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I N   A S S E M B L Y

April 5, 2016

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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.

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