

19:44A-46

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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NJSA: 19:44A-46 (Gubernatorial election delegates)

LAWS OF: 1991 CHAPTER: 317

Bill No: A2421

Sponsor(s): Baer and Mazur

Date Introduced: Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly: State Government

Senate: State Government

Amended during passage: Yes Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly: April 23, 1990

Senate: July 25, 1991

Date of Approval: November 19, 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

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[FIRST REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2421

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1990 SESSION

By Assemblymen BAER and MAZUR

1 AN ACT concerning certain debates among candidates for
2 nomination for election or for election to the office of
3 Governor and amending P.L.1989, c.4.

4

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

7 1. Section 10 of P.L.1989, c.4 (C.19:44A-46) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 10. a. The series of gubernatorial primary debates under
10 subsection a. of section 9 of [this 1988 amendatory and
11 supplementary act] P.L.1989, c.4 (C.19:44A-45) shall consist of
12 two debates. Each of the debates shall be of at least one hour's
13 duration. The first debate in the series shall occur not earlier
14 than the date on which the ballot for the primary election in
15 which candidates are to be nominated for election to the office
16 of Governor is finally certified by the Secretary of State to the
17 clerks of the several counties, and the second debate in the series
18 shall occur not later than the 11th day prior to the primary
19 election to select candidates for that office unless an emergency,
20 as determined by the vote of a majority of the participating
21 candidates, requires the postponement thereof, but the second
22 gubernatorial primary debate shall in no event be held later than
23 the second day preceding that primary election.

24 b. The series of gubernatorial election debates under
25 subsection b. of section 9 of [this 1988 amendatory and
26 supplementary act] P.L.1989, c.4 (C.19:44A-45) shall consist of
27 two debates. Each of the gubernatorial election debates shall be
28 of at least one hour's duration. The first debate in the series
29 shall occur not earlier than the third Tuesday following the first
30 Monday in September of the year in which a general election is to
31 be held for the office of Governor, and the second debate in the
32 series shall occur not later than the 11th day prior to the general
33 election for that office unless an emergency, as determined by
34 the vote of a majority of the participating candidates, requires
35 the postponement thereof, but the final gubernatorial election
36 debate shall in no event be held later than the second day
37 preceding that general election.

38 c. ¹[Private organizations] Organizations¹ which are not
39 affiliated with any political party or with any holder of or

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 Assembly ASG committee amendments adopted February 28, 1990.

1 candidate for public office, which have not endorsed any
2 candidate in the pending primary or general election for the
3 office of Governor, and which have previously sponsored one or
4 more televised debates among candidates for Statewide office in
5 the State since 1976, shall be eligible to sponsor one or more
6 interactive gubernatorial primary debates or interactive
7 gubernatorial election debates under subsection a. or subsection
8 b., respectively, of this section. In addition, any association of
9 two or more ¹separately owned¹ news publications or
10 broadcasting outlets, including newspapers, radio stations or
11 networks, and television stations or networks, having between or
12 among them a substantial readership or audience in this State,
13 and any association of print or broadcast news or press service
14 correspondents having among them a substantial readership or
15 audience in this State, shall be eligible to sponsor any such
16 gubernatorial primary or gubernatorial election debate, without
17 regard to whether that association or any of its members shall
18 previously have sponsored any debate among candidates for
19 Statewide office.

20 The Election Law Enforcement Commission shall accept
21 applications from eligible ¹[private]¹ organizations and eligible
22 associations of news publications and broadcasting outlets or
23 news or press service correspondents to sponsor one or more of
24 those interactive gubernatorial debates. Applications to sponsor
25 debates under subsection a. shall be submitted to the commission
26 no later than March 15 of any year in which a primary election is
27 to be held to nominate candidates for the office of Governor, and
28 applications to sponsor debates under subsection b. shall be
29 submitted to the commission no later than July 1 of any year in
30 which a general election is to be held to fill the office of
31 Governor.

32 Where the number of eligible applicants to sponsor
33 gubernatorial primary debates or gubernatorial election debates
34 exceeds the number prescribed under subsection a. and subsection
35 b. of this section, respectively, the Election Law Enforcement
36 Commission shall select the [private organizations] sponsors from
37 among the [applicates] applicants within 30 days of the last day
38 for submitting those applications, as provided by this subsection.
39 To the maximum extent practicable and feasible, the commission
40 shall select a different [private organization to] sponsor for each
41 of the interactive gubernatorial debates, but shall not be
42 precluded from selecting the same [private organization to]
43 sponsor for more than one debate.

44 The [private organizations] sponsors selected by the
45 commission shall be responsible for selecting the date, time and
46 location of the debates, subject to the limitations set forth in this
47 section. The rules for conducting each debate shall be solely the
48 responsibility of the [private organizations] sponsors so selected,

1 but shall not be made final without consultation with both the
2 chairman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee and the
3 chairman of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee in the
4 case of gubernatorial primary debates, and with a representative
5 designated by each of the participating candidates in the case of
6 gubernatorial election debates.

7 (cf: P.L.1989, c.4, s.10)

8 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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ELECTIONS

12

13 Authorizes designation of associations of print and broadcast
14 news media and correspondents to sponsor primary and general
15 election debates for the office of Governor.

1 chairman of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee in the
2 case of gubernatorial primary debates, and with a representative
3 designated by each of the participating candidates in the case of
4 gubernatorial election debates.

5 (cf: P.L.1989, c.4, s.10)

6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill amends the statute which requires two debates among
12 primary and general election candidates for the office of
13 Governor who accept public financing for their campaigns. Under
14 current law, sponsorship of these debates is restricted to private
15 organizations which are not affiliated with any political party or
16 with any holder of or candidate for public office, which have not
17 endorsed any candidate in the pending primary or general election
18 for the office of Governor, and which have previously sponsored
19 one or more televised debates for Statewide office in the State
20 since 1976. Under the bill, eligibility for sponsorship of the
21 debates is extended to any association of two or more news
22 publications or broadcasting outlets and any association of news
23 or press service correspondents having a substantial readership or
24 audience in this State.

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ELECTIONS

28

29 Authorizes designation of associations of print and broadcast
30 news media and correspondents to sponsor primary and general
31 election debates for the office of Governor.

ASSEMBLY STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2421

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 26, 1990

The Assembly State Government Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2421.

This bill amends the statute which requires two debates among primary and general election candidates for the office of Governor who accept public financing for their campaigns.

Under current law, sponsorship of these debates is restricted to private organizations which are not affiliated with any political party or with any holder of or candidate for public office, which have not endorsed any candidate in the pending primary or general election for the office of Governor, and which have previously sponsored one or more televised debates for Statewide office in the State since 1976.

Under the bill, (1) public organizations meeting the other qualifications currently required of debate sponsors are to become eligible to sponsor debates, and (2) a new category of eligible debate sponsors is established for associations of two or more news publications or broadcasting outlets and associations of news or press service correspondents having a substantial readership or audience in this State.

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee adopted amendments to the bill (1) allowing public, as well as private, organizations which have previously sponsored gubernatorial debates to be eligible to sponsor the statutorily mandated debates, and (2) requiring that, for an association of news publications or broadcasting outlets to be eligible to sponsor a gubernatorial debate, participants in the association must be separately owned.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL
AND INTERSTATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2421

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 10, 1991

The Senate State Government and Federal and Interstate Relations Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 2421 [1R].

This bill amends the law which requires two debates among primary and general election candidates for the office of Governor who accept public financing for their campaigns. At present, sponsorship of these debates is restricted to private organizations which are not affiliated with any political party or with any holder of or candidate for public office, which have not endorsed any candidate in the pending primary or general election for the office of Governor, and which have previously sponsored one or more televised debates for Statewide office in the State since 1976.

Under this bill, (1) public organizations meeting the other qualifications currently required of debate sponsors shall be eligible to sponsor debates, and (2) a new category of eligible debate sponsors is established for associations of two or more separately owned news publications or broadcasting outlets and associations of news or press service correspondents having a substantial readership or audience in this State.