

ASSEMBLY, No. 3480

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Requires municipalities to accept complaints and provide certain municipal announcements by electronic means.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/9/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning municipal communications and supplementing
2 Title 40 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. a. Each municipality shall maintain on its Internet website,
8 if one exists, a webpage containing an electronic form that an
9 individual may use to electronically transmit complaints relating to
10 the municipality to the clerk or designee of the municipality,
11 provided that funding is made available to the municipality for the
12 purposes of implementing this subsection.

13 b. The Department of Community Affairs shall maintain on its
14 Internet website a webpage containing the electronic form required
15 pursuant to subsection a. of this section for each municipality that
16 does not have an Internet website. The department shall forward a
17 completed form to the clerk or designee of the applicable
18 municipality.

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20 2. Each municipality shall maintain an electronic system that
21 allows an individual to register to receive municipal announcements
22 through e-mail, text messages, social media, or other electronic
23 means, provided that funding is made available to the municipality
24 for the purposes of implementing this section.

25 For the purposes of this section, “municipal announcement”
26 means information relating to a municipality including, but not
27 limited to: adequate notice of any municipal public body meetings
28 in accordance with the “Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public
29 Meetings Act,” P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.); the minutes of
30 any such meeting when made available; municipal budgets upon
31 approval; declared emergencies; urgent public health and safety
32 matters; and road closures and other significant traffic changes.

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34 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill would require municipalities to have electronic systems
40 in place to receive complaints and to provide certain municipal
41 announcements. The complaint system required by the bill would
42 allow an individual to fill out and transmit a complaint form on the
43 Internet website of the municipality. The notification system would
44 allow an individual to sign up to receive electronic announcements
45 of certain municipal information through e-mail, text messages,
46 social media, or other electronic means. While many municipalities
47 already have such systems in place, many do not. This bill would
48 require all municipalities to have these systems in order to ensure

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1 that all residents of the State receive the benefits of these
2 transparency measures.

3 In light of the unfunded mandate provisions of the State
4 Constitution, under which a State law may be declared
5 unconstitutional if it does not authorize resources other than the
6 property tax to offset the additional direct expenditures required for
7 its implementation, this bill would only require the implementation
8 of these electronic systems if funding is made available for those
9 purposes through State appropriations, grants, or otherwise.