

19:50-3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

(Blind or disabled voters--
choice of person to provide
assistance)

NJSA 19:50-3

LAWS OF 1977

CHAPTER 304

Bill No. S1630

Sponsor(s) Dodd, McGahn

Date Introduced August 12, 1976

Committee: Assembly State Gov't, Federal & Interstate Relations & Veterans Affairs
Senate State Gov't, Federal & Interstate Relations & Veterans Affairs

Amended during passage ~~Yes~~ No

Date of Passage: Assembly Dec. 1, 1977

Senate May 23, 1977

Date of approval Dec. 27, 1977

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ~~Yes~~ (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:

This bill would permit any disabled voter, who requires assistance in the polling booth, to choose his own assistant, rather than be compelled to accept the help of members of the district board of elections. Under existing law, this alternative means of assistance is open only to blind voters.

EJ

(over)

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SENATE, No. 1630

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED AUGUST 12, 1976

By Senators DODD and McGAHN

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

AN ACT concerning elections, and amending R. S. 19:50-3.

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

1 1. R. S. 19:50-3 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:50-3. For instructing the voters on any election day there
3 shall, so far as practicable, be provided by the county board of
4 elections or the superintendent of elections or the municipal clerk,
5 as the case may be, having custody of voting machines, for each
6 polling place a mechanically operated model of a portion of the
7 face of the machine. Such model, if furnished, shall, during the
8 election, be located on the district election officers' table or in some
9 other place which the voters must pass to reach the machine, and
10 each voter shall, before entering the voting machine booth, be
11 instructed regarding the operation of the machine and such instruc-
12 tion illustrated on the model, and the voter given opportunity to
13 personally operate the model. The voter's attention shall also be
14 called to the diagram of the face of the machine so that the voter
15 can become familiar with the location of the questions and the
16 names of the officers and candidates. If any voter, before entering
17 the voting machine booth, declares under oath, and establishes
18 to the satisfaction of a majority of all the members of the district
19 board that by reason of blindness or other physical disability he
20 is unable to cast his vote without assistance, he shall have the
21 assistance of two members of the board of opposite political faith,
22 to be assigned by the board. Such members shall retire with such
23 voter to the booth and assist him. The member acting as clerk of
24 the district board shall make an entry on a disability certificate for
25 assistance, which entry shall be on the form of an oath inserted in
26 the front of the duplicate registry binders at each election.

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

27 In every instance when such oath is administered to a voter as
28 herein provided, it shall state briefly what facts were sworn to and
29 the names of the members of the board who aided such voter shall
30 be signed on the form. Any members of the district board shall
31 be eligible to assist any such voter, but no other person except as
32 hereinafter provided shall be allowed to assist him. No member
33 of the board shall reveal the name of any person for whom such
34 voter has voted, or anything that took place while he was being
35 assisted.

36 **[The]** *Such blind or disabled voter* **[, if blind,]** may, in lieu of the
37 assistance of the board as above provided, have assistance of some
38 person of his own selection. Such person shall retire with such
39 voter to the booth and assist him in voting. The name and address
40 of such person shall be recorded as above. In such case, no other
41 person than the one so selected by the voter shall be allowed to
42 assist such voter. No person so selected shall reveal the name of
43 any person for whom such voter has voted or anything that took
44 place while he was being assisted.

45 The disability certificates shall be numbered serially 1 to 20. The
46 commissioner of registration shall furnish sufficient disability
47 certificates for assistance for each election district in his county
48 which shall be inserted in the front of the duplicate registry binders.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would permit any disabled voter, who requires assistance in the polling booth, to choose his own assistant, rather than be compelled to accept the help of members of the district board of elections. Under existing law, this alternative means of assistance is open only to blind voters.