bill eliminates the required vote on school budgets for Type II school districts in April elections, except for separate proposals to spend above cap.

Under current law, a Type II school district may determine to hold their annual school election on either the third Tuesday in April or during the general election in November. Current law provides that any district that holds its school election in April is also required to obtain voter approval of its base budget, which is a budget with a proposed tax levy that does not exceed its tax levy cap. Under the amended bill, a Type II school district that opts to hold its annual school election in April will no longer be required to obtain voter approval for their base budgets. The amended bill provides that any proposal for additional funds above the school district's tax levy cap will continue to be required to be presented to the voters for approval.

Under the amended bill, a school district that holds its annual school election in November may submit to the voters at the April school election a proposal for additional funds or a proposal to issue school bonds.

The amended bill provides that the annual reorganization meeting for a type II district with an April school election will be on a day between May 1 and May 7, inclusive. Member terms are set to begin for type II districts with April school elections on May 1st and end on April 30th. Member terms are set to begin for type II districts with November school elections on January 1st and end on December 31st. In the event that a district opts to move its annual election date from November to April, member terms are to be shortened accordingly.

The amended bill clarifies that current provisions of law pertaining to the submission of a school district's temporary budget are applicable only to school districts with an annual school election in November.

The amended bill repeals sections of law pertaining to the submission of budgets under cap to the voters of districts with an April school election.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee made a minor technical amendment to the bill.