

SENATE, No. 714

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 1996

By Senator BUBBA

1 AN ACT concerning certain State authorities and commissions and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. a. A member of any State authority or commission, including an
8 authority or commission created pursuant to statute and having
9 members appointed by the Governor, but not including an authority or
10 commission created solely for study, investigative or advisory
11 purposes, who is absent from three or more consecutive meetings, or
12 from twenty-five percent or more of the total number of meetings held
13 annually, without being officially excused therefrom, shall forfeit the
14 position to which the member was appointed. Such forfeiture shall be
15 formally confirmed by the president, chairperson, or other presiding
16 member at the earliest pertinent meeting and read into the minutes of
17 the authority. The provisions of this section shall apply to any member
18 of a pertinent authority or commission, whether paid or unpaid. The
19 provisions of this section shall not apply to an ex officio member of an
20 authority or commission or to a member of the Legislature.

21 b. For the purposes of this section: (1) "meeting" means a
22 regularly scheduled meeting and includes any gathering of an
23 authority, whether corporeal or by means of communication
24 equipment, which is attended by, or open to, all of the members of a
25 board, held with the intent, on the part of the members of the board
26 present, to discuss or act as a unit upon specific public business of the
27 authority, but shall not mean or include any such gathering attended
28 by less than an effective majority of the members of a board or
29 attended by or open to all the members of two or more authorities at
30 a convention or similar gathering; and (2) an "officially excused"
31 absence is an absence accounted for, before or within ten working
32 days after the meeting or meetings missed, in a letter or memorandum
33 from the member to the president, chairperson, or other presiding
34 member and approved by a majority vote of the authority or
35 commission members.

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37 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill provides that a member of a State authority or commission, including an authority or commission created pursuant to statute and having members appointed by the Governor but excluding a body created solely for study, investigative or advisory purposes, shall forfeit the member's position as the result of unexcused absences for three or more consecutive regularly scheduled meetings or twenty-five percent or more of the total number of regularly scheduled meetings held annually.

To be "officially excused" from a meeting, a member must account in writing for the absence before or within ten working days after the meeting or meetings missed to the presiding member of the authority, and the account must be approved by a majority of the members.

The bill would not apply to an ex officio member of an authority or commission or to a member of the Legislature.

Under current law, no penalties are imposed on a member of an authority or commission for unexcused absences from meetings of the authority or commission.

Provides for forfeiture of membership on certain authorities and commissions for absences from meetings.