

19:57-14

July 16, 1969

Copy 2

Legislative Notes on R.S. 19:57-14
(Absentee & sample ballots - all in black ink)

No similar bills were introduced in previous years.

L. 1969, Chapter 35 - A775

Introduced April 2, 1969 by Vreeland and others.

There was a statement, ~~and during passage~~. (Copy enclosed)

Not amended during passage.

No recent hearings or reports were found on this subject.

JH/fb

PROPERTY OF
NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY

185 W. State Street
Trenton, N. J.

DEPOSITORY COPY
Do Not Remove From Library

ASSEMBLY, No. 775

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED APRIL 2, 1969

By Assemblymen VREELAND, THOMAS, COBB, MABIE, BROWN,
W. L. SMITH, Assemblywoman MARGETTS, Assemblymen
PFALTZ, HIGGINS and GAVAN

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT concerning elections, and amending section 19:49-4 of the
Revised Statutes and section 14 of chapter 211 of the laws of
1953 (C. 19:57-14).

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

1 1. Section 14 of P. L. 1953, chapter 211 (C. 19:57-14) is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 14. Each absentee ballot to be used at any election to be held
4 while this act is in effect *shall be printed entirely in black ink and*
5 *shall conform generally to the ballot to be used at said election in*
6 *the absentee voter's election district and shall be so prepared that*
7 *the absentee voter may indicate thereon his choice of such of the*
8 *candidates for the offices to be filled, and as to such public questions*
9 *to be voted upon, at said election by the voters of the entire State*
10 *or of the county in which such absentee voter's election district is*
11 *situated, as shall be ascertained and known on the thirty-fourth day*
12 *preceding such election and sufficient space shall be provided thereon*
13 *for such absentee voter to write in the name of and vote for any*
14 *candidate for, or his personal choice for, any public office to be voted*
15 *for at such election in such election district. A list of the candidates*
16 *for the offices to be filled in each election district in the county,*
17 *whose names are known and ascertained on said thirty-fourth day*
18 *but do not appear upon said ballot, with a statement of the office for*
19 *which each is a candidate, shall be forwarded with such ballot.*

20 In the preparation of absentee ballots the name of any candidate
21 who has been nominated for any office shall be placed upon the
22 absentee ballot or list of candidates, as the case may be, to be used
23 in the general election to be held in said year in each election district
24 in which he is a candidate, whether or not such candidate has ac-

25 cepted such nomination prior to said date; provided, that he has
26 not prior to said date declined the same.

1 2. Section 19:49-4 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 19:49-4. a. The officer or officers whose duty it may be under
4 this subtitle to provide and furnish official ballots for any polling
5 place where a voting machine is to be used shall also provide 2
6 sample ballots or more, or instruction ballots, which sample or in-
7 struction ballot shall be arranged in the form of a diagram showing
8 such portion of the face of the voting machine as it will appear after
9 the official ballots are arranged thereon or therein for voting on
10 election day. Such sample or instruction ballots shall be open to the
11 inspection of all voters on election day, in all elections where voting
12 machines are used.

13 b. There shall be furnished a sufficient number of sample ballots
14 *printed entirely in black ink*, a facsimile of the face of the machine,
15 of a reduced size, one of which sample ballots shall be mailed to each
16 registered voter. Any reference to sample ballot envelopes in any
17 section of this Title to the contrary notwithstanding, in all counties
18 where voting machines are used and wherein the commissioner of
19 registration has the facilities to mail out sample ballots direct to
20 the registrants of such county and has elected so to do, as otherwise
21 in this Title provided, the commissioner of registration in any
22 such county may request the county clerk of such county to have the
22A sample ballots prepared in the manner following:

23 (1) The county clerk shall have said sample ballots for all gen-
24 eral and special elections printed in such manner that, when folded,
25 the words "Official General Election Sample Ballot" or as the case
26 may be, shall appear on the reverse side thereof, together with the
27 words "In cases where the sample ballot is to be sent to an ad-
28 dressee who does not receive his mail by delivery to his home or
29 through rural free delivery 'if not delivered within 5 days return
30 to the commissioner of registration' and in all other cases 'if not
31 delivered within 2 days return to the commissioner of registration.'
32 Do not Forward. Return Postage Guaranteed" over the return
33 address of the commissioner of registration. Such portion of the
34 ballot may contain such additional words that conform with United
35 State Postal regulations that will prevent such envelope from being
36 forwarded to the voter at any other address than that appearing on
37 the envelope, and that will cause such envelope to be returned to the
38 commissioner of registration, with information thereon from the
39 post office showing the reason for nondelivery.

40 (2) The county clerk in drawing the specifications for the print-

41 ing of the official primary ballots shall include the requirement that
 42 the municipal clerks shall have primary sample ballots printed in
 43 such manner that, when folded, the words "Official Primary Elec-
 44 tion Sample Ballot" shall appear on the reverse side thereof, to-
 45 gether with the words "In cases where the sample ballot is to be
 46 sent to an addressee who does not receive his mail by delivery to
 47 his home or through rural free delivery 'if not delivered within 5
 48 days return to the commissioner of registration' and in all other
 48A cases 'if not delivered within 2 days return to the commissioner of
 49 registration.' Do Not Forward. Return Postage Guaranteed" over
 50 the return address of the commissioner of registration. Such por-
 51 tion of the ballot may contain such additional words that conform
 52 with United State Postal regulations that will prevent such enve-
 53 lope from being forwarded to the voter at any other address than
 54 that appearing on the envelope, and that will cause such envelope to
 55 be returned to the commissioner of registration, with information
 56 thereon from the post office showing the reason for nondelivery.

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

58 c. For all general and special elections the county clerk, and for
 59 all primary and municipal elections the municipal clerks, shall, at
 60 least 30 days preceding any such election, make the arrangements
 61 necessary to be made with the postmaster or postmasters in their
 62 respective counties and municipalities to have the said sample
 63 ballots mailed under the postal laws and regulations, and forthwith
 64 notify the said commissioner of registration in writing to that effect.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

The purpose of this bill is to permit the printing of absentee and sample ballots entirely in black ink. Presently such ballots are printed in black ink for the names of candidates and red ink for public questions. This requirement will remain for names of candidates and public questions printed on the face of a voting machine, however, it is apparent that a voter can take much more time to study an absentee ballot or a sample ballot than he can take to study the face of a voting machine and the need for red ink to attract the voters attention is not present outside the voting booth. By allowing the ballot to be printed in entirely black ink, the several counties will realize an estimated printing cost saving in excess of \$200,000.00.