

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 124

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain bills and resolutions with at least 32 sponsors to be voted on third reading upon notice.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** requiring certain bills and resolutions
2 with at least 32 sponsors to be voted on third reading upon notice
3 and supplementing the Rules of the General Assembly.

4
5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
6 *Jersey:*

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8 1. The Rules of the General Assembly are supplemented as
9 follows:

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11 **15:30. (New) Minority Leader Bills and Resolutions**

12
13 The Minority Leader may designate three bills or resolutions
14 each two-year legislative session which shall then be voted on third
15 reading subject to the following provisions:

16 a. The bill or resolution shall have at least 32 General
17 Assembly sponsors or be a Senate bill or resolution, with the
18 identical General Assembly bill or resolution having at least 32
19 sponsors.

20 b. The first prime sponsor of the bill or resolution shall join the
21 Minority Leader in designating the bill or resolution as requiring a
22 vote on third reading pursuant to this rule.

23 c. The Minority Leader shall provide a signed written notice,
24 also signed by the first prime sponsor, to the Speaker and Clerk,
25 designating the bill or resolution as requiring a vote on third reading
26 pursuant to this rule. The notice shall not be in order unless at least
27 45 days have passed since the bill received first reading, or, if on
28 second reading, at least 45 days have passed since the bill received
29 second reading. In the case of identical bills or resolutions either
30 the General Assembly or Senate bill or resolution may satisfy this
31 requirement.

32 d. The Clerk shall enter the notice in the Minutes of the
33 General Assembly on the next day on which the General Assembly
34 has a quorum present to do business. The notice shall be effective
35 as of that date.

36 e. Once the notice is effective, the subject bill or resolution, if
37 in committee, shall immediately be released from committee and
38 returned to the General Assembly. The bill or resolution shall not
39 be subject to any motions, other than to substitute under Rule 15:20,
40 the Identical Bill Rule, and to move the bill or resolution on third or
41 final reading.

42 f. Within 30 days of the effective date of the notice, a public
43 hearing shall be held by the original reference committee or by
44 another committee designated by the Speaker for this purpose on
45 the subject bill or resolution. However, the subject bill or resolution
46 shall be considered a matter under investigation or study by the
47 committee holding the hearing and shall not be referred to the

1 committee. The provisions of Rule 18:1, Public Hearings, shall
2 apply to the hearing.

3 g. The bill or resolution shall be on the calendar for the next
4 meeting of the General Assembly at which bills or resolutions are
5 considered on third or final reading, occurring more than five days
6 after the public hearing. The bill or resolution shall be the order of
7 the day for that meeting of the General Assembly and shall be
8 considered in preference to any other bills or resolutions on that
9 day.

10 h. The notice described in subsection c. may only be withdrawn
11 by the Minority Leader. If it is withdrawn after the public hearing
12 held pursuant to subsection f., the subject bill or resolution shall
13 count as one of the three bills or resolutions the Minority Leader
14 may designate under this rule.

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16 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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21 In the republican form of government, the people delegate to the
22 elected members of any legislative body the power to make policy.
23 The political majority of that body, having been chosen by the
24 people, properly has the ability to enact policies consistent with its
25 view of the mandate given by the people, and ultimately bears the
26 responsibility for those policies and their consequences.

27 However, all elected representatives, regardless of their political
28 alignment or their standing with the prevailing majority of the
29 legislative body, have the same duty to recommend solutions to the
30 problems facing the people. The people are best served when their
31 representatives engage in a competition of ideas that results in a
32 choice between workable alternatives.

33 This resolution encourages the development and presentation of
34 new ideas and policy choices by providing limited opportunity for
35 those with the support of 40% of the General Assembly to be
36 debated and put to an up-or-down vote.

37 Section 1 of the resolution proposes a new rule 15:30, Minority
38 Leader Bills and Resolutions. This rule authorizes the Minority
39 Leader, with the consent of the prime sponsor of the bill or
40 resolution, to designate up to three bills or resolutions which shall
41 be voted on third reading. In order to so designate a bill or
42 resolution, there must be at least 32 sponsors, 40% of the General
43 Assembly. If the bill or resolution is a Senate bill or resolution
44 there must be at least 32 sponsors of the identical General Assembly
45 bill or resolution. Sponsors include prime sponsors and co-
46 sponsors.

47 The Minority Leader designates a bill or resolution for a vote on
48 third reading by providing a written notice, signed by the Minority

1 Leader and first prime sponsor, to that effect to the Speaker and
2 Clerk. The notice shall be entered in the Minutes of the General
3 Assembly and effective as of the next day on which the General
4 Assembly has a quorum present. For the notice to be in order the
5 subject bill or resolution, if on first reading, must have been on first
6 reading for at least 45 days, and if on second reading, must have
7 been on second reading for at least 45 days. In the case of identical
8 bills or resolutions, either the Senate or General Assembly bill or
9 resolution may satisfy this provision. A notice that is not in order
10 shall be of no effect.

11 Once the notice is effective, if the bill or resolution is in
12 committee, it shall immediately be released by the committee and
13 returned to the General Assembly. This procedure shall operate
14 automatically under this rule and shall not require a meeting or any
15 action by the committee.

16 As of the effective date of the notice, the bill or resolution is not
17 subject to any motions other than to substitute under Rule 15:20, the
18 identical bill rule, and to approve on third or final reading.

19 Within 30 days of the effective date of the notice, a public
20 hearing shall be held on the bill or resolution by the original
21 reference committee or by another committee designated by the
22 Speaker. The bill or resolution shall be considered a matter under
23 investigation or study by the committee holding the public hearing
24 and shall not be referred to that committee. Rule 18:1 applies to the
25 public hearing.

26 The bill or resolution shall be on the calendar for the next
27 meeting of the General Assembly at which bills or resolutions are
28 considered on third or final reading occurring more than five days
29 after the public hearing.

30 Only the Minority Leader may withdraw the notice designating
31 the bill or resolution for third reading under this rule. If that
32 withdrawal occurs after the public hearing, the bill or resolution
33 which is the subject of the withdrawn notice shall count as one of
34 the three bills or resolutions allowed under this rule. If the
35 withdrawal of the notice occurs prior to the call to order of the
36 public hearing, the subject bill or resolution shall not count as one
37 of the three bills or resolutions under this rule.