

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 3087

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 18, 2018

Sponsored by:
Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Voting Precinct Transparency Act;” requires filing of election district, county district, and municipal ward boundary data with Secretary of State for posting and download on official website with matching election results data.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on January 9, 2020, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning the availability of election district, county
2 district, municipal ward boundary, and election results data to
3 the public, amending various parts of the statutory law, and
4 supplementing chapter 4 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

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

8
9 1. (New section) a. This act shall be known and may be cited
10 as the “Voting Precinct Transparency Act.”

11 b. The Secretary of State shall make available on the official
12 website of the Division of Elections in the Department of State the
13 election district, county district, and municipal ward boundaries
14 required to be filed with the Secretary of State pursuant to section 7
15 of P.L.1976, c.83 (C.19:4-16), section 121 of P.L.1972, c.154
16 (C.40:41A-121), and section 7 of P.L.1981, c.496 (C.40:44-15),
17 respectively. The boundary files shall be in ESRI Shapefile format
18 and available for download by the public free of charge ¹, upon
19 implementation of a compatible Statewide Voter Registration
20 System¹.

21 c. Within 90 days following the certification of the results of
22 any special, primary, school, municipal, or general election, and of
23 any public question voted by the voters at an election, pursuant to
24 Title 19 of the Revised Statutes, the ¹**[Secretary of State shall also]**
25 county clerk of each county shall¹ make available on ¹**[the] their**¹
26 official website ¹**[as provided under subsection b. of this section]**¹
27 a table or database containing the election results compiled at the
28 election districts level. ¹If feasible, the table or database shall
29 include the results of mail-in ballots delineated by election district.¹

30 The election results table or database shall be in a single file, in a
31 comma-delimited values format, and shall contain a unique
32 identifier field for each election district that matches the unique
33 identifier field for that district in the election districts Shapefile. ¹In
34 the event that election results specific to mail-in ballots are unable
35 to be included in the table or database created pursuant to this
36 subsection, the votes by mail-in ballot for a particular candidate
37 shall be included in a separate table or database. A mail-in ballot
38 received and counted shall not be attributed in the table or database
39 to an election district or other geographic unit in which the voter
40 does not reside.¹ The election results table or database shall be
41 available for download by the public free of charge.

42 d. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the New Jersey
43 Office of Information Technology, Office of Geographic
44 Information Systems, shall issue technical guidelines governing the

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SBA committee amendments adopted January 9, 2020.

1 preparation, maintenance, and submission of boundary files and
2 election results files deemed necessary or desirable to accomplish
3 the provisions of this section.

4

5 2. Section 7 of P.L.1976, c.83 (C.19:4-16) is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 7. a. The county board shall cause to have prepared and shall
8 maintain an up-to-date suitable map of the county and of each
9 constituent municipality clearly delineating the geographical
10 boundaries of each election district contained therein and of the
11 ward, legislative, freeholder, Congressional or other district or part
12 thereof, in which each election district is contained. A word
13 description of such geographical boundaries shall be attached to
14 each such map.

15 The county board shall file copies of such maps and descriptions
16 in the following manner: three copies to the Secretary of State, one
17 copy to the county clerk, and one copy to the clerk of each affected
18 municipality. Within 30 days of any changes in the boundaries of
19 any of the aforementioned districts, the county board shall file
20 revised maps and accompanying revised descriptions in the same
21 manner.

22 Said maps and descriptions shall be public records and shall be
23 available for inspection by the public in the offices of the Secretary
24 of State, county clerks and municipal clerks during normal office
25 hours. Copies shall be made available to the public for a fee
26 necessary to cover the cost of reproduction.

27 In order to effectuate the purposes of this act, the Secretary of
28 State shall establish such rules and regulations governing the
29 preparation, maintenance, distribution and filing of said maps and
30 descriptions as he deems necessary or desirable.

31 b. In addition to the maps and descriptions required to be filed
32 with the Secretary of State under subsection a. of this section, the
33 county board shall file with the Secretary of State the election
34 district boundaries in ESRI Shapefile format in accordance with
35 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
36 bill).

37 (cf: P.L.1976, c.83, s.7)

38

39 3. Section 121 of P.L.1972, c.154 (C.40:41A-121) is amended
40 to read as follows:

41 121. a. Within 30 days after the adoption of one of said optional
42 plans, the district commissioners shall make and file their report
43 and certificate over at least three of their signatures setting forth
44 and properly describing the district boundaries fixed and
45 determined, to which there shall be annexed a map of the county
46 with the district boundaries clearly marked thereon.

1 The report so certified shall be filed in the office of the clerk of
2 the county, and a copy thereof shall also be filed with the Secretary
3 of State.

4 b. In addition to the description of the district boundaries and
5 map required to be filed with the Secretary of State under
6 subsection a. of this section, the district commissioners shall file
7 with the Secretary of State the district boundaries in ESRI Shapefile
8 format in accordance with section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
9 before the Legislature as this bill).
10 (cf: P.L.1972, c.154, s.121)
11

12 4. Section 7 of P.L.1981, c.496 (C.40:44-15) is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 7. a. Within 30 days following their initial meeting pursuant to
15 section 5 of this act, the ward commissioners shall file their report,
16 certified by at least three of their signatures, setting forth and
17 properly describing the ward boundaries fixed and determined.
18 There shall be annexed to the report a map of the municipality with
19 the ward boundaries clearly marked thereon.

20 The report so certified shall be filed in the office of the county
21 clerk, and copies shall be filed with the Secretary of State and in the
22 office of the municipal clerk.

23 b. In addition to the description of the ward boundaries and map
24 required to be filed with the Secretary of State under subsection a.
25 of this section, the ward commissioners shall file with the Secretary
26 of State the ward boundaries in ESRI Shapefile format in
27 accordance with section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
28 Legislature as this bill).
29 (cf: P.L.1981, c.496, s.7)
30

31 5. This act shall take effect immediately.