S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

4270

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 2, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. BRODSKY, CAHILL, HOYT, GALEF, PAULIN -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COLTON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

proposing amendments to sections 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 and adding a new section 10 to article 2 of the constitution, in relation to elections

Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section 1 of article 2 of the constitution be amended by adding a new undesignated paragraph to read as follows:

THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO VOTE IN ANY STATE ELECTION OR ANY ELECTION OF ANY SUBDIVISION OR SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT WITHIN THE STATE SHALL NOT BE ABRIDGED BY THE IMPOSITION OF A PROPERTY QUALIFICATION.

S 2. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section 2 of article 2 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

S 2. The legislature [may] SHALL, by general law, provide a manner in which, and the time and place at which, qualified voters who, on the occurrence of any election, may be absent from the county of their residence or, if residents of the city of New York, from the city, and qualified voters who, on the occurrence of any election, may be unable to appear personally at the polling place [because of illness or physical disability,] may vote and for the return and canvass of their votes. THE LEGISLATURE SHALL BY LAW ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO NOTIFY THE VOTERS OF THIS RIGHT.

S 3. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section 5 of article 2 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

S 5. Laws shall be made for ascertaining, by proper proofs, the citizens who shall be entitled to the right of suffrage hereby established, and for the registration of voters; which registration shall be completed [at least ten days before each election] AT ANY TIME UP TO THE ELECTION. Such registration shall not be required for town and village elections except by express provision of law.

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

LBD89088-01-9

S 4. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section 6 of article 2 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

S 6. The legislature [may] SHALL provide by law for a system or systems of registration whereby upon personal application a voter may be registered and his or her registration continued so long as he or she shall remain qualified to vote from an address within the jurisdiction of the board with which such voter is registered.

S 5. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section 8 of article 2 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

S 8. All laws creating, regulating or affecting boards or officers charged with the duty of qualifying voters, or of distributing ballots to voters, or of receiving, recording or counting votes at elections, shall [secure equal representation of the two political parties which, at the general election next preceding that for which such boards or officers are to serve, cast the highest and the next highest number of votes. All such boards and officers shall be appointed or elected in such manner, and upon the nomination of such representatives of said parties respectively, as the legislature may direct. Existing laws on this subject shall continue until the legislature shall otherwise provide. This section shall not apply to town, or village elections] ENSURE THAT MEMBERS OF SUCH BOARDS ARE CHOSEN THROUGH A MERIT SELECTION PROCESS.

S 6. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That article 2 of the constitution be amended by adding a new section 10 to read as follows:

S 10. THE LEGISLATURE SHALL ENACT LAWS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE OUTCOME OF STATE ELECTIONS THAT ARE NOT SUBSTANTIALLY AND UNDULY INFLUENCED BY SPECIAL INTERESTS AND CONCENTRATIONS OF WEALTH BY SETTING APPROPRIATE CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE LIMITS.

S 7. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the next succeeding general election of members of the assembly, and, in conformity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be published for 3 months previous to the time of such election.