

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 185**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 2, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTWAN L. MCCLELLAN
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)
Assemblyman ERIK K. SIMONSEN
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Urges US Attorney for NJ to monitor July 7 primary to prevent fraud.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Attorney
 2 for the District of New Jersey to monitor the July 7 primary
 3 election to prevent fraud.

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, Voting is a fundamental process in a democratic system as
 6 it gives citizens a chance for their voices to be heard; and

7 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a novel coronavirus that has caused a global
 8 pandemic, has led to State of Emergency in New Jersey which has
 9 necessitated social distancing and other preventative health
 10 measures; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with
 12 Executive Order No. 144 of 2020, New Jersey's July 7 primary
 13 election will be conducted primarily via mail-in ballots, with ballots
 14 sent to registered voters who have declared a party affiliation; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Voter fraud, particularly with respect to mail-in ballots, is
 16 a grave concern since it affects the integrity of the democratic
 17 process and results in voter disenfranchisement; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey vote-by-mail process has experienced
 19 difficulties in the past including several Morris Township United
 20 States Postal Services trucks which were carrying up to 100 vote-
 21 by-mail ballots catching fire, as well as the rejection and failure to
 22 count nearly 10 percent of all ballots for the May 12 special
 23 election, a figure that is significantly higher than the 3 percent
 24 rejection rate in the 2018 General Election of all ballots for the May
 25 12 special election; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Additionally, a "human error" resulted in about 500
 27 misprinted primary election ballots being sent out in Bernardsville
 28 which then required re-mailing every ballot to Republican voters;
 29 and

30 **WHEREAS**, Due to past concerns with the mail-in ballot process and
 31 concern for future elections, the United States Attorney for the
 32 District of New Jersey should take steps to monitor the July 7
 33 primary to prevent voter fraud; now, therefore,

34

35 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
 36 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

37

38 1. The New Jersey Legislature urges the United States Attorney
 39 for the District of New Jersey to monitor the July 7 primary to
 40 prevent fraud and voter disenfranchisement in an effort to maintain
 41 the integrity of the democratic process.

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43 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
 44 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
 45 Secretary of the Senate to the Office of the United States Attorney
 46 for the District of New Jersey.

STATEMENT

This resolution urges the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey to monitor the July 7 primary election to prevent fraud.

Voting is a fundamental process in a democratic system as it gives citizens a chance for their voices to be heard; and

COVID-19, a novel coronavirus that has caused a global pandemic, has led to State of Emergency in New Jersey which has necessitated social distancing and other preventative health measures. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with Executive Order No. 144 of 2020, New Jersey's July 7 primary election will be conducted primarily via mail-in ballots, with ballots sent to registered voters who have declared a party affiliation.

Voter fraud, particularly with respect to mail-in ballots, is a grave concern since it affects the integrity of the democratic process and results in voter disenfranchisement. The New Jersey vote-by-mail process has experienced difficulties in the past including: several Morris Township United States Postal Services trucks which were carrying up to 100 vote-by-mail ballots catching fire; the rejection and failure to count nearly 10 percent of all ballots for the May 12 special election, a figure that is significantly higher than the 3 percent rejection rate in the 2018 General Election of all ballots for the May 12 special election; and a "human error" resulted in about 500 misprinted primary election ballots being sent out in Bernardsville that required re-mailing every ballot to Republican voters.

Due to past concerns with the mail-in ballot process and concern for future elections, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey should take steps to monitor the July 7 primary to prevent voter fraud.