

**19:45-6 & 19:45-6.2; Sec.3 Appropriation
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

LAWS OF: 2022 **CHAPTER:** 5

NJSA: 19:45-6 & 19:45-6.2; Sec.3 Appropriation
(Raises pay for election workers to \$300 per day; permits counties to provide additional compensation to election workers; appropriates \$7,000,000 to Department of State.)

BILL NO: A208 (Substituted for S1290 (1R))

SPONSOR(S) Kevin J. Rooney and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 1/11/2022

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** State and Local Government

SENATE: ---

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 3/24/2022

SENATE: 3/24/2022

DATE OF APPROVAL: 3/25/2022

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First Reprint enacted) Yes

A208

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

S1290 (1R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes State Gov., Wagering
Tourism & Hist. Preservation.
Budget & App.

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

end

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 5, *approved March 25, 2022*
Assembly, No. 208 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning compensation for election workers and
2 amending R.S.19:45-6 and P.L.2001, c.245 and making an
3 appropriation.

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

7
8 1. R.S.19:45-6 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:45-6. The compensation of each member of the district
10 boards for all services performed by them under the provisions of
11 this Title shall be as follows:

12 In all counties, for all services rendered including the counting of
13 the votes, and in counties wherein voting machines are used, the
14 tabulation of the votes registered on the voting machines, and the
15 delivery of the returns, registry binders, ballot boxes and keys for
16 the voting machines to the proper election officials, **[\$200]** \$300
17 each time the primary election, the general election or any special
18 election is held under this Title; provided, however, that:

19 a. (1) The member of the board charged with the duty of
20 obtaining and signing for the signature copy registers shall receive
21 an additional \$12.50 per election, such remuneration being limited
22 to only one board member per election, or \$6.25 to each of two
23 board members if they share such responsibility for the signature
24 copy registers, and (2) the member of the board charged with the
25 duty of returning the signature copy registers shall receive an
26 additional \$12.50 per election, such remuneration being limited to
27 only one board member per election, or \$6.25 to each of two board
28 members if they share such responsibility for the signature copy
29 registers;

30 b. In the case of any member of the board who is required
31 under R.S.19:50-1 to attend in a given year a training program for
32 district board members, but who fails to attend such a training
33 program in that year, that compensation shall be ¹**[\$50.00]**
34 commensurate with the State minimum wage¹ for each of those
35 elections;

36 c. In counties wherein voting machines are used no
37 compensation shall be paid for any services rendered at any special
38 election held at the same time as any primary or general election.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted March 24, 2022.

1 Such compensation shall be in lieu of all other fees and payments;
2 and

3 d. Compensation for district board members serving at a school
4 election held at a time other than the time of the general election
5 shall be paid by the board of education of the school district
6 conducting the election at an hourly rate ¹~~of \$5.77~~ commensurate
7 with the State minimum wage¹, except that the board of education
8 may compensate such district board members at a pro-rated hourly
9 rate consistent with the daily rate up to a maximum of ~~[\$14.29]~~
10 ¹~~[\$19.64]~~ \$21.43¹. The provisions of subsections a., b., and c. of
11 this section shall also apply to district board members serving at a
12 school election held at a time other than at the time of the general
13 election, except that in the case of subsection b., the compensation
14 shall be at an hourly rate ¹~~of \$3.85~~ commensurate with the State
15 minimum wage¹.

16 ¹In addition to the \$300 compensation provided pursuant to this
17 section to each member of a district board for each time the primary
18 election, the general election, or any special election is held under
19 this Title, a county may provide, at its discretion, additional
20 compensation to the members of all district boards in such county in
21 an amount determined by the county, and the additional
22 compensation shall be an expense of the county.¹

23 Compensation due each member shall be paid within 30 days but
24 not within 20 days after each election; provided, however, that no
25 compensation shall be paid to any member of any such district
26 board who may have been removed from office or application for
27 the removal of whom is pending under the provisions of R.S.19:6-4.

28 In¹ addition to the provisions of this section, in¹ the case of any
29 member of the board who is required under R.S.19:50-1 to attend in
30 a given year a training program for district board members, a
31 county may provide, at its discretion, compensation to such a
32 member who attends the training program in an amount determined
33 by the county, and the compensation shall be an expense of the
34 county.

35 (cf: P.L.2011, c.202, s.32)

36

37 2. Section 6 of P.L.2001, c.245 (C.19:45-6.2) is amended to read
38 as follows:

39 6. In accordance with the provisions of Art.VIII, Sec.II, par.5 of
40 the Constitution, upon application for reimbursement by a county
41 governing body to the ~~Attorney General~~ Secretary of State and
42 approval of the application by the Director of the Division of Budget
43 and Accounting, a county shall be reimbursed by the State for:

44 a. compensation to each member of the district board of elections
45 who shall have served at the general election, the primary election, and
46 any nonpartisan municipal, special, or recall election, and who shall

1 have qualified for and been paid ~~[\$200]~~ \$300 for such service in
2 accordance with R.S.19:45-6, the sum of ~~[\$125]~~ \$225; and

3 b. any additional costs incurred by the county as a result of the
4 provisions of this act, P.L.2001, c.245.
5 (cf: P.L.2001, c.245, s.6)

6
7 3. There is appropriated from the State General Fund to the
8 Department of State the sum of \$7,000,000 to be distributed among the
9 counties subject to the requirements of section 6 of P.L.2001, c.245
10 (C.19:45-6.2), as amended by section 2 of this act,
11 P.L. ,c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), as
12 reimbursement for the costs of implementing the provisions of this act.

13
14 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

15

16

17

18

19 _____
20 Raises pay for election workers to \$300 per day; permits counties
21 to provide additional compensation to election workers;
appropriates \$7,000,000 to Department of State.

ASSEMBLY, No. 208

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY
District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)
Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK
District 18 (Middlesex)
Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI
District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Verrelli, Peterson, DiMaio, Assemblywomen Chaparro, Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman Danielsen

SYNOPSIS

Raises pay for election workers to \$300 per day; appropriates \$7,000,000 to Department of State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/7/2022)

A208 ROONEY, KARABINCHAK

2

1 AN ACT concerning compensation for election workers and
2 amending R.S.19:45-6 and P.L.2001, c.245 and making an
3 appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. R.S.19:45-6 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:45-6. The compensation of each member of the district boards
10 for all services performed by them under the provisions of this Title
11 shall be as follows:

12 In all counties, for all services rendered including the counting of
13 the votes, and in counties wherein voting machines are used, the
14 tabulation of the votes registered on the voting machines, and the
15 delivery of the returns, registry binders, ballot boxes and keys for the
16 voting machines to the proper election officials, **[\$200]** \$300 each
17 time the primary election, the general election or any special election
18 is held under this Title; provided, however, that:

19 a. (1) The member of the board charged with the duty of
20 obtaining and signing for the signature copy registers shall receive an
21 additional \$12.50 per election, such remuneration being limited to only
22 one board member per election, or \$6.25 to each of two board
23 members if they share such responsibility for the signature copy
24 registers, and (2) the member of the board charged with the duty of
25 returning the signature copy registers shall receive an additional
26 \$12.50 per election, such remuneration being limited to only one board
27 member per election, or \$6.25 to each of two board members if they
28 share such responsibility for the signature copy registers;

29 b. In the case of any member of the board who is required under
30 R.S.19:50-1 to attend in a given year a training program for district
31 board members, but who fails to attend such a training program in that
32 year, that compensation shall be \$50.00 for each of those elections;

33 c. In counties wherein voting machines are used no compensation
34 shall be paid for any services rendered at any special election held at
35 the same time as any primary or general election. Such compensation
36 shall be in lieu of all other fees and payments; and

37 d. Compensation for district board members serving at a school
38 election held at a time other than the time of the general election shall
39 be paid by the board of education of the school district conducting the
40 election at an hourly rate of \$5.77, except that the board of education
41 may compensate such district board members at a pro-rated hourly rate
42 consistent with the daily rate up to a maximum of **[\$14.29]** \$19.64.
43 The provisions of subsections a., b., and c. of this section shall also
44 apply to district board members serving at a school election held at a
45 time other than at the time of the general election, except that in the
46 case of subsection b., the compensation shall be at an hourly rate of
47 \$3.85.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 Compensation due each member shall be paid within 30 days but
2 not within 20 days after each election; provided, however, that no
3 compensation shall be paid to any member of any such district board
4 who may have been removed from office or application for the
5 removal of whom is pending under the provisions of R.S.19:6-4.

6 In the case of any member of the board who is required under
7 R.S.19:50-1 to attend in a given year a training program for district
8 board members, a county may provide, at its discretion, compensation
9 to such a member who attends the training program in an amount
10 determined by the county, and the compensation shall be an expense of
11 the county.

12 (cf. P.L.2011, c.202, s.32)

13
14 2. Section 6 of P.L.2001, c.245 (C.19:45-6.2) is amended to read
15 as follows:

16 6. In accordance with the provisions of Art.VIII, Sec.II, par.5 of
17 the Constitution, upon application for reimbursement by a county
18 governing body to the **【Attorney General】** Secretary of State and
19 approval of the application by the Director of the Division of Budget
20 and Accounting, a county shall be reimbursed by the State for:

21 a. compensation to each member of the district board of elections
22 who shall have served at the general election, the primary election, and
23 any nonpartisan municipal, special, or recall election, and who shall
24 have qualified for and been paid **【\$200】** \$300 for such service in
25 accordance with R.S.19:45-6, the sum of **【\$125】** \$225; and

26 b. any additional costs incurred by the county as a result of the
27 provisions of this act, P.L.2001, c.245.

28 (cf. P.L.2001, c.245, s.6)

29
30 3. There is appropriated from the State General Fund to the
31 Department of State the sum of \$7,000,000 to be distributed among the
32 counties subject to the requirements of section 6 of P.L.2001, c.245
33 (C.19:45-6.2), as amended by section 2 of this act, P.L. , c.
34 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), as reimbursement for the
35 costs of implementing the provisions of this act.

36
37 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

38
39
40 STATEMENT

41
42 This bill increases the compensation of election workers from \$200
43 per day to \$300 per day and appropriates \$7,000,000 to the
44 Department of State.

45 Under current law, election workers are paid \$200 per day each
46 time the primary election, the general election, or any special election
47 is held. The State reimburses \$125 of the payment to election workers

A208 ROONEY, KARABINCHAK

1 while the counties account for the rest. This bill increases the State's
2 reimbursement to \$225 while keeping the counties sum at \$75.

3 The bill increases the maximum hourly rate for election workers
4 serving at a school election held at a time other than the general
5 election, from \$14.29 to \$19.64. The bill also permits a county to
6 provide an election worker training program for district board
7 members at the expense of the county.

8 The bill clarifies that the Secretary of State handles election
9 reimbursement matters rather than the Attorney General.

10 The bill appropriates from the State General Fund to the
11 Department of State the sum of \$7,000,000 to reimburse the counties
12 for the costs of implementing the bill's provisions.

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 208

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 7, 2022

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 208.

This bill increases the compensation of election workers from \$200 per day to \$300 per day and appropriates \$7,000,000 to the Department of State.

Under current law, election workers are paid \$200 per day each time the primary election, the general election, or any special election is held. The State reimburses \$125 of the payment to election workers while the counties account for the rest. This bill increases the State's reimbursement to \$225 while keeping the counties sum at \$75.

The bill increases the maximum hourly rate for election workers serving at a school election held at a time other than the general election, from \$14.29 to \$19.64. The bill also permits a county to provide an election worker training program for district board members at the expense of the county.

The bill clarifies that the Secretary of State handles election reimbursement matters rather than the Attorney General.

The bill appropriates from the State General Fund to the Department of State the sum of \$7,000,000 to reimburse the counties for the costs of implementing the bill's provisions.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 208
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2022

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Raises pay for election workers to \$300 per day; appropriates \$7,000,000 to Department of State.

Type of Impact: Expenditure increase to the State General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Division of Elections, Department of State.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost Increase		Approximately \$7,042,565	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that increasing the State's reimbursement of the payment to election workers by \$100 per day will increase costs to the Division of Elections in the Department of State by approximately \$7.04 million per election depending on the number of hours the poll workers actually work on Election Day and the type of election (i.e. primary, general, or special election).

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill increases the compensation of election workers from \$200 per day to \$300 per day. Under current law, election workers are paid \$200 per day each time the primary election, the general election, or any special election is held. The State reimburses \$125 of the \$200 payment to election workers while the counties account for the remaining \$75. This bill increases the State's reimbursement from \$125 per day to \$225 per day while keeping the counties' sum at \$75. The bill also increases from \$14.29 to \$19.64 the maximum hourly rate that district board members may receive for serving at a school election.

This bill also allows a county to compensate election workers for attending the training program required to serve as an election worker. The counties would determine the amount, if any, and the compensation would be an expense of the county. The bill appropriates \$7 million to the Department of State to reimburse the counties for the costs of the bill.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that increasing the State's reimbursement of the payment to election workers by \$100 per day will increase costs to the Division of Elections in the Department of State by approximately \$7.04 million per election depending on the number of hours the poll workers actually work on Election Day and the type of election (i.e. primary, general, or special election). This increase will bring the costs for early voting and election day poll workers from approximately \$18.24 million to \$25.28 million per election.

Section: State Government
Analyst: Nicolas Soto
Associate Research Analyst
Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 208

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator BEACH)

ADOPTED: MARCH 24, 2022

These Senate amendments:

(1) change the compensation received by an election worker who fails to attend a training program from \$50 to the State minimum wage;

(2) change the lowest hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election from \$5.77 per hour to the State minimum wage;

(3) change the highest hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election from to \$21.43 per hour, which is commensurate with the \$300 daily rate for election workers;

(4) change the hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election who fails to attend a training program from \$3.85 per hour to the State minimum wage;

(5) permit a county to provide, at its discretion, additional compensation to election workers in such county in an amount determined by the county, and the additional compensation would be an expense of the county; and

(6) clarify that the additional compensation provided by counties to election workers for attending a training program applies to all the provisions of R.S.19:45-6.

SENATE, No. 1290

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Raises pay for election workers to \$300 per day; appropriates \$7,000,000 to Department of State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/28/2022)

S1290 BEACH, TURNER

2

1 AN ACT concerning compensation for election workers and
2 amending R.S.19:45-6 and P.L.2001, c.245 and making an
3 appropriation.

4

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

7

8 1. R.S.19:45-6 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:45-6. The compensation of each member of the district boards
10 for all services performed by them under the provisions of this Title
11 shall be as follows:

12 In all counties, for all services rendered including the counting of
13 the votes, and in counties wherein voting machines are used, the
14 tabulation of the votes registered on the voting machines, and the
15 delivery of the returns, registry binders, ballot boxes and keys for the
16 voting machines to the proper election officials, ~~[\$200]~~ \$300 each
17 time the primary election, the general election or any special election
18 is held under this Title; provided, however, that:

19 a. (1) The member of the board charged with the duty of
20 obtaining and signing for the signature copy registers shall receive an
21 additional \$12.50 per election, such remuneration being limited to only
22 one board member per election, or \$6.25 to each of two board
23 members if they share such responsibility for the signature copy
24 registers, and (2) the member of the board charged with the duty of
25 returning the signature copy registers shall receive an additional
26 \$12.50 per election, such remuneration being limited to only one board
27 member per election, or \$6.25 to each of two board members if they
28 share such responsibility for the signature copy registers;

29 b. In the case of any member of the board who is required under
30 R.S.19:50-1 to attend in a given year a training program for district
31 board members, but who fails to attend such a training program in that
32 year, that compensation shall be \$50.00 for each of those elections;

33 c. In counties wherein voting machines are used no compensation
34 shall be paid for any services rendered at any special election held at
35 the same time as any primary or general election. Such compensation
36 shall be in lieu of all other fees and payments; and

37 d. Compensation for district board members serving at a school
38 election held at a time other than the time of the general election shall
39 be paid by the board of education of the school district conducting the
40 election at an hourly rate of \$5.77, except that the board of education
41 may compensate such district board members at a pro-rated hourly rate
42 consistent with the daily rate up to a maximum of ~~[\$14.29]~~ \$19.64.
43 The provisions of subsections a., b., and c. of this section shall also
44 apply to district board members serving at a school election held at a
45 time other than at the time of the general election, except that in the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

S1290 BEACH, TURNER

3

1 case of subsection b., the compensation shall be at an hourly rate of
2 \$3.85.

3 Compensation due each member shall be paid within 30 days but
4 not within 20 days after each election; provided, however, that no
5 compensation shall be paid to any member of any such district board
6 who may have been removed from office or application for the
7 removal of whom is pending under the provisions of R.S.19:6-4.

8 In the case of any member of the board who is required under
9 R.S.19:50-1 to attend in a given year a training program for district
10 board members, a county may provide, at its discretion, compensation
11 to such a member who attends the training program in an amount
12 determined by the county, and the compensation shall be an expense of
13 the county.

14 (cf. P.L.2011, c.202, s.32)

15

16 2. Section 6 of P.L.2001, c.245 (C.19:45-6.2) is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 6. In accordance with the provisions of Art.VIII, Sec.II, par.5 of
19 the Constitution, upon application for reimbursement by a county
20 governing body to the **【Attorney General】** Secretary of State and
21 approval of the application by the Director of the Division of Budget
22 and Accounting, a county shall be reimbursed by the State for:

23 a. compensation to each member of the district board of elections
24 who shall have served at the general election, the primary election, and
25 any nonpartisan municipal, special, or recall election, and who shall
26 have qualified for and been paid **【\$200】** \$300 for such service in
27 accordance with R.S.19:45-6, the sum of **【\$125】** \$225; and

28 b. any additional costs incurred by the county as a result of the
29 provisions of this act, P.L.2001, c.245.

30 (cf. P.L.2001, c.245, s.6)

31

32 3. There is appropriated from the State General Fund to the
33 Department of State the sum of \$7,000,000 to be distributed among the
34 counties subject to the requirements of section 6 of P.L.2001, c.245
35 (C.19:45-6.2), as amended by section 2 of this act,
36 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), as
37 reimbursement for the costs of implementing the provisions of this act.

38

39 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

40

41

42 STATEMENT

43

44 This bill increases the compensation of election workers from \$200
45 per day to \$300 per day and appropriates \$7,000,000 to the
46 Department of State.

47 Under current law, election workers are paid \$200 per day each
48 time the primary election, the general election, or any special election

S1290 BEACH, TURNER

4

1 is held. The State reimburses \$125 of the payment to election workers
2 while the counties account for the rest. This bill increases the State's
3 reimbursement to \$225 while keeping the counties sum at \$75.

4 The bill increases the maximum hourly rate for election workers
5 serving at a school election held at a time other than the general
6 election, from \$14.29 to \$19.64. The bill also permits a county to
7 provide an election worker training program for district board
8 members at the expense of the county.

9 The bill clarifies that the Secretary of State handles election
10 reimbursement matters rather than the Attorney General.

11 The bill appropriates from the State General Fund to the
12 Department of State the sum of \$7,000,000 to reimburse the counties
13 for the costs of implementing the bill's provisions.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 1290

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 3, 2022

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1290.

This bill increases the compensation of election workers from \$200 per day to \$300 per day and appropriates \$7,000,000 to the Department of State.

Under current law, election workers are paid \$200 per day each time the primary election, the general election, or any special election is held. The State reimburses \$125 of the payment to election workers while the counties account for the rest. This bill increases the State's reimbursement to \$225 while keeping the counties sum at \$75.

As amended by the committee, the bill changes the compensation received by an election worker who fails to attend a training program from \$50 to the State minimum wage. The bill changes the lowest hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election from \$5.77 per hour to the State minimum wage. The bill increases the maximum hourly rate for election workers serving at a school election held at a time other than the general election, from \$14.29 under current law to \$21.43 per hour, which is commensurate with the \$300 daily rate for election workers. The bill changes the hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election who fails to attend a training program from \$3.85 per hour to the State minimum wage. The bill permits a county to provide, at its discretion, additional compensation to election workers in such county in an amount determined by the county, and the additional compensation would be an expense of the county.

The bill also permits a county to provide an election worker training program for district board members at the expense of the county. The bill clarifies that the Secretary of State handles election reimbursement matters rather than the Attorney General. Finally, the bill appropriates from the State General Fund to the Department of State the sum of \$7,000,000 to reimburse the counties for the costs of implementing the bill's provisions.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) change the compensation received by an election worker who fails to attend a training program from \$50 to the State minimum wage;

(2) change the lowest hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election from \$5.77 per hour to the State minimum wage;

(3) change the highest hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election to \$21.43 per hour, which is commensurate with the \$300 daily rate for election workers;

(3) change the hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election who fails to attend a training program from \$3.85 per hour to the State minimum wage;

(4) permit a county to provide, at its discretion, additional compensation to election workers in such county in an amount determined by the county, and the additional compensation would be an expense of the county; and

(5) clarify that the additional compensation provided by counties to election workers for attending a training program applies to all the provisions of R.S.19:45-6.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1290

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 16, 2022

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Raises pay for election workers to \$300 per day; permits counties to provide additional compensation to election workers; appropriates \$7,000,000 to Department of State.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure increase to the State General Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Division of Elections, Department of State.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost Increase	Approximately \$7.74 million		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that increasing the State's reimbursement of the payment to election workers by \$100 per day will increase costs to the Division of Elections in the Department of State by approximately \$7.74 million per election depending on the number of hours the poll workers actually work on Election Day and the type of election (i.e. primary, general, or special election).

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill increases the compensation of election workers from \$200 per day to \$300 per day. Under current law, election workers are paid \$200 per day each time the primary election, the general election, or any special election is held. The State reimburses \$125 of the \$200 payment to election workers while the counties account for the remaining \$75. This bill increases the State's reimbursement from \$125 per day to \$225 per day while keeping the counties' sum at \$75.

The bill also changes the compensation received by an election worker who fails to attend a training program from \$50 to an hourly rate commensurate with the State minimum wage.

The bill also increases from \$5.77 to the State minimum wage the minimum hourly rate that district board members will receive for serving at a school election held at a time other than a general election. The bill also increases from \$14.29 to \$21.43 the maximum hourly rate that district board members may receive for serving at a school election held at a time other than a

general election. The bill also changes the hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at a school election held at a time other than a general election who fails to attend the required training program from \$3.85 per hour to the State minimum wage.

The bill also allows a county to provide, at its discretion, additional compensation to election workers in such county in an amount determined by and at the expense of the county. The bill also allows a county to compensate election workers for attending the training program required to serve as an election worker. The counties would determine the amount, if any, and the compensation would be an expense of the county.

The bill appropriates \$7 million to the Department of State to reimburse the counties for the costs of the bill.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that increasing the State's reimbursement of the payment to election workers by \$100 per day will increase costs to the Division of Elections in the Department of State by approximately \$7.74 million per election depending on the number of hours the poll workers actually work on Election Day and the type of election (i.e. primary, general, or special election). This increase will bring the costs for early voting and election day poll workers from approximately \$18.24 million to \$25.98 million per election.

There is no information available to indicate the number of election workers who work any election despite failing to attend the required training program; thus, a specific estimate of the cost of increasing the compensation from \$50 for any election to an hourly rate of the State minimum wage cannot be made at this time.

The OLS notes that there may be increased costs to counties. However, there is no information available to indicate the number of counties that may provide additional compensation to election workers for attending the required training or for working any election; thus, a specific estimate of the potential cost for the counties cannot be made at this time.

The OLS notes that there may be an increased cost to local boards of education that hold school elections at a time other than the general election because the bill increases the minimum and maximum hourly rate for election workers from \$5.77 and \$14.29, respectively, to the State minimum wage and \$21.43, respectively. The bill also increases the hourly rate for election workers at such school elections who fail to attend the required training from \$3.85 to the State minimum wage. The State minimum wage is currently \$13 per hour and will increase to \$14 per hour on January 1, 2023, and to \$15 per hour on January 1, 2024. There is no information available to indicate what each local board of education compensates election workers currently or what they may compensate election workers following the change in this bill; thus, a specific estimate of the cost cannot be made at this time.

Section: State Government

Analyst: Nicolas Soto
Associate Research Analyst

Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1290

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 21, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1290 (1R).

This bill increases the compensation of election workers from \$200 per day to \$300 per day and appropriates \$7,000,000 to the Department of State.

Under current law, election workers are paid \$200 per day each time the primary election, the general election, or any special election is held. The State reimburses \$125 of the payment to election workers while the counties account for the rest. This bill increases the State's reimbursement to \$225 while keeping the counties sum at \$75.

As amended by the committee, the bill changes the compensation received by an election worker who fails to attend a training program from \$50 to the State minimum wage. The bill changes the lowest hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election from \$5.77 per hour to the State minimum wage. The bill increases the maximum hourly rate for election workers serving at a school election held at a time other than the general election, from \$14.29 under current law to \$21.43 per hour, which is commensurate with the \$300 daily rate for election workers. The bill changes the hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election who fails to attend a training program from \$3.85 per hour to the State minimum wage. The bill permits a county to provide, at its discretion, additional compensation to election workers in such county in an amount determined by the county, and the additional compensation would be an expense of the county.

The bill also permits a county to provide an election worker training program for district board members at the expense of the county. The bill clarifies that the Secretary of State handles election reimbursement matters rather than the Attorney General. Finally, the bill appropriates from the State General Fund to the Department of State the sum of \$7,000,000 to reimburse the counties for the costs of implementing the bill's provisions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that increasing the State's reimbursement of the payment to election workers by \$100 per

day will increase costs to the Division of Elections in the Department of State by approximately \$7.74 million per election depending on the number of hours the poll workers actually work on Election Day and the type of election (i.e. primary, general, or special election).

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Increase Pay for New Jersey's Election Workers

03/25/2022

RENTON – Governor Murphy today signed legislation (A-208) to increase pay for New Jersey's election workers. The bill increases the compensation of election workers from \$200 per day to \$300 per day and appropriates \$7,000,000 to the Department of State.

Under current law, election workers are paid \$200 per day each time the primary election, the general election, or any special election is held. The State reimburses \$125 of the payment to election workers while the counties account for the rest. This bill increases the State's reimbursement to \$225 while keeping the counties' sum at \$75.

"Election workers play a critical role in ensuring that New Jerseyans may exercise their right to vote," **said Governor Murphy**. "I am proud to sign legislation that will repay them for their commitment to ensuring that our elections process remains a model for the nation."

"Compensating election workers fairly is a crucial step toward modernizing our elections," **said Acting Secretary Way**. "Election workers play an integral role in protecting the integrity of elections and upholding our democracy."

The bill also increases the maximum hourly rate for election workers serving at a school election held at a time other than the general election, from \$14.29 to \$21.43 per hour, which is commensurate with the \$300 daily rate for election workers.

Primary sponsors of the bill include Assemblymembers Kevin J. Rooney, Robert J. Karabinchak, and Raj Mukherji, and Senators James Beach and Shirley K. Turner.

"This new law supports County Boards of Elections in recruiting and staffing countless polling places around New Jersey for elections of all sizes and scopes," **said Assemblyman Rooney**. "These election workers sometimes work upwards of 14 hour days and should be paid a fair wage to entice them to step up to this civic duty. They are on the front line ensuring election integrity and voter enfranchisement and this pay increase recognizes that fact."

"Over the past few years, we have seen the important role our election workers have and how stressful the job can be," **said Assemblymembers Karabinchak and Mukherji in a joint statement**. "These workers have been in short supply and we must offer increased pay to assist in filling those roles. We want to ensure that workers are receiving the proper pay for the rigorous work they do. This measure will allow us to hire more poll workers and keep our elections more efficient with no added cost to our counties."

"Our goal is to make voting as accessible as possible and continue to encourage citizens to take a more active role in the voting process. This law will do just that," **said Senator Beach**. "By providing poll workers with fair compensation, we will ease the burden on counties who have found it increasingly difficult to staff polling places."

"It has become increasingly difficult to staff voting locations. While these individuals play an important part in the democratic process they often face long hours and low wages," **said Senator Turner**. "This pay raise will make it easier for counties to hire the personnel they need to ensure residents a quick and easy voting experience."