

CHAPTER 26

AN ACT concerning regional school districts and amending N.J.S.18A:13-17 and P.L.1995, c.278.

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

1. N.J.S.18A:13-17 is amended to read as follows:

Submission of budget; other questions to voters; adherence to procedures.

18A:13-17. The regional board of education shall, at each annual school election, submit to the voters of the regional district the amount of money fixed and determined in its budget to be voted upon for the use of the regional schools of the district for the ensuing school year and may submit thereat any other question authorized by this law to be submitted at such an election. The board may, in submitting to the voters the amount of money to be voted upon for the use of the regional schools of the district, identify the amount of money determined to be the constituent municipality's share. The board shall follow the procedures established in section 5 of P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-5) and N.J.S.18A:22-33.

2. Section 9 of P.L.1995, c.278 (C.19:60-9) is amended to read as follows:

C.19:60-9 Ballot, form, contents.

9. The ballot for a school election shall be a single or blanket form of ballot, upon which shall be printed in bold-faced type the words "OFFICIAL SCHOOL ELECTION BALLOT" or "OFFICIAL SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION BALLOT," as appropriate. Any public question which is to be submitted to the voters at a school election shall be printed in a separate space below or to the right of, as the county clerk shall determine, the listing of candidates in the election.

In the columns in which are listed the titles of the offices to be filled at a school election and the names of candidates for those offices, the title of and the names of candidates for the office of member of the regional board of education shall appear above the title of and the names of candidates for the office of member of the local board of education. With respect to either office, in the event that one or more persons are to be elected to membership thereon for a full term and one or more persons are to be elected to membership thereon to fill an unexpired term, the ballots shall designate which of the candidates to be voted for is to be elected for a full term and which for an unexpired term. In all cases in which one or more persons are to be elected for an unexpired term, the ballots shall indicate the duration of that unexpired term.

All public questions to be voted upon at a school election by the voters of more than one municipality shall be placed first before any question to be voted upon at that election by the voters of a single municipality. When the public question to be voted upon by the voters of a regional school district is the amount of money to be raised for the use of the regional schools of the district, the amount of money determined to be the constituent municipality's share thereof may be identified on the ballot pursuant to N.J.S.18A:13-17.

Every county clerk shall have ready for the printer a copy of the contents of official ballots required by law to be printed for use at a school election, as follows: in the case of the annual school election, not later than the 17th day preceding that election; and in the case of any special school election, not later than two business days following receipt by the clerk of official notice of the complete content of the ballot to be voted upon at that election.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved March 8, 2001.