

19:23-8

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 19:23-8 (Political party committee candidates--reduce required signatures in single election districts)

LAWS 1981 CHAPTER 164

Bill No. A1947

Sponsor(s) Gormley

Date Introduced July 28, 1980

Committee: Assembly State Govt., Federal & Interstate Relations & Veterans Affairs

Senate State Govt., Federal & Interstate Relations & Veterans Affairs

Amended during passage Yes ~~No~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly Nov. 24, 1980

Senate April 27, 1981

Date of approval June 11, 1981

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ~~No~~ (Below)

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes ~~No~~

Senate Yes ~~No~~

Fiscal Note Yes ~~No~~

Veto Message Yes ~~No~~

Message on signing Yes ~~No~~

Following were printed:

Reports Yes ~~No~~

Hearings Yes ~~No~~

Sponsor's statement:

The purpose of this bill is to reduce the primary petition signature requirement in single election district municipalities so that all candidates can receive the required number of signatures. Under the working of the present law, certain situations can occur that make it impossible for a candidate to attain enough signatures.

6/22/81

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ASSEMBLY, No. 1947

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JULY 28, 1980

By Assemblyman GORMLEY

Referred to Committee on State Government, Federal and  
Interstate Relations and Veterans Affairs

AN ACT concerning elections and amending R. S. 19:23-8.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. R. S. 19:23-8 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:23-8. The petitions for candidates to be voted for by the  
3 voters of a political party throughout the entire State shall in  
4 the aggregate be signed by at least 1,000 such voters; in the case  
5 of candidates to be voted for by the voters of a political party  
6 throughout a congressional district by at least 200 of such voters;  
7 in the case of candidates for the Senate and General Assembly  
8 at least 100 such voters; in the case of candidates to be voted for  
9 by the voters of a political party throughout a county or any county  
10 election district, by at least 100 of such voters; in the case of  
11 candidates to be voted for by the voters of a political party  
12 throughout a municipality having a population in excess of 14,000  
13 as ascertained by the last Federal census by at least 50 of such  
14 voters; in the case of candidates to be voted for by the voters of a  
15 political party throughout all other municipalities or any ward  
16 of any municipality by at least 25 of such voters; in the case of a  
17 candidate to be voted for by the voters of a political party within  
18 a single election district by at least 10 of such voters \***[but, the**  
19 *number of signers to any petition need not exceed 5% of the total*  
20 *vote cast by the voters at the last preceding primary election held*  
21 *for the election of that party's candidates to the General As-*  
21A *sembly]\**

22 \***[In municipalities containing but one election district the peti-**  
23 *tions in the aggregate need not be signed by more than 10 of such*  
24 *voters, and the number of signers to any such petition in any case*  
25 *need not exceed 5% in number of the total vote cast by such voters at*

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

26 the last preceding [general] primary election, held for the election  
27 of all [of the members of the] that party's candidates to the  
28 General Assembly, in such municipality, ward or election district,  
29 as the case may be.]\*

30 *\*Notwithstanding the above provisions, in the case of petitions*  
31 *for candidates to be voted for by the voters of a political party*  
32 *throughout any municipality, ward, or election district, the number*  
33 *of signers of any such petition may be fewer than the minimum*  
34 *number specified above but shall be at least 5% in number of the*  
35 *total vote cast by the voters of that political party at the last*  
36 *preceding primary election held for the election of that party's*  
37 *candidates for the General Assembly. In no case, however, shall*  
38 *there be fewer than one signer of any such petition.\**

1 2. This act shall take effect January 1 next following its  
2 enactment.

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ASSEMBLY STATE GOVERNMENT, FEDERAL AND  
INTERSTATE RELATIONS AND VETERANS  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 1947**  
with Assembly committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 10, 1980

This bill reduces the minimum number of signers of petitions for candidates to be voted for by voters of a political party throughout a municipality, ward, or election district. At present, 5% of the total vote cast in the last general election for the members of the General Assembly is the minimum; under this bill, 5% of the total vote cast by the voters of a political party at the last primary election to select candidates for the General Assembly would be the minimum, with at least one signer on a petition required.

The purpose of this bill is to eliminate situations occurring under the present law which make it impossible for a candidate to attain enough signatures.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to eliminate the confusion created by the language of the present law and to express more clearly the changes made by this amendatory bill.

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

JUNE 11, 1981

KATHRYN FORSYTH

Governor Brendan Byrne today signed the following bills:

A-2163, sponsored by Assemblyman Richard Van Wagner (D-Monmouth), which provides a \$75,000 fiscal year 1981 supplemental appropriation for the "Agent Orange Commission," which was established in 1979.

S-1592, sponsored by Senator John Gregorio (Union), which permits the Commissioner of Banking, through regulation, to grant State savings banks the same powers currently possessed by federal mutual savings banks.

A-1947, sponsored by Assemblyman William Gormley (R-Atlantic), which reduces the required number of signers of petitions for minority party candidates in an essentially one-party municipality, ward or election district. It would prevent the technical possibility of the law requiring more signatures than available eligible signers.

Current law generally requires primary candidates in municipalities with populations of more than 14,000 to have 50 signatures. Primary candidates in other municipalities of more than one election district or in any ward of a municipality need 25 signatures. Election district candidates need only ten signatures. In single district municipalities petitions also need only ten signatures.

However, the current law never requires that number of signatures to exceed five percent of the total vote cast in the last general election for members of the Assembly.

Under the bill, instead of five percent of the total vote cast in a general election, a minimum of five percent of the party vote in the preceding primary for members of the Assembly is established. There is a one signature minimum.