

ASSEMBLY, No. 1998

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires ballot question on approval of State bond issue to disclose total amount of debt of State or other entity, debt service on which is funded through annual State appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/10/2020)

1 AN ACT requiring that certain information be included in the
2 interpretive statement that appears on the ballot with a State
3 bond issue question, amending R.S.19:3-6.
4

5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. R.S.19:3-6 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:3-6. Any public question voted upon at an election shall be
10 presented in simple language that can be easily understood by the
11 voter. The printed phrasing of said question on the ballots shall
12 clearly set forth the true purpose of the matter being voted upon.
13 Where the question concerns any amendment to the State
14 Constitution, or any act or statute or other legal titles of any nature,
15 the printed phrasing on the ballots shall include a brief statement
16 interpreting same. Whenever, pursuant to the provisions of Article
17 VIII, Section II, paragraph 3 of the State Constitution, a public
18 question submits to the people for their approval a law authorizing
19 the creation of a debt or liability of the State, that interpretive
20 statement shall include a recitation of the total amount outstanding
21 of debts and liabilities of the State, of any agency or instrumentality
22 of the State, and of any other entity, to which is pledged an annual
23 State appropriation as the ways and means to pay the interest on
24 such debts or liabilities when due and to discharge the principal
25 thereof. Such a recitation of outstanding debts and liabilities shall
26 be current as of June 30 of the year preceding the year in which the
27 public question is submitted.

28 In event that in any statute the public question to be voted upon
29 is so stated as not clearly to set forth the true purpose of the matter
30 being voted upon and no provision is made in said statute for
31 presenting the same in simple language or printing upon the ballots
32 a brief statement interpreting the same, there may be added on the
33 ballots to be used in voting upon the question, a brief statement
34 interpreting the same and setting forth the true purpose of the matter
35 being voted upon in addition to the statement of the public question
36 required by the statute itself.

37 Such public question, when duly voted upon at an election, shall
38 be deemed to be approved when that percentage of the legal voters
39 of the State or any subdivision thereof as required by the statute
40 authorizing the proposal of such public question shall vote in favor
41 of its adoption.

42 For the purpose of this Title it is hereby declared that the intent
43 and meaning in any such statute of the words "legal voters" are
44 persons entitled to vote, and who do vote, at the time and in the
45 manner prescribed in and by such statute upon the public question

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 submitted; and for the purpose of ascertaining what is the
2 percentage of the legal voters of any district defined in such statute,
3 upon the public question therein directed to be submitted, the
4 persons who do not vote at such election, the persons who do not
5 vote upon the public question and the persons whose ballots may
6 be declared invalid, shall not be estimated, counted or considered.
7 (cf: P.L.1941, c.170, s.1)

8
9 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to
10 public questions submitted at any general election held at least 70
11 days after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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16 This bill provides that whenever a law authorizing the issuance
17 of State general obligation debt is submitted to the people for their
18 approval, as required by the State Constitution, the interpretive
19 statement appearing on the ballot with that public question shall
20 include a recitation of the total amount of debts and liabilities
21 outstanding of the State, any State agency or instrumentality, and
22 any other entity, to which is pledged an annual State appropriation
23 as the ways and means to pay the interest on and discharge the
24 principal of such debts or liabilities. This recitation of the amount
25 of outstanding debts and liabilities is required to be current as of
26 June 30 of the year preceding the year in which the public question
27 is submitted.