

18A:14-50 et al

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

(School elections-- require voters to sign signature copy register)

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

LAWS 1981

CHAPTER 434

Bill No. A-57

Sponsor(s) Flynn

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Education

Senate Revenue, Fiance & Appropriations

Amended during passage XXX No

Date of Passage: Assembly Sept 29, 1980

Senate Jan 7, 1982

Date of approval Jan 9, 1982

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes XX

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes XX

Senate Yes XX

Fiscal Note XXX No

Veto Message XXX No

Message on signing yes XXX XX

Following were printed:

Reports XXX No

Hearings XXX No

Sponsor's statement

This bill requires that voters in all school elections sign their names in the Signature Copy Register rather than on a separate poll list. It would provide a permanent record of those participating in these elections.

COMMITTEE REPORT
ASSEMBLY
JAN 10 1982

ASSEMBLY, No. 57

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1980 SESSION

By Assemblyman FLYNN

AN ACT concerning school elections, amending and supplementing P. L. 1944, c. 230, 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.

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 comparison*
4 *record column of the signature copy register* and state his ad-
5 dress **[**, 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 **[**poll list **]** *signature compari-*
5 *son record* with the signature theretofore made by the voter in the
6 signature copy register, and if the signature thus written in the
7 **[**poll list **]** *signature comparison record* 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
4 registered and qualified to vote, the election officers shall furnish
5 to the voter **[**one **]** *the* official ballot **[**numbered to correspond with

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

6 the number entered opposite the voters name in the poll list, allow-
7 ing for spoiled ballots, if any. **]** *bearing the lowest number of those*
8 *not yet used or spoiled, and shall thereupon record the number*
9 *of said ballot in the proper column on the record of voting form of*
10 *such voter in the signature copy register. Such number shall con-*
11 *stitute a record that such person has voted said ballot.*

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 **[**poll list,**]** *signature*
23 *copy register*, 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 **[**poll list,**]** *signature copy register*, 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 list] and ballots shall be
3 placed by the inspector of the election at each polling place in a
4 sealed package endorsed with the address of the polling place and
5 the date on which the election was held and the judge of the elec-
6 tion 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 for
16 a period of *up to* 20 years and shall be subdivided into [seven]
17 *nine* columns.

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

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 [Said 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 column opposite the particular year the voter
32 shall place his signature when voting in the primary election for
33 the general election in the year as stated in the first column. [This
34 column shall be approximately three and one-fourth inches wide.]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

75 The signature comparison record shall be in [substantially] the
 76 [following] form[.]:

SIGNATURE COMPARISON RECORD						
YEAR	SAMPLE SIGNATURE					
	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						

77 *specified by the Office of the Secretary of State.*

1 8. (New section) Within 60 days following enactment of this act
 2 the Office of the Secretary of State shall prepare specifications for
 3 the permanent registration forms necessary for the implementation
 4 of this act.

1 9. This act shall take effect 6 months following enactment;
 2 provided, however, that any permanent registration form then in
 3 use may continue to be used until such time as the space available
 4 thereon is exhausted.

STATEMENT

This bill requires that voters in all school elections sign their names in the Signature Copy Register, rather than on a separate poll list. It would provide a permanent record of those participating in these elections.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 57

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 30, 1980

PROVISIONS:

Assembly Bill No. 57 requires that all voters sign their names to the signature copy register, rather than on a separate poll list. In addition, it permits all currently published signature copy registers to be used before municipalities are required to purchase new copies with the format that includes a column for school elections.

BACKGROUND:

The signature copy register is the standard administrative vehicle for ensuring that individuals have only voted once. In school elections voters are not required to sign a signature copy register. They only sign their names on a list that is of no use in cross checking the names of individuals voting in school elections.

The signature copy register is also used by candidates to compile a list of individuals that have voted in previous elections. Currently, all candidates for public office except school board candidates have the opportunity to develop such a list of prospective voters. By using the signature copy register in school elections two objectives will be achieved:

1. Security of the school elections will be enhanced; and
2. The creation of a list of prospective voters for school elections will increase the opportunities for better communication between the voters and the candidates.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

In order for the signature copy register to be used in school elections the format of the signature copy register must be changed. Assembly Bill No. 57 permits a phase-in of the new signature copy register. Municipalities will not have to buy the signature copy register with the new format until their current supply of registers has been used. Therefore, this bill will not have any significant fiscal impact.

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SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 57

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 17, 1981

Assembly Bill No. 57 provides that voters in school elections sign their names in the signature copy register, rather than on a separate poll list.

The bill specifies what is to be included on the signature comparison record column headings but leaves over-all formatting to the Secretary of State.

Effective 6 months following enactment, the bill further provides that permanent registration forms then in use may continue to be used until they are used up and replacement forms required.

A fiscal note worksheet indicates that any cost to the State would be the minimal staff time required to develop the forms, and any county costs might be in the discarding of old forms and acquisition of the new.

JANUARY 11, 1982

S-741, sponsored by Senator Joseph DiStefano (D-Passaic), increasing the benefits payable to paraplegic and hemiplegic veterans under the current law providing special pensions to disabled veterans, and extending those benefits to Vietnam-era paraplegic and hemiplegic veterans.

Under the bill, the benefits are raised from \$500.00 per year to \$750.00 per year. An estimated 20 to 30 Vietnam-era veterans are expected to become eligible for the program which already provides benefits to 340 disabled veterans. The act takes effect immediately.

A-57, sponsored by Assemblyman William Flynn (D-Middlesex), will enhance the voting security of school board elections by requiring voters to sign a "signature book", the procedure followed in regular elections. Currently, voters in school board elections sign "poll lists" which are not organized to permit cross-checking of voters' names.

A-3499, sponsored by Assemblyman Dennis L. Riley (D-Camden), extending the provisions of the "Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Protected Tenancy Act of 1981" to qualified tenants of mobile home parks. The Tenancy Act gives qualified seniors and disabled tenants the right to remain in their dwellings for up to 40 years after conversion to a condominium or cooperative.

A-2343, sponsored by Assemblyman John Paul Doyle (D-Ocean), allowing counties and municipalities to transfer unneeded property to a sewerage authority or to an organization which educates, or provides treatment to, persons afflicted with developmental disabilities. These provisions are amendments to a current statute which permits unneeded public property to be used for worthy charitable purposes.

A-1213, sponsored by Assemblyman Christopher Jackman (D-Hudson), permitting local governments to continue premiums on benefits provided to survivors and dependents of retired employees. At present, dependents of retired employees enjoy benefits only as long as the retired employee is alive.