

Recent Legislation:

Election:

- S4187\A5726 Election workers salary up to \$300
- A6047\S771 Allows parole or probation to vote
- A5914\S4105 Ballots require gender neutral elected office titles
- A5911 Secretary of State of study wait times at polling places

Clerk:

- A2423\S1242 Clerk to be notified within 1 hour that water needs to be boiled.
- A1478\S1648 Theaters with 50 seats down from 100 can apply for liquor license.
- AJR35 Domestic Violence Services Awareness Week – 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March.
- A5882 Minors personal identifying information exempt from OPRA.

OPRA:

- S4221\A555 Made changes to public access (see attached)
- S4157 Prohibits use of OPRA for mailers and advertising

Registrar:

- A1389 Requires MVC to accept Death certificate as proof of name change.

Chapter Laws:

- PL2019 c21 Registration of Public Works Contractors (A3666)
- PL2019 c170 Updates notice of election requirements to include information for voter to obtain polling place locations (S756)
- PL2019 c203 Extends eligibility for veterans property tax deductions to exemption to residents of continuing care retirement communities (S1331)
- PL2019 c211 Grants veteran discharged under honorable conditions right to peddler's license (A4095)
- PL2019 c229 Expands eligibility criteria for designating certain areas as being in need of redevelopment (A1700)
- PL2019 c230 Requires municipalities to pay certain nonresidential property tax appeal refunds in equal installments over period of three years (A2004)
- PL2019 c265 Requires certain voters to receive mail in ballot for all future elections unless they request otherwise and making appropriation (S4069)
- PL2019 c267 Encouraging local units to plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure (S606)

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STATEMENT

This bill makes certain changes to the public's access to government records. Specifically the bill:

- exempts from disclosure e-mail addresses, home telephone numbers, unlisted or otherwise and cell phone numbers;
- provides for a uniform per page rate for copying government records;

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- requires the Government Records Council to develop a form to be used by records custodians that will allow persons to opt-out of having their address made public;
  - permits a records custodian to require the requester to obtain the record from the agency website when the information requested is readily available on the website;
  - clarifies special service charges includes costs of labor;
  - requires the record custodian to accept a record request made on a document other than the adopted form if it contains a notice that it is an OPRA request and contains the information required on the adopted form;
  - provides records custodians a seven day extension to comply with large or complicated requests;
  - requires the requestor to pick up the requested documents within fourteen business days of the records being available;
  - requires contact information for the custodian of a public agency to be included on the agency website;
  - requires mediation for all complaints; and
  - requires that attorney's fees be awarded only when a knowing and willful violation is found.
- Also, this bill will permit a Superior Court to issue a protective order limiting the number and scope of requests a requestor may make under the open public records act, N.J.S.A.47:1A-1 et seq. In appropriate circumstances, the court may eliminate a public agency's duty to respond to requests from the requestor in the future. The bill will require the court, in issuing the order, to determine that the requestor has sought records under the act for an improper purpose, including, but not limited to, the harassment of a public agency or its employees.

S4221