

ASSEMBLY, No. 5821

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Requires gender balance in membership of certain boards and commissions established by statute.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/9/2021)

1 AN ACT requiring gender balance in membership of certain boards
2 and commissions established by statute and supplementing Title
3 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. Any appointive State board, commission, task force, or
9 any other multi-member body or entity established by a statute
10 enacted before, on, or after the effective date of this act, P.L. , c.
11 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall be gender
12 balanced unless otherwise provided by law or gender balancing
13 conflicts with the particular circumstances or requirements of the
14 statute establishing the board, commission, task force, or other
15 multi-member body or entity.

16 b. No person shall be appointed or reappointed to any board,
17 commission, task force, or other multi-member body or entity
18 established by statute if that appointment or reappointment would
19 cause the number of members of one gender to be greater than one-
20 half the membership plus one if the board, commission, task force,
21 or multi-member body or entity is composed of an odd number of
22 members. If the board, commission, task force, or other multi-
23 member body or entity is composed of an even number of members,
24 not more than one-half of the membership shall be of one gender.

25 c. If there are multiple appointing authorities, they shall
26 consult each other to avoid a violation of this act, P.L. , c.
27 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

28 d. As used in this act:

29 “Gender” means a person’s sex-related or gender-related
30 characteristics, including one’s gender identity, and has the same
31 legal meaning as sex.

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33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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36 STATEMENT

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38 This bill requires all State appointive boards, commissions, task
39 forces, or any other multi-member body or entity established by
40 statute to be gender balanced, unless otherwise provided by law or
41 it conflicts with the particular circumstances or requirements of the
42 statute establishing the board, commission, task force, or other
43 multi-member body or entity.

44 No person will be appointed or reappointed if that appointment
45 or reappointment would cause the number of members of one
46 gender to be greater than one-half the membership plus one if the
47 board, commission, task force, or multi-member body or entity is
48 composed of an odd number of members. If the board, commission,

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1 task force, or other multi-member body or entity is composed of an
2 even number of members, not more than one-half of the
3 membership will be of one gender. If there are multiple appointing
4 authorities, they will consult with each other to avoid violating the
5 provisions of the bill.