

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5442

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 10, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman HEATHER SIMMONS

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman ALIXON COLLAZOS-GILL

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Lopez, Assemblyman Bailey,

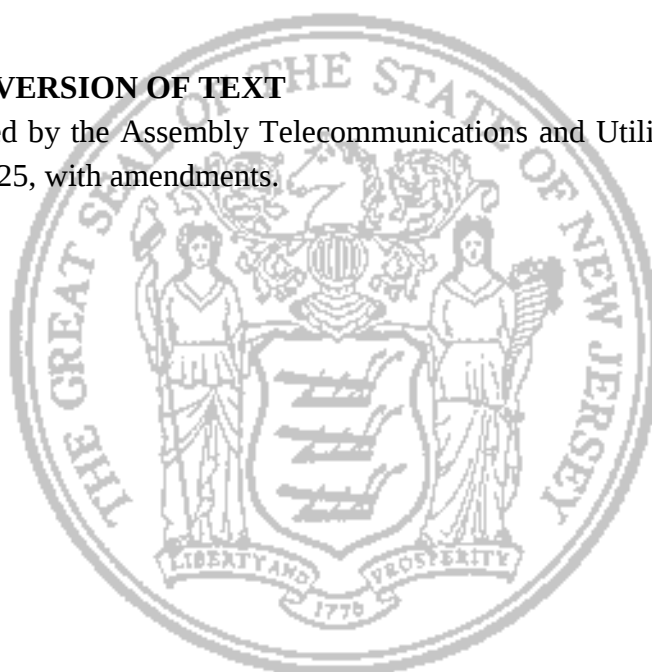
Assemblywomen Donlon and Peterpaul

SYNOPSIS

Requires BPU members to have certain experience and complete certain training.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee on May 5, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/22/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the membership of the Board of Public
 2 Utilities, amending R.S.48:2-1, and supplementing Title 48 of
 3 the Revised Statutes.

4
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 6 *of New Jersey:*

7
 8 1. R.S.48:2-1 is amended to read as follows:

9 48:2-1. a. The Board of Public Utilities, named pursuant to
 10 Reorganization Plan No. 001-1994, effective on July 4, 1994, and
 11 allocated in, but not of, the Department of the Treasury pursuant to
 12 that plan, is continued and is designated as the Board of Public
 13 Utilities or the "board."

14 b. The board shall consist of five citizens of this State who
 15 shall devote their entire time to the duties of the board and shall not
 16 engage in any occupation, profession or other gainful employment.

17 c. Members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor,
 18 with the advice and consent of the Senate, for terms of six years.
 19 The terms of office of the members of the board shall continue until
 20 their successors are appointed and qualified. No person shall act as
 21 a member of the board until that person's appointment has been
 22 confirmed by the Senate. Not more than three of the members of
 23 the board shall be members of the same political party. All
 24 vacancies, except through the expiration of term, shall be filled for
 25 the unexpired term only.

26 d. For appointments made to the board after the effective date
 27 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
 28 bill):

29 (1) at least two of the members of the board shall have a
 30 minimum of three years of professional experience in: energy
 31 policy; energy infrastructure; public utility regulation; public utility
 32 management or operations; environmental policy related to energy
 33 and public utilities; ¹**[or]**¹ telecommunications or broadband
 34 infrastructure; ¹economic growth; land-use planning; or labor and
 35 workforce training;¹

36 (2) at least one member of the board shall have a minimum of
 37 three years of professional experience in: consumer advocacy;
 38 ratepayer representation; or public interest regulation; and

39 (3) the members appointed to the board shall, to the maximum
 40 extent possible, reside in diverse geographical areas throughout the
 41 State, including urban, suburban, and rural areas.

42 (cf: P.L.2001, c.132, s.1)

43
 44 2. (New section) a. Members of the board shall complete, on
 45 an annual basis, a minimum of 12 hours of training from an

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ATU committee amendments adopted May 5, 2025.

- 1 accredited institution, industry association, or governmental
2 regulatory agency in one or more of the following subject areas:
- 3 (1) energy market trends;
 - 4 (2) infrastructure resilience;
 - 5 (3) grid modernization;
 - 6 (4) regulatory and policy developments at the state and federal
7 levels concerning public utilities;
 - 8 (5) public utility rate-setting methodologies and economic
9 impacts on ratepayers;
 - 10 (6) environmental and renewable energy policies affecting public
11 utility services;
 - 12 (7) public utility ratepayer protection laws; or
 - 13 (8) emerging technologies concerning public utilities.
- 14 b. Each board member shall submit to the Governor and
15 Legislature, on an annual basis, proof of completion of the training
16 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
17
- 18 3. This act shall take effect immediately.