

ASSEMBLY, No. 2606

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes procedures for nomination and election of members of New Jersey Hall of Fame; directs principal location of hall to be in or adjacent to New Jersey State Museum.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing procedures for, and providing for public
2 participation in, the nomination and election of members of the
3 New Jersey Hall of Fame, amending and supplementing
4 P.L.2005, c.232.

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

8
9 1. Section 5 of P.L.2005, c.232 (C.5:10-6.7) is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 5. a. It shall be the duty of the foundation to develop plans for
12 maintaining and operating a New Jersey Hall of Fame and to
13 provide information to the authority with respect to the operation,
14 management, and location of the New Jersey Hall of Fame **【as a**
15 **project at a site either within the Meadowlands complex, or】** which
16 shall be located within **【the State of New Jersey, but outside of the**
17 **Meadowlands complex, that the foundation】** or adjacent to the New
18 Jersey State Museum in Trenton. The foundation may also establish
19 one or more satellite locations for the hall, provided that the
20 satellite locations are dispersed in different parts of the State. The
21 principal and satellite locations shall be as the foundation
22 determines to be appropriate to meet the requirements of the New
23 Jersey Hall of Fame project and to best serve the interests of the
24 public, giving due consideration to architectural designs,
25 development of new structures or the adapting of existing structures
26 within which the New Jersey Hall of Fame may be located, criteria
27 for selection of nominees to the Hall of Fame, the annual
28 ceremonies for the induction of nominees into the Hall of Fame and
29 other areas the foundation may deem relevant to the **【creation at a**
30 **site either within the Meadowlands complex, or within the State of**
31 **New Jersey, but outside of the Meadowlands complex,】** siting of a
32 New Jersey Hall of Fame including, but not limited to, such
33 programs and events in connection with the foundation's fund-
34 raising activities to support the operation, maintenance, support,
35 and promotion of the New Jersey Hall of Fame and to support
36 charitable organizations that directly benefit children in need in
37 New Jersey and throughout the world.

38 b. The foundation shall also develop policies to improve the
39 image of New Jersey, promote the heritage of the residents of this
40 State, and instill pride in the State by increasing the public's
41 awareness of the contributions made to society by past and present
42 residents of New Jersey, make recommendations for local and State
43 actions to follow up the foundation's goals, and consider such other
44 matters relating to the accomplishment of its goals as the foundation
45 may deem appropriate.

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 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2017, c.31)

2 d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2017, c.31)

3 e. The foundation is authorized to receive and administer gifts,
4 contributions, and funds from public and private sources to be
5 expended solely for the purposes provided in this section.
6 (cf: P.L.2017, c.31, s.3)

7

8 2. (New section) a. In each calendar year, individuals shall be
9 chosen for membership in the New Jersey Hall of Fame by
10 nomination and election in accordance with the provisions of this
11 section. No more than 12 persons shall be chosen for membership in
12 any calendar year. The foundation shall be responsible for the
13 management and oversight of the nomination and election
14 hereunder of individuals to membership in the Hall of Fame.

15 b. (1) The foundation shall cause to be established and
16 maintained in the offices of the corporation a roster of candidates
17 for nomination to membership in the New Jersey Hall of Fame. The
18 roster shall at all times include the names of not more than 200
19 candidates, each of whom shall be assigned to one of the following
20 nominating categories:

21 (a) an enterprise category, including scientists, inventors,
22 entrepreneurs and other business leaders, leaders in medicine, and
23 philanthropists;

24 (b) an arts and entertainment category, including musicians,
25 singers, actors, dancers, painters, sculptors, writers, and those
26 working in related fields;

27 (c) a sports category, including athletes, coaches, owners, and
28 others in the field of sports;

29 (d) a general category, including educators, scholars, political
30 and military leaders, leaders in the field of social service, and others
31 not included among the foregoing categories; and

32 (e) an historical category, including deceased New Jerseyans
33 whose contributions transcend the foregoing categories.

34 (2) To be eligible as a candidate, a person shall have been born
35 in New Jersey or shall have lived in New Jersey for at least five
36 years, and shall have made a significant contribution to the State, to
37 the nation, or to the world. A person holding elective public office,
38 or who shall have held elective public office during the preceding
39 five years, shall be ineligible to be a candidate for nomination. Any
40 resident of this State may propose to the foundation the name of a
41 person, other than the proposer, to be a candidate for nomination to
42 membership by completing the form of proposed candidacy as the
43 foundation shall prescribe; the form shall be available on the Hall of
44 Fame website. In addition, the foundation shall solicit names of
45 individuals eligible as candidates for nomination to membership.

46 (3) The foundation shall establish and maintain a candidate
47 screening committee, which shall consist of at least 25 residents of
48 this State who are prominent in their respective fields. The

1 screening committee shall include at least four academicians or
2 retired academicians, of whom at least two shall be specialists in
3 New Jersey history, and at least four shall be journalists or retired
4 journalists who shall have spent a significant portion of their
5 careers covering New Jersey-related matters. Members of the
6 candidate screening committee shall receive no compensation. The
7 foundation shall adopt bylaws for the committee to govern its
8 operations. The candidate screening committee shall periodically
9 review the qualifications of persons properly proposed as
10 candidates for membership in the New Jersey Hall of Fame and
11 shall select from among those persons the individuals whose names
12 shall be entered on the roster of candidates. A person whose name
13 has been entered on the roster of candidates shall be removed
14 therefrom upon the person's election to the New Jersey Hall of
15 Fame, and may be removed upon a majority vote of the members of
16 the candidate screening committee.

17 c. (1) In each calendar year, the nominees for election to
18 membership in the New Jersey Hall of Fame for that calendar year
19 shall be selected by a nominating academy. The academy shall
20 consist of the Governor, all living former governors, up to 10 other
21 prominent residents of this State, and not fewer than 75 New Jersey
22 organizations widely recognized for their support for New Jersey
23 communities, education, the arts, broader awareness of New Jersey
24 history, preservation of this State's historic buildings and sites, and
25 the perpetuation of New Jersey's diverse cultural heritage, or for
26 their leadership in the fields of commerce, communications,
27 professional services, and other areas important to the economic,
28 social, cultural, and civic life of this State. The foundation shall
29 designate the members of the nominating academy, other than the
30 Governor and the former governors, from time to time as may be
31 necessary.

32 (2) The nominating academy shall conduct its selection of
33 nominees for a calendar year in two rounds under the voting
34 procedures, consistent with the provisions of this section, as the
35 foundation shall prescribe by majority vote. In the preliminary
36 round, the academy shall select from the roster of candidates the
37 names of not more than 75 prospective candidates, including not
38 more than 15 candidates in each of the five categories described in
39 paragraph (1) of subsection b. of this section, whose nomination in
40 that calendar year would, in the judgment of the academy, be most
41 timely and appropriate. The academy shall compile a list of the
42 names of the preliminary nominees, divided according to the
43 category of nomination, including with each name, the date of birth
44 and, if appropriate, date of death; the municipality or municipalities
45 of New Jersey residence; and a description, not exceeding 75 words
46 in length, of the person's background and achievements. Following
47 compilation of the list of preliminary nominees, the academy shall
48 select from that list at least five but not more than 10 persons in

1 each category of nomination as final nominees for election to the
2 New Jersey Hall of Fame for the calendar year. To be selected as a
3 final nominee, a preliminary nominee must receive at least 70
4 percent of the votes cast for all preliminary nominees in the same
5 category of nomination. During the process of selecting the final
6 nominees, the academy shall hold at least two public hearings, one
7 of which shall be held in the northern part of the State and one of
8 which shall be held in the southern part of the State. At each public
9 hearing, the academy shall receive oral or written testimony of
10 members of the public. In making its selection of the final
11 nominees, the academy shall give due and careful consideration to
12 the testimony received at the public hearing and to any written
13 testimony otherwise received by the academy, or received by the
14 foundation and relayed to the academy, on or before September 15
15 of the calendar year.

16 (3) The nominating academy shall transmit to the foundation its
17 list of preliminary nominees, including biographical material and
18 identification of New Jersey residence, not later than August 10 of
19 the calendar year. The academy shall include with this list the
20 schedule of the public hearings to be held as part of the process of
21 its selection of final nominees; the schedule shall indicate the date,
22 time, and location of each hearing, together with directions thereto
23 from all parts of the State. Not later than the fifth day after
24 receiving the list and schedule, the foundation shall post them on
25 the New Jersey Hall of Fame website.

26 The nominating academy shall transmit to the foundation its list
27 of final nominees, including biographical information and
28 identification of New Jersey residence, not later than October 1 of
29 the calendar year.

30 d. The general public shall elect the members of the New
31 Jersey Hall of Fame from among the final nominees for such
32 membership. Each person shall be allowed to vote for a single
33 nominee in each of the five categories of nomination. The
34 foundation shall provide for the casting of votes by means of a
35 ballot on the New Jersey Hall of Fame website, and may provide
36 alternative means for the casting of votes under procedures as the
37 foundation may by majority vote prescribe. Voting shall begin not
38 later than October 10 and shall end at 11:59 PM on December 31 of
39 the calendar year for which members are being selected. The
40 persons receiving the two greatest number of votes within each
41 category of nomination shall be elected as members of the New
42 Jersey Hall of Fame for the calendar year. In addition, the
43 foundation may, in its discretion, select not more than two of the
44 persons who shall have received the third greatest number of votes
45 within their respective categories of nomination as an additional
46 member or as additional members of the New Jersey Hall of Fame,
47 provided that the person shall have received at least 10 percent of
48 the votes cast in the category.

1 3. This act shall take effect on June 1 following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill establishes in statutory law the procedure for choosing
7 members of the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

8 Under the bill, a candidate screening committee of at least 25
9 prominent New Jersey residents is to periodically review the
10 qualifications of persons proposed as candidates for nomination to
11 the Hall of Fame. Based upon this review, the screening committee
12 is to select individuals whose names are to be entered on a “roster
13 of candidates.” The roster is to at all times include the names of up
14 to 200 individuals, and those names are to be assigned to one of five
15 categories: an “enterprise” category, an “arts and entertainment”
16 category, a “sports” category, a “general” category, and an
17 “historic” category.

18 In each year, a “nominating academy” is to select from the roster
19 of candidates up to 75 preliminary nominees for election to the Hall
20 in that year, including up to 15 candidates in each of the five
21 categories. After two public hearings, the committee is to select
22 from among the preliminary candidates between five and 10
23 candidates in each category as the final nominees for the year.
24 Selection of the preliminary nominees is to be completed by August
25 10; selection of the final candidates is to be completed by October
26 1.

27 The election of members of the Hall of Fame is to be conducted
28 among members of the public between October 10 and December
29 31. The persons receiving the two greatest number of votes within
30 each category of nomination are to be elected to the Hall of Fame
31 for the calendar year. In addition, not more than two of those
32 persons may be selected receiving the third greatest number of
33 votes in their respective categories of nomination as an additional
34 member or members of the Hall of Fame, provided that person
35 received at least 10 percent of the votes cast in the category.

36 Finally, the bill directs that the principal location of the Hall of
37 Fame be in or adjacent to the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton.