

[First Reprint]  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 1521**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER**  
**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**  
**Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY**  
**District 20 (Union)**  
**Assemblywoman ELIZABETH MAHER MUOIO**  
**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**  
**Assemblyman TIM EUSTACE**  
**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**  
**Assemblyman ARTHUR BARCLAY**  
**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**  
**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**  
**District 31 (Hudson)**  
**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**  
**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Chaparro, Assemblymen Wimberly, Chiaravalloti, Coughlin, Kennedy, Assemblywomen Caride, Jasey, Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywomen Pinkin, Murphy, Reynolds-Jackson, Tucker, Assemblyman Freiman, Assemblywoman Mosquera and Assemblyman Houghtaling**

**SYNOPSIS**

“New Voter Empowerment Act”; permits 17 year olds to vote in primary election if they turn 18 years old before next succeeding general election.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on April 5, 2018, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/13/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility to vote in a primary election for the  
2 general election and designated as the “New Voter  
3 Empowerment Act,” <sup>1</sup>amending R.S.19:31-5,<sup>1</sup> and supplementing  
4 chapter 23 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

5

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

8

9 1. <sup>1</sup>(New section)<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding the provisions of  
10 R.S.19:4-1 <sup>1</sup>, or any other law, rule, or regulation<sup>1</sup> to the contrary, any  
11 registered voter who is 17 years of age prior to the date on which a  
12 primary election for the general election is held shall be permitted to  
13 vote in that primary election if the registered voter attains 18 years of  
14 age on or before the day of the next succeeding general election.

15

16 <sup>1</sup>2. R.S.19:31-5 is amended to read as follows:

17 19:31-5. Each person, who is at least 17 years of age at the time he  
18 or she applies for registration, who resides in the district in which he or  
19 she expects to vote, who will be of the age of 18 years or more on or  
20 before the first election in which he or she expects to vote, who is a  
21 citizen of the United States, and who, if he or she continues to reside in  
22 the district until that election, will at the time have fulfilled all the  
23 requirements as to length of residence to qualify him or her as a legal  
24 voter, shall, unless otherwise disqualified, be entitled to be registered  
25 in such district. Each 17-year-old registrant shall be designated in the  
26 Statewide voter registration system as temporarily ineligible to vote  
27 until the registrant's 18th birthday , except as provided pursuant to  
28 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
29 bill).

30 Whenever an individual registers by mail after January 1, 2003 to  
31 vote for the first time in his or her current county of residence, that  
32 individual shall provide either the individual's New Jersey driver's  
33 license number or the last four digits of the individual's Social Security  
34 Number, or shall submit with the voter registration form a copy of: (1)  
35 a current and valid photo identification card; (2) a current utility bill,  
36 bank statement, government check or pay check; (3) any other  
37 government document that shows the individual's name and current  
38 address; or (4) any other identifying document that the Attorney  
39 General has determined to be acceptable for this purpose. If the  
40 individual does not provide his or her New Jersey driver's license  
41 number or Social Security Number information or submit a copy of  
42 any one of these documents, either at the time of registration or at any  
43 time thereafter prior to attempting to vote, the individual shall be asked  
44 for identification when voting for the first time starting at the first

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup>Assembly ASL committee amendments adopted April 5, 2018.

1 election held after January 1, 2004 at which candidates are seeking  
2 federal office or thereafter. This requirement shall not apply to any  
3 individual entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the "Uniformed  
4 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act" (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1 et  
5 seq.) or to any individual who is provided the right to vote other than  
6 in person under section 3 of Pub.L.98-435, the "Voting Accessibility  
7 for the Elderly and Handicapped Act," or any other voter entitled to  
8 vote otherwise than in person under any other federal law. This  
9 requirement shall also not apply to any individual who registers to vote  
10 by appearing in person at any voter registration agency or to any  
11 individual whose voter registration form is delivered to the county  
12 commissioner of registration or to the Attorney General, as the case  
13 may be, through a third party by means other than by mail delivery.

14 Once registered, the registrant shall not be required to register  
15 again in such district as long as he or she resides therein, except when  
16 required to do so by the commissioner, because of the loss of or some  
17 defect in his or her registration record.

18 The registrant, when registered as provided in this Title, shall be  
19 eligible to vote at any election to be held subsequent to such  
20 registration, if he or she shall be a citizen of the United States of the  
21 age of 18 years , except as provided pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c.  
22 (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and shall have been  
23 a resident of the State for at least 30 days and of the county at least 30  
24 days, when the same is held, subject to any change in his qualifications  
25 which may later disqualify him. No registrant shall lose the right to  
26 vote, and no registrant's name shall be removed from the registry list  
27 of the county in which the person is registered, solely on grounds of  
28 the person's failure to vote in one or more elections.<sup>1</sup>

29 (cf: P.L.2015, c.222, s.1)

30

31 <sup>1</sup>**[2.] 3.**<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> next  
32 following the date of enactment.