

9729

I N A S S E M B L Y

April 5, 2016

Introduced by M. of A. BICHOTTE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to providing voting materials and assistance in Haitian Creole

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The election law is amended by adding a new section 3-507
2 to read as follows:

3 S 3-507. BOARD OF ELECTIONS; VOTING MATERIALS AND ASSISTANCE IN
4 HAITIAN CREOLE. A BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN A CITY OF OVER ONE MILLION
5 SHALL:

6 (A) PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION THAT IS PROVIDED BY SUCH A BOARD OF
7 ELECTIONS IN ENGLISH ABOUT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, INCLUDING REGISTRATION
8 OR VOTING NOTICES, FORMS, INSTRUCTIONS, VOTING SYSTEMS, BALLOT MARKING
9 DEVICES AND BALLOTS IN HAITIAN CREOLE TO THE EXTENT NEEDED TO ALLOW
10 VOTERS WHO SPEAK HAITIAN CREOLE TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN THE ELEC-
11 TORAL PROCESS AND ALL VOTING-CONNECTED ACTIVITIES. SUCH BOARD OF
12 ELECTIONS SHALL ALSO PROVIDE THE SAME INFORMATION IN HAITIAN CREOLE THAT
13 IT PROVIDES IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH ON ITS WEBSITE. SUCH BOARD
14 OF ELECTIONS SHALL ALSO PRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE CITYWIDE A BOOKLET THAT
15 INCLUDES: (1) A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM IN ENGLISH WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN
16 HAITIAN CREOLE; (2) INSTRUCTIONS IN HAITIAN CREOLE REGARDING THE CRITE-
17 RIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS FOR OBTAINING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT; AND (3) A
18 SECTION WITH GENERAL VOTER INFORMATION IN HAITIAN CREOLE INCLUDING
19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS. SUCH BOARD MAY INCLUDE OTHER LANGUAGES ON
20 ITS WEBSITE AND IN SUCH BOOKLET.

21 (B) PROVIDE ONE OR MORE HAITIAN CREOLE-SPEAKING INTERPRETERS AT EACH
22 POLLING LOCATION IN ELECTION DISTRICTS IN ANY COUNTY THAT HAS A POPU-
23 LATION COMPRISED OF FIVE PERCENT OR MORE OF PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS BEING
24 HAITIAN ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT UNITED STATES CENSUS, FOR THE
25 PURPOSE OF ASSISTING VOTERS WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS HAITIAN CREOLE TO
26 PARTICIPATE IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE VOTING PROCESS.

27 S 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
28 have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the
29 commissioners of the New York state board of elections shall promulgate
30 all rules and regulations and take all actions necessary to implement
31 the provisions of this act on or before its effective date.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD14588-02-6