

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 488**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 23, 2022

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 488.

As amended, this bill directs the Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with the Director of the Division of Elections in the Department of State, to develop guidelines for a program to allow a student enrolled in an institution of higher education to earn academic credit for an undergraduate degree program for each full shift that the student serves as a poll worker during an election held in the State. Under the bill, an institution may award and apply towards an undergraduate degree program academic credit to an enrolled student for each full shift of service that the student serves as a poll worker during an election held in the State. An institution that determines to allow a student to receive academic credit for service as a poll worker, following an evaluation and determination by the institution that the credit is in alignment with the educational and programmatic mission of the institution, is required to comply with the guidelines developed by the secretary.

As amended, this bill also clarifies that a student receiving academic credit will not be prohibited from receiving pay commensurate with other poll workers not receiving academic credit and that neither the program nor any participating institution of higher education will require that the student forego such pay in order to receive academic credit.

Senate Bill No. 488(1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3733(1R) of the 2022-2023 session.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments:

(1) remove the limitation of one academic credit that may be awarded to a student for serving as a poll worker;

(2) clarify that the service as a poll worker by the student will be broken down by shifts rather than the full election day; and

(3) clarify that the bill not be construed to prohibit the student from receiving pay commensurate with other poll workers not receiving academic credit and that neither the program nor any participating institution of higher education will require that the student forego such pay in order to receive academic credit.