

SENATE, No. 3509

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator SAMUEL D. THOMPSON

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Doherty

SYNOPSIS

Requires all elections in this State to provide ability of voters to vote in person at polling place.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/15/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning the ability of voters to vote in person at a
2 designated polling place at any election in this State and
3 supplementing chapter 1 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. a. All elections conducted in this State shall preserve the
9 ability of voters to vote in person at the voter's designated polling
10 place as provided under Title 19 of the Revised Statutes. No
11 municipal, county, or State election or other official shall institute
12 any policies or procedures to circumvent the requirement to provide
13 for voting in person. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law,
14 rule, regulation, or order to the contrary, the Governor of this State
15 shall not have the power to restrict the ability of voters to vote in
16 person without the approval of the majority vote of the Legislature.

17 b. Nothing herein provided shall be interpreted to prevent
18 voters who wish to vote by mail to apply for a mail-in ballot and
19 cast that ballot under the provisions of "The Vote By Mail Law,"
20 P.L.2009, c.79 (C.19:63-1 et seq.), or to prevent a municipality with
21 a population of 500 or fewer persons, according to the latest federal
22 decennial census, to conduct all elections by mail by an affirmative
23 vote to do so by the governing body of the municipality and by the
24 governing body of the county in which the municipality is located,
25 pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2005, c.148 (C.19:62-1 et seq.).
26

27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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30 STATEMENT 31

32 This bill requires all elections in this State to provide voters the
33 ability to vote in person. Under the bill, all elections conducted in
34 this State would be required to preserve the ability of voters to vote
35 in person at the voter's designated polling place. The bill prohibits
36 any municipal, county, or State election or other official to institute
37 any policies or procedures to circumvent the requirement to provide
38 for voting in person. The bill also prohibits the Governor from
39 restricting the ability of voters to vote in person without the
40 approval of the majority vote of the Legislature. The provisions of
41 the bill would not affect the ability of voters to vote by mail as
42 provided by law, or the ability of certain small municipalities to
43 institute elections by mail upon the approval of municipal and
44 county governing bodies.