

SENATE, No. 2548

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 8, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL
District 10 (Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires registered voters to present photo ID when voting at polling place.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

WITHDRAWN



1 **AN ACT** requiring registered voters to present photo identification
2 when voting, amending R.S.19:15-24 and supplementing chapter
3 15 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:*

7
8 1. R.S.19:15-24 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:15-24. The district boards shall not give a ballot to any person
10 unless they shall be satisfied that such person is in all respects
11 qualified and entitled to vote; and for the purpose of satisfying
12 themselves as to the right of any person who shall claim a right to
13 vote they shall have power to examine such person, and any other
14 person or persons, under oath or affirmation, touching such right,
15 except as hereinbefore restricted. The board shall determine the right
16 of the voter to vote, after making use of, and giving due weight to,
17 the evidence afforded by his signature, if any, photo identification,
18 such answers, and an affidavit which states the challenged voter's
19 qualifications to vote and a suitable identifying document, as
20 provided under section 2 of P.L.1991, c.249 (C.19:15-18.1). If any
21 member of the board shall give or assent to give a ballot to any person
22 challenged, without requiring him to take the oath or affirmation
23 hereinbefore prescribed to be made upon such challenge, and the
24 person shall not be qualified and entitled to vote, the member so
25 giving or assenting to give a ballot, shall be deemed to have given to
26 such person a ballot, knowing it to be illegal. The question as to the
27 giving of the ballot to the person shall be put in the following form:
28 "Shall a ballot be given to this person by this board?"

29 If a majority of the board shall decide to give a ballot to such voter
30 or in case of a tie vote, the voter shall be given a ballot and allowed
31 to vote. If a majority of the board shall decide against giving a ballot
32 to the voter no ballot shall be given. The board upon demand of a
33 member of the board or any other citizen shall forthwith issue a
34 warrant for the arrest of such person and deliver the same to a peace
35 officer, who shall forthwith arrest him, and the right to challenge
36 voters shall exist until the ballot shall have been deposited in the
37 ballot box.

38 Every such challenge and the determination of the board shall in
39 every instance be recorded in the signature comparison record, in the
40 column "Sig. Comp. by," used at the election at which the challenge
41 has been made.

42 Any member of a district board who refuses or neglects to comply
43 with the provisions of this section may be summarily removed from
44 office by the county board, or any judge of the Superior Court
45 assigned to the county.

46 (cf: P.L.1991, c.249, s.5)

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. (New section) a. Before receiving a ballot, a voter shall
2 present for inspection by the district board, in full view of the
3 challengers, a suitable identifying document that bears the voter's
4 name, photograph, and signature, which may be, but is not limited to,
5 the following:
- 6 (1) a valid New Jersey driver's license;
7 (2) a valid New Jersey REAL ID identification card or license
8 issued in accordance with the "REAL ID Act of 2005," Pub.L.109-
9 13;
10 (3) a valid identification card issued by the New Jersey Division
11 of Motor Vehicles pursuant to P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.2 et seq.);
12 or
13 (4) a valid United States passport.
- 14 b. If a voter does not present the identifying document to the
15 district board, or if the picture or signature contained in the
16 identifying document does not appear to be a picture or the signature
17 of the voter presenting the document, the qualification or entitlement
18 of the voter to vote may be challenged.
- 19
20 3. This act shall take effect January 1 following enactment.

STATEMENT

25 This bill requires a voter to present photo identification before
26 voting at a polling place at any election. Acceptable photo
27 identification includes, but is not limited to a valid: (a) New Jersey
28 driver's license; (b) New Jersey REAL ID identification card or
29 license; (c) New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles "identification
30 only" card; or (d) United States passport. A voter who does not
31 present photo identification, or whose identification contains a
32 picture that does not appear to depict the voter would be subject to
33 challenge. This bill does not deny or alter a voter's opportunity to
34 establish his or her right to vote if challenged.