

# SENATE, No. 2775

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 3, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL**

**District 10 (Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Testa**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires registered voters to present photo ID when voting at polling place.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/19/2021)**

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

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

7  
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  
10 person unless they shall be satisfied that such person is in all  
11 respects qualified and entitled to vote; and for the purpose of  
12 satisfying themselves as to the right of any person who shall claim a  
13 right to vote they shall have power to examine such person, and any  
14 other person or persons, under oath or affirmation, touching such  
15 right, except as hereinbefore restricted. The board shall determine  
16 the right of the voter to vote, after making use of, and giving due  
17 weight to, the evidence afforded by his signature, if any, photo  
18 identification, such answers, and an affidavit which states the  
19 challenged voter's qualifications to vote and a suitable identifying  
20 document, as provided under section 2 of P.L.1991, c.249 (C.19:15-  
21 18.1). If any member of the board shall give or assent to give a  
22 ballot to any person challenged, without requiring him to take the  
23 oath or affirmation hereinbefore prescribed to be made upon such  
24 challenge, and the person shall not be qualified and entitled to vote,  
25 the member so giving or assenting to give a ballot, shall be deemed  
26 to have given to such person a ballot, knowing it to be illegal. The  
27 question as to the giving of the ballot to the person shall be put in  
28 the following form: "Shall a ballot be given to this person by this  
29 board?"

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

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

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

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

4  
5 2. (New section) a. Before receiving a ballot, a voter shall  
6 present for inspection by the district board, in full view of the  
7 challengers, a suitable identifying document that bears the voter's  
8 name, photograph, and signature, which may be, but is not limited  
9 to, the following:

10 (1) a valid New Jersey driver's license;

11 (2) a valid New Jersey REAL ID identification card or license  
12 issued in accordance with the "REAL ID Act of 2005," Pub.L.109-  
13 13;

14 (3) a valid identification card issued by the Division of Motor  
15 Vehicles pursuant to P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.2 et seq.); or

16 (4) a valid United States passport.

17 b. If a voter does not present the identifying document to the  
18 district board, or if the picture or signature contained in the  
19 identifying document does not appear to be a picture or the  
20 signature of the voter presenting the document, the qualification or  
21 entitlement of the voter to vote may be challenged.

22  
23 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

24  
25  
26 STATEMENT

27  
28 This bill requires a voter to present photo identification before  
29 voting at a polling place at any election. Acceptable photo  
30 identification includes, but is not limited to a valid: (a) New Jersey  
31 driver's license; (b) New Jersey REAL ID identification card or  
32 license; (c) New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles "identification  
33 only" card; or (d) United States passport. A voter who does not  
34 present photo identification, or whose identification contains a  
35 picture that does not appear to depict the voter would be subject to  
36 challenge. This bill does not deny or alter a voter's opportunity to  
37 establish his or her right to vote if challenged.