STATE OF NEW YORK

5738

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 28, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to requiring the board of elections to provide Russian interpreters to certain polling locations in cities having a population in excess of one million people

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

Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 5-216 of the election law is amended to read as follows:

2. **a.** If the applicant be a person who does not speak the English language, [~~he~~] **the applicant** may be assisted by a relative who can interpret for [~~him~~] **the applicant**. If the applicant registers with this assistance the board shall put in the remarks space of the registration forms the name and address, and the relationship, of the person so doing the interpreting and the interpreter shall sign [~~his~~] **the interpreter's** name in the remarks space.

b. In any city having a population of one million or more people, which contains any county that has a population comprised of five percent or more of people whose first language is Russian within such county, the board of elections shall provide Russian interpreters at polling locations in those election districts within each such county in the city having a population comprised of five percent or more people whose first language is Russian.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to all elections conducted on or after such effective date.

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

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