

ASSEMBLY, No. 5073

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Requires postal tracking of mail-in ballots.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the free-access system for voters and amending
2 P.L.2004, c.88.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 4 of P.L.2004, c.88 (C.19:61-4) is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 4. a. The Secretary of State shall establish a free-access system,
10 such as a toll-free telephone number, an Internet website or any
11 combination thereof, that any individual who casts a provisional
12 ballot, mail-in ballot, or overseas ballot in all elections where they
13 are qualified to vote, may access to ascertain whether the ballot of
14 that individual was accepted for counting and, if the vote was not
15 counted, the reason for the rejection of the ballot. The system shall
16 at all times preserve the confidentiality of each voter, and shall ensure
17 that no person, other than the individual who cast the ballot, may
18 discover whether or not that individual's ballot was accepted or
19 rejected, unless so informed by the voter.

20 b. The free-access system shall be prominently displayed on the
21 New Jersey Division of Elections website under a "Track My Ballot"
22 user portal.

23 c. To applicable situations, the free-access system shall record
24 the date that the mail-in ballot was mailed; the date that the overseas
25 ballot was mailed or transmitted via electronic mail; the date the
26 ballot was received; the notation that the ballot was "Accepted" or
27 "Rejected;" and the code for rejection.

28 d. The free-access system shall provide postal tracking of mail-
29 in ballots using Intelligent Mail barcodes, or a similar successor
30 tracking system. The free-access system shall track the mail-in ballot
31 from the issuance of the ballot by an election official to the receipt
32 of the ballot by an election official, and shall list the date and location
33 of the mail-in ballot at every point of the mailing and transit process.

34 e. Beginning on February 1, 2021, the free-access system shall
35 provide a publicly viewable macro-report of the total number of
36 rejected ballots by county and by code along with the totals for votes
37 cast by mail-in ballot, overseas ballots, and total ballots cast. This
38 report shall be kept and made available on the Secretary of State's
39 website for a period of 10 years.

40 (cf: P.L.2020, c.70, s.2)

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.

1 STATEMENT

2

3 Under the current free-access system and “Track My Ballot” user
4 portal, the dates that a mail-in ballot was issued and received by a
5 county election official are provided. However, postal tracking of
6 the ballot between when the ballot was issued and when it is received
7 by the county election official is not provided.

8 Under this bill, the free-access system is required to provide postal
9 tracking of mail-in ballots using Intelligent Mail barcodes, or a
10 similar successor tracking system. The free-access system must track
11 mail-in ballots from the time the ballots are issued by an election
12 official to the time the ballots are received by an election official.
13 The free-access system must also list the date and location of the
14 mail-in ballot at every point of the mailing and transit process.