

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2433

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires electronic signature and submission process for all candidate, recall, initiative, and referendum petitions for remaining 2020 elections and thereafter during COVID-19 emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 25, 2020, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning the electronic gathering of signatures and
2 submission of petitions for remaining elections in 2020 and
3 thereafter during the COVID-19 emergency.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised
9 Statutes, or any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the
10 requirements to collect petition signatures via an online form and to
11 submit petitions online implemented by the Secretary of State,
12 county clerks, and municipal clerks pursuant to paragraphs 1, 2, 3,
13 4, and 5 of Executive Order No. 105 (2020) and paragraphs 1, 2, 3,
14 and 4 of Executive Order No. 132 (2020) shall be implemented to
15 include any pending petition for all remaining elections in 2020 and
16 for any other election taking place thereafter for the duration of the
17 COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency
18 declared by the Governor under Executive Order No. 103 (2020).

19 b. The electronic signature and submission requirements for
20 petitions shall apply to the:

21 (1) collection of signatures for any candidate, 'including a
22 candidate for a board of education,'¹ delegate, recall, initiative,
23 referendum, or other petition required to be filed prior to an
24 election;

25 (2) delivery of petitions to the Secretary of State, county clerks,
26 and municipal clerks;

27 (3) acceptance by the Secretary of State, county clerks, and
28 municipal clerks of electronic petitions with signatures collected via
29 the online form 'or forms'¹, except that handwritten signatures
30 obtained prior to the effective date of this section shall also be
31 accepted electronically and in person; and

32 (4) verification of signatures, notarization of petitions, and
33 submission of oaths to accompany petitions, as may be required by
34 law.

35 c. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Department
36 of Law and Public Safety, shall develop a generic template 'or
37 templates'¹ for the online form 'or forms'¹ to be used for the
38 collection of signatures and submission of petitions. The petition's
39 respective filing officer shall develop the electronic procedures for
40 signature verification, petition notarization, and submission of oaths
41 to meet the requirements of current law.
42

43 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 25, 2020.