

ASSEMBLY, No. 5714

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 17, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires provision of face masks free of charge to voters at each polling place under certain circumstances; prohibits proof of COVID-19 vaccination to vote.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain COVID-19 prevention requirements at
2 polling places.

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

6
7 1. a. Whenever any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, resolution,
8 or executive order intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19
9 requires a voter to wear a face mask to enter a polling place to vote,
10 the district board of elections shall be required to provide a face mask
11 to each voter who presents at the polling place without a face mask
12 to ensure that no voter is denied the opportunity to cast their ballot in
13 person at the polling place. There shall not be instituted any
14 requirement to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to exercise a
15 voter's right to vote.

16 b. To the extent permitted by federal law, the implementation
17 costs of the provisions of subsection a. of this section shall be paid
18 from the monies received by the State under the federal "Coronavirus
19 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act," Pub.L.116-136,
20 or any other financial assistance provided by the federal government
21 to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. If insufficient
22 federal funds are available to cover the implementation costs of
23 subsection a. of this section, there shall be appropriated from the
24 General Fund as State aid to the Department of State such sums as
25 may be necessary to reimburse local government units for the
26 additional costs incurred to implement the provision of this act,
27 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), upon
28 application for reimbursement by a local government unit to the
29 Secretary of State and approval of the application by the Director of
30 the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the
31 Treasury.

32
33 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire at the
34 end of the COVID-19 public health emergency and state of
35 emergency declared by the Governor in Executive Order No. 103 of
36 2020, and as extended.

37

38

39 STATEMENT

40

41 This bill requires district boards of elections to provide face masks
42 free of charge to voters at each polling place and prohibits proof of
43 COVID-19 vaccination to be allowed to vote. Under the bill,
44 whenever any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, resolution, or
45 executive order intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 requires
46 a voter to wear a face mask to enter a polling place to vote, the district
47 board of elections would be required to provide a face mask to each
48 voter who presents at the polling place without a face mask to ensure

1 that no voter is denied the opportunity to vote in person. The bill also
2 prohibits any requirement to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination
3 to exercise a voter's right to vote.
4 The bill requires that federal funds be used to cover its
5 implementation costs. If federal funds are insufficient, the bill
6 appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of State the
7 funds necessary to implement its provisions, and provides for
8 reimbursement to local government units for their implementation
9 costs. The bill takes effect immediately and would continue in effect
10 for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency and state
11 of emergency.