

SENATE, No. 2000

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes combination of identification and documents to be used in establishing identity of ballot bearer.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the forms of identification required to deliver
2 voted ballots on behalf of voters to the county board of elections
3 and amending P.L.2009, c.79.

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

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8 1. Section 16 of P.L.2009, c.79 (C.19:63-16) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 16. a. A mail-in voter shall be entitled to mark any mail-in
11 ballot forwarded to the voter for voting at any election by indicating
12 the voter's choice of candidates for the offices named, and as to
13 public questions, if any, stated thereon, in accordance with current
14 law. In the case of ballots to be voted for any primary election for
15 the general election, as the case may be, the voter's choice shall be
16 limited to the candidates of the voter's political party or to any
17 person or persons whose names are written thereon by the voter.
18 When so marked, such ballot shall be placed in the inner envelope,
19 which shall then be sealed, and the voter shall then fill in the form
20 of certificate attached to the inner envelope, at the end of which the
21 voter shall sign and print the voter's name. The inner envelope with
22 the certificate shall then be placed in the outer envelope, which
23 shall then be sealed.

24 b. No mail-in voter shall permit any person in any way, except
25 as provided by this act, to unseal, mark or inspect the voter's ballot,
26 interfere with the secrecy of the voter's vote, complete or sign the
27 certificate, or seal the inner or outer envelope, nor shall any person
28 do so.

29 c. A mail-in voter shall be entitled to assistance from a family
30 member in performing any of the actions provided for in this
31 section. The family member or other person providing such
32 assistance shall certify that he or she assisted the voter and will
33 maintain the secrecy of the vote by both printing and signing his or
34 her name in the space provided on the certificate. In no event may a
35 candidate for election provide such assistance, nor may any person,
36 at the time of providing such assistance, campaign or electioneer on
37 behalf of any candidate.

38 d. (1) The sealed outer envelope with the inner envelope and
39 the ballot enclosed therein shall then either be mailed to the county
40 board of elections to which it is addressed or delivered personally
41 by the voter or a bearer designated by the voter to the board. To be
42 counted, the ballot must be received by the board or its designee
43 before the time designated by R.S.19:15-2 or R.S.19:23-40 for the
44 closing of the polls, as may be appropriate, on the day of an
45 election.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (2) Whenever a person delivers a ballot to the county board, that
2 person shall provide proof of the person's identity in the form of a
3 New Jersey driver's license, or another form of identification issued
4 or recognized as official by the federal government, the State, or
5 any of its subdivisions, providing the identification carries the full
6 address and signature of the person. Whenever the form of
7 identification issued or recognized as official does not carry the full
8 address or signature of the person, another identification or
9 document shall be acceptable in conjunction with the official
10 identification, including a current or valid photo identification card,
11 a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or
12 paycheck, any other government document that shows the person's
13 name, current address, or signature, or any other identifying
14 document the Secretary of State has determined acceptable for this
15 purpose. The person shall sign a record maintained by the county of
16 all mail-in ballots personally delivered to it.

17 (3) No person shall serve as an authorized messenger or as a
18 bearer for more than three qualified voters in an election. No
19 person who is a candidate in the election for which the voter
20 requests a mail-in ballot shall be permitted to serve as an authorized
21 messenger or bearer. The bearer, by signing the certification
22 provided for in section 12 of P.L.2009, c.79 (C.19:63-12), certifies
23 that he or she received a mail-in ballot directly from the voter, and
24 no other person, and is authorized to deliver the ballot to the
25 appropriate board of election or designee on behalf of the voter.
26 (cf: P.L.2015, c.84, s.5)

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28 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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31 STATEMENT

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33 Under current law, whenever a person delivers a voted ballot on
34 behalf of a voter to the county board of election, that person (also
35 known as a bearer) is required to provide proof of identity in the
36 form of a New Jersey driver's license, or another form of
37 identification issued or recognized as official by the federal
38 government, the State, or any of its subdivisions, as long as the
39 identification carries the full address and signature of the person.

40 This bill would allow a bearer to use a combination of
41 identification forms and documents to meet the identification
42 requirement. The bill provides that, whenever the form of
43 identification issued or recognized as official does not carry the full
44 address or signature of the bearer, another identification or
45 document would be acceptable in conjunction with the official
46 identification. These additional forms of identification or
47 documentation may include a current or valid photo identification
48 card, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or

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1 paycheck, any other government document that shows the person's
2 name, current address, or signature, or any other identifying
3 document the Secretary of State has determined acceptable for this
4 purpose. The identification requirements established by the bill are
5 similar to those required for voter registration purposes.