

SENATE, No. 3503

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Increases membership and number of members permitted from same political party in BPU.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the membership of the Board of Public Utilities
2 and amending R.S.48:2-1.

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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.48:2-1 is amended to read as follows:

8 a. The Board of Public Utilities, named pursuant to
9 Reorganization Plan No. 001-1994, effective on July 4, 1994, and
10 allocated in, but not of, the Department of the Treasury pursuant to
11 that plan, is continued and is designated as the Board of Public
12 Utilities or the "board."

13 b. The board shall consist of **【five】** seven citizens of this State
14 who shall devote their entire time to the duties of the board and
15 shall not engage in any occupation, profession or other gainful
16 employment.

17 c. Members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor,
18 with the advice and consent of the Senate, for terms of six years.
19 The terms of office of the members of the board shall continue until
20 their successors are appointed and qualified. No person shall act as
21 a member of the board until that person's appointment has been
22 confirmed by the Senate. Not more than **【three】** four of the
23 members of the board shall be members of the same political party.
24 All vacancies, except through the expiration of term, shall be filled
25 for the unexpired term only.

26 (cf: P.L.2001, c.132, s.1)

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28 2. (New section) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.48:2-
29 40 to the contrary, three members of the board shall constitute a
30 majority of the board until such time as a sixth member of the board
31 is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, at which
32 time four members of the board shall constitute a majority of the
33 board. Upon the appointment and confirmation of a seventh
34 member of the board, the provisions of R.S.48:2-40 shall be
35 applicable.

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37 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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40 STATEMENT

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42 This bill increases the membership of the Board of Public
43 Utilities from five to seven members. The bill also increases the
44 number of members of the board who are of the same political party
45 from three to four. This bill also clarifies the number of members
46 which constitute a majority of the board until a sixth and seventh
47 member is appointed.

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.