

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 120**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Urges US Attorney for NJ to monitor July 7 primary to prevent fraud.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



SCR120 TESTA

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Attorney
2 for the District of New Jersey to monitor the July 7 primary
3 election to prevent fraud.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Voting is a fundamental process in a democratic system as
6 it gives citizens a chance for their voices to be heard; and

7 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a novel coronavirus that has caused a global
8 pandemic, has led to State of Emergency in New Jersey which has
9 necessitated social distancing and other preventative health
10 measures; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with
12 Executive Order No. 144 of 2020, New Jersey's July 7 primary
13 election will be conducted primarily via mail-in ballots, with ballots
14 sent to registered voters who have declared a party affiliation; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Voter fraud, particularly with respect to mail-in ballots, is
16 a grave concern since it affects the integrity of the democratic
17 process and results in voter disenfranchisement; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey vote-by-mail process has experienced
19 difficulties in the past including several Morris Township United
20 States Postal Services trucks which were carrying up to 100 vote-
21 by-mail ballots catching fire, as well as the rejection and failure to
22 count nearly 10 percent of all ballots for the May 12 special
23 election, a figure that is significantly higher than the 3 percent
24 rejection rate in the 2018 General Election of all ballots for the May
25 12 special election; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Additionally, a "human error" resulted in about 500
27 misprinted primary election ballots being sent out in Bernardsville
28 which then required re-mailing every ballot to Republican voters;
29 and

30 **WHEREAS**, Due to past concerns with the mail-in ballot process and
31 concern for future elections, the United States Attorney for the
32 District of New Jersey should take steps to monitor the July 7
33 primary to prevent voter fraud; now, therefore,

34
35 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
36 *General Assembly concurring):*

37
38 1. The New Jersey Legislature urges the United States Attorney
39 for the District of New Jersey to monitor the July 7 primary to
40 prevent fraud and voter disenfranchisement in an effort to maintain
41 the integrity of the democratic process.

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43 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
44 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
45 Secretary of the Senate to the Office of the United States Attorney
46 for the District of New Jersey.

STATEMENT

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3 This resolution urges the United States Attorney for the District
4 of New Jersey to monitor the July 7 primary election to prevent
5 fraud.

6 Voting is a fundamental process in a democratic system as it
7 gives citizens a chance for their voices to be heard; and

8 COVID-19, a novel coronavirus that has caused a global
9 pandemic, has led to State of Emergency in New Jersey which has
10 necessitated social distancing and other preventative health
11 measures. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with
12 Executive Order No. 144 of 2020, New Jersey's July 7 primary
13 election will be conducted primarily via mail-in ballots, with ballots
14 sent to registered voters who have declared a party affiliation.

15 Voter fraud, particularly with respect to mail-in ballots, is a
16 grave concern since it affects the integrity of the democratic process
17 and results in voter disenfranchisement. The New Jersey vote-by-
18 mail process has experienced difficulties in the past including:
19 several Morris Township United States Postal Services trucks which
20 were carrying up to 100 vote-by-mail ballots catching fire; the
21 rejection and failure to count nearly 10 percent of all ballots for the
22 May 12 special election, a figure that is significantly higher than the
23 3 percent rejection rate in the 2018 General Election of all ballots
24 for the May 12 special election; and a "human error" resulted in
25 about 500 misprinted primary election ballots being sent out in
26 Bernardsville that required re-mailing every ballot to Republican
27 voters.

28 Due to past concerns with the mail-in ballot process and concern
29 for future elections, the United States Attorney for the District of
30 New Jersey should take steps to monitor the July 7 primary to
31 prevent voter fraud.