

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4037

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires electronic signature and submission process for all candidate, recall, initiative, and referendum petitions for remaining 2020 elections and thereafter during COVID-19 emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on June 29, 2020.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the electronic gathering of signatures and
2 submission of petitions for remaining elections in 2020 and
3 thereafter during the COVID-19 emergency.

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

7
8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised
9 Statutes, or any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the
10 requirements to collect petition signatures via an online form and to
11 submit petitions online implemented by the Secretary of State, county
12 clerks, and municipal clerks pursuant to paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of
13 Executive Order No. 105 (2020) and paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of
14 Executive Order No. 132 (2020) shall be implemented to include any
15 pending petition for all remaining elections in 2020 and for any other
16 election taking place thereafter for the duration of the COVID-19
17 Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency declared by the
18 Governor under Executive Order No. 103 (2020).

19 b. The electronic signature and submission requirements for
20 petitions shall apply to the:

21 (1) collection of signatures for any candidate, ¹including a
22 candidate for a board of education,¹ delegate, recall, initiative,
23 referendum, or other petition required to be filed prior to an election;

24 (2) delivery of petitions to the Secretary of State, county clerks,
25 and municipal clerks;

26 (3) acceptance by the Secretary of State, county clerks, and
27 municipal clerks of electronic petitions with signatures collected via
28 the online form ¹or forms¹, except that handwritten signatures
29 obtained prior to the effective date of this section shall also be
30 accepted electronically and in person; and

31 (4) verification of signatures, notarization of petitions, and
32 submission of oaths to accompany petitions, as may be required by
33 law.

34 c. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Department of
35 Law and Public Safety, shall develop a generic template ¹or templates¹
36 for the online form ¹or forms¹ to be used for the collection of
37 signatures and submission of petitions. The petition's respective filing
38 officer shall develop the electronic procedures for signature
39 verification, petition notarization, and submission of oaths to meet the
40 requirements of current law.

41
42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted June 29, 2020.