

ASSEMBLY, No. 5636

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Permits U.S. citizens who are full time college students to be district board members in county of college even if student is not a resident of county or State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning application for membership on district boards
2 and amending R.S.19:6-2.

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

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7 1. R.S.19:6-2 is amended to read as follows:

8 19:6-2. a. The following persons may apply in writing to the
9 county board, on a form prepared and furnished by the county board,
10 for appointment as a member of a district board of any municipality
11 in the county in which he or she resides: (1) a legal voter who is a
12 member of a political party by virtue of having voted in a party
13 primary or who has filed a party declaration form for the ensuing
14 primary election for the general election with the commissioner of
15 the county in which the voter is registered and who, for two years
16 prior to making written application, has not espoused the cause of
17 another political party or its candidates; (2) a legal voter who is not
18 affiliated with a political party; (3) a United States citizen and
19 resident of this State who is 16 or 17 years of age, attends a secondary
20 school and has the written permission of his or her parent or guardian
21 to serve as a member of the board if appointed; **【or】** (4) a United
22 States citizen and resident of this State who is 16 or 17 years of age
23 and has graduated from a secondary school or has passed a general
24 educational development test, GED, and has the written permission
25 of his or her parent or guardian to serve as a member of the board if
26 appointed; or (5) a United States citizen who is enrolled as a full-time
27 student at an institution of higher education in the county, even if that
28 student is not a resident of the county or the State.

29 b. The application, signed by the applicant under his or her oath,
30 shall state: (1) the applicant's name and address; (2) the applicant's
31 age, if the applicant is less than 18 years of age; (3) the political party
32 to which he or she belongs or, if the applicant is not affiliated with a
33 political party, the fact that the applicant is not so affiliated; (4) that
34 the applicant is of good moral character and has not been convicted
35 of any crime involving moral turpitude; **【and】** (5) that the applicant
36 possesses the following qualifications: eyesight, with or without
37 correction, sufficient to read nonpareil type; ability to read the
38 English language readily; ability to add and subtract figures
39 correctly; ability to write legibly with reasonable facility; reasonable
40 knowledge of the duties to be performed by the applicant as an
41 election officer under the election laws of this State; and health
42 sufficient to discharge his or her duties as an election officer; and (6)
43 whether the applicant is a full-time student at an institution of higher
44 education located in the county.

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 c. If an applicant for appointment to a district board is 16 or 17
2 years of age, then the applicant shall provide to the county board,
3 along with the application provided under subsection b. of this
4 section: (1) a written document signed by the applicant's parent or
5 guardian giving the applicant permission to serve as a member of a
6 district board if appointed and (2) if an election, meeting or training
7 is scheduled to take place when school is in session, a written
8 document from his or her school that acknowledges the applicant's
9 application for appointment as a member of a district board and
10 excuses the applicant from school on the dates of service if appointed,
11 except that the requirement contained in subparagraph (2) of this
12 subsection shall not apply to a United States citizen and resident of
13 this State who is 16 or 17 years of age and has graduated from a
14 secondary school or has passed a general educational development
15 test, GED.

16 d. No person shall be precluded from applying to serve as a
17 member of a district board of any municipality for failure to vote in
18 any year such person was ineligible to vote by reason of age or
19 residence.

20 e. In no case shall a person 16 or 17 years of age be permitted to
21 serve as a member of a district board on the day of an election for
22 more than the number of hours permitted for such a person to work
23 pursuant to P.L.1940, c.153 (C.34:2-21.1 et seq.), as amended and
24 supplemented.

25 (cf: P.L.2011, c.134, s.5)

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27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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32 Under current law, to be a district board member, or poll worker,
33 the person must meet the following qualifications when applying to
34 the district board: (1) be a registered voter of the county in which the
35 person wants to serve as a district board member, or (2) if a high
36 school student of 16 or 17 years of age, be a U.S. citizen and receive
37 the written permission of a parent or guardian, or if 16 or 17 years of
38 age, be a U.S. citizen and a graduate of a secondary school or have
39 passed a general educational development (GED) test. In all cases,
40 the applicant must be a resident of the county in which the individual
41 wants to serve as a district board member.

42 This bill expands who can apply for membership to a district board
43 by permitting U.S. citizens who are full-time college students at an
44 institution of higher education in the county to be district board
45 members in that county, even if the student is not a resident of that
46 county or State.