

19:14-2.)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 19:14-2.1 (Primaries--write ins--require 25 votes to qualify for nomination)

LAWS 1981 CHAPTER 264

Bill No. S1623

Sponsor(s) Rodgers and others

Date Introduced Nov. 24, 1980

Committee: Assembly County Government

Senate County and Municipal Government

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

Date of Passage: Assembly June 25, 1981

Senate Feb. 9, 1981

Date of approval Aug. 14, 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

Sponsors' statement:

This bill requires at least 25 votes cast by irregular ballot or write-in vote at a primary to nominate candidates for municipal office at a general election.

6/22/81

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SENATE, No. 1623**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 24, 1980

By Senators RODGERS, SKEVIN, HERBERT, GALDIERI, SHEIL,
SCARDINO and MUSTO

Referred to Committee on County and Municipal Government

AN ACT concerning nominations for ***[municipal]*** **elective**
office by irregular ballot or write-in votes and supplementing
Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1 1. The name of a person for whom votes are cast by irregular
2 ballot or by write-in vote in a primary election to nominate candi-
3 dates for ***[municipal]*** **elective** office shall not be included on
4 the ballot at the general election unless he received ***[at least 25**
5 votes by]* **a number of** irregular ballots or write-in votes for
6 that office at the primary election **at least equal to the number of*
7 *signatures required on a petition to place upon the primary elec-*
8 *tion ballot the name of a candidate for that office, pursuant to R. S.*
9 *19:23-8*.*

1 2. 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.**

ASSEMBLY COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1623

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 1981

Senate Bill No. 1623 would establish a minimum number of write-in votes, or votes cast by irregular ballot, a candidate must receive in a primary election in order to secure a place on the ballot for the following general election.

Under the provisions of the bill, a candidate receiving write-in votes, or votes cast by irregular ballot, in a primary election would not be included on the ballot for the following general election unless he received at least the same number of write-in votes, or votes by irregular ballot, as the required number of petition signatures needed to secure a place on the primary ballot pursuant to the provisions of R. S. 19:23-8.

A candidate, therefore, would have to receive the following number of write-in votes, or votes cast by irregular ballot, to be assured of a position on the ballot for the following general election:

(1) For Statewide office, a total of at least 1,000 write-in votes, or votes cast by irregular ballot;

(2) For congressional districts, a total of at least 200 write-in votes, or votes cast by irregular ballot;

(3) For county offices, a total of at least 100 write-in votes, or votes cast by irregular ballot;

(4) For municipal offices in municipalities with populations of more than 14,000, a total of at least 50 write-in votes, or votes cast by irregular ballot;

(5) For municipal offices in other municipalities and for municipal ward offices, a total of at least 25 write-in votes, or votes cast by irregular ballot; and,

(6) For offices within a single election district, a total of at least 10 write-in votes, or votes cast by irregular ballot.

SENATE COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1623

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 29, 1981

Senate Bill 1623, as amended by the committee, would require a minimum number of votes cast by irregular ballot or by write-in vote in a primary election to nominate a candidate for elective office at the general election. The candidate receiving irregular ballot or write-in votes would be required to receive a number of such votes at the primary at least equal to the number of signatures required on a petition to place upon the primary election ballot the name of a candidate for the office pursuant to R. S. 19:23-8. The committee amendments, made at the request of the sponsor, are designed to apply the bill's provisions to all county, municipal and State elections, and not just to municipal elections.

R. S. 19:23-8 requires as a minimum: for Statewide offices that the petition be signed by 1,000 voters; for congressional districts that the petition be signed by 200 voters; for county offices that the petition be signed by 100 voters; for municipal offices in municipalities having a population over 14,000 that the petition be signed by 50 voters; for municipal offices in other municipalities and for municipal ward offices that the petition be signed by 25 voters; and for offices within a single election district that the petition be signed by 10 voters.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

AUGUST 14, 1981

KATHRYN FORSYTH

Governor Brendan Byrne today signed the following bills:

S-1249, sponsored by Senator Carmen A. Orechio (D-Essex), increasing from \$1.05 million to \$1.25 million the ceiling on spending by election officials in counties of the first class --- Bergen, Essex and Hudson counties.

The \$200,000 budget ceiling increase, the first since 1976, will help county election officers, commissioners of registration, and custodians of voting machines meet rising costs.

S-1623, sponsored by Senator Francis E. Rodgers (D-Hudson), amending ~~the primary election law to require write-in nominees for elective office to~~ be nominated with at least the same number of votes as signatures required for primary nominating petitions.

The bill would end the predominantly municipal practice of placing on ~~a primary ballot the name of a candidate who had received only a handful of write-in-votes --~~ often only the votes of friends, family or neighbors.

In the event a candidate from either major party does not reach the vote threshold, the county committee would select the nominee.

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