

# SENATE, No. 4069

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 23, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Assemblywoman PATRICIA EGAN JONES**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblyman ADAM J. TALIAFERRO**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

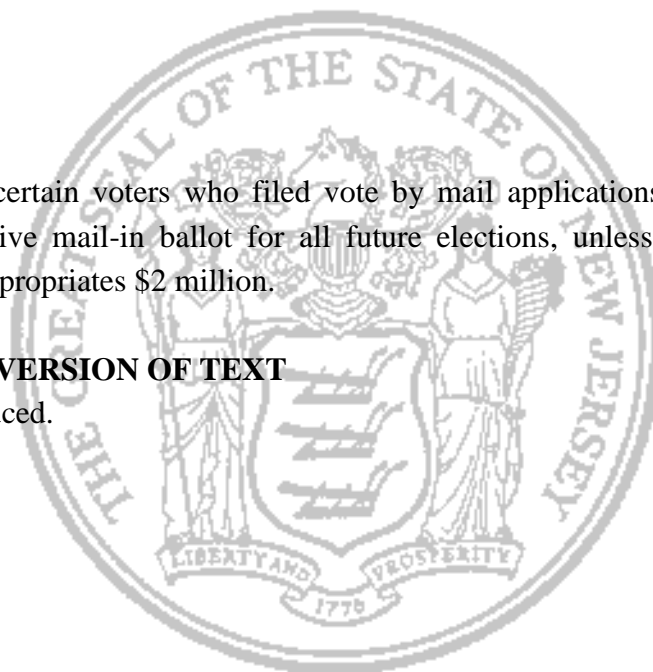
**Assemblyman Mukherji, Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Moriarty, Assemblywoman Lopez, Assemblymen Wimberly, Verrelli and Assemblywoman Mosquera**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires certain voters who filed vote by mail applications from 2016 to 2018 to receive mail-in ballot for all future elections, unless voter requests otherwise; appropriates \$2 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/28/2019)

S4069 SWEENEY

2

1 AN ACT concerning the ability of certain voters to receive a mail-in  
2 ballot for all future elections unless they request otherwise,  
3 amending P.L.2018, c.72, and making an appropriation.

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

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8 1. Section 14 of P.L.2018, c.72 (C.19:63-3.1) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 14. a. The clerk of each county shall add to the list of registered  
11 voters receiving a mail-in ballot for all future elections without  
12 further request each voter in the county who requested and received  
13 a mail-in ballot for the 2016 general election, and each voter who  
14 requested and received a mail-in ballot for any election in 2017 and  
15 2018 by filing a mail-in ballot application following the deadline  
16 for applying for a 2016 general election mail-in ballot. Each voter  
17 so added to the list shall have the option to inform the clerk in  
18 writing that the voter does not wish to receive a mail-in ballot  
19 automatically for all future elections.

20 b. The county clerks shall transmit to each voter who will  
21 automatically receive such a ballot for all future elections pursuant  
22 to subsection a. of this section a notice informing the voter that he  
23 or she will automatically receive a mail-in ballot for all future  
24 elections unless the voter informs the clerk in writing that he or she  
25 does not wish to receive a mail-in ballot for all future elections.  
26 (cf: P.L.2018, c.72, s.14)

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28 2. a. The Department of State shall reimburse each county for  
29 the actual costs incurred by the county in implementing the  
30 provisions of this act.

31 b. On or before January 1, 2020, the clerk of each county shall  
32 certify to the Department of State, in a manner prescribed by the  
33 department, the total cost incurred by the county in implementing  
34 the provisions of this act.

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36 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
37 Department of State the sum of \$2 million to be distributed among  
38 the counties subject to the requirements of section 1 of this act as  
39 reimbursement for the costs of implementing the provisions of this  
40 act.

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42 4. 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.

STATEMENT

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Under current law, persons wishing to vote by mail may file an application to receive a mail-in ballot either for all future elections or for any single election. Pursuant to P.L.2018, c.72, these two choices were adopted to simplify the vote-by-mail application, consolidating prior categories of elections for voting by mail. The law required the county clerks to add to the list of registered voters receiving a mail-in ballot for all future elections without further request each voter in the county who requested and received a mail-in ballot for the 2016 general election. However, the law was silent on interim applications to vote by mail filed in 2016, 2017, and 2018, before the change in the vote-by-mail application became effective on August 10, 2018.

Nevertheless, the Legislature intended to include such applicants. This did not occur due to the delay in enactment.

This bill requires that any voter who requested and received a mail-in ballot for any election in 2017 and 2018 by filing a mail-in ballot application following the deadline for applying for a 2016 general election mail-in ballot would also be added to the list of registered voters receiving a mail-in ballot for all future elections without further request from the voter. Under current law, voters have the option to opt out of the vote-by-mail process by notifying their county clerk.

The bill appropriates \$2 million for implementation costs.