

SENATE, No. 2777

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Gill

SYNOPSIS

Permits voter registration at polling place on election day.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/9/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning voter registration on election day and
2 supplementing chapter 31 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 “Applicant” means any person otherwise eligible to vote, but who
9 is not registered to vote and is applying for such registration in person
10 at the applicant’s assigned polling place on the day of an election
11 pursuant to this section.

12 “Identifying document” means (1) a current and valid photo
13 identification card; (2) a current utility bill, bank statement,
14 government check or pay check; (3) any other government document
15 that shows the applicant's name and current address; or (4) any other
16 identifying document that the Secretary of State has determined to be
17 acceptable for this purpose, as provided under R.S.19:31-5.

18 b. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, an applicant
19 may register to vote on the day of any municipal, primary, or general
20 election at the polling place to which the applicant is assigned by:

21 (1) presenting or submitting a copy of an identifying document;
22 (2) completing an appropriate voter registration form; and
23 (3) submitting an affidavit in which the applicant declares that the
24 applicant is not already properly registered to vote, has lived in the
25 county in which he or she is voting for at least 30 days, has not
26 previously voted in the election being held on that day, and upon
27 voting will not thereafter vote in that election.

28 The commissioner of registration shall furnish to each polling
29 place voter registration forms and affidavit forms for the purposes of
30 this section.

31 c. The commissioner of registration shall designate an
32 individual in each polling place to receive and review the forms and
33 affidavits provided for in subsection b. of this section. The designee
34 shall read to an applicant, prior to accepting the forms and affidavits,
35 the penalty provision for voter fraud provided for under subsection f.
36 of this section. The designee shall issue a temporary registration
37 certificate to a qualified applicant. The certificate shall be in
38 triplicate with one copy to be retained by the designee, one copy to
39 be retained by the district board, and one copy to be retained by the
40 applicant. The applicant shall be permitted to vote by provisional
41 ballot only. The members of the district board and any duly
42 authorized challenger may challenge such a newly registered voter
43 pursuant to R.S.19:15-18 through R.S.19:15-24.

44 d. Each designee of the commissioner of registration shall
45 deliver to the commissioner, no later than two days after the election,
46 all forms and affidavits signed and received pursuant to this section.
47 Upon receipt of the voter registration forms completed pursuant to
48 this section, the commissioner shall:

1 (1) send to the registrant written notification that such registrant
2 is duly registered to vote. On the face of such notification in the
3 upper left-hand corner shall be printed the words: "Do Not Forward.
4 Return Postage Guaranteed. If not delivered in two days, return to
5 the Commissioner of Registration;"

6 (2) paste, tape, or photocopy the completed registration form onto
7 an original registration form, and paste or tape a copy of such
8 completed registration form onto a duplicate registration form, both
9 of which shall be filed as provided in R.S.19:31-10. Nothing in this
10 paragraph shall preclude any commissioner of registration from
11 keeping the original registration form on file; and

12 (3) in the case of a registrant currently registered in another county
13 of this State, notify the commissioner of registration of such other
14 county to delete such registrant's name from the list of persons
15 registered in such other county.

16 The commissioner shall notify a registrant of the reasons for any
17 refusal to approve his or her registration.

18 e. Not later than 25 days after each municipal, primary, or
19 general election, the commissioner of registration in counties having
20 a superintendent of elections and the county board of elections in all
21 other counties shall investigate and verify the registration of voters
22 registered pursuant to this section at the most recent municipal,
23 primary, or general election whose notification is returned by the post
24 office as undeliverable, in order to determine the extent, if any, of
25 violations of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

26 f. An applicant who willfully or fraudulently registers more than
27 once, or who registers under any but the applicant's true name, or
28 attempts to vote more than once, or who willfully registers in any
29 election district where the applicant is not a resident at the time of
30 registering, is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. Any person who
31 aids and abets an applicant in violating the provisions of this section
32 is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

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34 2. This act shall take effect on January 1 next following the date
35 of enactment.
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38 STATEMENT
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40 This bill allows a person eligible to vote to register on the day of
41 a municipal, primary, or general election at the person's assigned
42 polling place, and to vote in that election. An applicant would be
43 required to present an identifying document as specified under
44 R.S.19:31-5, complete a voter registration form, and sign an affidavit
45 declaring that he or she is not already properly registered to vote, has
46 lived in the county for at least 30 days, has not previously voted in
47 the election being held on that day, and upon voting will not vote
48 again in that election. A designee of the county commissioner of

1 registration would then issue a temporary registration certificate to a
2 qualified applicant, who would be permitted to vote by provisional
3 ballot at that election. Within two days after the election, the
4 commissioner of registration would notify the applicant by mail that
5 he or she is registered to vote. The bill also provides for the
6 investigation and verification of the voter registration forms of voters
7 who registered on election day if the notification of voter registration
8 is returned by the post office as undeliverable.