

CHAPTER 151

AN ACT concerning certain notification and training regarding elections, amending R.S.19:50-1 and R.S.19:50-2 and supplementing Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.19:8-5.1 Sign identifying polling place, hours.

1. For seven days before the day of any election, each county board of elections may cause to be displayed a sign outside of each polling place identifying it as such, and identifying the date and hours of polling.

2. R.S.19:50-1 is amended to read as follows:

Instructional sessions for district board members.

19:50-1. a. Within 30 days before each election, the county board of elections shall cause new members of the district boards who are to serve in election districts to be instructed in the conduct of elections, and in their duties in connection therewith. All district board members shall be required to attend said instructional sessions for each election at least once every two years. The county board of elections shall cause to be given to each member of each district board who has received such instruction and is fully qualified to properly conduct the election, a certificate to that effect. For the purpose of giving such instruction the county board of elections shall call such meeting or meetings of the district boards as shall be necessary. The content of said meeting or meetings shall be limited solely to the instruction of district board members; lobbying or the advancement of political ends shall be prohibited. The members of the district board of each election district shall attend such meeting or meetings as shall be called for the purpose of receiving such instruction concerning their duties as shall be necessary for the proper conduct of the election. No member of any district board shall serve in any election unless he shall have received such instruction as herein provided and is fully qualified to perform the duties in connection with the election, and has received a certificate to that effect from the county board of elections; but this shall not prevent the appointment of a person as a member of the district board to fill a vacancy in an emergency, as now provided by law. In addition to the foregoing, the county board of elections shall design, prepare and distribute training manuals for district board members, pursuant to guidelines established by the Attorney General. The county board of elections shall also make the training manual available on its Internet site and on the Internet site of the Division of Elections in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

b. The Attorney General shall establish guidelines for the design of training manuals for members of district boards of election, and shall design, prepare and distribute training manuals for members of county boards of election, and county clerks. The Attorney General shall also make training manuals available on the Internet site of the Division of Elections.

3. R.S.19:50-2 is amended to read as follows:

Instruction in use of voting machines; availability.

19:50-2. a. For the first four successive general elections after the adoption of a new type of voting machine in a county, the county board of elections or the superintendent of elections, as the case may be, having custody of voting machines, shall designate suitable and adequate times and places where voting machines containing sample ballots showing titles of offices to be filled, and, so far as practicable, the names of candidates to be voted for at the next election, shall be exhibited for the purpose of giving instructions in the use of voting machines. No voting machine to be assigned for use in an election shall be used for such instruction after having been prepared and sealed for the election. During public exhibition of any voting machine for the instruction of voters previous to an election, the counting mechanism thereof shall be concealed from view and the doors may be temporarily opened only when authorized by such county board of elections or such superintendent of elections or such municipal clerk, as the case may be.

b. The county board of elections shall design, prepare and make available to voters instructions on the proper operation of the voting machine used in the county. The instructions may be conveyed on cards, computer software, pamphlets, posters, video or such other media as the county board deems appropriate, subject to the guidelines set forth by the Attorney

General. The instructions shall also be made available on the official Internet site of the Division of Elections in the Department of Law and Public Safety and the county board of elections shall provide a link to such instructions on its official Internet site. The Attorney General shall establish guidelines for the design of instructions for the proper operation of voting machines used in this State. The provisions of this subsection shall be in addition to any other provision for voter instruction required by law.

C.19:12-10 Public notice of dates relevant to elections and voters; internet sites.

4. a. Subject to guidelines established by the Attorney General, each county board of elections shall provide public notice, at appropriate times during the year, of certain dates relevant to elections and voters, including but not limited to the dates of each election and the deadlines for voter registration or application for civilian or military absentee ballots. Such notices may be made by card, poster, newspaper, newsletter, pamphlet, radio, television, Internet or by any other means deemed appropriate by the board. The provisions of this subsection are in addition to any other provision for public notice required by law.

b. Each county board of elections and the Division of Elections in the Department of Law and Public Safety shall maintain an official Internet site containing information helpful for voters, including a link to the voter's bill of rights established by law and posted on the official Internet site of the State. The Internet site of the Division of Elections that contains such information shall include links to the Internet site of each county board and the Internet site of each county board shall contain a link to the part of the division's site containing information helpful to voters.

c. The Attorney General shall review the official Internet site of each county board of elections to ensure that the information provided thereon is consistent with the information provided on the official Internet site of the Division of Elections.

5. This act shall take effect on January 1 following enactment.

Approved July 12, 2005.