

18A:14-50 et al

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 18A:14-50 et al; 19:31A-7

(School elections—require voters to sign names on separate poll list)

LAWS OF: 1982

CHAPTER: 118

Bill No.: SL395

Sponsor(s): Saxton & Costello

Date Introduced: May 17, 1982

Committee: Assembly: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amended during passage Yes // Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly: Aug. 5, 1982

Senate: July 12, 1982

Date of Approval: Aug. 25, 1982

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes //

Committee statement: Assembly /// No

Senate Yes //

Fiscal Note: /// No

Veto Message: /// No

Message on Signing: Yes //

Following were printed:

Reports: /// No

Hearings: /// No

Do Not Remove From Library  
DEPOSITORY COPY

OCT 1982

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

**SENATE, No. 1395****STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED MAY 17, 1982

By Senators SAXTON and COSTELLO

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

AN ACT concerning school elections and amending sections  
18A:14-50, 18A:14-51, 18A:14-53, 18A:14-54, 18A:14-61,  
and 18A:14-62 of the New Jersey Statutes and P. L. 1944, c. 230.

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

1 1. N. J. S. 18A:14-50 is amended to read as follows:

2 18A:14-50. The voter shall, previous to the receipt of an official  
3 ballot, sign his name without assistance **[in the signature compari-**  
4 **son record column of the signature copy register]** and state his  
5 address *in an appropriate column of the poll list and the election*  
6 *officer in charge of the poll list shall record therein, opposite the*  
7 *voter's name, the number of the official ballot furnished to the*  
8 *voter for voting.*

1 2. N. J. S. 18A:14-51 is amended to read as follows:

2 18A:14-51. After the voter shall have so signed and before an  
3 official ballot shall be given to him, one of the election officers shall  
4 compare the signature made in the **[signature comparison record]**  
5 *poll list* with the signature theretofore made by the voter in the  
6 signature copy register, and if the signature thus written in the  
7 **[signature comparison record]** *poll list* is the same or sufficiently  
8 similar to the signature in the signature copy register, the voter  
9 shall be eligible to receive a ballot.

1 3. N. J. S. 18A:14-53 is amended to read as follows:

2 18A:14-53. In all school districts using paper ballots after the  
3 election officers shall have ascertained that a voter is properly

**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:**

**\*—Senate committee amendment adopted June 28, 1982.**

4 registered and qualified to vote, the election officers shall furnish  
 5 to the voter **the** *one* official ballot **bearing** the lowest number of  
 6 those not yet used or spoiled, and shall thereupon record the  
 7 number of said ballot in the proper column on the record of voting  
 8 form of such voter in the signature copy register. Such number  
 9 shall constitute a record that such person has voted said ballot  
 10 *numbered to correspond with the number entered opposite the*  
 11 *voter's name in the poll list, allowing for spoiled ballots, if any.*

12 No ballot shall be handed to a voter until there is a booth ready  
 13 for occupancy *and until the voter shall have signed the poll list.*  
 14 The election officers shall not allow a voter to mark his ballot out-  
 15 side of an election booth unless the voter is unable to enter the  
 16 booth by reason of his physical disability.

17 The election officers shall instruct the voter how to fold the ballot  
 18 and shall crease the ballot so as to indicate the point where the  
 19 voter shall fold the ballot, but before handing the ballot to the voter  
 20 the election officers shall see that the face of the ballot including  
 21 the coupon is exposed, and at the same time shall call off the ballot  
 22 number to the official having charge of the **signature copy reg-**  
 23 **ister** *poll list*, who shall make certain that the ballot number and  
 24 number entered opposite agree, allowing for spoiled ballots, if any.

25 If the number of the ballot does not follow consecutively the  
 26 missing number or numbers shall be written on a blank sheet of  
 27 paper signed by the election officers and placed on the string with  
 28 the coupons in its or their proper place or places.

29 Every voter to whom a ballot is given shall thereupon retire into  
 30 the polling booth. Not more than one voter shall be permitted to  
 31 enter or be in the same booth at one time. The voter shall prepare  
 32 his ballot in the booth secretly and screened from the observation  
 33 of others.

34 Any person or voter who shall intentionally violate the pro-  
 35 visions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and  
 36 shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500.00, or by imprison-  
 37 ment not exceeding 1 year or both at the discretion of the court.

1 4. N. J. S. 18A :14-54 is amended to read as follows :

2 18A :14-54. Should any voter to whom any paper ballot has been  
 3 handed spoil or render it unfit for use, he may return it and obtain  
 4 another from the election officer but no more than two ballots shall  
 5 be furnished to any voter except at the discretion of the election  
 6 officer. The election officer shall preserve all spoiled or unfit ballots  
 7 with the coupons attached and after proper correction has been  
 8 made in the **signature copy register** *poll list*, the same shall be  
 9 placed upon the same string with the coupons.

1 5. N. J. S. 18A :14-61 is amended to read as follows :

2 18A :14-61. The tally sheets, *poll lists* and ballots shall be placed  
 3 by the inspector of the election at each polling place in a sealed  
 4 package endorsed with the address of the polling place and the  
 5 date on which the election was held and the judge of the election  
 6 shall deliver the same immediately to the secretary of the board  
 7 of education of the district, together with a statement of the result  
 8 of the election signed by all of the election officers. The secretary  
 9 of the board of education shall add to the statements the result of  
 10 the canvass of the military service and civilian absentee ballots as  
 11 certified to him by the county board of election and shall thereupon  
 12 canvass the entire vote in the school district and combine the re-  
 13 ports from all polling places and announce the result of the elec-  
 14 tion. The secretary shall fill out and certify to the correctness of  
 15 the count upon any statement which may be required by one or  
 16 more school officials as provided for in this chapter.

1 6. N. J. S. 18A :14-62 is amended to read as follows :

2 18A :14-62. The secretary of the board of education shall, within  
 3 5 days after the date of the election, forward a sealed package  
 4 containing a statement of the canvass of the votes in the school  
 5 district, the ballots, including the irregular ballots, *the poll lists*  
 6 and the tally sheets to the county superintendent who shall preserve  
 7 them for 1 year.

8 All poll lists forwarded to the county superintendent under this  
 9 section shall be made available for public inspection during the  
 10 year in which they are to be preserved.

1 7. Section 1 of P. L. 1944, c. 230 (C. 19:31A-7) is amended to  
 2 read as follows :

3 1. The commissioner of registration shall have printed on the  
 4 back of the duplicate permanent registration and voting form a  
 5 signature comparison record, which record shall have in the left-  
 6 hand side one-half inch from the top, a line upon which the voter  
 7 when registering shall place his signature. Directly underneath  
 8 this line shall be printed the words "sample signature."

9 The signature comparison record shall be printed so as to leave  
 10 a margin one and one-half inches on the left-hand side for the  
 11 purpose of binding. The remainder of the space shall be ruled [in  
 12 accordance with specifications prepared by the Office of the  
 13 Secretary of State] to provide a record of registrants' signatures  
 14 as made for comparison purposes before receiving a ballot at any  
 15 election. The form shall be sufficient to record [such] signatures  
 16 for a period of [up to] 20 years and shall be subdivided into  
 17 [nine] *seven* columns.

18 At the top of the first column at the left-hand side shall appear  
 19 the word "year." [In this column, at the time the voter places his  
 20 signature when voting in any election, the district election official  
 21 shall record the year which corresponds with the year during  
 22 which said election is being held.] *This column shall be approxi-*  
 23 *mately three quarters of an inch wide.*

24 At the top of the second column shall appear the abbreviation  
 25 for the words "signature compared by." In this column the district  
 26 election board official shall place his initials certifying that he has  
 27 compared the signature of the voter placed in third column with  
 28 the sample signature at the top of the signature comparison record.  
 29 *This column shall be approximately one-half inch in width.*

30 At the top of the third column shall appear the word "primary."  
 31 Upon the line in [said] *this* column opposite the particular year  
 32 the voter shall place his signature when voting in the primary  
 33 election for the general election in the year as stated in the first  
 34 column. *This column shall be approximately three and one-fourth*  
 35 *inches wide.*

36 At the top of the fourth column shall appear the abbreviation of  
 37 the words "signature compared by." In this column the district  
 38 election board official shall place his initials certifying that he has  
 39 compared the signature of voter placed in the fifth column, with the  
 40 sample signature at the top of the signature comparison record.  
 41 *This column shall be approximately one-half inch in width.*

42 At the top of the fifth column shall appear the word "general."  
 43 Upon the line in said column opposite the particular year the voter  
 44 shall place his signature when voting in the general election in the  
 45 year as stated in the first column. *This column shall be approxi-*  
 46 *mately three and one-fourth inches wide.*

47 At the top of the sixth column shall appear the abbreviation of  
 48 the words "signature compared by." In this column the district  
 49 election board official shall place his initials certifying that he has  
 50 compared the signature of voter placed in the seventh column,  
 51 with the sample signature at the top of the signature comparison  
 52 record. *This column shall be approximately one-half inch in width.*

53 [At the top of the seventh column shall appear the word  
 54 "school." Upon the line in said column opposite the particular year  
 55 the voter shall place his signature when voting in the annual school  
 56 election in the year as stated in the first column.

57 At the top of the eighth column shall appear the abbreviation of  
 58 the words "signature compared by." In this column the district  
 59 election board official shall place his initials certifying that he has  
 60 compared the signature of voter placed in the ninth column, with

61 the sample signature at the top of the signature comparison  
62 record.】

63 At the top of the 【ninth】 *seventh* column shall appear the words  
64 “any other election.” Upon the line in 【said】 *this* column opposite  
65 the particular year the voter shall place his signature when voting  
66 in any election other than a primary election for a general election  
67 or a general election. The signature shall be placed on the line  
68 opposite the year stated in the first column which corresponds with  
69 the year during which such other election shall be held. *This*  
70 *column shall be three and one-fourth inches wide.*

71 At the time the voter registers in addition to obtaining the signa-  
72 ture on the original and duplicate registration forms the commis-  
73 sioner of registration shall also require the registrant to sign the  
74 signature comparison record on the back of the duplicate registra-  
75 tion form above the line below which are the words “sample  
76 signature.”

77 The signature comparison record shall be in *substantially* the  
78 *following* form 【specified by the Office of the Secretary of State】:

SIGNATURE COMPARISON RECORD						
SAMPLE SIGNATURE						
YEAR	SIG. COMP. BY	PRIMARY	SIG. COMP. BY	GENERAL	SIG. COMP. BY	ANY OTHER ELECTIONS
1941						
1942						
1943						
1944						
1945						
1946						
1947						
1948						
1949						
1950						
1951						
1952						

1 8. This act shall take effect \*【January 1 next following enact-  
2 ment】\* *immediately*.

61 the sample signature at the top of the signature comparison  
62 record.]

63 At the top of the [ninth] seventh column shall appear the words  
64 "any other election." Upon the line in [said] this column opposite  
65 the particular year the voter shall place his signature when voting  
66 in any election other than a primary election for a general election  
67 or a general election. The signature shall be placed on the line  
68 opposite the year stated in the first column which corresponds with  
69 the year during which such other election shall be held. This  
70 column shall be three and one-fourth inches wide.

71 At the time the voter registers in addition to obtaining the signa-  
72 ture on the original and duplicate registration forms the commis-  
73 sioner of registration shall also require the registrant to sign the  
74 signature comparison record on the back of the duplicate registra-  
75 tion form above the line below which are the words "sample  
76 signature."

77 The signature comparison record shall be in substantially the  
78 following form [specified by the Office of the Secretary of State]:

SIGNATURE COMPARISON RECORD						
SAMPLE SIGNATURE						
YEAR	SIG. COMP. BY	PRIMARY	SIG. COMP. BY	GENERAL	SIG. COMP. BY	ANY OTHER ELECTIONS
1941						
1942						
1943						
1944						
1945						
1946						
1947						
1948						
1949						
1950						
1951						
1952						

1 8. This act shall take effect January 1 next following enactment.

STATEMENT

The purpose of this bill is to require that voters in all school elections sign their names on a separate poll list rather than in the signature copy register. It reverses the effect of P. L. 1981, c. 434, that mandated the use of the register instead of the traditional poll list.

S 1395 (1982)

**SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, FEDERAL AND  
INTERSTATE RELATIONS AND VETERANS  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1395**

with Senate committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 24, 1982

According to the sponsor's statement, "the purpose of this bill is to require that voters in all school elections sign their names on a separate poll list rather than in the signature copy register. It reverses the effect of P. L. 1981, c. 434, that mandated the use of the register instead of the traditional poll list."

The bill was amended so that it would take effect immediately.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: KATHERINE BROKAW

AUGUST 26, 1982

Governor Thomas H. Kean has signed a bill requiring that voters in school board elections sign a separate poll list rather than in the signature copy register.

S-1395, sponsored by State Senator James Saxton (R-Burlington), repeals P.L. 1981, c. 434, which required use of the register. The current bill is designed to return to the old system and prevent an expensive changeover in counties' inventories of materials for record-keeping.

# # # # #