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RWH/JA

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 177, *approved July 21, 2017*

Assembly, No. 4875

1 AN ACT requiring gubernatorial candidates' statements to be posted
2 online and amending P.L.1974, c.26.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 12 of P.L.1974, c.26 (C.19:44A-37) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 12. The Election Law Enforcement Commission shall, on or
10 before the forty-fifth day prior to the date on which the general
11 election is to be held, supply each county clerk with the text of
12 statements from each candidate for election to the office of
13 Governor. Each candidate for the office of Governor who wishes a
14 statement **【mailed】** to be posted on the county clerk's website on
15 his behalf shall submit to the commission, on forms provided by it,
16 his proposed statement which shall not exceed 500 words in length.
17 Each county clerk shall cause the statements submitted by all such
18 candidates to be **【printed and mailed with the sample ballot for the**
19 **general election to each registered voter in the county】** posted on
20 the county clerk's website in a conspicuous location and available
21 as a hardcopy upon request, with a short explanation prepared by
22 the commission that such statements are provided pursuant to this
23 law to assist the voters of this State in making their determination
24 among the candidates for the office of Governor. The statements
25 shall also be posted in a conspicuous location on the websites of the
26 Division of Elections and the Election Law Enforcement
27 Commission.

28 The sample ballot shall note that gubernatorial statements are
29 available upon request to the county clerk, on the county clerk's
30 website and the websites of the Division of Elections and the
31 Election Law Enforcement Commission.

32 The cost of **【printing and mailing】** posting such statements shall
33 be paid for by the counties; except that any cost to the counties
34 resulting from the **【printing and mailing】** posting of such
35 statements shall be reimbursed from State funds appropriated to the
36 commission for that purpose on claim therefor made by the county
37 clerk to the commission.

38 (cf: P.L.1980, c.74, s.12)

39
40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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.

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STATEMENT

This bill requires that statements from candidates for election to the office of Governor be posted online. Under the bill, the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) would provide each county clerk with a statement from each candidate for election to the office of Governor who wishes to provide a statement to the public. The bill would require county clerks, the Division of Elections, and ELEC to post those statements on their respective Internet websites in a conspicuous location, and to make the statements available as a hardcopy upon request.

Under current law, ELEC provides each county clerk with statements submitted by candidates for election to the office of Governor, which the county clerks then print and mail to each registered voter with the sample ballot for the general election.

Requires gubernatorial candidates' statements be posted online.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4875

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2017

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ELIZABETH MAHER MUOIO

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

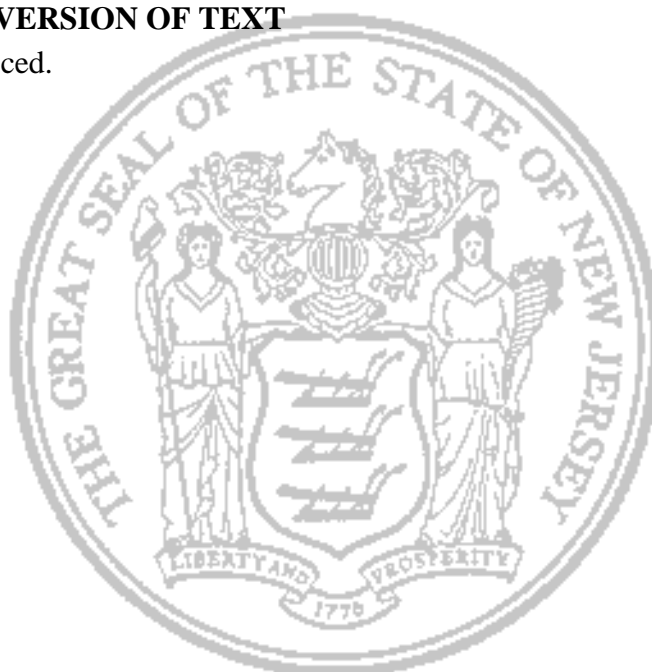
Assemblyman McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Requires gubernatorial candidates' statements be posted online.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2017)

1 AN ACT requiring gubernatorial candidates' statements to be posted
2 online and amending P.L.1974, c.26.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 12 of P.L.1974, c.26 (C.19:44A-37) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 12. The Election Law Enforcement Commission shall, on or
10 before the forty-fifth day prior to the date on which the general
11 election is to be held, supply each county clerk with the text of
12 statements from each candidate for election to the office of
13 Governor. Each candidate for the office of Governor who wishes a
14 statement **【mailed】** to be posted on the county clerk's website on
15 his behalf shall submit to the commission, on forms provided by it,
16 his proposed statement which shall not exceed 500 words in length.
17 Each county clerk shall cause the statements submitted by all such
18 candidates to be **【printed and mailed with the sample ballot for the**
19 **general election to each registered voter in the county】** posted on
20 the county clerk's website in a conspicuous location and available
21 as a hardcopy upon request, with a short explanation prepared by
22 the commission that such statements are provided pursuant to this
23 law to assist the voters of this State in making their determination
24 among the candidates for the office of Governor. The statements
25 shall also be posted in a conspicuous location on the websites of the
26 Division of Elections and the Election Law Enforcement
27 Commission.

28 The sample ballot shall note that gubernatorial statements are
29 available upon request to the county clerk, on the county clerk's
30 website and the websites of the Division of Elections and the
31 Election Law Enforcement Commission.

32 The cost of **【printing and mailing】** posting such statements shall
33 be paid for by the counties; except that any cost to the counties
34 resulting from the **【printing and mailing】** posting of such
35 statements shall be reimbursed from State funds appropriated to the
36 commission for that purpose on claim therefor made by the county
37 clerk to the commission.

38 (cf: P.L.1980, c.74, s.12)

39

40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

STATEMENT

43

44 This bill requires that statements from candidates for election to
45 the office of Governor be posted online. Under the bill, the
46 Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) would provide

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.

1 each county clerk with a statement from each candidate for election
2 to the office of Governor who wishes to provide a statement to the
3 public. The bill would require county clerks, the Division of
4 Elections, and ELEC to post those statements on their respective
5 Internet websites in a conspicuous location, and to make the
6 statements available as a hardcopy upon request.
7 Under current law, ELEC provides each county clerk with
8 statements submitted by candidates for election to the office of
9 Governor, which the county clerks then print and mail to each
10 registered voter with the sample ballot for the general election.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4875

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 2017

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4875.

This bill requires that statements from candidates for election to the office of Governor be posted online. Under the bill, the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) would provide each county clerk with a statement from each candidate for election to the office of Governor who wishes to provide a statement to the public. The bill would require county clerks, the Division of Elections, and ELEC to post those statements on their respective Internet websites in a conspicuous location, and to make the statements available as a hardcopy upon request.

Under current law, ELEC provides each county clerk with statements submitted by candidates for election to the office of Governor, which the county clerks then print and mail to each registered voter with the sample ballot for the general election.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 4875
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 27, 2017

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires gubernatorial candidates' statements be posted online.
- Type of Impact:** In gubernatorial election years: net State expenditure decrease, and offsetting county expenditure and revenue decreases.
- Agencies Affected:** Election Law Enforcement Commission, Department of State, and County Clerks.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>
Net State Expenditure Decrease	Indeterminate	\$0	\$0
Offsetting County Expenditure and Revenue Decreases	Indeterminate	\$0	\$0

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill will decrease by an indeterminate amount the cost of counties to disseminate gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters in gubernatorial election years. As the State reimburses the counties for those costs, the OLS anticipates a corresponding county revenue decrease so that there will be no fiscal net impact on counties.
- The OLS projects that this bill will produce an indeterminate net expenditure decrease to the State in every gubernatorial election year. The net decrease will have two components: an indeterminate increase in Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) administrative expenditures and an indeterminate decrease in reimbursements to counties for the cost of disseminating gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters.
- The bill requires that the gubernatorial candidate statements be posted on each county clerk's website instead of being printed and mailed with the sample ballots to registered voters. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) estimated in 2014 that county reimbursements for statement printing and mailing costs were \$600,000 in FY 2014 for the 2013 general election. Under the bill, the cost to counties to upgrade their IT systems to accommodate the statement postings on their websites is unknown.

- The ELEC estimated in 2014 that it would cost approximately \$10,000 to make the information technology (IT) upgrades necessary to post gubernatorial candidate statements on its website and to translate the statements into various languages. The OLS has no information that would allow for a confirmation or refutation of this estimate.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 4875 of 2017 requires that the statements of gubernatorial candidates be posted on each county clerk's website in a conspicuous location or be available by mail upon request, instead of being printed and mailed with the sample ballots. The State is to reimburse counties for the cost of posting the statements on their websites. The bill also requires the statements to be posted in a conspicuous location on the websites of the ELEC and the Division of Elections in the Department of State.

Under current law, the ELEC provides each county clerk with a statement from candidates for election to the Office of Governor who wish a statement to be provided to the public. The county clerks then print and mail those statements with the sample ballot for the general election to registered voters and the State reimburses counties for the cost of printing and mailing the statements.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Executive Branch has not submitted a formal, written fiscal note for this bill. However, the ELEC and the OMB provided a fiscal note for an identical bill in the prior legislative session.

In that prior fiscal note, the ELEC estimated that the bill would increase its expenditures by \$10,000 for the translation of the statements of gubernatorial candidates into various languages and IT software upgrades for the posting of the statements online. The ELEC added that it was unable to estimate each county's costs of posting the required statements on its website and, therefore, the \$10,000 cost estimate did not include any related county cost reimbursements.

The OMB concurred with the ELEC's estimate but added that the bill would also reduce State reimbursements to counties for statement printing and mailing costs, which were estimated to be \$600,000 in FY 2014 for the 2013 general election. Therefore, the bill would generate a net savings of approximately \$590,000 in FY 2018 for the next gubernatorial election.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that the bill will decrease by an indeterminate amount the cost of counties to disseminate gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters in gubernatorial election years. As the State reimburses the counties for those costs, the OLS anticipates a corresponding county revenue decrease so that there will be no fiscal net impact on counties.

In addition, the OLS projects that this bill will produce an indeterminate net expenditure decrease to the State in every gubernatorial election year. The net decrease will have two components: an indeterminate increase in ELEC administrative expenditures that will be paid out of the State General Fund and an indeterminate decrease in reimbursements out of the

Gubernatorial Elections Fund to counties for the cost of disseminating gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters.

The OLS lacks data that would allow for an independent confirmation or refutation of the estimates the ELEC and OMB provided for an identical bill in the prior legislative session. According to the estimates, the ELEC would incur an additional cost of \$10,000 for IT upgrades necessary to post the gubernatorial candidates' statements on ELEC's website and the accompanying translation services necessary to post the statements in various languages. The OLS notes, however, that the translation of statements into various languages is also a current requirement of the printed paper version of the statements.

The bill also requires the Division of Elections in the Department of the State to post the gubernatorial candidates' statements online. The division, however, did not anticipate any associated increase in costs.

In addition, the bill will affect State reimbursements to counties for the counties' cost of disseminating gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters. Current law requires counties to print and mail the statements with sample ballots to each registered voter in the respective county. According to the prior OMB estimate, the cost reimbursements approximated \$600,000 in FY 2014. The OLS cannot confirm or refute this amount, but notes that the reimbursements are paid out of the Gubernatorial Elections Fund and that the Governor's FY 2018 Budget includes a language provision that, according to the OMB, would authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,080,000 for reimbursements to counties for the printing and distribution of sample ballots. Some unknown portion of that amount would cover the printing and distribution of gubernatorial candidates' statements.

Instead of requiring the reimbursement of county costs for the printing and mailing of gubernatorial candidates' statements with sample ballots, the bill requires the State to reimburse the counties whose county clerks file claims for reimbursement with ELEC for the costs incurred to post the statements on their websites. The cost to each county to upgrade its system to accommodate the postings is unknown and, therefore, the potential cost to the State to reimburse the counties cannot be determined.

Until the costs to the counties to upgrade their systems or accommodate this change are known, the various fiscal impacts of the bill on the State and counties cannot be determined.

Section: State Government
Analyst: Kimberly McCord Clemmensen
Senior Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Frank W. Haines, III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 1996

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 18, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Requires gubernatorial candidates' statements be posted online.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/26/2016)

1 AN ACT requiring gubernatorial candidates' statements to be posted
2 online and amending P.L.1974, c.26.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 12 of P.L.1974, c.26 (C.19:44A-37) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 12. The Election Law Enforcement Commission shall, on or
10 before the forty-fifth day prior to the date on which the general
11 election is to be held, supply each county clerk with the text of
12 statements from each candidate for election to the office of
13 Governor. Each candidate for the office of Governor who wishes a
14 statement **【mailed】** to be posted on the county clerk's website on
15 his behalf shall submit to the commission, on forms provided by it,
16 his proposed statement which shall not exceed 500 words in length.
17 Each county clerk shall cause the statements submitted by all such
18 candidates to be **【printed and mailed with the sample ballot for the**
19 **general election to each registered voter in the county】** posted on
20 the county clerk's website in a conspicuous location and available
21 as a hardcopy upon request, with a short explanation prepared by
22 the commission that such statements are provided pursuant to this
23 law to assist the voters of this State in making their determination
24 among the candidates for the office of Governor. The statements
25 shall also be posted in a conspicuous location on the websites of the
26 Division of Elections and the Election Law Enforcement
27 Commission.

28 The sample ballot shall note that gubernatorial statements are
29 available upon request to the county clerk, on the county clerk's
30 website and the websites of the Division of Elections and the
31 Election Law Enforcement Commission.

32 The cost of **【printing and mailing】** posting such statements shall
33 be paid for by the counties; except that any cost to the counties
34 resulting from the **【printing and mailing】** posting of such
35 statements shall be reimbursed from State funds appropriated to the
36 commission for that purpose on claim therefor made by the county
37 clerk to the commission.

38 (cf: P.L.1980, c.74, s.12)

39

40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

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STATEMENT

43

44 Under current law, the Election Law Enforcement Commission
45 provides each county clerk with a statement from candidates for
46 election to the office of Governor who wish a statement to be provided

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.

S1996 BEACH, VAN DREW

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1 to the public. Currently, those statements are printed and mailed with
2 the sample ballot for the general election to each registered voter in the
3 county.

4 This bill will require that the statements be posted on the county
5 clerk's website in a conspicuous location or available by mail upon
6 request, instead of being printed and mailed with the sample ballots.
7 The bill also requires the statement to be posted in a conspicuous
8 location on the websites of the Division of Elections and the Election
9 Law Enforcement Commission.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1996

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 12, 2017

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1996.

This bill would require that statements from candidates for election to the office of Governor be posted online. Under the bill, the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) would provide each county clerk with a statement from each candidate for election to the office of Governor who wishes to provide a statement to the public. The bill would require county clerks, the Division of Elections, and ELEC to post those statements on their respective Internet websites in a conspicuous location, and to make the statements available as a hardcopy upon request.

Under current law, ELEC provides each county clerk with statements submitted by candidates for election to the office of Governor, which the county clerks then print and mail to each registered voter with the sample ballot for the general election.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1996

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2017

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1996.

This bill requires that certain gubernatorial candidates' statements be posted online.

Under current law, the Election Law Enforcement Commission provides each county clerk with statements submitted by candidates for election to the office of Governor who wish a statement to be provided to the public. Currently, the law provides for the statements to be printed by the county clerk and mailed with the sample ballot for the general election to each registered voter in the county.

This bill requires those statements to be posted on the county clerk's website in a conspicuous location and made available as a hardcopy upon request, instead of being printed and mailed with the sample ballots. The bill also requires the statements to be posted on the websites of the Division of Elections and the Election Law Enforcement Commission, and requires the sample ballots to note that the statements are available upon request to the county clerk, on the county clerk's website, and the websites of the Division of Elections and the Election Law Enforcement Commission.

The bill is scheduled to take effect immediately upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates the bill will decrease by an indeterminate amount the cost of counties to disseminate gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters in gubernatorial election years. As the State reimburses the counties for those costs, the Office of Legislative Services anticipates a corresponding county revenue decrease so that there will be no fiscal net impact on counties.

The Office of Legislative Services projects the bill will produce an indeterminate net expenditure decrease to the State each gubernatorial election year. The net decrease will have two components: an indeterminate increase in Election Law Enforcement Commission administrative expenditures and an indeterminate decrease in reimbursements to counties for the cost of disseminating gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters.

The bill requires that gubernatorial candidate statements be posted on each county clerk's website instead of being printed and mailed

with the sample ballots to registered voters. The Office of Management and Budget estimated in 2014 that county reimbursements for statement printing and mailing costs were \$600,000 in FY 2014 for the 2013 general election. Under the bill, the cost to counties to upgrade their information technology systems to accommodate the statement postings on their websites is unknown.

The Election Law Enforcement Commission estimated in 2014 that it would cost approximately \$10,000 to make the information technology upgrades necessary to post gubernatorial candidate statements on its website and to translate the statements into various languages. The Office of Legislative Services has no information to confirm or refute this estimate.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 1996
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 27, 2017

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires gubernatorial candidates' statements be posted online.
- Type of Impact:** In gubernatorial election years: net State expenditure decrease, and offsetting county expenditure and revenue decreases.
- Agencies Affected:** Election Law Enforcement Commission, Department of State, and County Clerks.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>
Net State Expenditure Decrease	Indeterminate	\$0	\$0
Offsetting County Expenditure and Revenue Decreases	Indeterminate	\$0	\$0

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill will decrease by an indeterminate amount the cost of counties to disseminate gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters in gubernatorial election years. As the State reimburses the counties for those costs, the OLS anticipates a corresponding county revenue decrease so that there will be no fiscal net impact on counties.
- The OLS projects that this bill will produce an indeterminate net expenditure decrease to the State in every gubernatorial election year. The net decrease will have two components: an indeterminate increase in Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) administrative expenditures and an indeterminate decrease in reimbursements to counties for the cost of disseminating gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters.
- The bill requires that the gubernatorial candidate statements be posted on each county clerk's website instead of being printed and mailed with the sample ballots to registered voters. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) estimated in 2014 that county reimbursements for statement printing and mailing costs were \$600,000 in FY 2014 for the 2013 general election. Under the bill, the cost to counties to upgrade their IT systems to accommodate the statement postings on their websites is unknown.

- The ELEC estimated in 2014 that it would cost approximately \$10,000 to make the information technology (IT) upgrades necessary to post gubernatorial candidate statements on its website and to translate the statements into various languages. The OLS has no information that would allow for a confirmation or refutation of this estimate.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 1996 of 2016 requires that the statements of gubernatorial candidates be posted on each county clerk's website in a conspicuous location or be available by mail upon request, instead of being printed and mailed with the sample ballots. The State is to reimburse counties for the cost of posting the statements on their websites. The bill also requires the statements to be posted in a conspicuous location on the websites of the ELEC and the Division of Elections in the Department of State.

Under current law, the ELEC provides each county clerk with a statement from candidates for election to the Office of Governor who wish a statement to be provided to the public. The county clerks then print and mail those statements with the sample ballot for the general election to registered voters and the State reimburses counties for the cost of printing and mailing the statements.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Executive Branch has not submitted a formal, written fiscal note for this bill. However, the ELEC and the OMB provided a fiscal note for an identical bill in the prior legislative session.

In that prior fiscal note, the ELEC estimated that the bill would increase its expenditures by \$10,000 for the translation of the statements of gubernatorial candidates into various languages and IT software upgrades for the posting of the statements online. The ELEC added that it was unable to estimate each county's costs of posting the required statements on its website and, therefore, the \$10,000 cost estimate did not include any related county cost reimbursements.

The OMB concurred with the ELEC's estimate but added that the bill would also reduce State reimbursements to counties for statement printing and mailing costs, which were estimated to be \$600,000 in FY 2014 for the 2013 general election. Therefore, the bill would generate a net savings of approximately \$590,000 in FY 2018 for the next gubernatorial election.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that the bill will decrease by an indeterminate amount the cost of counties to disseminate gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters in gubernatorial election years. As the State reimburses the counties for those costs, the OLS anticipates a corresponding county revenue decrease so that there will be no fiscal net impact on counties.

In addition, the OLS projects that this bill will produce an indeterminate net expenditure decrease to the State in every gubernatorial election year. The net decrease will have two components: an indeterminate increase in ELEC administrative expenditures that will be paid out of the State General Fund and an indeterminate decrease in reimbursements out of the

Gubernatorial Elections Fund to counties for the cost of disseminating gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters.

The OLS lacks data that would allow for an independent confirmation or refutation of the estimates the ELEC and OMB provided for an identical bill in the prior legislative session. According to the estimates, the ELEC would incur an additional cost of \$10,000 for IT upgrades necessary to post the gubernatorial candidates' statements on ELEC's website and the accompanying translation services necessary to post the statements in various languages. The OLS notes, however, that the translation of statements into various languages is also a current requirement of the printed paper version of the statements.

The bill also requires the Division of Elections in the Department of the State to post the gubernatorial candidates' statements online. The division, however, did not anticipate any associated increase in costs.

In addition, the bill will affect State reimbursements to counties for the counties' cost of disseminating gubernatorial candidates' statements to registered voters. Current law requires counties to print and mail the statements with sample ballots to each registered voter in the respective county. According to the prior OMB estimate, the cost reimbursements approximated \$600,000 in FY 2014. The OLS cannot confirm or refute this amount, but notes that the reimbursements are paid out of the Gubernatorial Elections Fund and that the Governor's FY 2018 Budget includes a language provision that, according to the OMB, would authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,080,000 for reimbursements to counties for the printing and distribution of sample ballots. Some unknown portion of that amount would cover the printing and distribution of gubernatorial candidates' statements.

Instead of requiring the reimbursement of county costs for the printing and mailing of gubernatorial candidates' statements with sample ballots, the bill requires the State to reimburse the counties whose county clerks file claims for reimbursement with ELEC for the costs incurred to post the statements on their websites. The cost to each county to upgrade its system to accommodate the postings is unknown and, therefore, the potential cost to the State to reimburse the counties cannot be determined.

Until the costs to the counties to upgrade their systems or accommodate this change are known, the various fiscal impacts of the bill on the State and counties cannot be determined.

Section: State Government
Analyst: Kimberly McCord Clemmensen
Senior Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Frank W. Haines, III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Christie Takes Action on Pending Legislation

Friday, July 21, 2017

Tags: [Bill Action](#)



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Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie today took action on dozens of bills, including S-359/A-2320 (Codey, Vitale/Vainieri Huttle, Conaway, Jimenez, Lampitt, Jasey, Sumter), which raises the minimum age from 19 to 21 of a person to whom a vendor may sell, offer for sale, distribute, give or furnish tobacco products in New Jersey. This new law also amends various related statues concerning penalties, fines, signage requirements, non-face-to-face transactions, and enforcement provisions to reflect the increased minimum age.

“By raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to 21, we are giving young people more time to develop a maturity and better understanding of how dangerous smoking can be and that it is better to not start smoking in the first place,” Governor Christie said. “My mother died from the effects of smoking, and no one should lose their life due to any addictive substance. Additionally, the less people who develop costly tobacco habits that can cause health problems, such as lung cancer, heart disease and developmental issues, the less strain there will be on our healthcare system.”

Governor Christie also took action on pending legislation related to:

Further Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

Governor Christie signed four bills that continue New Jersey's leadership role in fighting the national opioid epidemic. The legislation that requires the Department of Human Services develop, maintain, and post on their website daily information about the number of open beds available in facilities in the state for people in need of mental health or substance use disorder treatment; help inform parents of student athletes and cheerleaders about the use and misuse of prescription opioids; allows hospice programs to accept the unused prescription medicines of their hospice patients for safe disposal and implements the use of current-day, sensitive terminology when referring to persons with substance use disorders or certain disabilities.

- **A-1662/S-2466 (Schaer, Vainieri Huttle, Coughlin, McKnight, Mukherji/Vitale, Allen)** - Requires development and maintenance of data dashboard report to advise of open bed availability in residential facilities providing behavioral health services
- **A-3944/S-2402 (Mazzeo, Lagana, Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Caride, Wimberly/Diegnan, Vitale)** - Requires DOE to develop educational fact sheet for distribution to parents of student-athletes and cheerleaders concerning use and misuse of prescription opioids
- **S-2970/A-4522 (Vitale, Diegnan/Lampitt, Vainieri Huttle, Jimenez)** - Allows hospice care programs to accept unused prescription medications for disposal under certain circumstances
- **S-2721/ACS for A-926 (Vitale, Whelan/Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Tucker, Eustace, McKnight, Mosquera)** - Implements person-first language and changes pejorative terminology referring to persons with certain disabilities or substance use disorders

Protecting and Preserving the Environment

The Governor also signed several bills to protect people and improve the quality of life by strengthening New Jersey's environment.

“These new laws will create more open space preservation opportunities, green energy solutions and safeguards to ensure quality drinking water for all New Jerseyans,” Governor Christie said. “They provide greater flexibility for counties and municipalities to use the roughly \$270 million open space tax dollars they collect each year for the intended mission of protecting New Jersey's environment, improving communities with more recreation and

conservation, and preventing overcrowding of our towns and schools. They also ensure reliable, sustainable and safe environmental infrastructure across the state, by investing nearly \$100 million in critical projects this year."

- **A-1645/S-195 (Schaer, Webber, Dancer, Pintor Marin/Kyrillos, Smith)** - Expands definition of "acquisition," for purposes of county and municipal open space trust funds, to include demolition, removal of debris, and restoration of lands being acquired
- **S-3352/A-5045 (Ruiz, Bateman/Oliver, Chaparro, Singleton, Lagana, Bramnick, Vainieri Huttie, Zwicker)** - Appropriates \$71,700,224 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds to DEP for local government open space acquisition and park development projects
- **S-3353/A-5046 (Greenstein, Thompson/Eustace, Land, Mukherji, Schaer, Bramnick, Vainieri Huttie, Wimberly)** - Appropriates \$12.3 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for recreation and conservation purposes to DEP for State capital and park development projects
- **S-3354/A-5044 (Gordon, Allen/McKeon, Mazzeo, Muoio, Moriarty, Bramnick, Zwicker, Vainieri Huttie)** - Appropriates \$8,992,898 to DEP from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds for grants to certain nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes
- **S-3240/A-4996 (Greenstein, Codey/Mukherji, Mazzeo, Schaer, Holley, Land)** - Authorizes NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust to expend certain sums to make loans for environmental infrastructure projects for FY2018
- **CC for S-3241/A-4998 (Smith, Codey/Eustace, Muoio, Moriarty, Conaway, Andrzejczak)** - Appropriates funds to DEP for environmental infrastructure projects for FY2018
- **S-3242/A-4997 (Gordon, Oroho/McKeon, Prieto)** - Clarifies procedures for approval of environmental and transportation infrastructure projects
- **S-3181/A-4756 (Smith, Diegnan/DeAngelo, Eustace, Gusciora)** - Permits solar electric power generation facility projects not having commenced commercial operation to retain designation through May 31, 2018 as connected to distribution system
- **S-2834/A-4569 (Sweeney, Greenstein, Bateman/Eustace, Karabinchak, McKeon, Vainieri Huttie, Benson, Muoio)** - The "Water Quality Accountability Act"; imposes certain testing, reporting, management, and infrastructure investment requirements on water purveyors

Governor Christie also took action on the following bills:

BILL SIGNINGS:

S-5/A-4925 (Vitale, Sweeney/Conaway, O'Scanlon, Houghtaling, Quijano, Giblin, DeAngelo, Munoz, Mukherji, A.M. Bucco) - Establishes data reporting requirements for emergency medical services providers and dispatch centers

SS SCS SCS for S-291, 652, 1954/ACS for A-1464 (Vitale, Whelan, Allen, Turner/Lampitt, Coughlin, Conaway, Vainieri Huttie, Lagana, Mukherji, Moriarty) - Authorizes health care providers to engage in telemedicine and telehealth

S-742/A-1205 (Beach/Mosquera, Holley, Wimberly, Jones) - Requires board of education to enter into agreement with law enforcement authorities regarding access to live video streams of public school buildings

S-1295/A-3701 (Vitale/Eustace, Munoz) - Amends and repeals sections of "Respiratory Care Practitioner Licensing Act"

S-1315/A-1839 (Vitale/Giblin, Wimberly, McKeon, Mukherji, Sumter) - Revises statutes regarding practice of physical therapy

S-1840/A-2085 (Ruiz, Gill/Mukherji, Oliver, McKnight) - Prohibits charging fee to stop publishing personal identifying information obtained through the criminal justice system

S-1913/A-2794 (Addiego, Greenstein/Lagana, Moriarty, Mukherji, Downey) - "Personal Information and Privacy Protection Act"; restricts collection and use of personal information by retail establishments for certain purposes

S-2058/A-671 (T. Kean, Pou/Munoz, Giblin, Mukherji, Moriarty) - Adds two nurse educators to the New Jersey Board of Nursing

S-2331/A-3962 (Codey, Vitale/Jasey, McKeon, Vainieri Huttie, Munoz, Mukherji, Mosquera, Lampitt) - Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain psychiatrists who work in underserved areas or psychiatric hospitals in New Jersey

CC S-2403/A-3717 (Rice, Turner/Sumter, Vainieri Huttie, Lampitt, Downey) - Establishes Women's Vocational Training Pilot Program to promote economic self-sufficiency of low-income women through increased participation in high-wage, high-demand occupations; authorizes allocation of certain funds therefor

S-2452/A-4007 (Diegnan, Stack/Houghtaling, Downey, Mosquera, Mazzeo) - Requires Director of Division of Taxation to promulgate Property Taxpayer Bill of Rights

S-2577/A-4238 (Cunningham, Ruiz, Gordon/Sumter, Jasey, Muoio, Lagana, Downey, Benson) - Requires Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to provide annual New Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students Loan Program report to Governor and Legislature and develop student loan comparison information document to increase program transparency

S-2618/A-4691 (Cunningham, Pou/Caride, McKeon, Jasey, Giblin) - Requires institutions of higher education to enter into collective Statewide reverse transfer agreement

S-2819/A-4363 (Sweeney, Ruiz, Lesniak/Taliaferro, Andrzejczak, Lampitt, Mosquera, Holley, Quijano) - Creates "Nourishing Young Minds Initiative Fund" in Dept. of Agriculture to help pay for child food and nutrition programs

S-3027/A-4631 (Smith, Greenstein/Lampitt, Quijano, Eustace, Kennedy, Benson, Muoio, Zwicker, Mukherji) - Establishes State food waste reduction goal of 50 percent by 2030

S-3067/A-4652 (Ruiz, Vitale/Vainieri Huttie, Caride, Eustace, Jasey, Wimberly, Gusciora) - Requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students

S-3176/A-4898 (Madden/Mukherji, Singleton) - Changes year used to calculate TDI and FLI employee taxes from most recent calendar year to most recent fiscal year

S-3191/A-3370 (Sweeney, Bateman/Burzichelli, Jones) - Extends voting rights of representatives of sending districts on receiving district board of education

S-3219/A-4859 (Sweeney, T. Kean, Greenstein, Holzapfel/Vainieri Huttie, Prieto, Downey) - Establishes additional penalties related to child pornography and expands crime to include portrayal of child in sexual manner; establishes crime of leader of child pornography network

S-3331/A-5039 (Cruz-Perez/Jones) - Authorizes State Treasurer to sell surplus real property in City of Camden, County of Camden to Camden County Improvement Authority

SJR-105/AJR-157 (Diegnan, Cruz-Perez, Sweeney/Pinkin, Karabinchak, Coughlin) - Designates August 29, 2017 as Governor James Florio Day in New Jersey

SJR-113/AJR-165 (Gordon/Vainieri Huttie, Chiaravalloti) - Clarifies intent of law subjecting PANYNJ to open public records and freedom of information laws in New Jersey and New York

A-222/S-2171 (DeAngelo, Giblin, Singleton, Holley, Benson/Bateman, Greenstein, Stack) - "New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act"; authorizes issuance of \$125,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance capital projects at public libraries; appropriates \$5,000

A-373/S-607 (Auth, Vainieri Huttie, McGuckin, Schepisi, Peterson, Jimenez/Addiego, A.R. Bucco) - Requires life imprisonment without parole for persons convicted of the murder of a minor under the age of 18 in the course of the commission of a sex crime

A-555/S-1847 (Pinkin, Eustace/Diegnan) - Revises statutes concerning incorporation and governance of the Protestant Episcopal Church to remove gender-specific references

A-621/S-2328 (Lagana, Greenwald, Moriarty, Mosquera, Mukherji/Cruz-Perez, Turner) - Permits bowling alleys, including alleys licensed to sell alcoholic beverages, to conduct amusement games

A-1458/S-2449 (Lampitt, Mosquera, Downey, Singleton, Vainieri Huttie/Vitale, Ruiz) - Requires health care professionals engaged in prenatal care to provide parents of newborns with information on health insurance coverage for newborn children

A-1761/S-332 (Eustace, Mukherji, Gusciora/Scutari, Bateman) - Creates fencing crime involving stolen domestic companion animals

A-2060/S-2333 (Gusciora, Sumter, Oliver, Jasey, McKnight/Cruz-Perez, Turner) - Establishes process for consideration of offers from short sale buyers during residential mortgage foreclosures

A-2221/S-2453 (Benson, Russo, DeAngelo, A.M. Bucco/Diegnan, Greenstein) - Allows gross income taxpayers to use returns to make voluntary contributions to the Boy Scouts of America Councils in New Jersey

A-2441/S-2910 (Eustace, Gusciora, Kennedy, Mazzeo, Mukherji/Gordon, Turner) - Authorizes the Unclaimed Property Administrator to verify certain governmental debts before delivering abandoned property

A-2926/S-3197 (Greenwald, Vainieri Huttie, Schaer, Mukherji, Holley, Mosquera, Muoio, Sumter, Mazzeo/Cruz-Perez, Cunningham) - Repeals law suspending certain licenses, registrations and certifications for failure to repay student loans

A-2993/S-1305 (Conaway, Pinkin, Sumter, Wimberly, McKnight, Mukherji/Vitale, Madden) - Requires Medicaid coverage for diabetes self-management education, training, services, and equipment for patients diagnosed with diabetes, gestational diabetes, and pre-diabetes

A-3347/S-2242 (Wolfe, Holley, Jasey, McKnight, Wimberly/Diegnan) - Establishes New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy in Department of Education and requires school districts to designate school safety specialist

A-3438/S-1564 (DeAngelo, Danielsens, Holley, Houghtaling, Downey, Wimberly, Quijano/Turner, Beach) - Requires initial determination of unemployment benefits to be made within three weeks of filing of claim

A-3463/S-2038 (Coughlin/Vitale, Codey) - Updates references to DOC and DHS and refers to persons receiving services from DHS

A-3686/S-2423 (McKeon, Jasey, Munoz, Vainieri Huttie, A.M. Bucco/Codey, Oroho) - Establishes new crime of strict liability vehicular homicide; renames existing vehicular homicide as reckless vehicular homicide; designated as Ralph and David's Law

A-4011/S-2887 (Jones, Barclay, Moriarty, Mosquera, Greenwald, Lampitt, Mazzeo, Chiaravalloti/Cruz-Perez, Beach) - Designates USS New Jersey as New Jersey State Ship

A-4081/S-2662 (Lampitt, Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Wimberly, Greenwald/Allen, Sweeney) - "Charlie's Law"; Establishes civil penalties for persons who interfere with or deny persons with disabilities accompanied by service or guide dogs access to places of public accommodation

A-4088/S-2567 (Schaer, Jasey, Benson, Wimberly/Cruz-Perez, Singer) - Establishes "High School to College Readiness Commission" to examine issues and develop recommendations to enhance student preparation for postsecondary education

A-4175/S-2808 (Caride, McKnight, Holley, Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Ruiz, Turner) -Requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidance on identifying English language learners for gifted and talented programs

A-4246/S-3194 (Dancer/Lesniak, Beck) - Decreases annual thoroughbred race dates to 50 minimum upon written consent from New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

A-4317/S-3206 (Prieto, Giblin/Diegnan) - Concerns violations of certain occupational licensing laws

A-4568/S-3017 (Vainieri Huttle, Eustace, Pinkin, Jasey, Johnson/Vitale, Ruiz) - Prohibits health insurers, SHBP, SEHBP, certain health care providers, and Medicaid from discriminating in providing coverage and services based on gender identity

A-4875/S-1996 (Muoio, Gusciora/Beach, Van Drew) - Requires gubernatorial candidates' statements be posted online

A-4969/S-3281 (Oliver, Giblin, Jasey, McKnight, Schaer, Wimberly/Gill, Cunningham) - Establishes Montclair State University as public research university

ACS for A-4994/S-3314 (McKeon, Burzichelli, Singleton, Caride/Sarlo, Oroho) - Requires certain State and local government agency employees with access to federal tax information to undergo criminal history background checks

AJR-37/SJR-67 (Mosquera, Chaparro/Weinberg) - Designates June 21 of each year as "ASK Day" to promote children's health and gun safety

ACS for AJR-54/SJR-104 (Benson, Mosquera, Chiaravalloti, Holley, McKnight, Wimberly/Sweeney, Beach) - Designates April 2nd of each year as "World Autism Awareness Day"

AJR-72/SJR-31 (Gove, Rumpf, A.M. Bucco, Holley/A.R. Bucco) - Designates September 17 through September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week"

AJR-115/SJR-81 (Vainieri Huttle, Lampitt, Giblin, Benson/Diegnan, A.R. Bucco) - Designates third Friday in September of every year as Concussion Awareness Day

AJR-126/SJR-85 (Dancer, DeAngelo, Munoz, A.M. Bucco, Mukherji, Houghtaling, Downey/Allen, Madden) - Commemorates establishment and service of the New Jersey State Police and celebrates 95th anniversary of first graduating class

AJR-137/SJR-102 (Mazzeo/Whelan) - Urges United States President Trump, members of his administration, and Congress to oppose measures and actions to prohibit states from authorizing and conducting Internet gaming

BILLS VETOED:

SCS for S-1297, 1990/A-3751 (Vitale, Sweeney/Jasey, Coughlin) - **CONDITIONAL** - Permits candidates for school board to circulate petitions jointly and be bracketed together on ballot; permits short nonpolitical designation of principles on petitions and ballots

A-31/S-3315 (Prieto, Muoio, Oliver, Schaer, Holley, Mukherji, Quijano, Wimberly, Pintor Marin/Vitale, Cruz-Perez) - **ABSOLUTE** - Increases amount of benefits under Work First New Jersey program by 30 percent over three years and according to Social Security cost of living increases thereafter

A-33/S-3316 (Muoio, Vainieri Huttle, Mukherji, Oliver, Gusciora, Pintor Marin/Vitale, Cruz-Perez) - **ABSOLUTE** - Repeals family cap in Work First New Jersey program

A-320/S-1018 (Singleton, Vainieri Huttle, Munoz, Moriarty, Lampitt, Sumter, Mukherji/Weinberg, Cruz-Perez) - **CONDITIONAL** - Establishes minimum Medicaid reimbursement rate for personal care services

A-1139/S-2616 (Holley, McKnight, Munoz, Kennedy, Mukherji, Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Ruiz, Vitale) - **CONDITIONAL** - Prohibits sale of unsafe supplemental mattresses designed for children's products

A-2297/S-659 (Vainieri Huttle, Sumter, Mukherji, Caride, Downey, Zwicker, Wimberly/Turner, Allen) - **CONDITIONAL** - Requires health insurance coverage for contraceptives to include prescriptions for 12 months

A-3338/S-862 (Eustace, Lagana, Vainieri Huttle, Muoio, Mukherji, Benson, Jimenez, Giblin, Moriarty, Lampitt/Stack, Weinberg) - **CONDITIONAL** - Dedicates one percent of cigarette and other tobacco products tax revenues to anti-smoking initiatives

ACS for A-3480, 4119/S-2536 (Downey, Lampitt, Schaer, Houghtaling, Benson, Singleton, Muoio, DeAngelo/Gill, Weinberg) - **ABSOLUTE** - Concerns employer inquiries about worker's wage and salary experience

A-4253/S-2634 (Quijano, Mukherji, Vainieri Huttle, Eustace, Jones, McKeon/Weinberg, Diegnan) - CONDITIONAL - Establishes "New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program"; appropriates \$3,000,000 over next three fiscal years

A-4453/S-2881 (Downey, Houghtaling/Ruiz) – CONDITIONAL - Requires pupils who reside on certain federal property to enroll in resident school district in accordance with schedule determined by executive county superintendent of schools

A-4496/S-2977 (Wimberly, Sumter, Lampitt/Lesniak) – CONDITIONAL - "Healthy Small Food Retailer Act"; provides funding to small food retailers to sell fresh and nutritious food; appropriates \$1 million

A-4587/SCS for S-2574 (Quijano, Vainieri Huttle, Mukherji, Giblin/Diegnan, Sarlo) – ABSOLUTE - Imposes State sales and use tax and hotel and motel occupancy fee on transient accommodations; authorizes various municipal taxes and fees on transient accommodations

A-4870/S-3226 (Prieto, Oliver, Quijano, Pintor Marin, Schaer, Vainieri Huttle, Eustace/Ruiz, Sweeney, Greenstein) – ABSOLUTE - "Safe Transportation Jobs and Fair Employment Rules Act"

ACS for A-4927/SCS for S-3085 (Prieto, Oliver, Gusciora, Jasey/Sweeney, Diegnan, Ruiz) – CONDITIONAL - Revises law concerning family leave, temporary disability and family temporary disability leave, and domestic or sexual violence safety leave

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