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 26, 2012

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

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to directing the Queens county board of elections to provide language assistance in Bengali, Punjabi and Hindi

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

Section 1. The election law is amended by adding a new section 3-508 to read as follows:

S 3-508. QUEENS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; VOTING MATERIALS IN BENGALI, PUNJABI AND HINDI. THE QUEENS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE IN THE BENGALI, PUNJABI AND HINDI LANGUAGES PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO HUNDRED THREE OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE (42 U.S.C. 1973AA-1A). SUCH LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, BALLOTS, SIGNS, VOTER MAILINGS, EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING MATERIALS AND INFORMATION ON SUCH BOARD'S WEBSITE. IT SHALL ALSO PRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE COUNTYWIDE A BOOKLET THAT INCLUDES: (A) A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM IN ENGLISH WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN BENGALI, PUNJABI AND HINDI; (B) INSTRUCTIONS IN BENGALI, PUNJABI AND HINDI REGARDING THE CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS FOR OBTAINING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT; AND (C) A SECTION WITH GENERAL VOTER INFORMATION IN BENGALI, PUNJABI AND HINDI INCLUDING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS. SUCH BOARD MAY INCLUDE OTHER LANGUAGES ON ITS WEBSITE AND IN SUCH BOOKLET.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rules or regulations necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made on or before such date.

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

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