

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2034**

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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 ELIANA PINTOR MARIN**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Decreases from 55 days to 21 days minimum time required to change political party affiliation prior to primary.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/5/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning changing political party affiliation prior to a  
2 primary and amending R.S.19:23-45.

3

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

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7 1. R.S.19:23-45 is amended to read as follows:

8 19:23-45. No voter shall be allowed to vote at the primary  
9 election unless his name appears in the signature copy register.

10 A voter who votes in a primary election of a political party or  
11 who signs and files with the municipal clerk or the county  
12 commissioner of registration a declaration that he desires to vote in  
13 the primary election of a political party, or who indicates on a voter  
14 registration form the voter's choice of political party affiliation and  
15 submits the form to the commissioner of registration of the county  
16 wherein the voter resides, to the employees or agents of a public  
17 agency, as defined in subsection a. of section 15 of P.L.1974, c.30  
18 (C.19:31-6.3), or a voter registration agency, as defined in  
19 subsection a. of section 26 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11), or to  
20 the Secretary of State, shall be deemed to be a member of that party  
21 until the voter signs and files with the municipal clerk or the  
22 commissioner of registration a declaration that he desires to vote in  
23 the primary election of another political party at which time he shall  
24 be deemed to be a member of such other political party. The  
25 Secretary of State shall cause to be prepared political party  
26 affiliation declaration forms and shall provide such forms to the  
27 commissioners of registration of the several counties and to the  
28 clerks of the municipalities within such counties.

29 No voter, except a newly registered voter at the first primary at  
30 which he is eligible to vote, or a voter who has not previously voted  
31 in a primary election, may vote in a primary election of a political  
32 party unless he was deemed to be a member of that party on the  
33 **[55th]** 21st day next preceding such primary election.

34 A member of the county committee of a political party and a  
35 public official or public employee holding any office or public  
36 employment to which he has been elected or appointed as a member  
37 of a political party shall be deemed a member of such political  
38 party.

39 A voter may declare the voter's party affiliation or change the  
40 voter's party affiliation, or declare that the voter is unaffiliated with  
41 any party regardless of any previously declared party affiliation, by  
42 so indicating on a political party declaration form filed with the  
43 municipal clerk or the county commissioner of registration. A voter  
44 may also indicate that the voter wishes to declare a political party  
45 affiliation or that the voter does not want to declare a political party

**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.

1 affiliation on a voter registration form filed at the time of initial  
2 registration.

3 Any person voting in the primary ballot box of any political  
4 party in any primary election in contravention of the election law  
5 shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense, and any person who  
6 aids or assists any such person in such violation by means of public  
7 proclamation or order, or by means of any public or private  
8 direction or suggestions, or by means of any help or assistance or  
9 cooperation, shall likewise be guilty of a disorderly persons offense.  
10 (cf: P.L.2011, c.134, s.27)

11

12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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15 STATEMENT

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17 This bill would decrease, from 55 days to 21 days, the minimum  
18 time required to change one's political party affiliation prior to a  
19 primary election.

20 This bill would make the minimum time required to change  
21 one's political party affiliation prior to a primary election identical  
22 to the minimum time required to register to vote prior to an  
23 election.