

ASSEMBLY, No. 5950

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 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)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywoman Lopez, Assemblymen Calabrese
and Moen**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes database of certain appointed positions and elected offices.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing a database with certain information concerning
2 certain appointed positions and elected offices, and
3 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 19 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. The Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State
9 University, shall establish and maintain two databases that contain
10 for every person appointed to a State board, commission, authority,
11 or other multi-member entity, and for every elected public official
12 in this State, excluding school boards, the name of the individual,
13 the title of the office held, the term of office, the race and the
14 gender identity or expression of that individual, and the appointing
15 authority.

16 b. (1) To establish the database of appointed officials, the
17 Institute may transmit to any person appointed to a State board,
18 commission, authority, or other multi-member entity on or before
19 the effective date of this act, P.L. , c. (pending before the
20 Legislature as this bill), a form, developed by the Institute, for
21 completion that records the: (a) individual's full name; (b) the title
22 of the office held and the mailing address for that office; (c) the
23 race of the individual, using the same racial categories as required
24 on the federal decennial census of the United States by the federal
25 Bureau of the Census; (d) the gender identity or expression of the
26 individual; (e) the name and title of the appointing authority; and (f)
27 the term of the office held.

28 The Governor or other appointing authority shall provide to the
29 Institute contact information for all currently serving appointees in
30 order to survey all current appointees. The Governor or other
31 appointing authority shall sign the request to complete the form.

32 (2) To maintain the database of appointed officials, no later than
33 30 days after an individual has been appointed to a State board,
34 commission, authority, or other multi-member entity in this State,
35 including an individual selected to fill a vacancy for the remainder
36 of a term, the Governor or other appointing authority, as
37 appropriate, shall transmit to the individual a form, developed by
38 the Institute, for completion that records the: (a) individual's full
39 name; (b) the title of the office held and the mailing address for that
40 office; (c) the race of the individual, using the same racial
41 categories as required on the federal decennial census of the United
42 States by the federal Bureau of the Census; (d) the gender identity
43 or expression of the individual; (e) the name and title of the
44 appointing authority; and (f) the term of the office held.

45 The Governor shall notify the Institute of any new vacancies
46 caused by resignations or term expiration within 30 days of the
47 occurrence of the vacancy.

1 c. (1) To establish the database of elected officials, the Institute
2 may transmit to any individual elected to public office in this State
3 on or before the effective date of this act, P.L. , c. (pending
4 before the Legislature as this bill), a form, developed by the
5 Institute, for completion that records: (a) the individual's full name;
6 (b) the title of the public office held and the mailing address for that
7 public office; (c) the race of the individual, using the same racial
8 categories as required on the federal decennial census of the United
9 States by the federal Bureau of the Census; (d) the gender identity
10 or expression of the individual; and (e) the term of the office held.

11 The Secretary of State shall cooperate with the Institute for the
12 survey and shall sign the request to complete the form.

13 (2) To maintain the database of elected officials, no later than 30
14 days after an individual has been certified as elected to an elective
15 public office in this State, including an individual selected to fill a
16 vacancy in an elective public office for the remainder of a term, the
17 Secretary of State shall transmit to the individual a form, developed
18 by the Institute, for completion that records: (a) the individual's full
19 name; (b) the title of the public office held and the mailing address
20 for that public office; (c) the race of the individual, using the same
21 racial categories as required on the federal decennial census of the
22 United States by the federal Bureau of the Census; (d) the gender
23 identity or expression of the individual; and (e) the term of the
24 office held.

25 d. (1) The Institute shall use the information from the forms
26 received pursuant to subsections b. and c. of this section, to
27 establish and maintain separate databases for appointed public
28 officials and for elected public officials. The databases shall be
29 searchable by the public official's name, title of the office held, the
30 term of the office held, the public official's race, the public
31 official's gender identity or expression, and the appointing
32 authority.

33 Each database shall be available to the public in a prominent
34 location on the website of the Institute, of Rutgers, The State
35 University, and of the Secretary of State.

36 (2) The information in each database shall be reviewed and
37 updated in a timely manner, but no less than once each calendar
38 year. Information on completed forms received by the Institute
39 shall be added to the database within 21 business days of receipt.

40 e. The Eagleton Institute of Politics' Center for American
41 Women and Politics and Center for Public Interest Polling shall
42 work with the Secretary of State and the Office of the Governor to
43 effectuate the purposes of this section.

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45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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The Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, with its Center for American Women and Politics and Center for Public Interest Polling, will establish and maintain two databases that contain for every person appointed to a State board, commission, authority, or other multi-member entity, and for every person elected to a public office in this State, the name of the individual, the title of the office held, the term of office, the race and the gender identity or expression of that individual, and the appointing authority. The bill will not apply to school boards.

The bill also permits the Institute to survey individuals currently serving in an appointed position or elected office for addition to its database.