

SENATE, No. 1855

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1997

By Senator ADLER

1 AN ACT concerning certain primary elections and amending
2 R.S.19:24-1.

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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.19:24-1 is amended to read as follows:

8 19:24-1. In every year in which primary elections are to be held as
9 herein provided for the election of delegates and alternates to the
10 national conventions of political parties, including any national
11 mid-term convention or conference of a political party, [which primary
12 elections are to be held on the first Tuesday in June as hereinbefore
13 provided,] the chairman of the State committee of each political party
14 shall notify the Secretary of State, on or before March 1 of that year,
15 of the number of delegates-at-large and the number of
16 alternates-at-large to be elected to the next national convention of
17 such party by the voters of the party throughout the State, and also of
18 the number of delegates and alternates to be chosen to such
19 convention in the respective congressional districts or other territorial
20 subdivisions of the State as mentioned in such notification.

21 If the State chairmen, or either of them, shall fail to file notice, the
22 Secretary of State shall ascertain such facts from the call for its
23 national convention issued by the National or State committee.

24 (cf: P.L.1978, c.15, s.5)

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26 2. (New section) a. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.19:2-1,
27 R.S.19:3-3, and R.S.19:23-40 or any other law, the primary elections
28 in 2000 for all political parties, including the primary elections for
29 delegates and alternates to national conventions of political parties,
30 and for the general election of that year shall be held on the first
31 Tuesday in March, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.,
32 Standard Time.

33 b. For the purposes of the 2000 primary election established in
34 subsection a. of this section, the March 1 date provided for in

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 R.S.19:24-1 and R.S.19:24-2 shall be changed to January 1, and the
2 March 20 and April 1 dates provided for in R.S.19:24-2 shall be
3 changed to January 7 and February 1, respectively.

4 c. The Secretary of State shall, by rules and regulations, make
5 appropriate adjustments for any other dates specified by law in order
6 to accommodate the primary date in 2000 established in subsection a.
7 of this section.

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9 3. This act shall take effect immediately and section 2 shall expire
10 on December 31, 2000.

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STATEMENT

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15 The purpose of this bill is to change the date of the primary election
16 to be held in the year 2000 so that it occurs on the first Tuesday in
17 March. Under current law, primary elections for all political parties,
18 including the primary elections for delegates and alternates to national
19 conventions of political parties, are held on the first Tuesday in June.

20 Given the large amount of national media attention which is focused
21 on the states with early presidential primaries, pushing back the date
22 of the New Jersey primaries in the year 2000 would spotlight the State
23 and could help to promote job growth and economic development.

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28 Changes date of primary elections in year 2000 to first Tuesday in
29 March.