

**SENATE, No. 3685**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Passaic)**

**Senator RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 32 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/5/2024)**

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

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.