

CHAPTER 50

AN ACT concerning the date for filing petitions of nomination for certain offices for the primary election in the year 2001 and making an appropriation.

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

1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.19:23-14 or any other law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the petitions of nomination for candidates for the office of member of the Legislature for the primary election for the general election in the year 2001 shall be filed with the Attorney General no later than 4:00 p.m. of the 47th day next preceding the day of the holding of the primary election for the general election.

b. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 23 of P.L.1953, c.211 (C.19:57-23) or any other law, rule or regulation to the contrary concerning the deadline for receiving absentee ballots, an absentee ballot for the primary election for the general election in the year 2001 that is transmitted from outside of the United States, regardless of the date of the postmark or the absence of a postmark, must be received by the county board of elections or its designee before 8:00 p.m. of the seventh day following the day of the primary election for the general election and if so received shall be counted and canvassed by the county board of elections unless the absentee ballot is otherwise rejected or declared invalid.

c. The Attorney General shall make such appropriate adjustments for the dates of the pre-primary election and post-primary election activities specified by law or otherwise as may be necessary to accommodate the petition filing deadline set forth in subsection a. of this section and to permit the holding of the primary election on the day provided by R.S.19:2-1 and R.S.19:23-40, and to accommodate the receipt of absentee ballots by the deadline set forth in subsection b. of this section.

d. (1) The Attorney General shall provide notice to the public of the petition filing deadline set forth in subsection a. of this section, of the change in the deadline for receipt of absentee ballots set forth in subsection b. of this section and of the dates adjusted pursuant to subsection c. of this section and official written notice thereof to the clerk of each county and to the superintendent of elections or the commissioner of registration, as the case may be, of each county. The public notice shall be published in one or more newspapers published or in general circulation in each county of the State, and shall be posted on Internet sites of the State and as may be appropriate and practical, its instrumentalities. The Attorney General may provide additional public notice through television and radio announcements.

(2) The county clerk shall provide notice with each absentee ballot application form, and each absentee ballot, transmitted to an absentee ballot voter outside of the United States of the deadline set forth in subsection b. of this section for the receipt of the absentee ballot by the county board of elections or its designee.

e. Each county may apply to the State Treasurer for such funds as may be necessary to reimburse the county for the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred as a result of the implementation of this section. An application shall be accompanied by such documentation as the State Treasurer may require. The State Treasurer shall review the applications and reimburse the applicants in a timely manner from funds appropriated for that purpose.

2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of the Treasury such amounts as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of subsections d. and e. of section 1 of P.L.2001, c.50, as certified by the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting.

3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on December 31, 2001.

Approved April 4, 2001.