

4471

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 23, 2009

Introduced by Sen. DILAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the town law, in relation to election by wards in suburban towns

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

1 Section 1. Article 3-A of the town law is amended by adding a new  
2 title 2-A to read as follows:

3 TITLE 2-A

4 ELECTION BY WARDS IN SUBURBAN TOWNS

5 SECTION 51-A. AT-LARGE ELECTIONS PROHIBITED.

6 51-B. ESTABLISHMENT OF WARD SYSTEMS.

7 51-C. TEMPORARY EXEMPTION.

8 S 51-A. AT-LARGE ELECTIONS PROHIBITED. NO MEMBER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF  
9 A SUBURBAN TOWN SHALL BE ELECTED BY THE ELECTORS OF SUCH TOWN AT-LARGE.

10 S 51-B. ESTABLISHMENT OF WARD SYSTEMS. 1. THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF  
11 THE COUNTY SHALL DIVIDE EACH SUBURBAN TOWN INTO SUCH NUMBER OF WARDS AS  
12 IS EQUAL TO THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE TOWN BOARD OF SUCH TOWN; AND  
13 SHALL FIX THE BOUNDARIES THEREOF. THE DIVISION THEREOF SHALL BE SO MADE  
14 THAT THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN EACH WARD SHALL BE APPROXIMATELY  
15 EQUAL.

16 2. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMO-  
17 GRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT SHALL PROVIDE TO BOARDS OF  
18 ELECTIONS ANY AND ALL ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE  
19 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

20 3. EVERY WARD ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE REAPPOR-  
21 TIONED IN THE SAME YEAR AS CONGRESSIONAL, ASSEMBLY AND SENATE DISTRICTS  
22 ARE REAPPORTIONED PURSUANT TO SECTION FOUR OF ARTICLE THREE OF THE STATE  
23 CONSTITUTION.

24 S 51-C. TEMPORARY EXEMPTION. 1. IN THE EVENT A SUBURBAN TOWN IS UNABLE  
25 TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS FIFTY-ONE-A AND FIFTY-ONE-B OF

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

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1 THIS TITLE FOR THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTION OCCURRING AFTER SEPTEMBER  
2 FIRST, TWO THOUSAND TWELVE, SUCH TOWN SHALL, NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS  
3 PRIOR TO SUCH ELECTION, SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
4 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SUCH  
5 SECTIONS WHICH SHALL APPLY ONLY TO SUCH FIRST ELECTION. NO SUCH  
6 EXEMPTION SHALL BE GRANTED UNLESS THE APPLICATION THEREFOR IS APPROVED  
7 JOINTLY BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

8 2. UPON THE JOINT APPROVAL OF ANY APPLICATION SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO  
9 SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION, THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE ATTORNEY  
10 GENERAL SHALL PROVIDE THE TOWN AND THE APPROPRIATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
11 WITH A NOTICE OF SUCH EXEMPTION. SUCH NOTICE SHALL INCLUDE:

12 (A) THE SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THE GRANTING OF THE EXEMPTION;

13 (B) A TIMELINE OF ACTIONS THAT THE TOWN SHALL FULFILL ON OR BEFORE THE  
14 SUCCEEDING GENERAL ELECTION; AND

15 (C) A TIMELINE OF ACTIONS REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED FOR THE ELECTION OF  
16 ALL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN BOARD OF SUCH TOWN DURING THE SUCCEEDING CALEN-  
17 DAR YEAR.

18 3. EVERY TOWN GRANTED AN EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL  
19 COMPLY WITH ALL PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS FIFTY-ONE-A AND FIFTY-ONE-B OF  
20 THIS TITLE FOR EVERY ELECTION WHICH FOLLOWS SUCH FIRST ELECTION FOR  
21 WHICH AN EXEMPTION WAS GRANTED.

22 4. ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST OF JUNE IN TWO THOUSAND TWELVE, TWO THOUSAND  
23 THIRTEEN AND TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL SUBMIT  
24 REPORTS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE ON THE TOWNS GRANTED  
25 EXEMPTIONS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. EACH SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE THE  
26 NAME OF THE TOWN, A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM IN ESTABLISHING WARDS,  
27 THE POPULATION, THE ELECTED POSITIONS INVOLVED, AND THE OUTCOMES OF THE  
28 RELEVANT ELECTIONS.

29 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to general  
30 elections occurring after September 1, 2012.