ASSEMBLY, No. 5679

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER
District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires petitions of nomination of candidates for State and county committees of political parties to include functioning e-mail addresses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

AN ACT requiring petitions of nomination of candidates for State and county committees of political parties to include functioning e-mail addresses and amending R.S.19:23-7.

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

1.. R.S.19:23-7 is amended to read as follows:

19:23-7 Each such petition shall set forth that the signers thereof are qualified voters of the State, congressional district, county, or county election district, municipality, ward or election district, as the case may be, in which they reside and for which they desire to nominate candidates; that they are members of a political party (naming the same), and that they intend to affiliate with that political party at the ensuing election; that they indorse the person or persons named in their petition as candidate or candidates for nomination for the office or offices therein named, and that they request that the name of the person or persons therein mentioned be printed upon the official primary ballots of their political party as the candidate or candidates for such nomination. The petition shall further state the residence and post-office address of each person so indorsed, and shall certify that the person or persons so indorsed is or are legally qualified under the laws of this State to be nominated, and is or are a member or members of the political party named in the petition. The petitions of a candidate for any State, county, or municipal elective public office <u>or for any office as member of a State or county political party committee</u> shall also include a functioning e-mail address for the candidate.

Accompanying the petition, each person indorsed therein shall file a certificate, stating that he is qualified for the office mentioned in the petition, that he is a member of the political party named therein, that he consents to stand as a candidate for nomination at the ensuing primary election of such political party, and that, if nominated, he consents to accept the nomination, to which shall be annexed the oath of allegiance prescribed in R.S.41:1-1, duly taken and subscribed by him before an officer authorized to take oaths in this State.

Each petition shall be arranged to contain double spacing between the signature lines of the petition, so that each signer thereof is afforded sufficient space to provide his or her printed name, address and signature.

Any form of a petition of nomination, other than petitions for federal office, which is provided to candidates by the Secretary of State, the county clerk, or the municipal clerk shall contain the following notice: "Notice: All candidates are required by law to

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 <u>thus</u> is new matter.

comply with the provisions of the 'New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act.' For further information, please call (insert phone number of the Election Law Enforcement Commission)."
(cf: P.L.2018 c.66, s.2)

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill requires nominating petitions of candidates for State and county committees of political parties to include a functioning e-mail address for the candidate.

This additional requirement to the nominating petition would enhance voter access to candidates for political party committees, limit voter confusion, and allow voters and organizations to readily contact these candidates. It is important to provide reliable, alternative means of communicating with a candidate for a political party committee. A voter should be able to have access to information and be fully informed about such a candidate, especially if the voter is a new voter.

Under current law, a functioning email address is already required in nominating petitions for candidates seeking elective public offices in this State.