

SENATE, No. 760

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 1996

By Senator BUBBA

1 AN ACT creating an Election Law Computerization Study Commission
2 and making an appropriation.

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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. There is created a commission to be known as the "Election Law
8 Computerization Study Commission," which shall consist of 12
9 members to be appointed by the Governor as follows:

10 a. one representative of the Office of the Secretary of State and
11 one person who shall have professional expertise in modern
12 computerized elections administration technology, no more than one
13 of whom shall be from the same political party;

14 b. four Superintendents or Deputy Superintendents of Elections,
15 no more than two of whom shall be from the same political party and
16 no more than one of whom shall reside in the same county;

17 c. four members of county Boards of Elections, no more than two
18 of whom shall be from the same political party and no more than one
19 of whom shall reside in the same county;

20 d. two public members who are registered voters, one of whom
21 shall be selected from a list of three names submitted by the State
22 chairman of the political party whose candidate for Governor received
23 the largest number of votes in the previous gubernatorial election and
24 one of whom shall be selected from a list of three names submitted by
25 the State chairman of the political party whose candidate received the
26 second largest number of votes in the previous gubernatorial election.

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28 2. Members of the commission shall serve for the duration of the
29 commission and even if the member no longer continues to hold the
30 office held at the time of initial appointment to the commission.
31 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the
32 same manner as the original appointments were made; a replacement
33 shall be from the same political party but need not reside in the same
34 county as the member whose vacancy is being filled.

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36 3. The commission shall organize as soon as may be practicable
37 after the appointment of its members and shall elect a chairman from

1 among its members and a secretary who need not be a member of the
2 commission.

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4 4. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation
5 but, within the limit of available funds, shall be entitled to
6 reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties
7 as members of the commission.

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9 5. It shall be the duty of the commission to:

10 a. study the applicability of modern computerized elections
11 administration technology, including, but not limited to, centralized
12 record retention and retrieval equipment and software, optical
13 scanners, modems, bar coding, and the digitalization of a voter's
14 signature, to the duties of the Superintendents of Elections,
15 Commissioners of Registration and the county Boards of Elections as
16 provided for in current law; and

17 b. recommend, if deemed desirable, the changes in current election
18 law and procedure which would be necessary to facilitate the
19 Statewide use of such computerized elections administration
20 technology.

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22 6. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
23 avail itself of the services of such employees of any State, county or
24 municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may
25 require and as may be available to it for its purposes, and to employ
26 such stenographic and clerical assistants and incur such traveling and
27 other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary, in order to
28 perform its duties, and as may be within the limits of funds
29 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

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31 7. For the purposes of its study the commission shall have all the
32 powers provided pursuant to chapter 13 of Title 52 of the Revised
33 Statutes.

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35 8. The commission may meet and hold hearings at such places as
36 it shall designate during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature and
37 shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
38 Legislature no later than the last day of the 12th calendar month after
39 the initial organization meeting of the commission and may accompany
40 the report with any legislative bills that it may desire to recommend for
41 adoption by the Legislature.

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43 9. There is appropriated \$60,000 from the General Fund to the
44 commission to effectuate the purposes of this act.

