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

1970

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 14, 2011

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:

Section 1. The opening paragraph of section 5-211 of the election law, as amended by chapter 200 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

Each agency designated as a participating agency under the provisions of this section shall implement and administer a program of distribution of voter registration forms pursuant to the provisions of this section. The following offices which provide public assistance and/or provide state funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities are hereby designated as voter registration agencies: designated as the state agencies which provide public assistance are the [department of social services] *OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE* and the department of health. Also designated as public assistance agencies are all agencies of local government that provide such assistance. Designated as state agencies that provide programs primarily engaged in providing services to people with disabilities are the department of labor, office for the aging, division of veterans' affairs, office of mental health, office of vocational and educational services for individuals with disabilities, commission on quality of care for the mentally disabled, office of mental retardation and developmental disabilities, commission for the blind and visually handicapped, office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, the office of the advocate for the disabled and all offices which administer programs established or funded by such agencies. Additional state agencies 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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state and the division of workers' compensation. Such agencies shall be required to offer voter registration forms to persons upon initial application for services, renewal or recertification for services and change of address relating to such services. Such agencies shall also be responsible for providing assistance to applicants in completing voter registration forms, receiving and transmitting the completed application form from all applicants who wish to have such form transmitted to the appropriate board of elections. The state board of elections shall, together with representatives of the department of defense, develop and implement procedures for including recruitment offices of the armed forces of the United States as voter registration offices when such offices are so designated by federal law. The state board shall also make request of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service to include applications for registration by mail with any materials which are given to new citizens. All institutions of the state university of New York and the city university of New York, shall, at the beginning of the school year, and again in January of a year in which the president of the United States is to be elected, provide an application for registration to each student in each such institution. The state board of elections may, by regulation, grant a waiver from any or all of the requirements of this section to any office or program of an agency, if it determines that it is not feasible for such office or program to administer such requirement. ALSO DESIGNATED AS PARTICIPATING AGENCIES ARE ALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES, WHICH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO OFFER VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO PERSONS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER UPON INITIAL APPLICATION FOR A LIBRARY CARD. ALSO DESIGNATED AS PARTICIPATING AGENCIES ARE ALL LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES, WHICH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO OFFER VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO PERSONS UPON INITIAL APPLICATION FOR SERVICES OR RECERTIFICATION FOR SERVICES. ALSO DESIGNATED AS PARTICIPATING AGENCIES ARE ALL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS, WHICH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO OFFER VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO ALL SENIORS UPON THEIR GRADUATION.

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