

ASSEMBLY, No. 4325

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 29, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GERARD SCHARFENBERGER

District 13 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman B.DeCroce, Assemblymen DiMaio, Space and Wirths

SYNOPSIS

Requires registered voters to present identification when voting at polling place.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/6/2020)

1 AN ACT requiring registered voters to present identification when
2 voting, amending R.S.19:15-24 and supplementing chapter 15 of
3 Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. R.S.19:15-24 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:15-24. The district boards shall not give a ballot to any person
10 unless they shall be satisfied that such person is in all respects
11 qualified and entitled to vote; and for the purpose of satisfying
12 themselves as to the right of any person who shall claim a right to
13 vote they shall have power to examine such person, and any other
14 person or persons, under oath or affirmation, touching such right,
15 except as hereinbefore restricted. The board shall determine the right
16 of the voter to vote, after making use of, and giving due weight to,
17 the evidence afforded by his signature, if any, identification pursuant
18 to the provisions of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before
19 the Legislature as this bill), such answers, and an affidavit which
20 states the challenged voter's qualifications to vote and a suitable
21 identifying document, as provided under section 2 of P.L.1991, c.249
22 (C.19:15-18.1). If any member of the board shall give or assent to
23 give a ballot to any person challenged, without requiring him to take
24 the oath or affirmation hereinbefore prescribed to be made upon such
25 challenge, and the person shall not be qualified and entitled to vote,
26 the member so giving or assenting to give a ballot, shall be deemed
27 to have given to such person a ballot, knowing it to be illegal. The
28 question as to the giving of the ballot to the person shall be put in the
29 following form: "Shall a ballot be given to this person by this board?"

30 If a majority of the board shall decide to give a ballot to such voter
31 or in case of a tie vote, the voter shall be given a ballot and allowed
32 to vote. If a majority of the board shall decide against giving a ballot
33 to the voter no ballot shall be given. The board upon demand of a
34 member of the board or any other citizen shall forthwith issue a
35 warrant for the arrest of such person and deliver the same to a peace
36 officer, who shall forthwith arrest him, and the right to challenge
37 voters shall exist until the ballot shall have been deposited in the
38 ballot box.

39 Every such challenge and the determination of the board shall in
40 every instance be recorded in the signature comparison record, in the
41 column "Sig. Comp. by," used at the election at which the challenge
42 has been made.

43 Any member of a district board who refuses or neglects to comply
44 with the provisions of this section may be summarily removed from

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 office by the county board, or any judge of the Superior Court
2 assigned to the county.

3 (cf: P.L.1991, c.249, s.5)

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5 2. (New section) a. Prior to receiving a ballot, a voter shall
6 present for inspection by the district board, in full view of the
7 challengers, a suitable and valid identifying document that bears the
8 voter's name, which may be, but is not limited to, the following:

9 (1) a New Jersey driver's license;

10 (2) a New Jersey REAL ID identification card or license issued
11 in accordance with the federal "REAL ID Act of 2005," 49 U.S.C.
12 s.30301;

13 (3) an identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
14 Commission pursuant to P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.2 et seq.);

15 (4) a United States passport

16 (5) a voter registration card;

17 (6) a municipal, State, or employment identification card;

18 (7) a birth certificate;

19 (8) a United States military or veteran identification card;

20 (9) a property tax and assessment statement or card;

21 (10) an insurance or public assistance identification card;

22 (11) a high school or college identification card;

23 (12) a medical marijuana card; or

24 (13) any other identifying document that the Secretary of State
25 has determined to be acceptable for this purpose.

26 b. If a resident is unable to provide identification pursuant to
27 subsection a. of this section, the resident shall provide two forms of
28 identification from the following forms of approved supplemental
29 identification before casting their vote:

30 (1) a utility bill, with name and address present, which shall
31 include, but need not be limited to: phone, internet, water, gas,
32 sewage, electric, or television;

33 (2) mortgage or rental statement; or

34 (3) mail or an envelope with the voter's address visible from a
35 governmental agency or utility company.

36 c. If a voter does not present an identifying document to the
37 district board, or if the information contained in the identifying
38 document does not appear to be the information of the voter
39 presenting the document, the qualification or entitlement of the voter
40 to vote may be challenged.

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42 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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47 This bill requires a voter to present acceptable identification
48 before voting at a polling place at any election. Acceptable

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1 identification includes, but is not limited to a valid: (1) New Jersey
2 driver's license; (2) New Jersey REAL ID; (3) New Jersey Motor
3 Vehicle Commission "identification only" card; (4) United States
4 passport; (5) voter registration card; (6) a municipal, State, or
5 employment identification card; (7) a birth certificate; (8) a United
6 States military or veteran identification card; (9) property tax and
7 assessment statement or card; (10) insurance or public assistance
8 identification card; (11) high school or college identification card; or
9 (12) medical marijuana card. Identification cannot be digital.

10 If a resident is unable to provide any of the initial forms of
11 identification, the resident will be required to provide two forms of
12 identification from the following forms of approved supplemental
13 identification before casting their vote: (1) a utility bill, with name
14 and address present, which includes, but is not limited to: phone,
15 internet, water, gas, sewage, electric, or television; (2) mortgage or
16 rental statement; or (3) mail or an envelope with the voter's address
17 visible from a governmental agency or utility company.

18 A voter who does not present identification, or whose
19 identification information does not appear to match the voter's
20 information may be subject to challenge. This bill does not deny or
21 alter a voter's opportunity to establish his or her right to vote if
22 challenged.