

1970

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 14, 2011

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Introduced by Sen. GIANARIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to designating additional participating agencies for purposes of agency assisted voter registration

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

1     Section 1. The opening paragraph of section 5-211 of the election law,  
2     as amended by chapter 200 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as  
3     follows:  
4     Each agency designated as a participating agency under the provisions  
5     of this section shall implement and administer a program of distribution  
6     of voter registration forms pursuant to the provisions of this section.  
7     The following offices which provide public assistance and/or provide  
8     state funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons  
9     with disabilities are hereby designated as voter registration agencies:  
10    designated as the state agencies which provide public assistance are the  
11    [department of social services] OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY  
12    ASSISTANCE and the department of health. Also designated as public  
13    assistance agencies are all agencies of local government that provide  
14    such assistance. Designated as state agencies that provide programs  
15    primarily engaged in providing services to people with disabilities are  
16    the department of labor, office for the aging, division of veterans'  
17    affairs, office of mental health, office of vocational and educational  
18    services for individuals with disabilities, commission on quality of  
19    care for the mentally disabled, office of mental retardation and devel-  
20    opmental disabilities, commission for the blind and visually hand-  
21    icapped, office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, the office  
22    of the advocate for the disabled and all offices which administer  
23    programs established or funded by such agencies. Additional state agen-  
24    cies designated as voter registration offices are the department of

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

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1 state and the division of workers' compensation. Such agencies shall be  
2 required to offer voter registration forms to persons upon initial  
3 application for services, renewal or recertification for services and  
4 change of address relating to such services. Such agencies shall also be  
5 responsible for providing assistance to applicants in completing voter  
6 registration forms, receiving and transmitting the completed application  
7 form from all applicants who wish to have such form transmitted to the  
8 appropriate board of elections. The state board of elections shall,  
9 together with representatives of the department of defense, develop and  
10 implement procedures for including recruitment offices of the armed  
11 forces of the United States as voter registration offices when such  
12 offices are so designated by federal law. The state board shall also  
13 make request of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service  
14 to include applications for registration by mail with any materials  
15 which are given to new citizens. All institutions of the state univer-  
16 sity of New York and the city university of New York, shall, at the  
17 beginning of the school year, and again in January of a year in which  
18 the president of the United States is to be elected, provide an applica-  
19 tion for registration to each student in each such institution. The  
20 state board of elections may, by regulation, grant a waiver from any or  
21 all of the requirements of this section to any office or program of an  
22 agency, if it determines that it is not feasible for such office or  
23 program to administer such requirement. ALSO DESIGNATED AS PARTICIPAT-  
24 ING AGENCIES ARE ALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES, WHICH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO OFFER  
25 VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO PERSONS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER UPON  
26 INITIAL APPLICATION FOR A LIBRARY CARD. ALSO DESIGNATED AS PARTICIPATING  
27 AGENCIES ARE ALL LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES, WHICH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO  
28 OFFER VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO PERSONS UPON INITIAL APPLICATION FOR  
29 SERVICES OR RECERTIFICATION FOR SERVICES. ALSO DESIGNATED AS PARTICIPAT-  
30 ING AGENCIES ARE ALL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS, WHICH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO  
31 OFFER VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO ALL SENIORS UPON THEIR GRADUATION.

32 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
33 it shall have become a law; provided that the state board of elections  
34 is authorized to promulgate any rules necessary to implement this act on  
35 or before its effective date.