

ASSEMBLY, No. 778

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BRIAN E. RUMPF

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

Assemblywoman DIANNE C. GOVE

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires any individual seeking elective public office to disclose when filing petition of nomination whether he or she has been convicted of a criminal offense.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** requiring the disclosure of certain information by
2 individuals seeking elective public office in this State and
3 supplementing chapters 13 and 23 of Title 19 of the Revised
4 Statutes.

5

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

8

9 1. In addition to the requirements for a petition of nomination
10 established in R.S.19:13-4, each such petition filed with the
11 Secretary of State, the county clerk or the municipal clerk, as may
12 be appropriate, shall include a statement signed by the candidate
13 that he or she:

14 a. has not been convicted of any criminal offense under the
15 laws of this State or of any criminal offense under the laws of
16 another state, territory, commonwealth or jurisdiction of the United
17 States, or any country in the world, which would be a crime if
18 committed in this State; or

19 b. has been so convicted, in which case, the candidate shall
20 disclose on the statement the details of the offense, including the
21 type and degree of offense, the individual or entity it involved, the
22 date it occurred, the date of conviction for the offense and the time
23 served, the fine paid and any other penalty imposed. Such a
24 candidate may, as an alternative, provide with the statement a copy
25 of an official document that provides such information. If the
26 candidate has been convicted of more than one criminal offense,
27 such information about each such offense shall be provided.

28 If a petition of nomination contains the names of two or more
29 candidates, a signed statement for each candidate shall be attached
30 to the petition at the time of filing.

31

32 2. In addition to the requirements for a petition of nomination
33 established in R.S.19:23-7, each such petition filed with the
34 Secretary of State, the county clerk or the municipal clerk, as may
35 be appropriate, shall include a statement signed by the candidate
36 that he or she:

37 a. has not been convicted of any criminal offense under the
38 laws of this State or of any criminal offense under the laws of
39 another state, territory, commonwealth or jurisdiction of the United
40 States, or any country in the world, which would be a crime if
41 committed in this State; or

42 b. has been so convicted, in which case, the candidate shall
43 disclose on the statement the details of the offense, including the
44 type and degree of offense, the individual or entity it involved, the
45 date it occurred, the date of conviction for the offense and the time
46 served, the fine paid and any other penalty imposed, if applicable.
47 Such a candidate may, as an alternative, provide with the statement
48 a copy of an official document that provides such information. If

1 the candidate has been convicted of more than one criminal offense,
2 such information about each such offense shall be provided.

3 If a petition of nomination contains the names of two or more
4 candidates, a signed statement for each candidate shall be attached
5 to the petition at the time of filing.

6

7 3. This act shall take effect on January 1 next following the
8 date of enactment.

9

10

11

STATEMENT

12

13 The purpose of this bill is to require any individual seeking
14 elective public office in this State to disclose at the time of filing a
15 petition of nomination whether he or she has been convicted of a
16 criminal offense.

17 Specifically, the bill requires that each petition of nomination
18 must include a statement signed by the candidate that he or she has
19 either not been convicted of a criminal offense in this State or any
20 other state or involving the government of the United States or any
21 other country, or that the candidate has been so convicted. In that
22 case, the candidate must disclose on the statement the details of the
23 offense, including the type or degree of offense, the individual or
24 entity it involved, the date it occurred, the date of conviction for the
25 offense and the time served, the fine paid or both, if applicable.
26 Such a candidate may, as an alternative, provide with the statement
27 a copy of an official document that provides such information. If
28 the candidate has been convicted of more than one criminal offense,
29 such information about each such offense must be provided.