

ASSEMBLY, No. 1627

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 1996

By Assemblyman KRAMER

1 AN ACT concerning county boards of elections and amending
2 R.S.19:6-22.

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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. R.S.19:6-22 is amended to read as follows:

8 19:6-22. The county boards shall, at 10 a.m., on the second
9 Tuesday in March or on such other day as they may agree on within
10 the first 15 days in March, in each year, meet at the courthouse, or
11 other place as provided for, in their respective counties, and organize
12 by electing one of their number to be chairman and one to be
13 secretary; but the chairman and secretary shall not be members of the
14 same political party.

15 In case of failure to elect a chairman [for] after three ballots or viva
16 voce votes, the [senior] member [in age of] having the greatest
17 seniority on the board shall be the chairman thereof[, and on] . In case
18 of failure to elect a secretary [for] after three ballots or viva voce
19 votes, the [next senior] member of the board [in age] having the
20 greatest seniority shall be secretary of the board[; but] , except that if
21 that member has become chairman because of election to that position
22 or because of designation as a result of the failure to elect a chairman,
23 the member with the next greatest seniority shall be secretary. In no
24 case, however, shall the chairman and secretary [shall not] be members
25 of the same political party. Seniority for the purposes of this section
26 shall be determined by the total amount of time that a person has
27 served as a member of the board, beginning from the date and time
28 that that person took the oath of office as a member.

29 The boards shall have power in their discretion to hold their
30 meetings for any purpose, except organization, in any part of their
31 respective counties. Meetings may be called by either the chairman or
32 the secretary of the board, or at the request of any two members.

33 (cf: P.L.1973, c.179, s.1)

34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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STATEMENT

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5 This bill revises the statute providing for designation of the
6 chairman and the secretary of the county board of elections in the
7 event that the board is unable to fill either or both of those positions
8 by election.

9 Under present law, in the event of such a failure to elect a
10 chairman, the board's senior member in age is to be chairman, and in
11 the event of such a failure to elect a secretary, the next senior member
12 in age is to become secretary, subject to the condition that the
13 chairman and secretary may not be members of the same political
14 party.

15 Under the bill, in the event of failure by the board to elect a
16 chairman, the member having greatest seniority on the board is to be
17 chairman of the board. In the event of failure to elect a secretary, the
18 member of the board having the greatest seniority is to be secretary,
19 except that if that member has been elected or designated to the
20 position of chairman, the member with the next greatest seniority is to
21 be secretary, still subject to the condition that the chairman and
22 secretary may not be members of the same political party.

23 The bill provides that, for purposes of the legislation, a member's
24 seniority on the county board of elections is to be determined by the
25 total amount of time that the person has served as a member of the
26 board, beginning from the date and time that the person took the oath
27 of office as a member.

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32 Revises method of selecting chairman and secretary of county boards
33 of elections whenever members unable to do so after three ballots.