

ASSEMBLY, No. 3210

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman MICHAEL PATRICK CARROLL
District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Revises legal drinking age from 21 to 18 years of age.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A3210 CARROLL

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1 AN ACT revising the legal drinking age and amending P.L.1972,
2 c.81 (C.9:17B-1).

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

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1972, c.81 (C.9:17B-1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 The Legislature finds and declares and by this act intends,
10 pending the revision and amendment of the many statutory
11 provisions involved, to:

12 a. Extend to persons 18 years of age and older the basic civil
13 and contractual rights and obligations heretofore applicable only to
14 persons 21 years of age or older, including the right to contract, sue,
15 be sued and defend civil actions, apply for and be appointed to
16 public employment, apply for and be granted a license or authority
17 to engage in a business or profession subject to State regulation,
18 serve on juries, marry, adopt children, attend and participate in
19 horse race meetings and parimutuel betting and other legalized
20 games and gaming, except as otherwise provided in subsection c. of
21 this section, **[sell alcoholic beverages,]** act as an incorporator,
22 registered agent or director of a corporation, consent to medical and
23 surgical treatment, execute a will, and to inherit, purchase,
24 mortgage or otherwise encumber and convey real and personal
25 property.

26 b. Extend to persons **[21]** 18 years of age and older the right to
27 purchase and consume alcoholic beverages **[on January 1, 1983,**
28 provided that anyone attaining the age to purchase and consume
29 alcoholic beverages legally prior to January 1, 1983, shall retain
30 that right**]**. Nothing in this act shall preclude any licensee under
31 R.S.33:1-1 et seq. from making purchases in the regular course of
32 his licensed activities.

33 c. Extend to persons at or over the age at which a person is
34 authorized to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages**[,**
35 heretofore applicable only to persons 18 years of age or older,**]** the
36 right to attend and participate in casino gaming. Nothing in this act
37 shall preclude any licensee under the "Casino Control Act,"
38 P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-1 et seq.) from attending and participating
39 in casino gaming in the regular course of his licensed activities.

40 d. Abolish the right of a person between the ages of 18 and 21
41 years to disaffirm and be relieved of contractual obligations by
42 reason of age.

43 (cf: P.L.1983, c.134, s.1)

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.

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1 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
2 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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7 This bill lowers the State's drinking age in New Jersey from 21
8 years of age to 18 years of age.

9 Since 1983, New Jersey's legal drinking age has been 21 years of
10 age. The United States Congress enacted the National Minimum
11 Drinking Age Act in 1984 and states were highly encouraged to
12 raise their drinking age to 21 or lose federal funding. Since 1988,
13 21 has been the minimum legal drinking age for all 50 states and the
14 District of Columbia. Many states, however, are re-considering
15 their legal drinking age.

16 Additionally, the bill also makes technical changes to update the
17 statute.