

7602

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

May 10, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. MILLMAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to the retention of absentee ballots and the canvass of military and absentee ballots

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 8-412 of the election law, as
2 amended by chapter 155 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as
3 follows:
4 2. Absentee ballots received by the board of elections [before the
5 close of the polls on election day from voters whose applications were
6 received by such board at least seven days before election day may]
7 SHALL be [delivered to the inspectors of election in the manner
8 prescribed by this chapter or] retained at the board of elections and
9 cast and canvassed pursuant to the provisions of section 9-209 of this
10 chapter [as such board shall, in its discretion, determine by resolution
11 adopted at least thirty days before election day. All ballots received
12 by the board of elections from voters whose applications were received
13 by such board later than seven days before election day, all ballots
14 received by such board between election day and the seventh day after
15 election day, and all federal write-in ballots received from absentee
16 voters, shall be retained at the board and shall be cast and canvassed
17 in the same manner as other ballots retained by such board].
18 S 2. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subdivision 2 of section 9-209 of the
19 election law, as amended by chapter 104 of the laws of 2010 and subpara-
20 graph (i) of paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 163 of the laws of
21 2010, are amended to read as follows:
22 (a) (i) Upon assembling at the time and place fixed for such meeting,
23 each central board of inspectors shall EXAMINE, cast, and canvass the
24 envelopes and the ballots therein contained as nearly as practicable in

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

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1 the FOLLOWING manner [provided by this chapter for a board of inspectors
2 to consider, cast, and canvass absentee ballot envelopes.]:

3 (A) IF A PERSON WHOSE NAME IS ON AN ENVELOPE AS A VOTER HAS ALREADY
4 VOTED IN PERSON AT SUCH ELECTION, OR IF HIS OR HER NAME AND RESIDENCE AS
5 STATED ON THE ENVELOPE ARE NOT ON A REGISTRATION POLL RECORD, OR THE
6 COMPUTER GENERATED LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS OR THE LIST OF SPECIAL
7 PRESIDENTIAL VOTERS, OR IF THERE IS NO NAME ON THE ENVELOPE, OR IF THE
8 ENVELOPE IS NOT SEALED, SUCH ENVELOPE SHALL BE LAID ASIDE UNOPENED.

9 (B) IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE BALLOT ENVELOPE EXECUTED BY THE SAME
10 VOTER, THE ONE BEARING THE EARLIER DATE OF EXECUTION SHALL BE ACCEPTED
11 AND THE OTHER REJECTED. IF IT CANNOT BE DETERMINED WHICH ENVELOPE BEARS
12 THE EARLIER DATE, THEN ALL SUCH ENVELOPES SHALL BE REJECTED.

13 (C) IF SUCH PERSON IS FOUND TO BE REGISTERED AND HAS NOT VOTED IN
14 PERSON, AN INSPECTOR SHALL COMPARE THE SIGNATURE, IF ANY, ON EACH ENVEL-
15 OPE WITH THE SIGNATURE, IF ANY, ON THE REGISTRATION POLL RECORD, THE
16 COMPUTER GENERATED LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS OR THE LIST OF SPECIAL
17 PRESIDENTIAL VOTERS, OF THE PERSON OF THE SAME NAME WHO REGISTERED FROM
18 THE SAME ADDRESS. IF THE SIGNATURES ARE FOUND TO CORRESPOND, SUCH
19 INSPECTOR SHALL CERTIFY THERETO BY SIGNING HIS OR HER INITIALS IN THE
20 "INSPECTOR'S INITIALS" LINE ON THE COMPUTER GENERATED LIST OF REGISTERED
21 VOTERS OR IN THE "REMARKS" COLUMN AS APPROPRIATE.

22 (D) IF SUCH PERSON IS FOUND TO BE REGISTERED AND HAS NOT VOTED IN
23 PERSON, AND IF NO CHALLENGE IS MADE, OR IF A CHALLENGE MADE IS NOT
24 SUSTAINED, THE ENVELOPE SHALL BE OPENED, THE BALLOT OR BALLOTS WITHDRAWN
25 WITHOUT UNFOLDING, AND THE BALLOT OR BALLOTS DEPOSITED IN THE PROPER
26 BALLOT BOX OR BOXES, OR ENVELOPES, PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT, IN THE CASE OF
27 A PRIMARY ELECTION, THE BALLOT SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE BOX ONLY IF THE
28 BALLOT IS OF THE PARTY WITH WHICH THE VOTER IS ENROLLED ACCORDING TO THE
29 ENTRY ON THE BACK OF HIS OR HER REGISTRATION POLL RECORD OR NEXT TO HIS
30 OR HER NAME ON THE COMPUTER GENERATED REGISTRATION LIST; IF NOT, THE
31 BALLOT SHALL BE REJECTED WITHOUT INSPECTION OR UNFOLDING AND SHALL BE
32 RETURNED TO THE ENVELOPE WHICH SHALL BE ENDORSED "NOT ENROLLED." AT THE
33 TIME OF THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH BALLOT OR BALLOTS IN THE BOX OR ENVELOPES,
34 THE INSPECTORS SHALL ENTER THE WORDS "ABSENTEE VOTE" OR "MILITARY VOTE"
35 IN THE SPACE RESERVED FOR THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE ON THE AFORESAID LIST OR
36 IN THE "REMARKS" COLUMN AS APPROPRIATE, AND SHALL ENTER THE YEAR AND
37 MONTH OF THE ELECTION ON THE SAME LINE IN THE SPACES PROVIDED THEREFOR.

38 (E) AS EACH ENVELOPE IS OPENED, IF ONE OR MORE OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS
39 OF BALLOTS TO BE VOTED AT THE ELECTION ARE NOT FOUND THEREIN, THE
40 CLERKS, OR INSPECTORS, SHALL MAKE A MEMORANDUM SHOWING WHAT BALLOT OR
41 BALLOTS ARE MISSING. IF A BALLOT ENVELOPE SHALL CONTAIN MORE THAN ONE
42 BALLOT FOR THE SAME OFFICES, ALL THE BALLOTS IN SUCH ENVELOPE SHALL BE
43 REJECTED. WHEN THE CASTING OF SUCH BALLOTS SHALL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED THE
44 CLERKS OR INSPECTORS SHALL ASCERTAIN THE NUMBER OF SUCH BALLOTS OF EACH
45 KIND WHICH HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED IN THE BALLOT BOX BY DEDUCTING FROM THE
46 NUMBER OF ENVELOPES OPENED THE NUMBER OF MISSING BALLOTS, AND SHALL MAKE
47 A RETURN THEREOF. THE NUMBER OF ABSENTEE VOTERS' BALLOTS DEPOSITED IN
48 THE BALLOT BOX SHALL BE ADDED TO THE NUMBER OF OTHER BALLOTS DEPOSITED
49 IN THE BALLOT BOX, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF ALL BALLOTS OF
50 EACH KIND TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE BALLOT BOX.

51 (ii) If the board of inspectors determines that a person was entitled
52 to vote at such election it shall cast and canvass such ballot if such
53 board finds that ministerial error by the board of elections or any of
54 its employees caused such ballot envelope not to be valid on its face.

55 (iii) If the board of elections determines that a person was entitled
56 to vote at such election, the board shall cast and canvass such ballot

1 if such board finds that the voter appeared at the correct polling
2 place, regardless of the fact that the voter may have appeared in the
3 incorrect election district.

4 (c) The following provisions shall apply to casting and canvassing of
5 all such ballots which are counted by machine and all other provisions
6 of this chapter with respect to casting and canvassing such ballots
7 which are not inconsistent with this paragraph shall be applicable to
8 such ballots.

9 (i) [Such ballots shall be counted by placing them, arranged by
10 election district, in the counting machine.

11 (ii)] Such ballots may be separated into sections before being placed
12 in the counting machine.

13 [(iii)] (II) Any write-in ballots and any ballots which cannot be
14 counted by the machine shall be counted manually subject to all the
15 applicable provisions of this chapter with respect to counting of
16 ballots.

17 [(iv)] (III) The record of the vote counted by machine for each candi-
18 date and for and against each ballot proposal, printed by election
19 district, shall be preserved in the same manner and for the same period
20 as the returns of canvass for the election.

21 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.