

ASSEMBLY, No. 4827

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes pilot program to provide for same-day voter registration on election day in certain years.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)

1 **AN ACT** establishing a pilot program to provide for same-day voter
2 registration on election day in certain years.

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

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7 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised
8 Statutes, or any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the
9 Secretary of State, in conjunction with the commissioner of
10 registration, county clerk, and county board of elections in each
11 county, shall implement a pilot program to allow each person who
12 meets the voter eligibility criteria under R.S.19:31-5 to register to
13 vote on the day of the general election in 2021, 2022, and 2023 at
14 designated locations, as further provided by this section.

15 b. Under the pilot program, the commissioner of registration,
16 county clerk, and county board of elections in each county shall
17 collectively designate one or more locations in each county to allow
18 for same-day voter registration for all eligible residents of that
19 county who desire to register to vote. At least one location shall be
20 designated in each county in 2021. The commissioner, clerk, and
21 board shall have discretion to open additional locations allowing
22 same-day voter registration in 2022 and 2023.

23 c. A voter who registers to vote under the same-day voter
24 registration pilot program shall be required to do so in compliance
25 with the eligibility criteria specified under R.S.19:31-5, and shall
26 complete a voter registration form as required under section 16 of
27 P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.4). Upon registering to vote, a voter shall
28 be directed to the voter's designated polling place and shall be
29 permitted to cast a provisional ballot.

30 d. The Secretary of State, in collaboration with the
31 commissioner of registration, county clerk, and county board of
32 elections in each county, shall develop interim reports on the
33 effectiveness of the pilot program, including an audit of the pilot
34 program, for each of the 2021, 2022, and 2023 implementation
35 years by January 31 of the following year, along with a final report
36 by March 1, 2024. The interim and final reports shall be submitted
37 to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
38 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, by January 31 of 2022, 2023, and
39 2024, and March 1, 2024, respectively.

40 e. If the Secretary of State, commissioner of registration,
41 county clerk, and county board of elections in each county find in
42 their final report required pursuant to subsection d. of this section
43 that the pilot program was successful in increasing voter
44 registration and participation in the elections relative to comparable
45 general elections, with a low risk for voter fraud, then the final
46 report shall include recommendations to the Governor and the

1 Legislature for the enactment of same-day voter registration in this
2 State at every polling location for the 2024 general election, and all
3 elections thereafter.

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5 2. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire on
6 March 1, 2024, or upon the issuance of the final report required by
7 this act, whichever occurs later.

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10 STATEMENT

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12 This bill requires the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the
13 commissioner of registration, county clerk, and county board of
14 elections in each county, to implement a pilot program to allow
15 each person who meets the voter eligibility criteria to register to
16 vote on the day of the general election in 2021, 2022, and 2023 at
17 designated locations.

18 Under current law, a person who meets the voter eligibility
19 requirements of being a citizen of the United States, of the age of 18
20 years, and who has been a resident of the State for at least 30 days
21 and of the county at least 30 days before the election, is permitted
22 to register to vote on or before the 21st day preceding the election.

23 Under the pilot program, the commissioner of registration,
24 county clerk, and county board of elections in each county would
25 collectively designate one or more locations in each county to allow
26 for same-day voter registration for all eligible residents of that
27 county who wish to register to vote. A voter who registers to vote
28 under the same-day voter registration pilot program would be
29 required to meet the voter eligibility criteria under current law and
30 to complete a voter registration form. Upon registering to vote, such
31 a voter would be directed to the voter's designated polling place
32 and be permitted to cast a provisional ballot.

33 The bill requires the Secretary of State, in collaboration with the
34 commissioner of registration, county clerk, and county board of
35 elections in each county, to submit three interim reports and one
36 final report to the Governor and the Legislature on the effectiveness
37 of the pilot program, including an audit of the program. The interim
38 reports would be due by January 31 of 2022, 2023, and 2024, and
39 the final report would be due by March 1, 2024. The bill further
40 provides that, if the final report finds that the pilot program was
41 successful in increasing voter registration and participation in the
42 elections relative to comparable general elections, with a low risk
43 for voter fraud, then it would include recommendations for the
44 enactment of same-day voter registration in this State at every
45 polling location for the 2024 general election, and all elections
46 thereafter. Such implementation would require enabling legislation.

A4827 SWAIN, TULLY

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1 This bill would take effect immediately, and would expire on
2 March 1, 2024, or upon the issuance of the final report, whichever
3 occurs later.