

STATE OF NEW YORK

3983

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 30, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. FORREST -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to the right of employees to participate in certain political activities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "freedom to
2 rally and engage equitably (FREE) act".
- 3 § 2. Paragraph a of subdivision 1 of section 201-d of the labor law,
4 as added by chapter 776 of the laws of 1992, is amended and a new para-
5 graph f is added to read as follows:
- 6 a. "Political activities" shall mean (i) running for public office,
7 (ii) campaigning for a candidate for public office, [~~ex~~] (iii) partic-
8 ipating in fund-raising activities for the benefit of a candidate, poli-
9 tical party or political advocacy group, or (iv) actions involving
10 public petition and participation;
- 11 f. "Action involving public petition and participation" shall mean (i)
12 any communication in a place open to the public or a public forum in
13 connection with an issue of public interest; or (ii) any other lawful
14 conduct in furtherance of the exercise of the constitutional right of
15 free speech in connection with an issue of public interest, or in furth-
16 erance of the exercise of the constitutional right of petition.
- 17 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD07338-01-5