

CHAPTER 173

AN ACT permitting simulated voting for minors at a polling place and amending R.S.19:15-8 and 19:34-6.

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

1. R.S.19:15-8 is amended to read as follows:

Persons allowed in polling place; simulated voting.

19:15-8. a. No person shall be allowed or permitted to be present in the polling place or polling room during the progress of the election except the officers connected with the election, persons connected with the operation of a simulated election for minors as described in subsection b. of this section, the several candidates, the duly authorized challengers, such voters as are present for the purpose of voting and their dependent children, minors present for the purpose of voting in a simulated election, and such officers as may be duly detailed to be present, pursuant to this title, for preserving the peace or enforcing the provisions hereof.

b. A county board of elections may authorize a simulated election for minors at a polling place, provided the simulated election does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the official voting process.

2. R.S.19:34-6 is amended to read as follows:

Prohibited actions in polling place on election day; exception for simulated voting.

19:34-6 a. If a person shall on election day tamper, deface or interfere with any polling booth or obstruct the entrance to any polling place, or obstruct or interfere with any voter, or loiter, or do any electioneering within any polling place or within one hundred feet thereof, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

b. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a minor from entering a polling place on the day of an election to vote in a simulated election at that polling place, or persons from supervising or working at a polling place in a simulated election in which minors vote, provided that the county board of elections has determined that the polling place can accommodate simulated election activities without interfering with the orderly conduct of the official voting process.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 8, 2001.