

R.S. 40:20-35.1

LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET

ON

N.J.R.S. 40:20-35.1 (Co. large lds. - Small lds.)
(1966 Amendment)

LAWS OF 1966

CHAPTER 62

SENATE 390

~~ASSEMBLY~~

INTRODUCED May 9, 1966

BY Waddington

STATEMENT

YES

NO

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE

YES

NO

HEARING

VETO

SENATE, No. 390

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 1966

By Senator WADDINGTON

Referred to Committee on State, County and Municipal Government

AN ACT concerning boards of chosen freeholders in certain counties and supplementing chapter 20 of Title 40 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1 1. The board of chosen freeholders in all counties governed by article 3,
2 chapter 20 of Title 40 of the Revised Statutes as of January 1, 1966, shall
3 consist of 7 members to be elected by the voters of the county at the general
4 election next following the effective date of this act. At the said election
5 there shall be elected 2 members for 1 year, 2 members for 2 years and 3
6 members for 3 years and the ballots shall designate which members are to
7 serve for the terms of 1, 2 and 3 years respectively. At succeeding elections,
8 all members shall be elected for a term of 3 years.

1 2. (a) Each board of chosen freeholders constituted and elected under
2 the provisions of section 1 of this act, shall organize at the first annual
3 stated meeting of the board next after the election of the members thereof,
4 and at the annual stated meeting in each year thereafter.

5 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this act, each such board of chosen
6 freeholders shall be subject to and governed by the provisions of article 2,
7 chapter 20 of Title 40 of the Revised Statutes.

1 3. (a) All members of existing boards of chosen freeholders in counties
2 subject to the provisions of this act shall hold office until 12 o'clock noon
3 of the day of the first annual stated meeting of the newly constituted board

4 next after the election of the members thereof at which time the terms of
5 office of such existing members shall expire and they shall be discharged
6 from office.

7 (b) No elections to existing boards of chosen freeholders in counties
8 subject to the provisions of this act shall be held after the effective date
9 of this act unless such elections are necessary to insure a quorum of mem-
10 bers for the board in which case all existing vacancies may be filled in accord-
11 ance with the provisions of article 3, chapter 20 of Title 40 of the Revised
12 Statutes for the term specified in subsection (a) hereof.

1 4. Each member of a board of chosen freeholders in counties subject to
2 the provisions of this act shall receive an annual salary of not less than
3 \$4,000.00 nor more than \$6,000.00, and the director shall receive, in addition
4 to his salary as a member, a sum not exceeding \$500.00 per annum. Such
5 salaries, including any additional compensation to directors, shall be in lieu
6 of all fees or other compensation, excepting additional compensation for
7 premiums on group insurance authorized under P. L. 1960, chapter 180, and
8 shall be paid in equal monthly installments by the county treasurer. The
9 salaries to be paid to the members of each board, including any additional
10 compensation to the director, shall, within the limits prescribed in this sec-
11 tion, be fixed by the respective boards referred to herein by resolution.

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would provide that all counties formerly governed by large boards of chosen freeholders henceforth shall be governed by 7-member small boards. The measure is necessitated by a ruling of the State Superior Court that, under the one-man one-vote principle enunciated by the Supreme Court of the United States, the large board form of county government is invalid and illegal. The Superior Court has set a deadline of July 1, 1966 for the reapportionment of large boards, failing which the court itself will take affirmative action. It is believed that this bill represents the best and fairest manner of adherence to the mandate of the court.