

ASSEMBLY, No. 2303

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Senate, and General Assembly to disclose federal income tax returns.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A2303 BRAMNICK

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1 AN ACT concerning the disclosure of federal income tax returns by
2 candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Senate, and
3 General Assembly, and amending P.L.1981, c.129.

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

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1981, c.129 (C.19:44B-2) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. a. Every candidate for the office of Governor and every
11 candidate for the Senate or General Assembly shall file and certify
12 the correctness of a financial disclosure statement on or before the
13 tenth day following the last day for filing a petition to appear on the
14 ballot, and the financial disclosure statement shall be filed with the
15 Election Law Enforcement Commission in the Department of Law
16 and Public Safety.

17 b. Every candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor shall
18 file and certify the correctness of a financial disclosure statement on
19 or before the 30th day following the day such candidate is selected
20 by the candidate for the office of Governor of the same political
21 party, and the financial disclosure statement shall be filed with the
22 commission.

23 c. (1) Every candidate for the office of Governor and
24 Lieutenant Governor and every candidate for the Senate or General
25 Assembly shall, at the time the candidate files the financial
26 disclosure statement required by subsections a. and b. of this
27 section, file with the Election Law Enforcement Commission a copy
28 of the candidate's federal income tax returns, as that term is defined
29 in section 6103(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C.
30 s.6103), for at least the five most recent taxable years for which the
31 candidate has filed such a return with the Internal Revenue Service.

32 (2) Each candidate shall provide written consent to the
33 commission, in such form as the commission shall prescribe, for the
34 public disclosure of the income tax returns. The commission shall
35 post income tax returns filed with the commission pursuant to this
36 subsection on the Internet website of the commission no later than
37 seven days after the candidate has filed the income tax returns with
38 the commission.

39 (3) Prior to making public any income tax return filed pursuant
40 to this subsection, the commission, in consultation with the
41 Attorney General, shall redact any information that the commission
42 deems privileged or unlawful to disclose.

43 (cf: P.L.2009, c.66, s.29)

44
45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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 STATEMENT

2

3 This bill requires every candidate for the office of Governor and
4 Lieutenant Governor and every candidate for the Senate or General
5 Assembly to submit their federal income tax returns to the Election
6 Law Enforcement Commission for at least the five most recent
7 taxable years for which the candidate has filed such a return with
8 the Internal Revenue Service. Under the bill, each candidate would
9 also submit written consent to the commission for the public
10 disclosure of the income tax returns. The bill requires a candidate
11 for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Senate, or General
12 Assembly to file the income tax returns and written consent for
13 disclosure with the commission at the time the candidate files the
14 financial disclosure statement required by N.J.S.A.19:44B-2.

15 The bill requires the commission to post the income tax returns
16 on its Internet website no later than seven days after a candidate has
17 filed the income tax returns with the commission. The bill requires
18 the commission, in consultation with the Attorney General, to
19 redact any information contained in the income tax returns that the
20 commission deems privileged or unlawful to disclose.