

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, Nos. 1627 and 1681

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED MAY 20, 1996

Sponsored by Assemblymen KRAMER and STUHLTRAGER

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. a. (1) 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 , subject
12 to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection, organize by
13 electing one of their number to be chairman and one to be secretary;
14 but the chairman and secretary shall not be members of the same
15 political party.

16 (2) In case of failure to elect a chairman [for] after three ballots
17 or viva voce votes, the [senior] member [in age of] having the greatest
18 seniority on the board shall be the chairman thereof[, and on], except
19 that if the member having the greatest seniority on the board so
20 chooses, that member shall instead be secretary of the board; in the
21 event that that senior member so chooses to become secretary, no
22 election shall be held to choose a secretary of the board, the board
23 shall elect one of its members who is not of the same political party as
24 the secretary to be the chairman of the board, and in the case of a
25 failure again to elect a chairman after three ballots or viva voce votes,
26 the person among those members having the greatest seniority on the
27 board shall be the chairman thereof.

28 In any case of failure to elect a chairman, if two or more members
29 of the board who are eligible to become chairman have greatest and
30 equal seniority on the board, then the board shall, not later than the
31 fifth day following the organization meeting, notify the Governor of an
32 inability to fill the position of chairman either by election or on the
33 basis of seniority, including in that notice a certification of the names

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 of those senior members of the board. In addition, if the position of
2 secretary has not otherwise been filled under the foregoing provisions
3 of this paragraph, the board shall defer for the time being the election
4 of a secretary. Not later than the fifth day following receipt of the
5 notice, the Governor shall designate one of those senior members to
6 be chairman of the board and certify that designation to the board. If
7 the position of secretary was not filled at the initial meeting of the
8 county board to organize, then not later than the fifth day following
9 receipt of that certification, the board shall reconvene at the call of the
10 chairman so designated and shall elect a secretary of the board.

11 In case of failure to elect a secretary [for] after three ballots or
12 viva voce votes, the [next senior] member of the board [in age] having
13 the greatest seniority shall be secretary of the board[; but] , except
14 that if that member has become chairman because of election to that
15 position or because of designation as a result of the failure to elect a
16 chairman, the member with the next greatest seniority shall be
17 secretary. In no case, however, shall the chairman and secretary [shall
18 not] be members of the same political party.

19 Seniority for the purposes of this section shall be determined by the
20 total amount of time that a person has served as a member of the
21 board, beginning from the date that that person took the oath of office
22 as a member.

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

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

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall be applicable to
30 the first annual organization meeting of each county board of elections
31 that is held following the effective date of the act and thereafter.

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