

40A: 62-4.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST  
Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

NJSA: 40A:62-2.1

(Town council--  
members--terms  
of office)

LAWS OF: 1991

CHAPTER: 227

Bill No: A550

Sponsor(s): Impreveduto

Date Introduced: Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly: Municipal Government

Senate: County & Municipal Government

Amended during passage: No

Date of Passage: Assembly: January 17, 1991

Senate: June 13, 1990

Date of Approval: July 26, 1991

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly: Yes

Senate: Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

KBG/SLJ

P.L.1991, CHAPTER 227, approved July 26, 1991  
1990 Assembly No. 550

1 AN ACT concerning increased terms for certain elective offices  
2 for the town form of government and supplementing chapter 62  
3 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.  
4

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

7 1. a. The legal voters of any town in which the mayor and  
8 council members are elected for two-year terms of office, may  
9 by petition and referendum, require that the mayor and council  
10 members shall be elected for four-year terms of office.

11 b. Upon the submission to the town clerk of a petition, signed  
12 by at least fifteen per centum (15%) of the legal voters of the  
13 municipality who cast their votes in the municipality at the last  
14 election in which members of the General Assembly were  
15 elected, the proposition shall be submitted to the voters at the  
16 next general election. The proposition shall not be submitted  
17 more than once in any four-year period.

18 c. The notice, advertisement and conduct of the referendum  
19 shall be in the same manner as for offices voted at the general  
20 election.

21 d. The proposition shall be submitted to the voters at the  
22 election in substantially the following form: "Shall the term of  
23 the mayor and council members in .....(name of  
24 town)..... be increased to four years?"

25 e. A canvass and return of the vote upon the proposition shall  
26 be made by the election officers in the same manner as for  
27 officers voted for at the general election, and a majority of all  
28 the votes cast upon the proposition in favor of the proposition  
29 shall be sufficient to adopt it.

30 2. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary,  
31 upon approval by the legal voters of the town of the proposition  
32 to increase the term of the mayor and council members to four  
33 years, at the first annual election after the approval of the  
34 proposition, in those towns where the town is divided into wards  
35 with two council members from each ward, the voters shall elect  
36 those members of the council whose terms expire at the end of  
37 the year in which the election is held to two-year terms and the  
38 mayor and remaining members of the town council shall be  
39 elected to four-year terms, the respective terms of each to be  
40 designated on the ballot. Thereafter, the mayor and members of  
41 the town council shall be elected to four-year terms at an

1 election held in the year in which their respective terms expire.  
2 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

3  
4  
5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

6  
7 Allows voters to increase office terms for town mayors and  
8 council members from two to four years by petition and  
9 referendum.

1 election held in the year in which their respective terms expire.

2 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

3

4

5

STATEMENT

6

7 This bill permits the legal voters of a town in which the mayor  
8 and council members are currently elected for two-year terms of  
9 office to petition for a referendum on increasing those terms of  
10 office to four years. The signatures of 15% of the legal voters of  
11 the town would be required on the petition to place the  
12 proposition on the ballot at the next general election. There is a  
13 general feeling in many towns with increasing populations that a  
14 term of office in excess of two years is necessary for more  
15 effective management. Under current law, which would not be  
16 affected by this bill, the legal voters of a town can, through  
17 petition and referendum, increase the mayor's term of office  
18 from two to three years.

19

20

21

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

22

23 Allows voters to increase office terms for town mayors and  
24 council members from two to four years by petition and  
25 referendum.

ASSEMBLY MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 550

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 17, 1990

The Assembly Municipal Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 550.

This bill permits the legal voters of a town in which the mayor and council members are currently elected for two-year terms of office to petition for a referendum on increasing those terms of office to four years. The signatures of 15% of the legal voters of the town would be required on the petition to place the proposition on the ballot at the next general election. There is a general feeling in many towns with increasing populations that a term of office in excess of two years is necessary for more effective management. Under current law, which would not be affected by this bill, the legal voters of a town can, through petition and referendum, increase the mayor's term of office from two to three years.

The towns that currently have two-year terms and would be eligible to take advantage of the provisions of this bill are Boonton Town and Dover Town in Morris County, Guttenberg Town, Harrison Town, Kearny Town and Secaucus Town in Hudson County, and Hammonton Town in Atlantic County.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1990 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

SENATE COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL  
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 550**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 25, 1991

The Senate County and Municipal Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 550.

Assembly Bill No. 550 permits the legal voters of a town in which the mayor and council members are currently elected for two-year terms of office to petition for a referendum on increasing those terms of office to four years. The signatures of 15% of the legal voters of the town would be required on the petition to place the proposition on the ballot at the next general election. There is a general feeling in many towns with increasing populations that a term of office in excess of two years is necessary for more effective management. Under current law, which would not be affected by this bill, the legal voters of a town can, through petition and referendum, increase the mayor's term of office from two to three years.

The towns that currently have two-year terms and would be eligible to take advantage of the provisions of this bill are Boonton Town and Dover Town in Morris County, Guttenberg Town, Harrison Town, Kearny Town and Secaucus Town in Hudson County, and Hammonton Town in Atlantic County.