

**SENATE, No. 818**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permits transmittal of certain proposed county ordinances by electronic mail.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning the transmittal of certain county ordinances and  
2 amending P.L.1972, c.154

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

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7 1. Section 101 of P.L.1972, c.154 (C.40:41A-101) is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 101. a. An ordinance shall mean any act or regulation of the  
10 board, except an expense budget or capital budget, required to be  
11 reduced to writing, published after introduction, and considered for  
12 final passage after public hearing at a meeting subsequent to the  
13 meeting at which it was introduced;

14 b. Except as otherwise provided by general law the procedure  
15 for the passage of ordinances shall be as follows:

16 (1) Every ordinance after being introduced and having passed a  
17 first reading, which first reading may be by title, shall be published  
18 in its entirety, or by title, or by title and summary, at least once in the  
19 manner provided by section 142 of P.L.1972, c.154 (C.40:41A-142),  
20 together with a notice of the introduction thereof and the time and  
21 place when and where it will be further considered for final passage,  
22 and shall consist of a clear and concise statement prepared by the  
23 clerk of the board of chosen freeholders setting forth the purpose of  
24 the ordinance, and the time and place when and where a copy of the  
25 ordinance can be obtained without cost by any member of the general  
26 public who wants a copy of the ordinance. If there be only one such  
27 publication the same shall be at least 1 week prior to the time fixed  
28 for further consideration for final passage. If there be more than one  
29 publication, the first shall be at least 1 week prior to the time fixed  
30 for further consideration for final passage. A copy of the proposed  
31 ordinance shall also be sent by regular mail, or by electronic mail, to  
32 the clerk of each municipality in the county not less than 1 week prior  
33 to the date of hearing.

34 (2) At the time and place so stated in such publication, or at any  
35 time and place to which the meeting for the further consideration of  
36 the ordinance shall from time to time be adjourned, all persons  
37 interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the  
38 ordinance. Final passage thereof shall be at least 10 days from the  
39 first reading.

40 (3) Upon the opening of the hearing, the ordinance shall be given  
41 a second reading, which reading may be by title, and thereafter, it  
42 may be passed by a majority of the whole number of the board, with  
43 or without amendments, or rejected. Prior to the said second reading,  
44 a copy of the ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board or other  
45 place upon which public notices are customarily posted in the

**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 building in which the board regularly meets, and copies of the  
2 ordinance shall be made available to members of the general public  
3 who shall request such copies. If any amendment be adopted, altering  
4 the ordinance, the ordinance as so amended shall not be finally  
5 adopted until at least 1 week thereafter, and the ordinance as amended  
6 shall be read at a meeting of the board, which reading may be by title,  
7 and shall be published in its entirety, or by title, or by title and  
8 summary, together with a notice of the introduction, the time and  
9 place when and where a copy of the ordinance can be obtained  
10 without cost by any member of the general public who wants a copy  
11 of the ordinance, a clear and concise statement prepared by the clerk  
12 of the board of chosen freeholders setting forth the purpose of the  
13 ordinance, and the time and place when and where the amended  
14 ordinance will be further considered for final passage, at least 2 days  
15 prior to the time so fixed. At the time and place so fixed, or at any  
16 other meeting to which the further consideration of the amended  
17 ordinance may be adjourned, the board may proceed to pass the  
18 ordinance, as amended, or again amend it in the same manner.

19 (4) Upon passage, every ordinance, or the title, or the title and a  
20 summary, together with a notice of the date of passage or approval,  
21 or both, shall be published at least once in the manner provided by  
22 section 142 of P.L.1972, c.154 (C.40:41A-142).

23 (5) One certified copy of the full text of every ordinance so  
24 adopted shall be filed with the clerk of each municipality within the  
25 county not later than 10 days after the date of final passage.

26 (6) The board may enact, amend or supplement ordinances  
27 establishing, amending or supplementing a code or any parts thereof,  
28 not inconsistent with law, by reference to such code in any such  
29 ordinance and without inclusion of the text thereof in such ordinance  
30 if the code to be adopted and any related documents are printed in  
31 book form and a copy of such printed code and related documents so  
32 marked as to indicate plainly what portion thereof, if less than the  
33 whole, is intended to be adopted, is annexed to such ordinance and if  
34 such code and related documents or such portion thereof as is  
35 intended to be adopted is so described in said ordinance as to identify  
36 them and there is indicated in said description the common or trade  
37 name, if any, of such code and related documents and it is stated in  
38 the ordinance that one copy of said code and said related documents,  
39 similarly marked, have been placed on file in the office of the clerk  
40 of said board, upon the introduction of said ordinance and will remain  
41 on file there until final action is taken on said ordinance, for the use  
42 and examination of the public.

43 It shall not be necessary to publish any such code or related  
44 documents, so to be adopted, as part of any such ordinance  
45 notwithstanding that a printed copy thereof is annexed thereto, either  
46 before or after the final passage of such ordinance, if said printed  
47 copy is filed as aforesaid. The board of freeholders however may

1 order the publication of said code or a synopsis in the manner  
2 provided by section 142 of P.L.1972, c.154 (C.40:41A-142) if it is  
3 deemed that such procedure will be in the public interest because of  
4 the content and importance of the provisions of the code.

5 If any such ordinance is adopted, the said copy of said code and  
6 related documents shall remain on file in said office, so long as said  
7 ordinance is in effect, and one certified copy shall be placed on file  
8 and shall remain on file in the office of each clerk of each  
9 municipality within the county, for the use and examination of the  
10 public so long as said ordinance is in effect and printed copies of said  
11 ordinance and said code and related documents shall be made  
12 available to citizens on request and for which a reasonable fee may  
13 be charged.

14 For the purpose of proof of any such ordinance or receipt thereof  
15 in evidence in all courts and places, such copy of such code and  
16 related documents, so marked and annexed to such ordinance, shall  
17 be construed to be part of said ordinance, as fully as though it had  
18 been set forth at length therein.

19 (7) The board may prescribe penalties for the violation of  
20 ordinances it may have authority to pass, either by imprisonment in  
21 the county jail for any term not exceeding 90 days, or by a fine not  
22 exceeding \$500.00, or both. The court before which any person is  
23 convicted of violating any such ordinance shall have power to impose  
24 any fine or term of imprisonment not exceeding the maximum fixed  
25 in such ordinance.

26 Any person convicted of the violation of any ordinance may, in  
27 the discretion of the court by which he was convicted, and in default  
28 of the payment of any fine imposed therefor, be imprisoned in the  
29 county jail for any term not exceeding 90 days for such default.

30 c. No ordinance shall take effect less than 20 days after its final  
31 passage by the board and approval by the county executive, or  
32 supervisor or board chairman or president, where such approval is  
33 required, unless the board shall adopt a resolution declaring an  
34 emergency and at least two-thirds of all the members of the board  
35 vote in favor of such resolution.

36 (cf: P.L.2013, c.118, s.1)

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38 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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43 This bill would permit certain proposed county ordinances to be  
44 sent to the clerk of each municipality in the county by regular mail  
45 or by electronic mail. Current law requires that a copy of a proposed  
46 county ordinance issued by the board of freeholders in an optional  
47 county charter county be sent by regular mail to the clerk of each

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- 1 municipality in the county. This bill would permit the use of
- 2 electronic mail to provide a more efficient means of providing
- 3 municipalities with copies of proposed county ordinances.