

**SENATE, No. 1982**

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

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides county clerks with additional week to mail ballots for 2020 primary election.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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

S1982 BEACH, TURNER

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1 AN ACT concerning the delivery of mail-in ballots for the 2020  
2 primary election.

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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. Notwithstanding section 9 of P.L.2009, c.79 (C.19:63-9),  
8 starting on or before the 45th day before the day the 2020 primary  
9 election is held, each county clerk shall forward mail-in ballots by  
10 first-class postage, hand delivery, or electronically to each  
11 uniformed and overseas mail-in voter, as defined by the federal  
12 “Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act” (52  
13 U.S.C. s.20310 et seq.), whose request therefor has been approved.  
14 Any additional mail-in ballots that have been approved before the  
15 45th day before the election shall be forwarded or delivered at least  
16 38 days before the day of the election. Hand delivery of a mail-in  
17 ballot shall be made by the county clerk or the clerk's designee only  
18 to the voter, or the voter's authorized messenger, who must appear  
19 in person. No person shall serve as an authorized messenger for  
20 more than three qualified voters in an election. Ballots that have  
21 not been hand delivered shall be addressed to the voter at the  
22 forwarding address given in the application.

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24 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the  
25 date of the 2020 primary election.

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill seeks to address concerns over sufficient time to  
31 prepare the significant number of mail-in ballots expected for the  
32 2020 primary election. Under current law, thousands of ballots will  
33 be required to be mailed by April 18, 2020, which gives county  
34 clerks less than four days to prepare and deliver mail-in ballots.  
35 This bill would provide county clerks with an additional week to  
36 proof, print, prepare, and mail ballots following the ballot draw  
37 date.

38 Under the bill, any additional mail-in ballots that have been  
39 approved before the 45th day before the 2020 primary election are  
40 required to be forwarded or delivered at least 38 days, instead of 45  
41 days, before the day of the election. Under the bill, county clerks  
42 are still required to comply with federal guidelines and have  
43 military and overseas ballots mailed by April 18, 2020. The  
44 additional week provided under the bill is temporary and will only  
45 apply to the 2020 primary election.