

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3819

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 12, 2022

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3819 with committee amendments.

This bill adds a circumstance for which a voter may be removed from a permanent vote by mail list and when a voter's preference for where their ballot is sent may be changed.

The bill would remove a voter from a permanent vote by mail status after a voter opted in if the voter does not vote in four consecutive general election cycles beginning with the 2020 election cycle. The bill specifies that the voter will no longer automatically receive a mail-in ballot. The bill specifies a voter will be notified in writing of their change in status after the fourth consecutive election cycle in which they have not voted.

Under current law, a voter will continue to receive a mail-in ballot after opting to receive one for all future elections, until they notify otherwise in writing.

A person will remain a registered voter under the bill. The provisions of the bill may remove a voter from permanent vote by mail status, not the voter roll.

The bill also specifies that for a voter who chooses to have their mail-in ballot sent to an address other than the address for which they are registered to vote, the ballot will be sent to the address for which they are registered to vote if the ballot is returned or undeliverable after two consecutive elections, including primary elections. The bill requires a voter to be notified in writing after the second consecutive election cycle when the ballot was returned or undeliverable of the change in where their ballot will be sent.

As amended, the bill also appropriates \$5 million for the purposes of providing grants to counties to undertake a public education campaign to notify voters of the changes to mail-in ballot procedures set forth in this bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to direct each county to undertake the voter education campaign made possible by providing grants to the counties, rather than an appropriation to the Division of Elections. Each county would be responsible to undertake the voter education campaign through existing media such as television or newspapers, through online platforms, or by mail addressed to registered voters with vote by mail status. Additionally, the amendments changed the appropriation from \$10 million to \$5 million.