

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 19:6-1 et al.

Laws of 1974 Chapter 30

Bill No. S 890

Sponsor(s) Merlino & others

Date Introduced February 15

Committee: Assembly State Govt. & Fed. & Interstate Relations

Senate Judiciary

Amended during passage Yes ~~NO~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of passage: Assembly May 13

Senate April 29

Date of approval May 28

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ~~NO~~

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~~

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SENATE, No. 890

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 1974

By Senators MERLINO, HIRKALA, MARTINDELL, RUSSO,
BEDELL, AMMOND and LIPMAN

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT concerning voter registration, amending R. S. *19:6-1,*
19:14-21, *19:14-25,* 19:31-2, 19:31-3, 19:31-5, 19:31-6,
19:31-7, 19:31-11, 19:31-13, 19:31-18, **[*19:39-4,*]**
19:49-4, P. L. 1966, c. 177, section 1 and P. L. 1947, c. 347,
section 2 and supplementing chapter 31 of Title 19 of the Re-
vised Statutes.

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

1 *1. R. S. 19:6-1 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:6-1. *The district boards in each election district shall consist*
3 *of four members, who shall be appointed by the county board of the*
4 *county in which such election district is located, in the manner here-*
5 *inafter provided.*

6 *In election districts in which the primary language of 10%*
7 *or more of the registered voters is Spanish, the county board shall*
8 *appoint two additional members who shall be of Hispanic origin*
9 *and fluent in Spanish.**

1 *[*1.]* *2.* R. S. 19:14-21 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:14-21. *The county clerk shall cause samples of the official*
3 *general election ballot to be printed *in English, but for each elec-*
3A *tion district within the county in which the primary language of*
3B *10% or more of the registered voters is Spanish, shall cause*
3C *samples of the official general election ballot to be printed bilin-*
3D *gually in English and Spanish*.*

4 a. *In counties not having a superintendent of elections where*
5 *the county board of elections does not have the equipment or facili-*
6 *ties to address and mail sample ballot envelopes, the county clerk*
7 *not later than noon of the eighth day prior to the general 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.**

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8 shall furnish to the municipal clerk of each municipality in his
 9 county one and **[one-tenth]** ***[two-tenths]** ***one-tenth*** times as
 10 many such sample ballots and stamped envelopes as there are voters
 11 registered, to enable each district board in each municipality to
 12 mail one of such sample ballots to each voter who is registered in
 13 the municipality for such election and shall take a receipt for the
 14 same from each of the municipal clerks, which receipt shall indicate
 15 the number of such sample ballots and stamped envelopes delivered
 16 by the county clerk and the date and hour of their delivery.

17 b. In counties having a superintendent of elections, and in other
 18 counties where the county board of elections may have the equip-
 19 ment or facilities to prepare a properly stamped envelope ad-
 20 dressed to each registered voter in the county for mailing, the
 21 county clerk, not later than the thirtieth day preceding the
 22 general election, shall furnish to the commissioner of registration
 23 located in his county one and **[one-tenth]** ***[two-tenths]** ***one-**
 24 **tenth*** times as many stamped envelopes as there are registered
 25 voters in the county and not later than noon of the twelfth day pre-
 26 ceding the general election shall furnish to the commissioner of
 27 registration located in the county, one and **[one-tenth]** ***[two-**
 28 **tenths]** ***one-tenth*** times as many sample ballots as there are
 29 registered voters in the county to enable the commissioner of
 30 registration of the county to mail one of such sample ballots to each
 31 voter registered in the county for such election and shall take a
 32 receipt for the same from the commissioner of registration, which
 33 receipt shall indicate the number of such sample ballots and
 34 stamped envelopes delivered by the county clerk and the date and
 35 hour of their delivery. County boards of elections which elect to
 36 operate under the provisions of this paragraph shall notify their
 37 county clerk in sufficient time to enable him to make the necessary
 37A arrangements the first year.

38 c. The county clerk in counties having a superintendent of elec-
 39 tions shall also deliver to the county board not later than the
 40 twelfth day preceding the general election 10 such sample ballots
 41 of each election district of each municipality in the county.

1 **3. R. S. 19:14-25 is amended to read as follows:*

2 *19:14-25. In counties not having a superintendent of elections*
 3 *where the county board of elections does not have the equipment or*
 4 *facilities to address and mail sample ballot envelopes, all the mem-*
 5 *bers of each of the district boards shall prepare and deposit in the*
 6 *post office, on or before 12 noon on Wednesday preced-*
 7 *ing the general election day, a properly stamped envelope contain-*
 8 *ing a copy of the sample ballot printed in English, addressed to*

9 each registered voter in the district of such board at the address
 10 shown on the register, except that for districts in which the prim-
 11 ary language of 10% or more of the registered voters is Spanish, a
 12 properly stamped envelope containing a copy of the bilingual
 13 sample ballot, addressed to each registered voter in the district of
 14 such board at the address shown on the register shall be prepared
 15 and deposited. The board shall also post the appropriate sample
 16 ballots in the polling place in its district.

17 The board shall return to the municipal clerk all ballots and en-
 18 velopes not mailed or posted by it, with a sworn statement in writ-
 19 ing signed by a majority of the board that all the remainder of such
 20 ballots and envelopes had been mailed.

21 In counties having a superintendent of elections, and in other
 22 counties where the county board of elections shall elect to operate
 23 under the provisions of subsection b. of section 19:14-21 of this
 24 Title, the commissioner of registration shall prepare and deposit
 25 in the post office on or before 12:00 o'clock noon, on the Wednesday
 26 preceding the general election day, a properly stamped envelope
 27 containing a copy of the sample ballot printed in English addressed
 28 to each registered voter in the county at the address shown on the
 29 registry, except that for districts in which the primary language of
 30 10% or more of the registered voters is Spanish, a properly
 31 stamped envelope containing a copy of the bilingual sample ballot,
 32 addressed to each registered voter in the district of such board at
 33 the address shown on the register shall be prepared and deposited.
 34 The commissioner of registration shall return to the county clerk
 35 all ballots and envelopes not mailed or posted by him, with a sworn
 36 statement in writing signed by him that all the remainder of such
 37 ballots and envelopes have been mailed.

38 The county board of elections, in all counties having a superin-
 39 tendent of elections, and in other counties where the county board
 40 of elections shall elect to operate under the provisions of subsection
 41 b. of section 19:14-21 of this Title, shall, not later than noon of the
 42 second Monday preceding the election, deliver or mail to the mem-
 43 bers of the district board three appropriate sample ballots for their
 44 respective election district. The board shall post the appropriate
 45 sample ballots in the polling place in its district.*

1 ***[2.]*** *4.* R. S. 19:31-2 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:31-2. In all counties having a superintendent of elections,
 3 the superintendent of elections is hereby constituted the commis-
 4 sioner of registration and in all other counties the secretary of

5 the county board is hereby constituted the commissioner of regis-
6 tration.

7 The commissioner of registration in all counties having a super-
8 intendent of elections, and the county board in all other counties,
9 shall have complete charge of the permanent registration of all
10 eligible voters within their respective counties.

11 The commissioner of registration in counties of the first class
12 having a superintendent of elections and having less than 800,000
13 inhabitants, and the county board in all other counties, shall have
14 power to appoint temporarily, and the commissioner of registration
15 in counties of the first class having more than 800,000 inhabitants
16 shall have power to appoint on a permanent, or temporary basis,
17 such number of persons, as in his or its judgment may be necessary
18 in order to carry out the provisions of this Title. All persons ap-
19 pointed by the commissioner of registration in counties of the first
20 class having more than 800,000 inhabitants to serve for terms of
21 more than 6 months in any 1 year shall be in the classified service
22 of the civil service and shall be appointed, and hold their positions,
23 in accordance with the provisions of Title 11, Civil Service. Persons
24 appointed by the commissioner of registration in such counties to
25 serve for terms of 6 months or less in any 1 year and persons
26 appointed by the commissioner of registration, or by the county
27 board of elections, in other counties shall not be subject to any
28 of the provisions of Title 11, Civil Service, but shall be in the
29 unclassified service.

30 In each county the commissioner of registration, as defined in
31 this section, shall provide evening registration facilities for the
32 registration of persons who are or may be entitled to vote at the
33 *primary and general election* in said counties.

34 In each county the commissioner of registration shall submit to
35 the Secretary of State on or before **[June 15]** *February 15* of
36 each year a plan *providing for [of] evening registration for the*
37 *primary ***[and general elections and a plan]*** *election and on or*
38 *before July 1 plans* providing for *evening and* mobile registra-*
39 *tion for the general election, which plans shall be subject to*
39A *approval by the Secretary of State. [Such plan shall include*
40 *making available in each municipality, the place or places to be*
41 *opened] Evening registration shall be made available in each*
42 *municipality between the hours of ***[6]*** *4* p.m. and 9 p.m. ***[in***
43 *the evening]* for at least 6 working days immediately preceding*
44 *the close of registration[. Evening registration facilities shall also*
45 *be made available in each municipality] and at least once each week*

46 **between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.* during the 6 calendar*
 47 *weeks immediately preceding the close of registration for the*
 48 *primary and general elections *and for municipal elections*. Such*
 49 *plan for mobile registration *may include door-to-door registration,*
 50 *and* shall include the schedule and route to be followed by the*
 51 *mobile registration units, as well as a description of the number*
 52 *and nature of units to be used, and such further pertinent informa-*
 53 *tion as the Secretary of State may by rule or regulation require.*
 53A *Mobile registration shall be made available *pursuant to such plan**
 53B *in each municipality *~~pursuant to such plan~~ ** *having a popula-*
 53C *tion in excess of 7,500 persons according to the most recent United*
 53D *States census*.*

54 *On or before the last school day on which a person may register*
 55 *to be entitled to vote in the ensuing primary or general election,*
 56 *the commissioner of registration in counties having a superin-*
 57 *tendent of elections, and the county board in all other counties,*
 58 *shall arrange for and conduct registration in each public and*
 59 *nonpublic high school in the county, of all students who are eligible*
 60 *to register to vote in the ensuing election. *School officials shall*
 60A *cooperate with efforts to register students in such schools.**

61 The commissioner of registration in counties having a superin-
 62 tendent of elections, and the county board in all other counties,
 63 shall provide such printed forms, blanks, supplies and office tele-
 64 phone and transportation equipment and shall prescribe such rea-
 65 sonable rules and regulations *not inconsistent with those of the*
 66 *Secretary of State* as are necessary in the opinion of the commis-
 67 sioner or county board to carry out the provisions of this Title
 68 and any amendments or supplements thereto.

69 Subject to the limitations set forth in chapter 32 of this Title
 70 as hereby amended all necessary expenses incurred, as and when
 71 certified and approved by the commissioner of registration in
 72 counties having a superintendent of elections, and by the county
 73 board in all other counties, shall be paid by the county treasurer
 74 of the county.

75 Nothing in the provisions of subtitle 2 of the Title, Municipali-
 76 ties and Counties (40:16-1 et seq.), shall in anywise be construed
 77 to affect, restrict or abridge the powers herein conferred on the
 78 commissioners in counties having a superintendent of elections,
 79 and upon the county boards in all other counties.

80 All powers granted to the commissioner in all counties not hav-
 81 ing superintendents of elections by the provisions of this Title are

82 hereby conferred on the county board in such counties and any and
 83 all duties conferred upon the commissioner in all counties not
 84 having a superintendent of elections by the provisions of this Title
 85 shall only be exercised and performed by such commissioner under
 86 the instructions and directions of and subject to the approval of
 87 the county board of such counties.

1 ***[3.]*** *5.* R. S. 19:31-3 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:31-3. a. Permanent registration forms for the registration of
 3 voters shall be prepared and supplied by the commissioner in
 4 sufficient quantities to enable all eligible voters to register.
 5 Such forms shall consist of an equal number of original
 6 forms of one color and duplicate forms of another color.
 7 Each set of original and duplicate permanent registration forms
 8 shall be serially numbered and each of such forms shall be suitable
 9 for locking in a looseleaf binder, shall be approximately 10 inches
 10 by 16 inches so as to contain on the face thereof a margin of approxi-
 11 mately 2 inches for binding, and shall contain the information
 12 hereinafter required.

13 b. Space shall be provided on both the original and duplicate
 14 forms at the top for the word "original" on the original forms and
 15 the word "duplicate" on the duplicate forms, to be followed
 16 immediately below by the words "permanent registration" on both
 17 forms, which shall contain the following information concerning
 18 each applicant for registration:

19 (1) The full name, including middle initials if any

20 (2) The place of residence and street address. If the applicant
 21 resides in a hotel, apartment or tenement house or institution, such
 22 additional information shall be included as may be deemed neces-
 23 sary to give the exact location of the applicant's place of residence.

24 (3) The applicant's statement that he is 18 years of age or over,
 25 that he is a citizen of the United States and of the State of New
 26 Jersey, that he will have resided in the State of New Jersey for
 27 at least **[6 months]** *30 days* and in the county for at least **[40]** *30*
 28 days immediately preceding the next general election, all of which
 29 shall be indicated by the word "Yes."

30 (4) Whether he is a native-born citizen or a citizen by
 31 naturalization.

32 (5) The name of the municipality and house number and street
 33 in such municipality from which he last registered.

34 (6) The signature in person or by the mark of the applicant.

35 (7) Immediately above the space for the signature of the appli-
 36 cant shall be printed these words: "I, being duly sworn on oath

37 (or affirmation), depose and say (or affirm), to the best of my
38 knowledge and belief, that the foregoing statements made by me
39 are true and correct.”

40 (8) Date of filling out the blank and the signature of the person
41 recording such information and taking such affidavit and the
42 authority of the person taking such affidavit.

43 Following the above information shall appear additional ques-
44 tions to be answered only in the event that the applicant is unable
45 to sign his name; leaving space above the questions for the words
46 “identification statement” followed immediately below by the
47 words “applicant unable to sign name.”

48 (9) What is your full name?

49 (10) What is or was your father’s full name?

50 (11) What is or was your mother’s full name?

51 (12) Are you married or single?

52 (13) Where did you actually reside immediately prior to taking
53 up your present residence; state floor and character of premises?

54 (14) Immediately below shall be printed these words: “I, being
55 duly sworn on oath (or affirmation), depose and say (or affirm), to
56 the best of my knowledge and belief, that the foregoing statements
57 made by me are true and correct.”

58 (15) Date of filling out the answers, and the signature of the
59 person recording such answers and taking such affidavit and the
60 authority of the person taking such affidavit.

61 Immediately to the left of the above permanent registration and
62 identification statement shall be printed a column approximately
63 2½ inches wide for subsequent changes in address or removals of
64 such applicant from one district to another.

65 Immediately to the right of the permanent registration and
66 identification statement shall be printed a form for recording the
67 fact that the registered voters have voted. The face of the record
68 of voting form shall be ruled to provide for serial number, the
69 words “original voting record” on the original record of voting
70 form and the words “duplicate voting record” on the duplicate
71 record of voting forms, followed by the name, address and the
72 municipality, ward and district of the registrant at the top of the
73 space. The remainder of the space shall be ruled to provide a
74 record for a period of 20 years of the number of the ballot cast by
75 the registrant at the primary election for the general election, the
76 general election and other elections and also the first three letters
77 of the name of the political party whose ballot such registrant cast
78 at the primary election for the general election.

79 c. The original and duplicate permanent registration and voting
80 forms shall be in substantially the following form:

<p>Form X CHANGE IN ADDRESS</p> <p>To</p> <p>Municipality</p> <p>Ward... District.....</p> <p>Date</p> <hr/> <p>To</p> <p>Municipality</p> <p>Ward... District.....</p> <p>Date</p> <hr/> <p>To</p> <p>Municipality</p> <p>Ward... District.....</p> <p>Date</p> <hr/> <p>To</p> <p>Municipality</p> <p>Ward... District.....</p> <p>Date</p> <hr/> <p>To</p> <p>Municipality</p> <p>Ward... District.....</p> <p>Date</p> <hr/> <p>To</p> <p>Municipality</p> <p>Ward... District.....</p> <p>Date</p> <hr/> <p>To</p> <p>Municipality</p> <p>Ward... District.....</p> <p>Date</p> <hr/> <p>To</p> <p>Municipality</p> <p>Ward... District.....</p> <p>Date</p> <hr/> <p>To</p> <p>Municipality</p> <p>Ward... District.....</p> <p>Date</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DUPLICATE PERMANENT REGISTRATION</p> <p>Name First name in full, Middle Initials Only.</p> <p>Residence Street Address.</p> <p>Municipality Ward District</p> <p>Exact Location: Apt. No. Room No. Floor No. Use only for three or more Family Houses, Apartments, Hotels, Tenements or Institutions.</p> <p>Are you 18 years of age or over; are you a citizen of the United States and of New Jersey; will you have resided in said State at least [6 months] 30 days and in the County of Essex at least [40] 30 days on or before the next General Election?</p> <p>Are you a Native Born or Naturalized Citizen?</p> <p>Municipality, house number and street from which last registered. State of New Jersey, } ss. County of Essex }</p> <p>I, being duly sworn on oath (or affirmation), depose and say (or affirm), to the best of my knowledge and belief, that the foregoing statements made by me are true and correct. Sworn and Subscribed before me at this day of 19</p> <p>..... Signature or mark of applicant.</p> <p>..... Signature of person taking affidavit.</p> <p>..... Authority of person taking affidavit.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT</p> <p>To be used only when Voter is unable to Sign His or Her Name.</p> <p>..... What is your full name?</p> <p>..... What is, or was, your father's full name?</p> <p>..... What is, or was, your mother's full name?</p> <p>Are you Married or Single? Where did you actually reside prior to taking up your present residence; state floor and character of premises.</p> <p>I, being duly sworn on oath (or affirmation), depose and say (or affirm), to the best of my knowledge and belief, that the foregoing statements made by me are true and correct. Sworn to before me at this day of 19</p> <p>..... Authority of person taking affidavit. Signature of person taking affidavit.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Duplicate No. 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOTING RECORD</p> <p>Name.....</p> <p>Street Address.....</p> <p>Municipality.....</p> <p>Ward District</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Year</th> <th colspan="2">Primary Election</th> <th rowspan="2">General Election Ballot No.</th> <th rowspan="2">Other Elections</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Political Party</th> <th>Ballot No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1941</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1942</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1943</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1944</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1945</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1946</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1947</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1948</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1949</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1950</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1951</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1952</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1953</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1954</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1955</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1956</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1957</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1958</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1959</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1960</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Primary Election		General Election Ballot No.	Other Elections	Political Party	Ballot No.	1941					1942					1943					1944					1945					1946					1947					1948					1949					1950					1951					1952					1953					1954					1955					1956					1957					1958					1959					1960				
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1 ***[4.]*** *6.* R. S. 19:31-5 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:31-5. Each person, who at the time he applies for registration

3 resides in the district in which he expects to vote, who will be of

4 the age of **[21]** 18 years or more at the next ensuing general elec-

5 tion, who is a citizen of the United States, and who, if he continues

6 to reside in the district until the next general election, will at the

7 time have fulfilled all the requirements as to length of residence to

8 qualify him as a legal voter, shall, unless otherwise disqualified,

9 be entitled to be registered in such district; and when once regis-

10 tered shall not be required to register again in such district as

11 long as he resides therein, except when required to do so by the

12 commissioner, because of the loss of or some defect in his regis-

13 tration record.

14 The registrant, when registered as provided in this Title, shall

15 be eligible to vote at any election to be held subsequent to such

16 registration, if he shall be a citizen of the United States of the

17 age of **[21]** 18 years and shall have been a resident of the State for

18 at least **[6 months]** 30 days and of the county at least **[40]** 30 days,

19 when the same is held, subject to any change in his qualifications

20 which may later disqualify him; but if such registrant does not vote

21 at any election during 4 consecutive years his original and dupli-
 22 cate permanent registration and record of voting forms shall be
 23 removed to the inactive file and he shall be required to reregister
 24 before being allowed to vote at any subsequent election.

1 ***[5.]*** *7.* R. S. 19:31-6 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:31-6. Up to and including the **[fortieth]** ***[fifteenth]***
 3 **twenty-ninth** day preceding any election the commissioner, in
 4 counties having a superintendent of elections, and the members of
 5 the county board in all other counties, or a duly authorized clerk
 6 or clerks acting for him or it, as the case may be, shall receive the
 7 application for registration of all eligible voters who shall per-
 8 sonally appear for registration during office hours at the office of
 9 the commissioner or the county board, as the case may be, or at such
 10 other place or places as may from time to time be designated by
 11 him or it for registration.

12 When any person shall apply to the commissioner in writing
 13 setting forth that due to a chronic or incurable illness, or that
 14 he is totally incapacitated and he cannot attend a place of regis-
 15 tration and such application is accompanied by an affidavit by
 16 a physician duly licensed to practice medicine in this State cer-
 17 tifying that such person is chronically or incurably ill or totally
 18 incapacitated, that such person is mentally competent and that
 19 such person cannot attend a place of registration, then the com-
 20 missioner shall cause such person to be registered at his place
 21 of residence or confinement.

22 A duly authorized clerk is any person that has been appointed
 23 by the commissioner or the county board, as the case may be,
 24 to accept such registrations.

25 When the commissioner or county board has designated a place
 26 or places other than his office or its office for receiving registra-
 27 tions, he or it, as the case may be, shall cause to be published
 28 a notice in a newspaper circulated in the municipality wherein
 29 such place or places of registration shall be located. Such notice
 30 shall be published within at least ***[10 days before]*** *7 days of*
 31 the time that such place or places shall be open for registration and
 32 shall contain the address or addresses of such place or places and
 33 the dates and hours upon which they shall remain open.

34 Any eligible voter who applies for registration *in person* shall
 35 subscribe to the following oath or affirmation, viz.:

36 "You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will fully and
 37 truly answer such questions as shall be put to you touching your
 38 eligibility as a voter under the laws of this State."

39 Upon being sworn the applicant shall answer such questions
 40 as are provided for in the original and duplicate permanent
 41 registration forms hereinbefore set forth, and the person receiv-
 42 ing the application shall fill out the forms which the applicant
 43 shall sign. If an eligible voter is unable to write his name, he
 44 shall be required to make a cross, which shall be followed by the
 45 writing of the words "his or her mark," as the case may be, by
 46 the person receiving the application, and such applicant shall
 47 answer the additional questions required under this Title. Such
 48 additional questions shall be sworn to or affirmed in the manner
 49 above provided. **[Registration by mail is specifically prohibited.]**

1 ***[6.]* *8.*** Section 1 of P. L. 1966, c. 177 (C. 19:31-6.1) is
 2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Title to which
 4 this act is a supplement, any person authorized by law to accept
 5 applications for voter registration shall accept, during the **[39]**
 6 ***[14-]* *28-***day period prior to any election, the application for
 7 registration of all eligible voters who shall personally appear for
 8 registration before such person*, *or the registration card mailed or*
 9 *delivered to such person,** but no ***[person]* *eligible voter*** so
 10 registered shall be entitled to vote in the election immediately
 11 following said **[39] *[14-]* *28-***day period. Any person regis-
 12 tered under the provisions of this act shall be advised that he will
 13 not be eligible to vote in the election immediately forthcoming but
 13A will be eligible to vote in elections held thereafter.

14 Applications for registration pursuant to the provisions of this
 15 act shall be received at such place or places as may be designated
 16 by any duly authorized election official.

1 ***[7.]* *9.*** R. S. 19:31-7 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:31-7. For the convenience of the voters the respective municipi-
 3 pal clerks or their duly authorized clerk or clerks in all municipali-
 4 ties shall also be empowered to register applicants for permanent
 5 registration up to and including the **[fortieth] *[fifteenth]***
 6 ***twenty-ninth*** day preceding any election and after any such elec-
 7 tion in the manner indicated above, subject to such rules and
 8 regulations as may be prescribed by the commissioner, in counties
 9 having a superintendent of elections, and the county board in all
 10 other counties. Duly authorized clerk as used in this section shall
 11 mean a clerk who resides within the municipality and has been
 12 approved by the commissioner or the county board as the case may
 13 be. For this purpose the commissioner shall forward to each mu-
 14 nicipal clerk a sufficient supply of the original and duplicate

15 permanent registration forms. The commissioners shall keep a
 16 record of the serial numbers of these forms and shall periodically
 17 make such checks as are necessary to accurately determine if all
 18 such forms are satisfactorily accounted for. Each municipal clerk
 19 shall transmit daily to the commissioner ***in a stamped envelope**
 20 to be prepared and supplied by the commissioner* all of the filled
 21 out registration forms that he may have in his office at the time.

1 ***[8.]*** *10.* R. S. 19:31-11 is amended to read as follows:
 2 19:31-11. a. In all counties within this State, change of residence
 3 notices shall be made by a written request, signed by the registrant,
 4 forwarded to the commissioner by mail, and actually received by
 5 him, or by calling in person at the office of the commissioner or
 6 the municipal clerk**],** except that in a municipality which is a
 7 county seat such change of residence shall be made at the office
 8 of the commissioner only**].** The commissioner shall provide
 9 change of residence notices in card form for the use of any regis-
 10 tered voter moving to another address within the same election
 11 district or to another election district within the same county.
 12 Copies of these notices shall also be available at the office of the
 13 municipal clerk in each municipality ***other than a municipality**
 14 which is a county seat***].** Each municipal clerk shall transmit
 15 daily to the commissioner all the filled out change of residence
 16 notices that he may have in his office at the time. These notices
 17 shall be printed upon cards, shall contain a blank form showing
 18 where the applicant last resided and the address and exact loca-
 19 tion to which he has moved and shall have a line for his signa-
 20 ture. Upon receipt of such change of residence notice the com-
 21 missioner shall cause the signature to be compared with the
 22 permanent registration forms of the applicant and, if such sig-
 23 nature appears to be of and by one and the same legal voter,
 24 the commissioner shall cause the entry of the change of resi-
 25 dence to be made on the permanent registration forms and the
 26 registrant shall thereupon be qualified to vote in the election
 27 district to which he shall have so moved. If the commissioner is not
 28 satisfied as to the signature on the request for a change of residence,
 29 a notice shall be sent by mail with postage prepaid to the registrant
 30 at his new address directing him to appear at a time to be fixed in
 31 the notice not less than ten days from the date thereof at the office
 32 of the commissioner to answer such questions as may be deemed
 33 necessary to determine the applicant's place of residence and
 34 eligibility to vote. If such registrant fails to appear at the time and
 35 place as directed, or if the notice is returned as not delivered or if

36 it is not returned as undelivered, the registration forms of the
 37 applicant shall be placed in the inactive file until such time as he
 38 establishes to the satisfaction of the commissioner the accuracy of
 39 the signature on such change of residence notice; provided, how-
 40 ever, that such application for change of residence shall be filed with
 41 the commissioner or municipal clerk, as the case may be, on or be-
 42 fore the **[fortieth]** ***[fifteenth]*** **twenty-ninth** day preceding any
 42A election. **All applications for change of residence post-marked on*
 42B *or before the thirtieth day preceding any election shall be deemed*
 42C *timely.**

43 b. In any county any voter who shall move within the same county
 44 after the time above prescribed for filing an application for change
 45 of residence without having made application for change of
 46 residence, shall be permitted to vote in the district from which he
 47 has moved, upon signing an affidavit which shall set forth (1) the
 48 date upon which he moved, (2) the address from which he moved,
 49 (3) the address to which he moved, and such affidavit shall con-
 50 stitute a transfer to the said new residence for any subsequent
 51 election. The county clerk shall furnish to the election board of each
 52 district form affidavits for this purpose and the said district boards
 53 shall turn over all signed affidavits to the commissioner; provided,
 54 however, if the voter has moved from one residence to another
 55 within the same election district at any time during the year he or
 56 she shall be permitted to vote in such election district only at the
 57 next election subsequent to the date of such change of residence
 58 within the district upon signing the affidavit herein set forth.

1 ***[9.]*** **11.** R. S. 19:31-13 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:31-13. Whenever the registrant after his or her original
 3 registration shall change his or her name due to marriage, divorce,
 4 or by judgment of court, the registrant shall be required to
 5 reregister and the commissioner upon receipt of information or
 6 notice of such change, shall transfer the permanent registration
 7 forms of such persons to the inactive file, subject to the provisions
 8 of this section.

9 When notice or information of such change in name has not been
 10 received by or filed with the commissioner prior to the **[fortieth]**
 11 ***[fifteenth]*** **twenty-ninth** day preceding any election, such per-
 12 son may be permitted to vote under his or her original registration
 13 at the next election following such change in name, after signing
 14 the signature copy register with both the registered name and his
 15 or her new name. Such person shall be required to reregister
 16 before being permitted to vote at any subsequent election. The

17 commissioner shall then transfer the former permanent registra-
 18 tion form to the inactive file and notify the registrant by regular
 19 mail of such transfer and the requirement to reregister before
 20 being permitted to vote at any election.

21 If a registrant shall, upon receipt of notice of transfer of her
 22 registration to the inactive file, or otherwise, notify the com-
 23 missioner of her inability to appear and reregister due to continued
 24 absence from the State with her husband while he is serving in
 25 the Armed Forces of the United States and shall support such
 26 statement under oath, the commissioner shall restore her registra-
 27 tion form to the active file, with appropriate notations and dates
 28 thereon, and notify the registrant that she may continue to vote
 29 during such absence from the State, by civilian absentee ballot,
 30 by signing both her registered name and her new name on applica-
 31 tions for and certificates pertinent to, civilian absentee ballots.
 32 The right to continue to so vote without reregistration shall con-
 33 tinue until the registrant's return to the State or 6 years from
 34 date of marriage, whichever shall occur first at which time the
 35 commissioner shall transfer the permanent registration form to
 36 the inactive file.

1 *~~10.~~* *12.** R. S. 19:31-18 is amended to read as follows:

2 19:31-18. *~~a.~~* On or before the *~~Monday following the fourth~~
 3 ~~Tuesday]~~* *fifteenth day** preceding ~~[the]~~ *any primary election*
 4 *and on or before the *Monday following the fourth Tuesday]*
 5 *fifteenth day** preceding any general election the commissioner
 6 shall certify and transmit to the county clerk a complete list of all
 7 persons who are registered in each election district in each mu-
 8 nicipality in the county together with a statement as to the number
 9 of persons registered in each district. On the face of the list of
 10 registered voters the commissioner shall in figures state the total
 11 number of names of persons reregistered. Such lists shall be
 11a arranged substantially in the following form:*

Grand Street

	Residence number or other designation	Name of voter
12	14	Jones, Charles M.
13	15	Smith, John M.

14 *~~b.~~ *On the Tuesday preceding any primary election and on the*
 15 *Tuesday preceding any general election the commissioner shall*
 16 *certify and transmit to the county clerk a supplemental list of all*
 17 *persons who are registered in each election district in each munici-*
 18 *pality in the county whose names were not or should no longer be*
 19 *included in the list prescribed in the preceding subsection.]**

1 ***[11.]*** *13.* Section 2 of P. L. 1947, c. 347 (C. 19:31-18.1) is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. *a.* The county clerk in all counties shall cause copies of the
4 registry lists, certified and transmitted under R. S. 19:31-18, to be
5 printed in handbill form, and shall furnish to any voter applying
6 for the same such copies, charging therefor \$0.25 per copy of the
7 list of voters of each election district. He shall also furnish five
8 printed copies thereof to each district board, which shall within
9 2 days post two such registry lists, one in the polling place and one
10 in another conspicuous place within the election district. The
11 county clerk shall also forthwith deliver to the superintendent of
12 elections if any there be and the municipal clerk of each of the
13 municipalities in the county for which the lists have been printed
14 five copies of the lists of voters of each election district in such
15 municipality, and to the county board 10 copies of the lists of
16 voters of each election district in each of such municipalities. The
17 county clerk shall also forthwith deliver to the chairmen of the
18 State committees and to the chairmen of the county committees
19 of the several political parties, five copies of the lists of
20 voters of each election district in each of the municipali-
21 ties in his county.

22 *b.* *In any county where the voter registration lists are recorded*
23 *on magnetic tape or electronic data processing cards, the* ***[county**
24 *clerk]** *commissioner of registration* *shall furnish a copy of such
25 *tape or cards to any voter requesting such tape or cards, for which*
26 *copy such* ***[county clerk]*** *commissioner* *shall make a charge
27 *which shall be uniform in any calendar year and which shall reflect*
28 *only the cost of reproducing such tape or cards.*

1 *14. R. S. 19:49-4 is amended to read as follows:

2 *a. (1) The officer or officers whose duty it may be under this sub-*
3 *title to provide and furnish official ballots for any polling place*
4 *where a voting machine is to be used shall also provide 2 sample*
5 *ballots or more, or instruction ballots, which sample or instruction*
6 *ballot shall be arranged in the form of a diagram showing such por-*
7 *tion of the face of the voting machine as it will appear after the*
8 *official ballots are arranged thereon or therein for voting on election*
9 *day. Such sample or instruction ballots shall be open to the inspec-*
10 *tion of all voters on election day, in all elections where voting ma-*
11 *chines are used.*

12 *(2) For election districts in which the primary language of*
13 *10% or more of the registered voters is Spanish, the officer or*
14 *officers whose duty it may be under this subtitle to provide and*

15 furnish official ballots for any polling place where a voting machine
16 is to be used shall also provide 2 sample ballots or more, or instruc-
17 tion ballots, printed bilingually in English and Spanish. Such
18 sample or instruction ballots shall be open to the inspection of all
19 voters on election day, in appropriate election districts, in all elec-
20 tions where voting machines are used.

21 b. There shall be furnished a sufficient number of sample ballots
22 printed entirely in black ink, a facsimile of the face of the machine,
23 of a reduced size, one of which sample ballots shall be mailed to
24 each registered voter, except that for election districts in which the
25 primary language of 10% or more of the registered voters is
26 Spanish, sample ballots printed bilingually in English and Spanish
27 shall be mailed to each registered voter. Any reference to sample
28 ballot envelopes in any section of this Title to the contrary not-
29 withstanding, in all counties where voting machines are used and
30 wherein the commissioner of registration has the facilities to mail
31 out sample ballots direct to the registrants of such county and has
32 elected so to do, as otherwise in this Title provided, the commis-
33 sioner of registration in any such county may request the county
34 clerk of such county to have the sample ballots prepared in the
35 manner following:

36 (1) The county clerk shall have said sample ballots for all gen-
37 eral and special elections printed in such manner that, when folded,
38 the words "Official General Election Sample Ballot" or as the case
39 may be, shall appear on the reverse side thereof, together with the
40 words "In cases where the sample ballot is to be sent to an ad-
41 dressee who does not receive his mail by delivery to his home or
42 through rural free delivery 'if not delivered within 5 days return
43 to the commissioner of registration' and in all other cases 'if not
44 delivered within 2 days return to the commissioner of registration.'
45 Do not Forward. Return Postage Guaranteed" over the return
46 address of the commissioner of registration. Such portion of the
47 ballot may contain such additional words that conform with United
48 States Postal regulations that will prevent such envelope from
49 being forwarded to the voter at any other address than that appear-
50 ing on the envelope, and that will cause such envelope to be re-
51 turned to the commissioner of registration, with information
52 thereon from the post office showing the reason for nondelivery.

53 (2) The county clerk in drawing the specifications for the print-
54 ing of the official primary ballots shall include the requirement that
55 the municipal clerks shall have primary sample ballots printed in
56 such manner that, when folded, the words "Official Primary Elec-

57 tion Sample Ballot'' shall appear on the reverse side thereof, to-
 58 gether with the words "In cases where the sample ballot is to be
 59 sent to an addressee who does not receive his mail by delivery to
 60 his home or through rural free delivery 'if not delivered within 5
 61 days return to the commissioner of registration' and in all other
 62 cases 'if not delivered within 2 days return to the commissioner of
 63 registration.' Do Not Forward. Return Postage Guaranteed'' over
 64 the return address of the commissioner of registration. Such por-
 65 tion of the ballot may contain such additional words that conform
 66 with United States Postal regulations that will prevent such enve-
 67 lope from being forwarded to the voter at any other address than
 68 that appearing on the envelope, and that will cause such envelope to
 69 be returned to the commissioner of registration, with information
 70 thereon from the post office showing the reason for nondelivery.

71 (3) Five sample ballots shall be posted as now required by law.

72 c. For all general and special elections the county clerk, and for
 73 all primary and municipal elections the municipal clerks, shall, at
 74 least 30 days preceding any such election, make the arrangements
 75 necessary to be made with the postmaster or postmasters in their
 76 respective counties and municipalities to have the said sample
 77 ballots mailed under the postal laws and regulations, and forthwith
 78 notify the said commissioner of registration in writing to that
 79 effect.*

1 ***[12.]*** *15.* Any person entitled to register to vote may register
 2 as a voter in the election district in which he resides at any time
 3 prior to the ****[nineteenth]**** ***twenty-ninth*** day preceding any
 4 primary or general election by completing a registration card
 5 described in section ****[13]**** ***16*** of this act*, *having his sig-*
 6 *nature or mark witnessed by a person previously registered to*
 7 *vote in the county in which he resides** and submitting the ***[orig-**
 8 **inal of such]*** card to the commissioner of registration of the
 9 county wherein he resides. Any registration card ***[may be sub-**
 10 **mitted to the commissioner in person or by United States Mail]***
 11 *shall be mailed to the commissioner to which it is addressed or*
 11A *delivered to such office**. A registration card postmarked on the
 12 ***[twentieth]*** **thirtieth** day preceding any primary or general
 13 election shall be deemed timely.

1 ***[13.]*** *16.* a. The Secretary of State shall cause to be prepared
 2 and shall provide to each county commissioner of registration regis-
 3 tration cards of size and weight suitable for mailing, which shall
 4 require the information required by R. S. 19:31-3 in substantially
 5 the following form:

VOTER REGISTRATION CARD

(Please print or type)

6 (1) Name: Last First Middle

6A *(2) Birth Date: Mo. Day Year

7 *[(2)]*(3)* Residence: Street Address Apt. No.

8 Municipality County Zip

9 *[(3)]*(4)* I have resided at the above address since: Mo. Day Year

10 *[(4)]*(5)* Where did you last register to vote?

11 Street Address Apt. No.

12 Municipality County State Zip

13 *[(5)]*(6)* I am a native born/naturalized (strike one) citizen.

13A **I was naturalized on Month Day Year

13B in Municipality State

14 *[(6)]*(7)* By the time of the next general election, I will be
15 at least 18 years of age, I will be a citizen of the United States, and I
16 will have resided in this State at least 30 days and in the county of
17 at least 30 days. To the best of my knowledge
18 and belief, all the foregoing statements made by me are true and
19 correct. I understand that any false or fraudulent registration or
20 attempted registration may subject me to a fine of up to \$1,000.00
21 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both pursuant to R. S. 19:34-1.

22 Signature *or mark* Date

22A *(8) I, being a registered voter in

22B county which is the same county as the county in which the person

22C registering to vote by this card resides, witnessed the above

22D signature or mark.*

22E Signature Date

23 *[(7)]*(9)* If the voter is unable to sign his or her name, the
24 *voter shall make his or her mark, which mark shall be witnessed.

24A The* signature, name and residence of the *[(person filling)]*

24B *registered voter residing in the same county who filled* out this

24C card are:

25 Signature Date

26 Name (Please print)

27 *[(Residence)]* *Street Address*

27A *Municipality County Zip*

28 b. ***[Each such registration card shall be printed in duplicate.]***
 29 The reverse side of the ***[original]*** **registration card** shall bear
 30 the address of the commissioner of registration to whom such card
 31 is supplied, and a United States postal permit the charges upon
 32 which shall be paid by the State. ***[The registrant shall retain the**
 33 **duplicate portion of such registration card.]***

33A **c. The Secretary of State shall cause to be prepared registration*
 33B *cards of the size, weight and form described in subsection a. of this*
 33C *section in both the English and Spanish language and shall provide*
 33D *such cards to each commissioner of registration of any county in*
 33E *which there is at least one election district in which bilingual sample*
 33F *ballots must be provided pursuant to R. S. 19:14-21.**

34 ***[c.]*** **d.** The commissioner of registration shall furnish such
 35 registration card upon ***[demand]*** **request** to any person or
 36 organization in such reasonable quantities such person or organiza-
 36A tion shall ***[demand]*** **request**.

37 ***[d.]*** **e.** Each such registration card shall have annexed
 38 thereto instructions specifying the manner and method of registra-
 39 tion and stating the qualifications for an eligible voter.

1 ***[14.]*** **17.** a. Upon receipt of any completed registration card,
 2 the commissioner of registration in counties having a superintend-
 3 ent of elections, and the members of the county board in all other
 4 counties, shall review it, and if it is found to be in order, shall:

5 ***[1.]*** **(1)** Send to the registrant written notification that such
 6 registrant is duly registered to vote. **On the face of such notifica-*
 6A *tion in the upper left-hand corner shall be printed the words: "Do*
 6B *Not Forward. If not delivered in 2 days, return to the 'Super-*
 6C *intendent of Elections' "* in counties having a superintendent of
 6D *elections and to the "Commissioner of Registration" in all other*
 6E *counties.**

7 ***[2.]*** **(2)** Paste the completed registration card on to an
 8 original permanent registration form, and shall paste a photocopy
 9 of such completed registration card on to a duplicate permanent
 10 registration form, ***[which]*** **or shall transpose the data and paste*
 10A *the signature from such completed registration card on to a dupli-*
 10B *cate permanent registration form. The original and duplicate per-*
 10C *manent registration forms** shall be filed as provided in R. S.
 10D 19:31-10.

11 ***[3.]*** **(3)** In the case of a registrant currently registered in
 12 another county of this State, notify the commissioner of registration
 13 of such other county to delete such registrant's name from the list
 14 of persons registered in such other county.

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

19 **c. If the registration card has been signed by someone other than*
 20 *the registrant, any additional information required on the original*
 21 *and duplicate permanent registration forms shall be obtained by*
 22 *the district board or the county clerk at the first election at which*
 23 *the registrant shall appear or apply to vote.**

1 ***[15.]* *18.*** For the purpose of preventing fraudulent registra-
 2 tion and voting, the commissioner of registration in counties having
 3 a superintendent of elections, and the county board in all other coun-
 4 ties, may, at any time deemed necessary, utilize the procedures
 5 set forth by R. S. 19:31-15 *and by R. S. 19:32-5*.*

1 ***[16.** In every year in which a Presidential election is to be held,
 2 the Secretary of State shall, no later than 40 days preceding the
 3 primary election, mail to each household in the State a registration
 4 card and instructions as to the procedure for obtaining additional
 5 registration cards.]**]***

1 **19. a. On December 31 of every year in which a Presidential*
 2 *Election has been held, each county may certify to the Secretary of*
 3 *State the number of newly registered voters who have been regis-*
 4 *tered by door-to-door canvassing and registration during that*
 5 *calendar year. The funds provided pursuant to subsection c. of this*
 6 *section shall be allocated by the Secretary of State to each county*
 7 *in the same proportion as the number of voters newly registered by*
 8 *door-to-door canvassing in each county is to the total number of*
 9 *voters newly registered by door-to-door canvassing throughout the*
 10 *State.*

11 *b. Plans for door-to-door canvassing and registration shall be*
 12 *included in the plan for mobile registration for the general election*
 13 *submitted pursuant to R. S. 19:31-2.*

14 *c. The Legislature shall appropriate to the Department of State*
 15 *\$100,000.00 in each year during which a Presidential Election is to*
 16 *be held for carrying out the purposes of this section.**

1 ***[17.]* *20.*** The Secretary of State shall reimburse the counties
 2 \$0.50 per new registrant*, *whether the registration was by mail or*
 3 *in person*.*

1 ***[18.]* *21.*** To effectuate the purposes of this act and in ad-
 2 dition to any other powers and duties provided in or by this act, the
 3 Secretary of State may promulgate such rules and regulations as
 4 may be necessary, all of which shall have the force of law.

1 ***[19.]*** *22.* If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence or
2 other part of this act is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, such
3 judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this
4 act, but shall be confined in its effect to the section, subsection, para-
5 graph, sentence or other part of this act directly involved in the
6 controversy in which said judgment shall have been rendered.

1 ***[20.]*** *23.* This act shall take effect 90 days after enactment.

1 18. To effectuate the purposes of this act and in addition to any
2 other powers and duties provided in or by this act, the Secretary
3 of State may promulgate such rules and regulations as may be
4 necessary, all of which shall have the force of law.

1 19. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence or other part
2 of this act is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment
3 shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this act, but
4 shall be confined in its effect to the section, subsection, paragraph,
5 sentence or other part of this act directly involved in the contro-
6 versy in which said judgment shall have been rendered.

1 20. This act shall take effect 90 days after enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill aims to simplify the process of registering to vote. It would eliminate some time-consuming or frustrating restrictions of current law that deter many citizens from the exercise of their right of franchise. It is an integral part of a program to insure virtually universal voter registration. This bill is expected by its sponsors to add some 400,000 of New Jersey's estimated 1.2 million unregistered but eligible citizens.

The central feature of this bill is its authorization for citizens to register to vote by mail (sections 12 through 17). A registration post card postmarked within 20 days of a primary or general election would entitle one to vote at that and subsequent elections. Unlike other plans that call for post card application, with registration completed at the polling place (possibly causing delays for other voters waiting in line), completion of this post card suffices for registration. It includes all the required information on the permanent registration form. The registrant would sign the completed card and mail it to the county commissioner of registration.

On its receipt the commissioner of registration would review it and, finding it in order, would send the registrant written notice that he was now registered to vote; he would then paste the completed registration card to the permanent registration form. If the commissioner refused to approve the registration he would have to write to the registrant to explain his reasons.

In a presidential election year (section 16), before the primary election, there would be a mailing of post cards to all households. Any person or organization (especially groups engaged in registration drives) would be furnished cards upon request.

Section 2 would require that every county provide for mobile registration during the summer, and for evening registration be-

fore both primary and general elections. The county's plan for these mobile and evening registration efforts would be required by February (instead of June) 15 each year. Registration would also be conducted in all high schools.

Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 amend existing law to extend the registration period to within 15 days of an election instead of the current 40. This is a major change that would accommodate citizens whose interest in voting might be stimulated as a result of the election campaign. Section 10 would require an updated voter list to be prepared a month before each primary as well as each general election, and a supplemental list of the later registrants who enrolled during the extended period allowed by section 5 would be issued a week before the election. Section 1 makes allowance for the expected increase in voters during the added 25 days of campaign-time registration by providing that the number of sample ballots printed up a month before the election be increased by 10% over the total number of voters registered as of that date; this would insure that late registrants would also receive the samples.

Sections 3 and 4 conform sections of Title 19 to the 26th amendment to the Federal Constitution (voting at age 18) and to the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Dunn v. Blumstein*, 405 U. S. 330 (1972), which found unconstitutional State residency requirements for suffrage (like the 6 months' residency required by the New Jersey Constitution).

Section 17 requires the State to reimburse counties \$0.50 for every new registrant.

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STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 890

with Committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 22, 1974

This bill, as amended, would provide for voter registration by mail, reimbursement to the counties for door-to-door canvassing in Presidential Election years and payment to the counties by the State of \$0.50 for each new registered voter.

The Secretary of State would be required to provide each county with postcards on which a person could fill out the personal information required and sign his name, which signature would have to be witnessed by someone previously registered to vote in the applicant's county of residence. The postcard could then be mailed or delivered to the county board of elections where it would be pasted on the permanent registration form. Any additional information required would be obtained at the time of the person's first appearance at the polls.

The voter would receive a written notification that he is registered to vote, which notification would not be forwardable.

The Committee amendments add the requirement that in election districts in which Spanish is the primary language of 10% or more of the registered voters, the sample ballots and registration cards shall be bilingual. In those districts, there would be two additional election board members of Hispanic origin, one from each political party.

The Commissioner of registration would be required to submit to the Secretary of State a plan for evening registration for the primary by February 15 and a plan for evening and mobile registration for the general election by July 1. These plans would be subject to approval by the Secretary of State. The mobile registration plan would include plans for door-to-door canvassing in Presidential Election years. Such canvassing would be reimbursable by the State from a fund of \$100,000.00, which fund would be divided proportionately on the basis of new voters registered door-to-door in each county.

Mobile registration would not, however, include municipalities having a population of 7,500 or less.

The bill also requires that voter registration be conducted in the high schools of each county.

In addition, the bill changes the date for closing of registration from 40 days to 29 days before the election.

LAW OFFICE
J. H. HENNING

FISCAL NOTE TO
SENATE, No. 890

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 16, 1974

Senate Bill No. 890 permits voter registration by mail and provides for mobile and evening registration.

The Office of the Secretary of State estimates that enactment of this legislation would require an additional State expenditure of \$87,757.00—and an expenditure by local governments of \$132,236.00—in fiscal 1974-75. It is further estimated that a State expenditure of \$581,512.00 and an expenditure by local governments of \$79,616.00 would be required in fiscal 1975-76.

No estimate has been made for mobile registration other than registration of voters in schools. This would have to be determined by individual counties in accordance with the plan approved by the Department of State.

The fiscal note is based on an estimate of costs rather than actual cost information.

In compliance with written request received, there is hereby submitted a fiscal estimate for the above bill, pursuant to P. L. 1962, c. 27.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MAY 28, 1974

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DICK CAMPBELL

Governor Brendan Byrne signed into law Tuesday a bill designed to provide greater public participation in elections by making it easier for persons to register and vote.

The bill, S-890, sponsored by Sen. Joseph P. Merlino, D-Mercer, was signed at a public ceremony in the governor's office.

Among those attending the signing were Sen. Merlino; Sen. John F. Russo Jr., D-Ocean; Assembly Majority Leader Joseph A. LeFante, D-Hudson, and Assemblyman Francis J. McManimon, D-Mercer.

"This bill will further open the political process by making it possible for an even greater number of people to participate," said Byrne.

The governor said he considered the measure one of the priority items in his administration.

A key feature of the bill is a provision for registration by post card.

The measure also provides:

- A reduction in the residency requirements for voting from six months in the state and 40 days in the county to 30 days in both the state and county.
- expanded mobile and evening registration programs.
- voter registration in the high schools
- sample ballots printed in Spanish in election districts in which more than 10 per cent of the residents are Spanish-speaking.

The new law becomes effective in 90 days.
