

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1670**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires electronic voting system vendors disclose financial ties prior to electronic voting system approval by Secretary of State.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/18/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning electronic voting system vendors and amending  
2 P.L.1973, c.82 and supplementing Chapter 53A of Title 19 of the  
3 Revised Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1973, c.82 (C.19:53A-1) is amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 1. As used in this act, unless otherwise specified:

11 a. "Automatic tabulating equipment" includes apparatus which  
12 automatically examines and counts votes recorded on ballot cards,  
13 and tabulates the results.

14 b. "Ballot card" means a tabulating card on which votes may  
15 be recorded.

16 c. "Ballot labels" means the pages, cards, or other material  
17 containing the names of offices and candidates and the statements  
18 of measures to be voted on, which are placed on the voting device.

19 d. "Counting center" means one or more locations selected by  
20 each of the county boards of election for the automatic counting of  
21 ballots.

22 e. "Electronic voting system" means a system in which votes  
23 are recorded on ballot cards, and such votes are subsequently  
24 counted and tabulated by automatic tabulating equipment at one or  
25 more counting centers.

26 f. "Electronic voting system vendor" means and includes any  
27 individual, firm, joint venture, partnership, corporation, or company  
28 seeking certification for electronic voting systems in this State.

29 **[f]** g. "Voting device" means an apparatus which the voter  
30 uses to record his votes on a tabulating card.

31 **[g]** h. "County boards of elections" shall mean the county  
32 board of elections appointed in the various counties or the person  
33 or board in charge of elections in the various counties as provided  
34 in Title 19 of the New Jersey Revised Statutes.

35 (cf: P.L.1973, c.82, s.1)

36  
37 2. (New section) No electronic voting system shall be used in  
38 an election in this State unless the electronic voting system vendor  
39 discloses any owners or shareholders with a five percent or greater  
40 interest or share in the company, in any subsidiary companies, or in  
41 the vendor's parent company, and has been approved by the  
42 Secretary of State.

43  
44 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

**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.

STATEMENT

1  
2  
3       This bill requires electronic voting system vendors to disclose  
4 any financial ties prior to approval by the Secretary of State.

5       Currently, voting system vendors must meet a number of  
6 requirements prior to approval and certification of voting systems in  
7 the State. However, the vendors are not required to disclose  
8 financial and investment ties. This bill would require voting system  
9 vendors to disclose any owners or shareholders with a five percent  
10 or greater interest or share in the company, in any subsidiary  
11 companies, or in the vendor's parent company.

12       This bill is a response to the recent elections security issues.  
13 Several states have taken steps to address potential security risks.  
14 In Maryland, the state moved to require voting system vendors to  
15 disclose its investment ties following the revelation that a former  
16 First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, with close ties to Russian  
17 President Vladimir Putin, owned the firm which financed the  
18 buyout of Maryland's voting system vendor. In June of 2019,  
19 North Carolina's State Board of Elections voted unanimously for  
20 each vendor seeking certification in the state to disclose any owners  
21 or shareholders with a five percent or greater interest or share in the  
22 company, in any subsidiary companies or in the vendor's parent  
23 company.

24       This bill draws on the actions of these states to ensure the  
25 security of the elections of the State of New Jersey.