

ASSEMBLY, No. 3207

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Permits voter registration at age 16, under certain conditions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning voter registration and amending R.S.19:31-5.

2

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

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6 1. R.S.19:31-5 is amended to read as follows:

7 19:31-5. **【**Each person, who is at least 17 years of age at the
8 time he or she applies for registration, who resides in the district in
9 which he or she expects to vote, who will be of the age of 18 years
10 or more on or before the first election in which he or she expects to
11 vote, who is a citizen of the United States, and who, if he or she
12 continues to reside in the district until that election, will at the time
13 have fulfilled all the requirements as to length of residence to
14 qualify him or her as a legal voter, shall, unless otherwise
15 disqualified, be entitled to be registered in such district**】** A person
16 who is at least 16 years of age shall be entitled to register to vote if
17 that person is: (1) a citizen of the United States; and (2) a resident
18 of this State who has met all the requirements as to length of
19 residence to qualify as a legal voter. Each such registrant shall be
20 permitted to vote in an election held on or after the registrant's 18th
21 birthday, provided that the registrant has not otherwise been
22 disqualified from voting. Each **【17-year-old】** registrant who has
23 not attained 18 years of age shall be designated in the Statewide
24 voter registration system as temporarily ineligible to vote until the
25 registrant's 18th birthday.

26 Whenever an individual registers by mail after January 1, 2003
27 to vote for the first time in his or her current county of residence,
28 that individual shall provide either the individual's New Jersey
29 driver's license number or the last four digits of the individual's
30 Social Security Number, or shall submit with the voter registration
31 form a copy of: (1) a current and valid photo identification card; (2)
32 a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or pay
33 check; (3) any other government document that shows the
34 individual's name and current address; or (4) any other identifying
35 document that the **【Attorney General】** Secretary of State has
36 determined to be acceptable for this purpose. If the individual does
37 not provide his or her New Jersey driver's license number or Social
38 Security Number information or submit a copy of any one of these
39 documents, either at the time of registration or at any time
40 thereafter prior to attempting to vote, the individual shall be asked
41 for identification when voting for the first time starting at the first
42 election held after January 1, 2004 at which candidates are seeking
43 federal office or thereafter. This requirement shall not apply to any
44 individual entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the "Uniformed
45 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act" (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-
46 1 et seq.) or to any individual who is provided the right to vote

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 other than in person under section 3 of Pub.L.98-435, the "Voting
2 Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act," or any other
3 voter entitled to vote otherwise than in person under any other
4 federal law. This requirement shall also not apply to any individual
5 who registers to vote by appearing in person at any voter
6 registration agency or to any individual whose voter registration
7 form is delivered to the county commissioner of registration or to
8 the **【Attorney General】** Secretary of State, as the case may be,
9 through a third party by means other than by mail delivery.

10 Once registered, the registrant shall not be required to register
11 again in such district as long as he or she resides therein, except
12 when required to do so by the commissioner, because of the loss of
13 or some defect in his or her registration record.

14 The registrant, when registered as provided in this Title, shall be
15 eligible to vote at any election to be held subsequent to such
16 registration, if he or she shall be a citizen of the United States of the
17 age of 18 years and shall have been a resident of the State for at
18 least 30 days and of the county at least 30 days, when the same is
19 held, subject to any change in his qualifications which may later
20 disqualify him. No registrant shall lose the right to vote, and no
21 registrant's name shall be removed from the registry list of the
22 county in which the person is registered, solely on grounds of the
23 person's failure to vote in one or more elections.

24 (cf: P.L.2015, c.222, s.1)

25
26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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29 STATEMENT

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31 This bill provides that a person who is at least 16 years of age
32 would be entitled to register to vote if that person is: a) a citizen of
33 the United States; and b) a resident of this State who has met all the
34 requirements as to length of residence to qualify as a legal voter.
35 Each such registrant would be permitted to vote in an election held
36 on or after his or her 18th birthday, provided that the registrant has
37 not otherwise been disqualified from voting. Each registrant who
38 has not attained 18 years of age would be designated in the
39 Statewide voter registration system as temporarily ineligible to vote
40 until the registrant's 18th birthday.