

19:31-3.2

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Voter registration--domestic
violence victims)

NJSA: 19:31-3.2

LAWS OF: 1994 **CHAPTER:** 148

BILL NO: S716

SPONSOR(S): Lipman

DATE INTRODUCED: March 3, 1994

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** ---
SENATE: State Government

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage
First reprint enacted denoted by superscript numbers

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** October 20, 1994
SENATE: September 19, 1994

DATE OF APPROVAL: December 2, 1994

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No
SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

KBG:pp

[FIRST REPRINT]

SENATE, No. 716

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1994

By Senators LIPMAN and Cafiero

1 AN ACT allowing certain victims of domestic violence to register
2 to vote without disclosing a street address and supplementing
3 chapter 31 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

4

5 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
6 *State of New Jersey:*

7 1. ¹a.¹ A person who is a victim of domestic violence who has
8 obtained a permanent restraining order against a defendant
9 pursuant to section 13 of the "Prevention of Domestic Violence
10 Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29) and fears further
11 violent acts by the defendant shall be allowed to register to vote
12 without disclosing the person's street address. Such a person
13 shall leave the space for a street address on the ¹original¹
14 permanent registration form blank and shall, instead, attach to
15 the form a copy of the permanent restraining order and a note
16 which indicates that the person fears further violent acts by the
17 defendant and which contains a mailing address, post office box
18 or other contact point where mail can be received by the person.
19 Upon receipt of the person's voter registration form, the
20 commissioner of registration in all counties having a
21 superintendent of elections, and the county board of elections in
22 all other counties, shall provide the person with a map of the
23 municipality in which the person resides which shows the various
24 voting districts. The person shall indicate to the commissioner or
25 board, as appropriate, the voting district in which the person
26 resides and shall be permitted to vote at the polling place for
27 that district. If such a person thereafter changes residences, the
28 person shall so inform the commissioner or board by completing a
29 new permanent registration form in the manner described above.

30 ¹b. Any person who makes public any information which has
31 been provided by a victim of domestic violence pursuant to
32 subsection a. of this section concerning the mailing address, post
33 office box or other contact point of the victim or the election
34 district in which the victim resides is guilty of a crime of the
35 fourth degree.¹

36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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41 Allows certain victims of domestic violence to register to vote
42 without disclosing a street address.

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SSG committee amendments adopted June 6, 1994.

SENATE, No. 716

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1994

By Senator LIPMAN

1 AN ACT allowing certain victims of domestic violence to register
2 to vote without disclosing a street address and supplementing
3 chapter 31 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

4

5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
6 State of New Jersey:

7 1. A person who is a victim of domestic violence who has
8 obtained a permanent restraining order against a defendant
9 pursuant to section 13 of the "Prevention of Domestic Violence
10 Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29) and fears further
11 violent acts by the defendant shall be allowed to register to vote
12 without disclosing the person's street address. Such a person
13 shall leave the space for a street address on the permanent
14 registration form blank and shall, instead, attach to the form a
15 copy of the permanent restraining order and a note which
16 indicates that the person fears further violent acts by the
17 defendant and which contains a mailing address, post office box
18 or other contact point where mail can be received by the person.
19 Upon receipt of the person's voter registration form, the
20 commissioner of registration in all counties having a
21 superintendent of elections, and the county board of elections in
22 all other counties, shall provide the person with a map of the
23 municipality in which the person resides which shows the various
24 voting districts. The person shall indicate to the commissioner or
25 board, as appropriate, the voting district in which the person
26 resides and shall be permitted to vote at the polling place for
27 that district. If such a person thereafter changes residences, the
28 person shall so inform the commissioner or board by completing a
29 new permanent registration form in the manner described above.

30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill would allow a victim of domestic violence who has
36 obtained a permanent restraining order against a defendant
37 pursuant to the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,"
38 N.J.S.A.2C:25-17 et seq., and who fears further violent acts by
39 the defendant, to register to vote without disclosing the victim's
40 street address. Such a individual would, instead, leave the space
41 for a street address on the permanent registration form blank and
42 attach thereto a copy of the restraining order and a note which
43 indicates that the person fears further violent acts by the
44 defendant and which contains a mailing address, post office box
45 or other contact point where mail can be received. Election
46 officials would provide the person with a map of the municipality

1 in which the person resides which shows the various voting
2 districts. The person would indicate the voting district in which
3 the person resides and shall be permitted to vote at the polling
4 place for that district.

5 The bill would codify in the statutes the holding of the Superior
6 Court, Law Division in D.C. v. Supt. of Elections and Comm. of
7 Registration, Monmouth Co., Docket No. MON-L-7150-92
8 (Decided October 23, 1992; Approved for Publication January 25,
9 1993). It would, thus, ensure that victims of domestic violence
10 will be able to exercise their constitutionally-guaranteed right to
11 vote without further jeopardizing their safety.

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17 Allows certain victims of domestic violence to register to vote
without disclosing a street address.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 716

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 6, 1994

The Senate State Government Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate, No. 716.

The purpose of this bill is to allow certain victims of domestic violence to register to vote without publicly disclosing the street addresses of those persons.

Specifically, the bill would allow a victim of domestic violence who has obtained a permanent restraining order against a defendant pursuant to the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," N.J.S.A.2C:25-17 et seq., and who fears further violent acts by the defendant, to register to vote without disclosing the victim's street address. Such a individual would, instead, leave the space for a street address on the original permanent registration form blank and attach thereto a copy of the restraining order together with a note which indicates that the person fears further violent acts by the defendant. The note must contain a mailing address, post office box or other contact point where mail can be received. Upon receipt of the person's voter registration form, the commissioner of registration or the county board of elections, as the case may be, would provide the person with a map of the municipality in which the person resides which shows the various voting districts. The person would indicate to the appropriate election official the voting district in which the person resides and shall be permitted to vote at the polling place for that district. If the person thereafter changes residences, the person shall so inform the appropriate election official by completing a new permanent registration form in the manner described above.

The bill provides that any person who makes public any information concerning the contact point of a victim of domestic violence or the election district in which such a person resides is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

If enacted, this bill would establish in statute the holding of the Superior Court, Law Division in D.C. v. Superintendent of Elections and Commissioner of Registration, Monmouth Co., 261 N.J.Super 366 (L.1992).

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Amendments were adopted to: 1) clarify a reference to the original (white) permanent registration form; and 2) provide that any person who makes public any information concerning the contact point of a victim of domestic violence or the election district in which such a person resides is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.