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

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I N A S S E M B L Y

April 18, 2012

Introduced by M. of A. PERRY, CASTRO, JACOBS, STEVENSON, WEINSTEIN, SCARBOROUGH, P. RIVERA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ARROYO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to providing voting materials and translators in French and Creole in the city of New York

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 "Haitian-American Informed Voter Act".

S 2. The election law is amended by adding a new section 3-508 to read as follows:

S 3-508. BOARDS OF ELECTIONS; VOTING MATERIALS IN FRENCH AND CREOLE. A BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN A CITY OF OVER ONE MILLION SHALL PROVIDE THE SAME INFORMATION IN FRENCH AND CREOLE THAT IT PROVIDES IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH ON ITS WEBSITE. IT SHALL ALSO PRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE CITY-WIDE A BOOKLET THAT INCLUDES: (A) A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM IN ENGLISH WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN FRENCH AND CREOLE; (B) INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS FOR OBTAINING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT; AND (C) A SECTION WITH GENERAL INFORMATION INCLUDING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS. SUCH BOARD MAY INCLUDE OTHER LANGUAGES ON ITS WEBSITE AND IN SUCH BOOKLET.

S 3. Section 8-104 of the election law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

7. IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DURING DAYS OF PRIMARY, GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS, AT EACH PREMISES WHEREIN A POLLING PLACE OR PLACES ARE LOCATED IN A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE WHERE MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT OF THE CITIZENS OF VOTING AGE OF SUCH POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF FRENCH AND/OR CREOLE AND ARE LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENT, AT LEAST ONE FRENCH-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND/OR CREOLE-ENGLISH TRANSLATOR DESIGNATED BY SUCH CITY SHALL BE ASSIGNED FOR DUTY FROM THE OPENING UNTIL THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS.

S 4. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, that, effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.

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

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