

ASSEMBLY, No. 5997

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.

District 13 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Removes requirement for Legislature, DOE, free public libraries, and historical societies to purchase “Manual of the Legislature of New Jersey”.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the purchase of copies of the “Manual of the
2 Legislature of New Jersey” and repealing various parts of the
3 statutory law.

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

7
8 1. The following sections are repealed:
9 R.S.52:12-3 through R.S.52:12-6.

10
11 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

12
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14 STATEMENT

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16 This bill removes the requirement for the Legislature, DOE, free
17 public libraries, and historical societies to purchase the official
18 “Manual of the Legislature of New Jersey.”

19 A law enacted in 1884 requires the Legislature to purchase 2,000
20 copies of the manual and the Department of Education to purchase
21 1,000 copies of the manual for distribution to the public schools. A
22 law enacted in 1907 also requires the manual to be distributed at the
23 expense of the State to public libraries and the historical societies in
24 the State. The law (N.J.S.A.52:12-1) requires the manual to be
25 “printed on good paper and bound in a substantial manner in cloth”.

26 Publication of the manual as an annual series began in 1872.
27 The current law requires the manual to contain:

28 the State Constitution;

29 the Senate and General Assembly rules;

30 the current members of the Legislature and their post-office
31 addresses;

32 the names of State officers, their post-office address, the terms
33 for which they are elected or appointed, and expiration date of the
34 terms;

35 the names of the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court,
36 and the judges of the Superior Court, their terms of office, and the
37 expiration date of their terms;

38 the names of the officers of each county, including the sheriff,
39 coroners, county clerk, surrogate, county treasurer, register of deeds
40 and mortgages, and county prosecutors, their post-office addresses,
41 their terms of office, and the expiration date of their terms;

42 the United States Courts in and for this State, the names of the
43 judges, clerks, the place court is held, and their terms;

44 the names of the President and Officers of the United States
45 Government, and the names and post-office addresses of the United
46 States judges and other officers of the United States Courts in this
47 State;

1 the latest census of this State taken by the United States, and any
2 census of the State taken by the State;
3 the election returns of the last general election; and
4 synopsis of all the annual reports of the State departments and
5 institutions required by law to be submitted to the Governor or
6 Legislature.

7 The law also provides that the manual should contain such other
8 matters as the Governor or Legislature may from time to time direct
9 to be published, or which the compilers of the manual may see fit to
10 print, pertaining to the affairs of the State.

11 With the information contained and readily accessible on the
12 Internet through websites of the State of New Jersey, the United
13 States government, and of counties and municipalities of the State,
14 and the many other websites containing public information useful
15 for the residents of the State, the need to expend State funds for the
16 purchase of the manual is no longer a necessity to enable the
17 residents of the State to understand the structure of their
18 government and to access government officials.