

18A:36-27 and 18A:36-28

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 18A:36-27 and 18A:36-28

(Voter registration drives in high schools-provide each student with certain materials)

LAWS OF: 1985

CHAPTER: 41

Bill No: A889

Sponsor(s): Garvin and Naples

Date Introduced: January 30, 1984

Committee: **Assembly:** Education

Senate: Education

Amended during passage: Yes
according to Governor's recommendations

Amendments denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: **Assembly:** May 17, 1984 Re-enacted 1-28-85

Senate: Nov. 19, 1984 Re-enacted 1-31-85

DATE OF APPROVAL: February 7, 1985

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: **Assembly** Yes

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note: Yes

Veto Message: Yes

Message on Signing: Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

2-7-85

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 889

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 1984

By Assemblywoman GARVIN and Assemblyman NAPLES

AN ACT concerning education and citizenship and supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1 1. The board of education of each school district **and the ap-*
 2 *propriate school officials in each nonpublic school** shall provide
 3 a voter registration form and material describing the role of a
 4 citizen and the importance of voting to each **eligible high school**
 5 pupil **[upon graduation from high school]* *in conjunction with*
 6 *the voter registration drive conducted by each county commissioner*
 7 *of registration pursuant to R. S. 19:31-2**. This material shall be
 8 nonpartisan and conform to the provisions of N. J. S. 18A:42-4.

1 2. The Commissioner of Education shall adopt pursuant to the
 2 "Administrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1
 3 et seq.) rules and regulations necessary to implement the pro-
 4 visions of this act.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

**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 printed in italics thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

***—Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recom-
 mendations January 8, 1985.**

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 889

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 25, 1984

PROVISIONS:

This bill requires that each high school senior, upon graduation, shall receive a voter registration form, along with nonpartisan material describing the role of a citizen and the importance of voting. In addition, this bill requires the Commissioner of Education to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the bill.

BACKGROUND:

The lowest rates of voter registration and voting tend to occur among the youngest eligible citizens.

This bill represents an effort to address the problem by providing high school seniors with a voter registration form and nonpartisan material to inform the students of the importance of participating in the decisions of government through voting.

This bill passed the Assembly by a vote of 66-0 on May 17, 1984.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE
STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 889
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 30, 1984

PROVISIONS:

This bill requires that each high school senior, upon graduation, shall receive a voter registration form, along with nonpartisan material describing the role of a citizen and the importance of voting. In addition, this bill requires the Commissioner of Education to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the bill.

BACKGROUND:

The lowest rates of voter registration and voting tend to occur among the youngest eligible citizens.

This bill represents an effort to address the problem by providing high school seniors with a voter registration form and nonpartisan material to inform the students of the importance of participating in the decisions of government through voting.

FISCAL NOTE TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 889

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JULY 20, 1984

Assembly Bill No. 889 of 1984 requires that each school district shall provide a voter registration form and material describing the role of a citizen and the importance of voting to each pupil upon graduation from high school.

The Department of Education comments as follows:

“State law, Title 19, currently requires each County Board of Elections to conduct a high school voter registration program in March of every year. The current cost to the State is 26.4 cents per form, which breaks down to 1.4 cents for printing of the form and 25 cents for the mailing and processing of each registration form. The funds are State funds from general funds allocated to the Department of State, Division of Elections, which currently produces the materials.

This year's high school voter registration is projected at 41,500 (Division of Elections) from a graduating class total of 87,297 students (Management Information Office, D. O. E.). Thus the cost this year, based upon 26.4 cents is \$10,956.00.

The projection for 84-5 is at most 39,000 registrations from a graduating student enrollment of 83,545. This reflects the decline Statewide in student populations. Thus the cost next year, based upon 26.4 cents would be \$10,296.00.

If Assembly Bill No. 889 becomes law, it would not take effect until graduation of 1985. The bill calls for printed material on voter registration as well as the registration form to be given to each pupil upon graduation. The printed sheet would cost roughly one half cent, raising the cost to roughly two cents per person, for 83,545 students, of whom 39,000 would have already been registered in March 1985, leaving 33,545 students unregistered. If printed materials and registration forms are included with each graduation diploma packet, the cost would be approximately \$1,671.00 (83,545 students \times .02 cents). Assuming that 50% of the unregistered students would be added under this bill, perhaps 22,000 more students would be registered, at additional postage and handling costs of 25 cents each, or \$5,500.00. This sum plus the material cost of \$1,671.00 totals \$7,171.00 extra, the cost of registering an additional 22,000 students, which is an optimistic assumption.

We have not calculated into this figure the added time the schools' staffs must spend in inserting the material into the diploma packets."

The Office of Legislative Services concurs with the Department of Education comments.

This Fiscal Note has been prepared pursuant to P. L. 1980, c. 67.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

January 8, 1985

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 889

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the Constitution, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 889 with my objections and recommendations for amendment.

This bill amends the State education statutes to provide that, upon graduation from high school, each student shall receive a voter registration form and nonpartisan material describing the role of a citizen and the importance of exercising the right to vote. The purpose of this legislation is to register more young voters, who historically tend to have the lowest rates of registration and voting.

While I commend the sponsor for her sincere desire to increase voter registration and awareness of the importance of voting to each graduating high school student, I believe that this legislation does not embody the best method for effectuating the intent of this bill. More specifically, this legislation requires a voter registration drive which is duplicative of other efforts and would therefore fail in its purpose of registering newly enfranchised citizens.

Under current law, county commissioners of registration are required to arrange for and conduct a registration for eligible students in all public and nonpublic high schools in March of each year. School officials are mandated to cooperate with these registration efforts. At these drives, qualified personnel are available to provide information and to answer student questions about registration. This bill would approach these same students approximately three months later and provide them with voter registration forms and other pertinent material without the benefit of personal advice or information. Furthermore, the current statute applies to both public and nonpublic high schools while this legislation applies only to public schools.

I strongly believe that the purpose of this bill, which is a laudable one, could better be effectuated by combining its provisions with the current election law requiring the March voter registration drive in all high schools. Therefore, I am recommending that school officials, in addition to any duties required under current law, shall provide a voter registration form and material describing the role of a citizen and the importance of voting to each eligible pupil in conjunction with the annual voter registration drive conducted in the

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

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schools by the county commissioner of registration. I am also suggesting language extending the application of this bill to eligible nonpublic school students.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 889 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 1, Section 1, line 1:

After "district" insert "and the appropriate school officials in each nonpublic school".

Page 1, Section 1, line 3:

After "each" insert "eligible high school".

Page 1, Section 1, lines 3-4:

After "pupil" delete "upon graduation from high school" and insert "in conjunction with the voter registration drive conducted by each county commissioner of registration pursuant to N.J.S. 19:31-2".

Respectfully,

/s/ Thomas H. Kean

GOVERNOR

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ W. Cary Edwards

Chief Counsel

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001

Contact: CARL GOEDEN
609-292-8956

TRENTON, N.J. 08625

Release: THURS., FEB. 7, 1985

Governor Thomas H. Kean today signed legislation granting a five-week extension in the deadlines for the submission of county and municipal budgets.

The legislation, A-3004, was sponsored by Assemblyman Thomas Paterniti, D-Middlesex. Under the bill, county budgets must be introduced and approved by March 1, while municipal budgets will be under a March 15 deadline.

Municipalities under the Faulkner Act form of government must submit their budgets by February 15.

The extension is necessary because final figures for gross receipts and franchise tax distribution to counties and municipalities are not yet available.

Kean also signed the following bills:

S-2444, sponsored by Senator Daniel Dalton, D-Camden, to make a special \$75,000 supplemental State aid appropriation to the Borough of Chesilhurst, Camden County.

A-1245, sponsored by Assemblyman Byron Baer, D-Bergen, which requires landlords to deposit tenants' security money in a money market fund, rather than in a bank interest bearing account. Kean had conditionally vetoed the bill on December 13, 1984, and it was reenacted by the Legislature with the Governor's proposed amendments.

A-889, sponsored by Assemblywoman Mildred Garvin, D-Essex, which requires officials in public and non-public schools to provide a voter registration form and other civic materials to students during annual voter registration drives in March. Kean had conditionally vetoed the bill on January 8, 1985, and it was reenacted with the Governor's recommendations.

“ “ “

ASSEMBLY, No. 889

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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2 "Administrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1
3 et seq.) rules and regulations necessary to implement the pro-
4 visions of this act.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

Our democratic system of government derives its authority and receives its strength from the active consent of the governed. Informed participation in the electoral process is the cornerstone of the system and the central mechanism by which the wisdom, values and aspirations of the people are translated into the actions of their government.

Regrettably, our youngest eligible citizens tend to have the lowest rates of registration and voting. This failure to exercise their right deprives them of the fullest measure of representation and

weakens the fiber of our democracy. We are wisest and strongest when our government reflects the views of all the people.

This bill provides that in addition to a high school diploma, each high school graduate will receive a voter registration form and nonpartisan material which discusses the importance of exercising one's right to vote.
