

SENATE, No. 902

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 1996

By Senator LIPMAN

1 AN ACT requiring gender balance in appointments to certain State  
2 entities.

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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. The Legislature finds and declares that women have historically  
8 been underrepresented on boards, commissions, and other similar  
9 bodies whose members are appointed by the Governor, the  
10 Legislature, and the Supreme Court, and that their underrepresentation  
11 has made it more difficult to involve women in the governance of this  
12 State.

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14 2. If a person's appointment or reappointment to any authority,  
15 board, commission, committee, council or other entity heretofore or  
16 hereafter established by law or joint resolution with a membership of  
17 two or more persons would result in the number of appointed members  
18 of the entity who are of the same sex as the appointee exceeding the  
19 proportion of persons of that sex who compose the group or  
20 constituency represented, licensed, or regulated by the authority,  
21 board, commission, committee, council, or other appointed entity, an  
22 appointment of a person of the other sex shall be made. If there are  
23 multiple appointing authorities, they shall consult each other to avoid  
24 a violation of this section. Where the constituency or the sexual  
25 composition of the constituency is not readily identifiable, the  
26 proportion used shall be that in the population of the entire State.

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28 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit any person  
29 serving as a member of an entity upon the effective date of this act  
30 from completing the term for which the person was appointed.

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32 4. The Attorney General shall promulgate, in accordance with the  
33 provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
34 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be necessary  
35 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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37 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

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Women in New Jersey have been excluded from unpaid and paid appointments that give them the experience to qualify for elected and policy-making position in State government. Even after the nation became sensitized to such discrepancies by the Thomas-Hill hearings in 1991, and with the major political parties actively searching for women candidates to run for elective office, appointments in New Jersey have failed to correct the imbalance. The discrepancies are worse for paid boards and commissions than they are overall.

In order to address any imbalance that exists between the sexes in State government appointments, this bill requires proportional representation of males and females among the appointed members of State authorities, boards, commissions, committees, councils, and similar regulatory and advisory entities established by law or joint resolution. It prohibits any appointment that would result in there being more males or females appointed to the entity than exist in the population served or regulated by the entity.

The bill also preserves current appointments, regardless of gender, and directs the Attorney General to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

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Requires gender balance in appointments to certain State entities.