

19:31-6.5

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 19:31-6.5 (Mail registration forms-photocopies)

Laws of 1976 Chapter 49

Bill No. S1070

Sponsor(s) Merlino

Date Introduced February 3, 1976

Committee: Assembly State Government

Senate State Government & Federal & Interstate Relations

Amended during passage Yes No

Date of passage: Assembly May 27, 1976

Senate May 3, 1976

Date of approval July 19, 1976

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes No

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes No

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note Yes No

Veto message Yes No

Message on signing Yes

Following were printed:

Reports Yes No

Hearings Yes No

974.90
E38
1975b

Not covered in:
NJ Election Law Revision Commission.
The New Jersey Election Law Revision. Trenton,
1975.
2v.

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10/4/76
SEP 1977

SENATE, No. 1070

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 1976

By Senator MERLINO

Referred to Committee on State Government and Federal and
Interstate Relations

AN ACT relating to the duties of commissioners of registration with
respect to voter registration forms, and amending P. L. 1974,
c. 30.

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

1 1. Section 17 of P. L. 1974, c. 30 (C. 19:31-6.5) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 17. a. Upon receipt of any completed registration form, the
4 commissioner of registration in counties having a superintendent
5 of elections, and the members of the county board in all other coun-
6 ties, shall review it, and if it is found to be in order, shall:

7 (1) Send to the registrant written notification that such regis-
8 trant is duly registered to vote. On the face of such notification in
9 the upper left-hand corner shall be printed the words: "Do Not
10 Forward. Return Postage Guaranteed. If not delivered in 2 days,
11 return to the 'Superintendent of Elections'" in counties having
12 a superintendent of elections and to the "Commissioner of Regis-
13 tration" in all other counties.

14 (2) Paste or tape the completed registration form onto an
15 original permanent registration form, and shall paste or tape a
16 copy of such completed registration form onto a duplicate per-
17 manent registration form, both of which shall be filed as provided
18 in R. S. 19:31-10. *Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude any*
19 *commissioner of registration from transferring by photocopy an*
20 *image of the mail registration form to the original and duplicate*
21 *permanent registration forms and keeping the original mail reg-*
22 *istration form on file.*

23 (3) In the case of a registrant currently registered in another
24 county of this State, notify the commissioner of registration of such

25 other county to delete such registrant's name from the list of per-
26 sons registered in such other county.

27 b. The commissioner in counties having a superintendent of
28 elections, and the members of the county board in all other coun-
29 ties, shall notify a registrant of the reasons for any refusal to
30 approve his registration.

31 c. If the registration form has been signed by someone other
32 than the registrant, any additional information required on the
33 original and duplicate permanent registration form shall be
34 obtained by the district board or the commissioner of registration
35 at the first election at which the registrant shall appear or apply
36 to vote.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would allow counties to use photocopies of mail registration forms rather than paste in a second form on the registration sheet. Many counties would rather photocopy the data onto the original and duplicate sheets as an economy measure.

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

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 1070

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 26, 1976

This bill amends Title 19 (C. 19:31-6.5) so that county commissioners of registration or members of county boards of election may utilize photocopy equipment to transfer mail registration forms to the permanent original and duplicate registration forms. Pursuant to R. S. 19:31-10 the permanent and duplicate original registration forms are each filed separately. Note that the bill is permissive, not mandatory, with respect to this option. The Elections Section of the Department of State does not object to the bill. It is supported by the county election officials.

JULY 19, 1976

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECK CAMPBELL

Governor Brendan Byrne today signed into law a bill designed to further open the electoral process by permitting the use of photocopies of mail voter registration forms.

The measure, S-1070, sponsored by Senator Joseph P. Marlino, D-Mercer, allows county superintendents of elections and boards of election to use the photocopies instead of pasting or taping the mail registration forms onto registration sheets,

Byrne said a major aspect of the bill is that it will enable newspapers to print the mail registration forms.

He explained that state election laws require that voter registration records must last at least 20 years and that newsprint would deteriorate before then.

"In the past, some newspapers have expressed interest in printing the mail registration forms as a public service," said the Governor. "This new law will make it possible for newspapers, if they so desire, to provide this added service toward the goal of full public participation in the electoral process."

He also pointed out that election officials consider the use of photocopies to be more efficient and economical than pasting or taping.

Byrne said the printing of voter registration forms in newspapers would be an important element in opening up the political process to all citizens.

He pointed to the success of the Dial-to-Vote program, which is scheduled to resume in mid-August. He said more than 15,000 persons were registered by use of the telephone prior to the recent primary election.

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