

# SENATE, No. 3854

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires gender balance in membership of certain boards and commissions established by statute.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT requiring gender balance in membership of certain boards  
2 and commissions established by statute and supplementing Title  
3 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. Any appointive State board, commission, task force, or any  
9 other multi-member body or entity established by a statute enacted  
10 before, on, or after the effective date of this act, P.L. , c. (pending  
11 before the Legislature as this bill), shall be gender balanced unless  
12 otherwise provided by law or gender balancing conflicts with the  
13 particular circumstances or requirements of the statute establishing  
14 the board, commission, task force, or other multi-member body or  
15 entity.

16 b. No person shall be appointed or reappointed to any board,  
17 commission, task force, or other multi-member body or entity  
18 established by statute if that appointment or reappointment would  
19 cause the number of members of one gender to be greater than one-  
20 half the membership plus one if the board, commission, task force,  
21 or multi-member body or entity is composed of an odd number of  
22 members. If the board, commission, task force, or other multi-  
23 member body or entity is composed of an even number of members,  
24 not more than one-half of the membership shall be of one gender.

25 c. If there are multiple appointing authorities, they shall consult  
26 each other to avoid a violation of this act, P.L. , c. (pending before  
27 the Legislature as this bill).

28 d. As used in this act:

29 “Gender” means a person’s sex-related or gender-related  
30 characteristics, including one’s gender identity, and has the same  
31 legal meaning as sex.

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33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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### 36 STATEMENT

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38 This bill requires all State appointive boards, commissions, task  
39 forces, or any other multi-member body or entity established by  
40 statute to be gender balanced, unless otherwise provided by law or it  
41 conflicts with the particular circumstances or requirements of the  
42 statute establishing the board, commission, task force, or other multi-  
43 member body or entity.

44 No person will be appointed or reappointed if that appointment or  
45 reappointment would cause the number of members of one gender to  
46 be greater than one-half the membership plus one if the board,  
47 commission, task force, or multi-member body or entity is composed  
48 of an odd number of members. If the board, commission, task force,

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- 1 or other multi-member body or entity is composed of an even number
- 2 of members, not more than one-half of the membership will be of one
- 3 gender. If there are multiple appointing authorities, they will consult
- 4 with each other to avoid violating the provisions of the bill.