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

2810

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N  S E N A T E

March 3, 2009

Introduced by Sen. STEWART-COUSINS -- 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 use of certain titles, initials or abbreviations of names as signatures on absentee ballots

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

Section 1. Subdivisions 6, 7, 8 and 9 of section 8-400 of the election law are renumbered subdivisions 7, 8, 9 and 10 and a new subdivision 6 is added to read as follows:

6. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE USE OF TITLES, INITIALS OR CUSTOMARY ABBREVIATIONS OF GIVEN NAMES BY THE SIGNERS OF, OR WITNESSES TO, AN ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST LETTER, AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION FORM OR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT ENVELOPE, OR THE USE OF CUSTOMARY ABBREVIATIONS OF ADDRESSES OF SUCH SIGNERS OR WITNESSES, SHALL NOT INVALIDATE SUCH VOTER'S SIGNATURE OR WITNESS'S SIGNATURE ON AN APPLICATION FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT OR UPON CANVASS OR RECANVASS OF THE BALLOT PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER.

S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 8-506 of the election law, as amended by chapter 8 of the laws of 1978, is amended to read as follows:

1. During the examination of absentee, military, special federal and special presidential voters' ballot envelopes, any inspector shall, and any watcher or registered voter properly in the polling place may, challenge the casting of any ballot upon the ground or grounds allowed for challenges generally, or (A) that the voter was not entitled to cast an absentee, military, special federal or special presidential ballot, or (B) that NOTWITHSTANDING THE PERMISSIVE USE OF TITLES, INITIALS OR CUSTOMARY ABBREVIATIONS OF GIVEN NAMES, the signature on the ballot envelope does not correspond to the signature on the registration poll record, or (C) that the voter died before the day of the election.

S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

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

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