## 7492 - - B

2011-2012 Regular Sessions
I N A S S E M B L Y
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Introduced by M. of A. KAVANAGH, HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -recommitted to the Committee on Election Law in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to enacting the voter friendly ballot act

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "voter friendly ballot act".

S 2. Section 7-104 of the election law, as amended by chapter 165 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

S 7-104. Ballots; form of, voting machine. 1. All ballots shall be printed and/or displayed in a format and arrangement, of such uniform size and style as will fit the ballot frame, and shall be in as plain and clear a type or display as the space will reasonably permit. Such type or display on the ballot shall satisfy all requirements and standards set forth pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act.
2. The names of parties or independent bodies which contain more than fifteen letters may, whenever limitations of space so require, be printed on the ballot in an abbreviated form. In printing the names of candidates whose full names contain more than fifteen letters, only the surname must be printed in full. The officer or board charged with the duty of preparing the ballots shall request each such candidate to indicate, in writing, the shortened form in which, subject to this restriction, his name shall be printed. If no such indication is received from such candidate within the time specified in the request, such officer or board shall make the necessary determination.

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

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3. (a) The party name or other designation[, and a designating letter and number] shall be affixed to the name of each candidate, or, in case of presidential electors, to the names of the candidates for president and vice-president of such party.
(b) The titles of offices may be arranged horizontally, with the names of candidates for an office and the slot or device for write-in ballots for such office arranged vertically under the title of the office, or the titles of offices may be arranged vertically, with the names of candidates for an office and the slot or device for write-in ballots for such office arranged horizontally opposite the title of the office.
(c) Each office shall occupy as many columns or rows on the machine as the number of candidates to be elected to that office.
4. (a) The names of all candidates nominated by any party or independent body for an office shall always appear in the row or column containing generally the names of candidates nominated by such party or independent body for other offices except as hereinafter provided.
(b) When the same person has been nominated for an office to be filled at the election by more than one party, the voting machine shall be so adjusted that his or her name shall appear in each row or column containing generally the names of candidates for other offices nominated by any such party.
(c) If such candidate has also been nominated by one or more independent bodies, his or her name shall appear only in each row or column containing generally the names of candidates for other offices nominated by any such party and the name of each such independent body shall appear in one such row or column to be designated by the candidate in a writing filed with the officer or board charged with the duty of providing ballots, or if such person shall fail to so designate, the names of such independent bodies shall appear in such row or column as such officer or board shall determine.
(d) If any person shall be nominated for any office by one party and two or more independent bodies his or her name shall appear on the voting machine twice; once in the row or column containing generally the names of candidates for other offices nominated by such party, and once in the row or column containing generally the names of candidates nominated by the independent body designated by such person in a writing filed with the officer or board charged with the duty of providing ballots and in connection with the name of such person in such row or column shall appear the name of each independent body nominating him or her or, if such person shall fail to so designate, the name of such candidate and the names of such independent bodies shall appear in such row or column as such officer or board shall determine.
(e) If any person is nominated for any office only by ONE OR more [than one] independent bodies BUT NOT BY A PARTY, his or her name shall appear but once upon the machine in one such row or column to be designated by the candidate in a writing filed with the officer or board charged with the duty of providing ballots, or if the candidate shall fail to so designate, in the place designated by the officer or board charged with the duty of providing ballots, and in connection with his or her name there shall appear the name of each independent body nominating him or her, but, where the capacity of the machine will permit, the name of such person shall not appear or be placed in a column or on a horizontal line with the names of persons nominated by a party for other offices.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision four of this section, the name of a person who is nominated for the office of governor, or
state senator, or member of assembly, shall appear on the ballot as many times as there are parties or independent bodies nominating him or her, and there shall be a separate voting and registering device at each place in which such name shall appear.
6. If any type of machine used in any county or city contains any feature, the use of which is neither required nor prohibited by the provisions of this chapter, the board of elections may, by resolution, require that one or more of such features shall be used in such county. Thereafter all machines of such type used in such county or city shall be operated in conformity with any such resolution. Any such resolution may thereafter be rescinded by such board and after being so rescinded may be re-adopted. Once re-adopted by any board of elections, such a resolution may not be rescinded again by such board.
7. [The ballot shall have printed upon it in black ink for each party or independent row, at the head of the column or the beginning of the row containing the names of candidates, the image of a closed fist with index finger extended pointing to the party or independent row. In the same space, in black letters as large as the space will permit, shall be printed the name of the party or independent body and at the right of the fist and below the index finger shall be printed in black ink the emblem and the designating letters of the row or column.
8.] With respect to candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor of a party or independent body, ballots shall be printed so that the names of such candidates for both offices shall appear in the same row or column, with the name of the candidate for governor appearing first and the ballot shall be so adjusted that both offices are voted for jointly and have but one designating letter or number.

S 3. Section 7-106 of the election law, the section heading and subdivisions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 as amended and subdivisions 8, 9, 10 and 11 as renumbered by chapter 165 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

S 7-106. Election day paper ballots; form of. 1. Paper ballots which are to be counted by a ballot scanner may consist of two or more sheets which are divided into perforated sections which can be separated at the time the ballot is scanned. Such ballots shall be printed on paper of a quality, size, color, and weight approved by the state board of elections. THE BALLOT MAY NOT BE THE SAME COLOR AS SAMPLE BALLOTS.
2. BEFORE EACH STATEWIDE ELECTION, THE BOARD SHALL PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE A MASTER TEMPLATE BALLOT TO THE COUNTIES;
3. All paper ballots of the same kind for the same polling place shall be identical. [A different, but in each case uniform style and size of type, shall be used for printing the names of candidates, the titles of offices, political designations, and the reading form of all questions submitted. The names of candidates shall be printed in capital letters in black-faced type.
3.] 4. Each ballot shall be printed on the sheet with a stub which shall be separated therefrom by a line of perforations extending across the entire ballot. On the face of the stub shall be printed "No........" the blank to be filled with consecutive number of ballots beginning with "No. 1", and increasing in regular numerical order.
[4.] 5. On such ballot shall be printed the following indorsement, the blanks properly filled in:

Official Ballot for (General, Primary or Special, as applica-
ble)
Election

County of
(Assembly or Legislative, as applicable) District
(Ward and City or town ...................... as applica-
ble).............
Election District
(Insert date of election.)
(Insert names of election commissioners providing the ballot.)
[5. The following ballot instructions shall be printed in heavy black type:

INSTRUCTIONS
(1) Mark only with a writing instrument provided by the board of elections.
(2) To vote for a candidate whose name is printed on this ballot fill in the (insert oval or square, as applicable) above or next to the name of the candidate.
(3) To vote for a person whose name is not printed on this ballot write or stamp his or her name in the space labeled "write-in" that appears (insert at the bottom of the column, the end of the row or at the bottom of the candidate names, as applicable) for such office (and, if required by the voting system in use at such election, the instructions shall also include "and fill in the (insert oval or square, as applicable) corresponding with the write-in space in which you have written in a name").
(4) To vote yes or no on a proposal, if any, that appears on the (indicate where on the ballot the proposal may appear) fill in the (insert oval or square, as applicable) that corresponds to your vote.
(5) Any other mark or writing, or any erasure made on this ballot outside the voting squares or blank spaces provided for voting will void this entire ballot.
(6) Do not overvote. If you select a greater number of candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, your ballot will be void for that public office, party position or proposal.
(7) If you tear, or deface, or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and obtain another. Do not attempt to correct mistakes on the ballot by making erasures or cross outs. Erasures or cross outs may invalidate all or part of your ballot. Prior to submitting your ballot, if you make a mistake in completing the ballot or wish to change your ballot choices, you may obtain and complete a new ballot. You have a right to a replacement ballot upon return of the original ballot.
(8) After completing your ballot, insert it into the ballot scanner and wait for the notice that your ballot has been successfully scanned. If no such notice appears, seek the assistance of an election inspector.]
6. [The] EACH BALLOT SHALL CONTAIN INSTRUCTIONS FOR MARKING THE BALLOT. THE INSTRUCTIONS SHALL BE PRINTED IN LINE LENGTHS NO WIDER THAN FIVE INCHES. THE TEXT SHALL BE SUBSTANTIALLY AS FOLLOWS, SO THAT IT ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE BALLOT LAYOUT:

INSTRUCTIONS
MARK THE (INSERT "OVAL" OR "SQUARE") TO THE LEFT OF THE NAME OF YOUR CHOICE, (ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED HERE.)
TO VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE WHOSE NAME IS NOT PRINTED ON THE BALLOT, (INSERT "MARK THE OVAL TO THE LEFT OF 'WRITE-IN' AND PRINT THE NAME CLEARLY" OR
"PRINT THE NAME CLEARLY UNDER THE WORDS 'WRITE-IN'"), STAYING WITHIN THE BOX.
THE NUMBER OF CHOICES IS LISTED FOR EACH CONTEST. DO NOT MARK THE BALLOT FOR MORE CANDIDATES THAN ALLOWED. IF YOU DO, YOUR VOTE IN THAT CONTEST WILL NOT COUNT. IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, OR WANT TO CHANGE YOUR VOTE, ASK A POLL WORKER FOR A NEW BALLOT.
7. TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE instructions in subdivision [five] SIX of this section [may] SHALL be printed on the [front or back of the ballot or on a separate sheet or card. If such instructions are not printed on the front of the ballot, there shall be printed on the ballot, in the largest size type for which there is room, the following legend: "See instructions on the other side" or "See enclosed instructions", whichever is appropriate] UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER OF THE FRONT OF THE BALLOT. THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL PROVIDE LINE DRAWING ILLUSTRATIONS TO SUPPLEMENT THESE INSTRUCTIONS. AT A MINIMUM, AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE CORRECT WAY TO MARK THE BALLOT SHALL BE PROVIDED, BUT NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE BOARD IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS.
[7. Each such ballot shall be printed in sections in which the candidates' names and political designations, the ballot proposals and other requisite matter shall each be boxed in by heavy black perpendicular lines of equal width. In each such section shall be voting ovals or squares which voters may fill in. If applicable, ovals or squares shall be provided next to the blank spaces provided for a voter to write in a name.
8. The space for the title of an office shall be three-eighths of an inch, and the name of a candidate or for writing in a name, one-fourth of an inch, in depth. At the left of the name of each designated candidate shall be an enclosed voting space, three-eighths of an inch in width and approximately one-fourth of an inch in depth, bounded above, below and to the right by black lines, heavier than those which separate the spaces containing the names of candidates. To the left of voting spaces which do not adjoin a vertical line dividing two parts, there shall be a heavy black vertical line approximately one-eighth of an inch in width. No voting space shall be provided in the space for writing in names. In such case, the space corresponding to a voting space shall be all black.
9. Below the names of the candidates for each office or position there shall be printed as many blank spaces, for writing in names of persons for whom the voter desires to vote, as there are persons to be nominated or elected.
10. In case the sections shall be so numerous as to make the ballot unwieldy if they are printed in one column, they may be printed in as many columns as shall be necessary, and in that case, in order to produce a rectangular ballot, blank sections may be used.
11.] 8. WHEN A QUESTION OR PROPOSAL IS INCLUDED ON THE BALLOT, INSTRUCTIONS SUBSTANTIALLY LIKE THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE INCLUDED ON THE BALLOT NEAR THE FIRST QUESTION OR PROPOSAL:
INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING FOR QUESTIONS AND PROPOSALS
TO VOTE ON A QUESTION OR PROPOSAL, MARK THE INSERT ("OVAL" OR "SQUARE") TO THE LEFT OF YOUR CHOICE.
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, OR WANT TO CHANGE YOUR VOTE, ASK A POLL WORKER FOR A NEW BALLOT.
9. TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE BALLOT SHALL ALSO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:
A. ALL TEXT, INCLUDING THE TITLE OF EACH OFFICE AND THE NAME OF EACH CANDIDATE, SHALL BE PRINTED FLUSH LEFT AND SHALL NOT BE CENTERED ON THE BALLOT OR IN ANY COLUMN OR ROW APPEARING ON THE BALLOT;
B. THE VOTING OVAL OR SQUARE SHALL BE TO THE LEFT OF THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE;
C. ALL TEXT, INCLUDING THE NAME OF EACH CANDIDATE, SHALL BE PRINTED USING STANDARD CAPITALIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND SHALL NOT BE PRINTED USING ALL CAPITAL LETTERS;
D. THE NAME OF EACH CANDIDATE SHALL BE PRINTED USING A FONT SIZE OF NOT LESS THAN TWELVE POINTS OR ONE SIXTH OF AN INCH;
E. THE BALLOT SHALL USE ONE FONT OR FONT FAMILY WITH ENOUGH VARIATIONS FOR ALL TEXT NEEDS;
F. THE BALLOT SHALL HAVE A CLEAR DELINEATION BETWEEN THE BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS AND THE FIRST OFFICE OR BALLOT QUESTION OR PROPOSAL THROUGH THE USE OF WHITE SPACE, ILLUSTRATION, SHADING, COLOR, SYMBOL, FONT SIZE, OR BOLD TYPE;
G. COLOR AND SHADING SHALL BE USED CONSISTENTLY, SO AS TO DIFFERENTIATE INSTRUCTIONS FROM BALLOT SECTION DIVIDERS AND CONTEST INFORMATION;
H. IF MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE IS TO BE ELECTED IN ANY RACE ON THE BALLOT, "VOTE FOR UP TO X" (PROVIDING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CANDIDATES TO BE ELECTED) SHALL BE PRINTED IMMEDIATELY BELOW EACH OFFICE TITLE APPEARING ON THE BALLOT;
I. UNDER, OR TO THE RIGHT OF THE NAME OF EACH CANDIDATE, SHALL BE PRINTED, IN LESS PROMINENT TYPE FACE THAN THAT IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE'S NAME IS PRINTED, THE NAME OF THE POLITICAL PARTY BY WHICH THE CANDIDATE WAS NOMINATED OR CERTIFIED. NO PARTY EMBLEMS SHALL BE PRINTED UNDER OR AFTER THE CANDIDATE'S NAME THAT IS PRINTED ON THE BALLOT;
J. THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES TO THE SAME OFFICE SHALL APPEAR ON THE SAME PAGE AND IN THE SAME COLUMN OR ROW OF THAT PAGE OF A PRINTED BALLOT, UNLESS NO ALTERNATIVE IS POSSIBLE.
10. The names of parties or independent bodies which contain more than fifteen letters may, whenever limitations of space so require, be printed on the ballot in an abbreviated form. In printing the names of candidates whose full names contain more than fifteen letters, only the surname must be printed in full. The officer or board charged with the duty of preparing the ballots shall request each such candidate to indicate, in writing, the shortened form in which, subject to this restriction, his name shall be printed. If no such indication is received from such candidate within the time specified in the request, such officer or board shall make the necessary determination. [No emblem shall occupy a space longer in any direction than the voting square to which it relates.]

S 4. Paragraph (g) of subdivision 2 of section $7-114$ of the election law, as amended by chapter 234 of the laws of 1976, is amended to read as follows:
(g) Spaces containing names of candidates and for writing in names, and intervening spaces on the paper ballot, shall be separated by light horizontal lines. Names of candidates shall be printed [in capital letters] not less than one-eighth [nor more than three-sixteenths] of an inch in height.

S 5. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.

