

**SENATE, No. 2979**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires availability of free parking at polling places on election day.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **AN ACT** concerning the availability of free parking at polling places  
2       on election day and amending R.S.19:8-2.

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

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7       1. R.S.19:8-2 is amended to read as follows:

8       19:8-2. The clerk of every municipality, on or before April 1  
9 shall certify to the county board of every county wherein such  
10 municipality is located a suggested list of places in the municipality  
11 suitable for polling places. The county board shall select the  
12 polling places for the election districts in the municipalities of the  
13 county for all elections in the municipalities thereof, including all  
14 commission government elections in the county. The county boards  
15 shall not be obliged to select the polling places so suggested by the  
16 municipal clerks, but may choose others where they may deem it  
17 expedient. Preference in locations shall be given to schools and  
18 public buildings where space shall be made available by the  
19 authorities in charge, upon request, if same can be done without  
20 detrimental interruption of school or the usual public services  
21 thereof, and for which the authority in charge shall be reimbursed,  
22 by agreement, for expenses of light, janitorial and other attending  
23 services arising from such use. Each polling place selected shall be  
24 accessible to individuals with disabilities and the elderly. A polling  
25 place shall be considered accessible if it is in compliance with the  
26 federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990" (42 U.S.C. s.  
27 12101 et seq.). Each polling place selected shall also have onsite  
28 parking available free of charge. In no case shall the authorities in  
29 charge of a public school or other public building deny the request  
30 of the county board for the use, as a polling place, of any building  
31 they own or lease.

32       Where the county board shall fail to agree as to the selection of  
33 the polling place or places for any election district, within five days  
34 of an election, the county clerk shall select and designate the  
35 polling place or places in any such election district.

36       The county board may select a polling place other than a  
37 schoolhouse or public building outside of the district but such  
38 polling place shall not be located more than 1,000 feet distant from  
39 the boundary line of the district. The Secretary of State may,  
40 however, permit a polling place to be more than 1,000 feet distant  
41 from the boundary line of the district if there is no suitable polling  
42 place accessible to individuals with disabilities and the elderly  
43 within the district or 1,000 feet distant from the boundary line of the  
44 district.

45       Whenever possible, the county board shall contact the managers

**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 or owners of commercial or private buildings that the board deems  
2 suitable to use as polling places, and are in or near an election  
3 district lacking an accessible polling place, to determine whether a  
4 portion of such a building may be used as a polling place on the day  
5 of an election. Reimbursement for the use of a portion of such a  
6 building shall be the same as provided by this section for schools  
7 and public buildings.

8 Neither the owner nor operator of a facility designated as a  
9 polling place by the county board is permitted or authorized to  
10 relocate the polling place room in the building without the express  
11 prior approval of the board.

12 (cf: P.L.2011, c.134, s.11)

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14 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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19 This bill requires the availability of free parking at polling places  
20 on election day. Under current law, preference in locations to be  
21 selected as polling places is given to schools and public buildings.  
22 Current law also requires each polling place to be accessible to  
23 individuals with disabilities and the elderly in compliance with the  
24 “Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.” This bill would institute  
25 an additional requirement for polling places to have onsite parking  
26 available free of charge.