

2554

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 23, 2009

Introduced by Sens. STEWART-COUSINS, BRESLIN, DIAZ, DUANE, C. JOHNSON, MONTGOMERY, ONORATO, STACHOWSKI, STAVISKY -- 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 prohibiting the suppression of voters

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 17-153
2 to read as follows:
3 S 17-153. SUPPRESSION OF VOTERS. ANY PERSON, POLITICAL COMMITTEE,
4 LABOR ORGANIZATION, UNION, OR CORPORATION WHO DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY
5 SUPPRESSES OR THREATENS TO SUPPRESS ANY PERSON FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTER-
6 FERING WITH THE RIGHT OF SUCH PERSON TO LAWFULLY EXERCISE THE FRANCHISE,
7 OR IN ANY OTHER MANNER PRACTICES SUPPRESSION UPON OR AGAINST A PERSON IN
8 ORDER TO INDUCE OR COMPEL SUCH PERSON TO VOTE OR REFRAIN FROM VOTING FOR
9 OR AGAINST A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE SHALL BE GUILTY OF A
10 MISDEMEANOR. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE TERM "SUPPRESS" SHALL
11 MEAN TO USE FORCE, AUTHORITY OR AN ABUSE OF POWER TO PREVENT OR SUBDUE
12 ANOTHER INTO ACTING AGAINST HIS OR HER OWN INTERESTS OR INTENTIONS, OR
13 INTO NOT ACTING AT ALL.
14 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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