

ASSEMBLY, No. 1681

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 1996

By Assemblyman STUHLTRAGER

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

3

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

6

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 the member with the next greatest seniority shall be secretary. In case
23 of failure to elect both a chairman and a secretary after three ballots or
24 viva voce votes, the member with the greatest seniority shall have the
25 option to choose to become the chairman or the secretary of the
26 board, and the member with the next greatest seniority shall take the
27 position not chosen by the member having the greatest seniority. In
28 no case, however, shall the chairman and secretary [shall not] be
29 members of the same political party. Seniority for the purposes of this
30 section shall be determined by the total amount of time that a person
31 has served as a member of the board, beginning from the date and time
32 that person took the oath of office as a member.

33 The boards shall have power in their discretion to hold their
34 meetings for any purpose, except organization, in any part of their

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.

1 respective counties. Meetings may be called by either the chairman or
2 the secretary of the board, or at the request of any two members.
3 (cf: P.L.1973, c.179, s.1)

4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

6

7

8

STATEMENT

9

10 This bill revises the statute providing for designation of the
11 chairman and the secretary of the county board of elections in the
12 event that the board is unable to fill either or both of those positions
13 by election.

14 Under present law, if the board fails to elect a chairman, the board's
15 oldest member is to be chairman, and in the event of such a failure to
16 elect a secretary, the next oldest member is to become a secretary,
17 subject to the condition that the chairman and secretary may not be
18 members of the same political party.

19 Under the bill, if the board fails to elect a chairman, the member
20 having greatest seniority on the board is to be chairman of the board.
21 If the board fails to elect a secretary, the member of the board having
22 the greatest seniority is to be secretary, except that if the member has
23 been elected to the position of chairman, the member with the next
24 greatest seniority is to be secretary. If the board fails to elect both a
25 chairman and a secretary, the member with the greatest seniority shall
26 have the option to choose to become the chairman or the secretary,
27 and the member with the next greatest seniority shall take the position
28 not so chosen. Such designations would still be subject to the
29 condition that the chairman and the secretary may not be members of
30 the same political party.

31 The bill provides that, for purposes of the legislation, a member's
32 seniority on the county board of elections is to be determined by the
33 total amount of time that the person has served as a member of the
34 board, beginning from the date and time that the person took the oath
35 of office as a member.

36

37

38

39

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