

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3157

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 4, 2010

The Senate State Government Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3157.

This bill would revise current law concerning the permissible length of time between the vote on public questions that relate to the election of certain municipal officials in municipalities operating under the “Optional Municipal Charter Law,” and the commission, town, and municipal manager forms of government. The bill would set the time period for the consideration of such matters to once every 10 years, which should be interpreted as “election years” since the calendar date of elections changes from year to year.

Specifically, the bill provides that ordinances proposed by petition in municipalities operating under the “Optional Municipal Charter Law,” (N.J.S.A.40:69A-1 et seq.), and the commission (N.J.S.A.40:70-1 et seq.), town (N.J.S.A.40:62-1 et seq.), and municipal manager (N.J.S.A.40:81-1 et seq.) forms of government to increase or decrease either the term of office of the members of the governing body or the number of members of the governing body, or regarding the division of the municipality into a number of wards, would not be submitted to the voters of the municipality more than once in any ten-year period. The bill also provides that the voters of any municipality that has adopted an optional form of government under the “Optional Municipal Charter Law” may not vote on the question of adopting another form of government until 10 years after such adoption.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4264.