

ASSEMBLY, No. 2686

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

SYNOPSIS

Changes certain deadlines for 2020 primary election by three weeks.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning certain deadlines for the 2020 primary election.

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3 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
4 *of New Jersey:*

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6 1. a. Notwithstanding R.S.19:12-1 or any other law or
7 regulation to the contrary, the Secretary of State, not later than the
8 88th day preceding the 2020 primary election for the general
9 election wherein electors of President and Vice-President of the
10 United States, any representative of the United States Senate, any
11 member of the House of Representatives, and any member of the
12 Senate or General Assembly are to be elected, or any public
13 question is to be submitted to the voters of the entire State, shall
14 direct and cause to be delivered to the clerk of the county and the
15 county board wherein any such election is to be held, a notice
16 stating that such officers are to be elected and that such public
17 question is to be submitted to the voters of the entire State at the
18 2020 general election.

19 b. Notwithstanding R.S.19:12-3 or any other law or regulation
20 to the contrary, the clerk of the county, not later than the 78th day
21 preceding the 2020 primary election, shall cause a copy of the
22 notice received from the Secretary of State of the officer or officers
23 to be elected at the 2020 general election, certified under the county
24 clerk's hand to be true and correct, to be delivered to the clerk of
25 each municipality in the county.

26 c. Notwithstanding R.S.19:12-6 or any other law or regulation
27 to the contrary, the clerk of the municipality, not later than the 78th
28 day preceding the 2020 primary election, shall make and certify
29 under the clerk's hand and seal of office and forward to the clerk of
30 the county in which the municipality is located a statement
31 designating the public offices to be filled at such election, and the
32 number of persons to be voted for each office. In a county of the
33 first class, such statement shall also be forwarded to the county
34 board.

35 d. Notwithstanding R.S.19:23-1 or any other law or regulation
36 to the contrary, the chairperson of each county committee, on or
37 before March 5 of 2020, shall file with the clerk of the municipality
38 the number of committee members to be elected to the county
39 committee at the 2020 primary election

40 e. Notwithstanding R.S.19:23-12 or any other law or regulation
41 to the contrary, a certificate of nomination to fill a vacancy of a
42 primary election candidate shall be filed not later than the 76th day
43 preceding the 2020 primary election.

44 f. Notwithstanding R.S.19:23-14 or any other law or regulation
45 to the contrary, a petition addressed to the Secretary of State, the
46 clerk of the county, or the clerk of the municipality shall be filed
47 with such officers, respectively, before 4:00 p.m. of the 85th day
48 preceding the 2020 primary election.

1 g. Notwithstanding R.S.19:23-14 or any other law or regulation
2 to the contrary, the clerk of the municipality, not later than the close
3 of business of the 75th day preceding the 2020 primary election,
4 shall certify to the clerk of the county the full and correct names
5 and addresses of all candidates for nomination for public and party
6 office and the name of the political party of which such persons are
7 candidates together with their slogan and designation.

8 h. Notwithstanding R.S.19:23-21 or any other law or regulation
9 to the contrary, the Secretary of State, not later than the 75th day
10 preceding the 2020 primary election, shall certify the names of the
11 persons endorsed in the petitions filed in their office to the clerks of
12 the counties concerned thereby, specifying in such certificate the
13 political parties to which the persons so nominated in the petitions
14 belong.

15 i. Notwithstanding R.S.19:23-22 or any other law or regulation
16 to the contrary, the clerk of the county, not later than the close of
17 business of the 74th day preceding the 2020 primary election, shall
18 certify all of the persons so certified to the clerk of the county by
19 the Secretary of State and in addition the names of all persons
20 endorsed in petitions filed in the clerk's office to the clerk of each
21 municipality concerned thereby in the clerk's respective county and
22 to the Election Law Enforcement Commission, specifying in such
23 certificate the political party to which the person or persons so
24 nominated belong.

25 j. Notwithstanding R.S.19:23-24 or any other law or regulation
26 to the contrary, the clerk of the county, or the clerk's deputy, or the
27 clerk of the municipality or the municipal clerk's deputy, as the
28 case may be, on the 74th day preceding the 2020 primary election,
29 shall at their office at 3:00 P.M. conduct the drawing from the box
30 to determine ballot positions.

31 k. Notwithstanding R.S.19:14-1 or any other law or regulation
32 to the contrary, the clerk of the county, on or before the 71st day
33 preceding the 2020 primary election, shall have ready for the printer
34 a copy of the contents of official ballots for the primary election as
35 hereinafter required to be printed for use at such election. The clerk
36 of the county shall also on or before that time place another copy of
37 such contents on file in the clerk's office and keep the same open to
38 public inspection until the sample ballots provided to be printed
39 shall have been distributed.

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41 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the
42 date of the 2020 primary election.
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45 STATEMENT

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47 Under this bill, certain deadlines for the 2020 primary election
48 will be moved to occur three weeks earlier than provided by current
49 law to allow additional time for the clerks of the counties to proof,

1 print, and prepare mail-in ballots for the primary election. The
2 additional time is needed due to the significant number of vote by
3 mail ballots that will need to be mailed in a timely manner.

4 The deadlines for the 2020 primary election will be as follows:

- 5 • Deadline for the notice of available offices and public
6 questions for the 2020 general election to be sent by the
7 Secretary of State to the county clerks and county boards
8 of election will be moved from 67 to 88 days before the
9 2020 primary election.
- 10 • Deadline for the chairpersons of county committees to file
11 with the municipal clerks the number of committee
12 members to be elected at the 2020 primary election will
13 be moved from April 1 to March 5 of 2020.
- 14 • Deadline for the notice of federal, State, and county
15 offices to be elected at the 2020 general election to be
16 sent by the county clerks to the municipal clerks will be
17 moved from 57 to 78 days before the 2020 primary
18 election.
- 19 • Deadline for the notice of public offices to be elected at
20 the 2020 general election to be sent by municipal clerks to
21 the county clerks will be moved from 57 to 78 days
22 before the 2020 primary election.
- 23 • Deadline to file a certificate to fill a vacancy of a primary
24 election candidate by the appointed vacancy committee
25 will be moved from 55 to 76 days before the 2020
26 primary election.
- 27 • Deadline for petitions addressed to the Secretary of State,
28 the county clerks, or the municipal clerks to be filed with
29 such officers will be moved from 64 to 85 days before the
30 2020 primary election.
- 31 • Deadline for the municipal clerks to certify to the county
32 clerks the names of the candidates who filed primary
33 election nomination petitions with municipal clerk will be
34 moved from 54 to 75 days before the 2020 primary
35 election.
- 36 • Deadline for the transmittal of Secretary of State
37 certifications of federal and State primary election
38 candidates to be sent to county clerks will be moved from
39 54 to 75 days before the 2020 primary election.
- 40 • Deadline for the transmittal of county clerk certifications
41 of all candidates to be placed on the primary election
42 ballot to be sent to the municipal clerks of the county and
43 to the Election Law Enforcement Commission will be
44 moved from 53 to 74 days before the 2020 primary
45 election.
- 46 • Drawings by county and municipal clerks for ballot
47 positions for the 2020 primary election will be moved
48 from 53 to 74 days before the 2020 primary election.

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- 1 • Deadline for the preparation for printing of the official
- 2 primary election ballot will be moved from 50 to 71 days
- 3 before the 2020 primary election.