

6022

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

June 19, 2009

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Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of the Governor) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to requests for affidavit ballots including application for registration and enrollment

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 5-210 of the election law is  
2     amended by adding a new paragraph (m) to read as follows:  
3     (M) THE FORM OF AFFIDAVIT PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
4     FOR REQUESTS FOR AFFIDAVIT BALLOT PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION THREE OF  
5     SECTION 8-302 OF THIS CHAPTER SHALL BE DEEMED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS  
6     OF THIS SECTION. ANY APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION RECEIVED ON THE FORM  
7     OF AFFIDAVIT SHALL BE ACCEPTED IF THE APPLICANT IS OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE TO  
8     REGISTER TO VOTE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE, HOWEVER THE  
9     FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION APPEARING ON SUCH  
10    AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPE SHALL NOT OTHERWISE INVALIDATE THE AFFIDAVIT BALLOT.  
11    S 2. Subdivision 4 of section 5-304 of the election law, as amended by  
12    chapter 659 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:  
13    4. Registered voters may apply for change of enrollment personally by  
14    mail to or by appearing before a county board of elections or by appear-  
15    ing before a board of inspectors. If the applicant has appeared in  
16    person and if the board finds that he OR SHE is properly registered, it  
17    shall provide the applicant with an application form for voter registra-  
18    tion by mail which shall be treated as an application for change of  
19    enrollment filed pursuant to this section. If the voter has applied  
20    personally by mail, the county board of elections shall mail him OR HER  
21    an application form for voter registration by mail as provided by this  
22    chapter. If a registered voter submits an application form for registra-  
23    tion or enrollment as provided by this chapter, from the residence  
24    address from which he OR SHE is then registered, and such form reflects

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

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1 a change of enrollment, the county board of elections shall treat such  
2 form as an application for change of enrollment filed pursuant to this  
3 section. If such application form also sets forth a new address within  
4 the same city or county, the board of elections shall also treat such  
5 form as an application for transfer of registration pursuant to section  
6 5-208 of this article. IF A VOTER HAS CAST A BALLOT IN AN AFFIDAVIT  
7 BALLOT ENVELOPE ON WHICH SUCH VOTER CLAIMS A PARTY ENROLLMENT DIFFERENT  
8 FROM THE ENROLLMENT IN THE RECORDS OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, SUCH AFFI-  
9 DAVIT SHALL BE TREATED AS AN APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF ENROLLMENT.

10 S 3. Section 5-403 of the election law is amended to read as follows:

11 S 5-403. Rejection of ballot of unqualified voter; notice of action by  
12 board. [Whenever] IF the ballot of any person, voted in an affidavit  
13 envelope in the manner prescribed by this chapter, is rejected under the  
14 provisions of this chapter on the grounds that such person is not a  
15 qualified voter of the election district wherein he OR SHE sought to  
16 vote, or is not duly enrolled in the party in whose primary he OR SHE  
17 sought to vote AND IF SUCH PERSON HAS COMPLETED THE APPLICATION FOR  
18 REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT OR CHANGE OF ENROLLMENT ON SUCH AFFIDAVIT  
19 ENVELOPE, the board of elections shall PROCESS SUCH AN APPLICATION IN  
20 THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT OR  
21 CHANGE OF ENROLLMENT. THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL immediately notify  
22 such person by first class mail directed to the address given in his OR  
23 HER affidavit, of the rejection of his OR HER ballot, together with the  
24 reason [therefore] THEREFOR and, IF SUCH PERSON HAS NOT COMPLETED THE  
25 APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION BY MAIL, the appropriate information on the  
26 times and places where he OR SHE may register, re-register, enroll, or  
27 change or correct his OR HER enrollment. Where appropriate, a form of  
28 application for personal registration by mail shall be included with  
29 such notice.

30 S 4. Subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (e) of subdivision 3 of section  
31 8-302 of the election law, as amended by chapter 200 of the laws of  
32 1996, is amended to read as follows:

33 (ii) He OR SHE may swear to and subscribe an affidavit stating that he  
34 OR SHE has duly registered to vote, the address in such election  
35 district from which he OR SHE registered, that he OR SHE remains a duly  
36 qualified voter in such election district, that his OR HER registration  
37 poll record appears to be lost or misplaced or that his OR HER name  
38 and/or his OR HER signature was omitted from the computer generated  
39 registration list or that he OR SHE has moved within the county or city  
40 since he OR SHE last registered, the address from which he OR SHE was  
41 previously registered and the address at which he OR SHE currently  
42 resides, and at a primary election, the party in which he OR SHE is  
43 enrolled. The inspectors of election shall offer such an affidavit to  
44 each such voter whose residence address is in such election district.  
45 Each such affidavit shall be in a form prescribed by the state board of  
46 elections, shall be printed on an envelope of the size and quality used  
47 for an absentee ballot envelope, and shall contain an acknowledgment  
48 that the affiant understands that any false statement made therein is  
49 perjury punishable according to law. SUCH FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE  
50 BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL REQUEST INFORMATION REQUIRED TO REGISTER SUCH  
51 VOTER SHOULD THE COUNTY BOARD DETERMINE THAT SUCH VOTER IS NOT REGIS-  
52 TERED AND SHALL CONSTITUTE AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER TO VOTE. The  
53 voter's name and the entries required shall then be entered without  
54 delay and without further inquiry in the fourth section of the challenge  
55 report or in the place provided at the end of the computer generated  
56 registration list, with the notation that the voter has executed the

1 affidavit hereinabove prescribed, or, if such person's name appears on  
2 the computer generated registration list, the board of elections may  
3 provide a place to make such entry next to his OR HER name on such list.  
4 The voter shall then, without further inquiry, be permitted to vote an  
5 emergency ballot provided for by this chapter. Such ballot shall there-  
6 upon be placed in the envelope containing his OR HER affidavit, and the  
7 envelope sealed and returned to the board of elections in the manner  
8 provided by this chapter for protested official ballots, including a  
9 statement of the number of such ballots.  
10 S 5. This act shall take effect immediately.