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O'SCANLON AND WEBBER SEEK TO SET ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN RULES FOR NEW LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR POST

Mere months before New Jersey voters elect the state's first-ever Lieutenant Governor, there are still no rules covering how candidates would campaign or how the new position would operate. But legislation being drafted by Assemblymen Declan O'Scanlon and Jay Webber would bind candidates for Lieutenant Governor to the same ethics and campaign rules as their gubernatorial running mates.

"Recent history in New Jersey shows that the person elected Governor does not always serve four years," O'Scanlon, R-Monmouth and Mercer, said. "We will soon have an elected Lieutenant Governor who could fill an unexpired term, but we have no rules for this new position that we would expect for someone who may be called upon to hold the state's highest office."

The legislation would limit candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor to only one committee to raise campaign funds as is done for national presidential and vice-presidential candidates, require one debate for publicly financed Lieutenant Governor candidates, and impose the same ethics rules for Governors, Lieutenant Governors, and their staffs that are currently in place for most executive branch workers but not the Governor.

The legislation would also allow unsatisfied residents to recall a Governor and Lieutenant Governor separately or at the same time.

"Gubernatorial candidates already have begun their campaigns and may soon select their running mates," Webber, R-Morris and Passaic, said. "Those running mates

should be held to the same standards and rules. Right now, the irony is that the Lieutenant Governor post is characterized only by its lawlessness. This bill will make sure that law, rather than whim, actually governs the Lieutenant Governor.”

The legislation would also put a hard cap on the Lieutenant Governor’s salary, at 85 percent of the Governor’s salary. There is currently no limit on what a Governor could pay a Lieutenant Governor. This legislation would also ensure that a Governor’s second-in-command would be prohibited from participating in the defined-benefit, taxpayer-funded pension system.

The legislation would also clarify the Election Law Enforcement Commission’s authority to issue rules and regulations regarding candidates for the new office. A recent letter from the bipartisan Commission confirmed the need for this legislation.

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