

2852--A

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 24, 2013

Introduced by Sens. KLEIN, SMITH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections -- recommitted to the Committee on Elections in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to voter registration and enrollment

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

1 Section 1. Section 5-211 of the election law is amended by adding a  
2 new subdivision 18 to read as follows:  
3 18. ALL COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS LOCATED IN  
4 THIS STATE SHALL MAKE VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE TO ANY ELIGIBLE  
5 STUDENTS IN THE SAME MANNER AND SUBJECT TO THE SAME PROVISIONS AND RULES  
6 AND REGULATIONS AS ALL OTHER DESIGNATED AGENCIES; EXCEPT THAT A COLLEGE,  
7 UNIVERSITY OR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO COLLECT OR  
8 MAINTAIN FORMS CONTAINING AN INDIVIDUAL'S DECLINATION TO REGISTER TO  
9 VOTE AS REQUIRED BY SUBDIVISION TEN OF THIS SECTION, OR TO CONDUCT A  
10 STUDY AND REPORT THEREON AS REQUIRED BY SUBDIVISION SEVENTEEN OF THIS  
11 SECTION.  
12 EACH COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL PROVIDE EACH  
13 ELIGIBLE STUDENT WITH A REGISTRATION FORM WITHIN THE FIRST THREE WEEKS  
14 OF THE FIRST SEMESTER OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR OR SUCH STUDENT'S ENTRY TO  
15 SCHOOL OR ARRIVAL ON CAMPUS PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISIONS TWO, THREE, FOUR,  
16 FIVE, SEVEN, NINE, ELEVEN, TWELVE AND FIFTEEN OF THIS SECTION. EVERY  
17 COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL DESIGNATE AT LEAST  
18 ONE CONVENIENT CAMPUS LOCATION WHERE STUDENTS MAY RECEIVE VOTER REGIS-  
19 TRATION FORMS AND PERSONAL ASSISTANCE IN THE COMPLETION OF SUCH FORMS.  
20 EACH COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL PUBLICIZE ITS  
21 VOTER REGISTRATION SERVICES PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION SEVEN OF THIS  
22 SECTION, AND SHALL OFFER TO COLLECT AND TRANSMIT COMPLETED VOTER REGIS-

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

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1 TRATION FORMS FROM STUDENTS TO THE LOCAL BOARD OF ELECTIONS PURSUANT TO  
2 SUBDIVISIONS TWO, THREE, FIVE, NINE, ELEVEN, TWELVE AND FIFTEEN OF THIS  
3 SECTION.

4 ANY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ELECT TO SOLICIT  
5 THE ASSISTANCE OF ONE OR MORE RECOGNIZED NON-PARTISAN CAMPUS BASED  
6 ORGANIZATIONS OR STUDENT GROUPS TO ASSIST IN ITS EFFORTS TO OFFER  
7 PERSONAL ASSISTANCE, COLLECTION AND TRANSMITTAL OF VOTER REGISTRATION  
8 FORMS.

9 IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBDIVISIONS TWO, FIVE AND EIGHT OF  
10 THIS SECTION, ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OFFERING VOTER REGISTRATION  
11 SERVICES SHALL INFORM STUDENTS OF THEIR RIGHT TO COMPLETE A VOTER REGIS-  
12 TRATION FORM FROM THEIR COLLEGE ADDRESS OR ANY ADDRESS AT WHICH SUCH  
13 STUDENT MAY REGULARLY RESIDE WHEN NOT IN SCHOOL; INFORM STUDENTS THAT  
14 THEIR DECISION TO REGISTER OR DECLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE SHALL HAVE NO  
15 BEARING ON THEIR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY RECORD; AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE  
16 PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION NINE OF THIS SECTION, SHALL NOT INQUIRE OR  
17 KEEP RECORDS PERTAINING TO ANY STUDENT'S ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE.

18 IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBDIVISION SEVEN OF THIS SECTION,  
19 ALL COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL PLACE A  
20 PROMINENT LINK ON THEIR INTERNET WEBSITES TO THE APPROPRIATE PAGE OF THE  
21 INTERNET WEBSITE OF THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OR THE NATIONAL  
22 ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FOR INDIVIDUALS TO LEARN ABOUT THE QUALI-  
23 FICATIONS TO VOTE, AND TO DOWNLOAD VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS, EXCEPT THAT  
24 FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND FOR THE CITY  
25 SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK SUCH LINK SHALL BE TO THE APPRO-  
26 PRIATE PAGE OF THE INTERNET WEBSITE OF THE NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF  
27 ELECTIONS. SUCH LINKS SHALL BE PROMINENTLY FEATURED DURING THE FIRST  
28 AND LAST THREE WEEKS OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR, AND TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF  
29 STATE REGISTRATION DEADLINES PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION  
30 5-210 OF THIS TITLE.

31 THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND, IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE NEW  
32 YORK CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE TO COLLEGES, UNIVERSI-  
33 TIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS A SUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF CODED VOTER REGISTRA-  
34 TION APPLICATIONS THAT IDENTIFY EACH SUCH APPLICATION AS ORIGINATING  
35 FROM EITHER A COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE STATE  
36 BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE DELIVERY OF SUCH CODED APPLICA-  
37 TIONS BY THE FIRST DAY OF AUGUST OF EACH YEAR TO ANY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY  
38 OR SCHOOL DISTRICT WITHIN THE STATE WHICH SUBMITS A REQUEST THEREFOR,  
39 EXCEPT THAT THE NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL PROVIDE AND  
40 DELIVER SUCH FORMS TO ANY REQUESTING UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OR SCHOOL  
41 DISTRICT LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

42 EVERY BOARD OF ELECTIONS SCANNING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS SHALL  
43 CAPTURE ANY DESIGNATED AGENCY CODES THEREON AND REPORT THEM ON A MONTHLY  
44 BASIS TO THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

45 S 2. The opening paragraph of section 5-211 of the election law, as  
46 amended by chapter 265 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as  
47 follows:

48 Each agency designated as a participating agency under the provisions  
49 of this section, AND COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL DISTRICT, shall  
50 implement and administer a program of distribution of voter registration  
51 forms pursuant to the provisions of this section. The following offices  
52 which provide public assistance and/or provide state funded programs  
53 primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities are  
54 hereby designated as voter registration agencies: designated as the  
55 state agencies which provide public assistance are the office of chil-  
56 dren and family services, the office of temporary and disability assist-

1 ance and the department of health. Also designated as public assistance  
2 agencies are all agencies of local government that provide such assist-  
3 ance. Designated as state agencies that provide programs primarily  
4 engaged in providing services to people with disabilities are the  
5 department of labor, office for the aging, division of veterans'  
6 affairs, office of mental health, office of vocational and educational  
7 services for individuals with disabilities, commission on quality of  
8 care for the mentally disabled, office [of mental retardation and] FOR  
9 PEOPLE WITH developmental disabilities, commission for the blind, office  
10 of alcoholism and substance abuse services, the office of the advocate  
11 for the disabled and all offices which administer programs established  
12 or funded by such agencies. Additional state agencies designated as  
13 voter registration offices are the department of state and the division  
14 of workers' compensation. Such agencies shall be required to offer voter  
15 registration forms to persons upon initial application for services,  
16 renewal or recertification for services and change of address relating  
17 to such services. Such agencies shall also be responsible for providing  
18 assistance to applicants in completing voter registration forms, receiv-  
19 ing and transmitting the completed application form from all applicants  
20 who wish to have such form transmitted to the appropriate board of  
21 elections. The state board of elections shall, together with represen-  
22 tatives of the department of defense, develop and implement procedures  
23 for including recruitment offices of the armed forces of the United  
24 States as voter registration offices when such offices are so designated  
25 by federal law. The state board shall also make request of the United  
26 States Immigration and Naturalization Service to include applications  
27 for registration by mail with any materials which are given to new citi-  
28 zens. [All institutions of the state university of New York and the city  
29 university of New York, shall, at the beginning of the school year, and  
30 again in January of a year in which the president of the United States  
31 is to be elected, provide an application for registration to each  
32 student in each such institution.] The state board of elections may, by  
33 regulation, grant a waiver from any or all of the requirements of this  
34 section to any office or program of an agency, COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR  
35 SCHOOL DISTRICT, if it determines that it is not feasible for such  
36 office or program to administer such requirement.

37 S 3. The opening paragraph of subdivision 8 of section 5-211 of the  
38 election law, as amended by chapter 659 of the laws of 1994, is amended  
39 to read as follows:

40 Each participating agency, department, division or office that makes  
41 available voter registration forms pursuant to this section shall offer  
42 with each application for the services or assistance of such agency,  
43 department, division or office and with each recertification, renewal or  
44 change of address form relating to such service or assistance, a regis-  
45 tration form together with instructions relating to eligibility to  
46 register and for completing the form, except that COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES  
47 AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL DISTRIBUTE VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS IN  
48 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION EIGHTEEN OF THIS SECTION, AND forms used by  
49 the department of [social services] FAMILY ASSISTANCE for the initial  
50 application for services, renewal or recertification for services and  
51 change of address relating to such services shall physically incorporate  
52 a voter registration application in a fashion that permits the voter  
53 registration portion of the agency form to be detached therefrom. Such  
54 voter registration application shall be designed so as to ensure the  
55 confidentiality of the source of the application. Included on each

1 participating agency's application for services or assistance or on a  
2 separate form shall be:

3 S 4. Paragraph (g) of subdivision 5 of section 5-210 of the election  
4 law, as amended by chapter 179 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (g) Notice that the applicant must be a citizen of the United States,  
7 is [or will be at least eighteen years old not later than December thir-  
8 ty-first of the calendar year in which he or she registers] AT LEAST  
9 SIXTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN HE OR SHE SUBMITS AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER TO  
10 VOTE and a resident of the county or city to which application is made.

11 S 5. Paragraph o of subdivision 4 of section 5-500 of the election  
12 law, as amended by chapter 659 of the laws of 1994, is amended and a new  
13 paragraph p is added to read as follows:

14 o. A space for "remarks" regarding other facts required by this chap-  
15 ter to be recorded or appropriate to identify the voter[.]; AND

16 P. A SPACE FOR PRE-REGISTERING APPLICANTS TO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING  
17 QUESTION: "ARE YOU AT LEAST SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND UNDERSTAND THAT YOU  
18 MUST BE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE ELECTION DAY TO VOTE, AND  
19 THAT UNTIL YOU REACH THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE  
20 MARKED AS PENDING AND YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO CAST A BALLOT IN ANY  
21 ELECTION?".

22 S 6. The election law is amended by adding a new section 5-507 to read  
23 as follows:

24 S 5-507. VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION. A PERSON WHO IS AT LEAST SIXTEEN  
25 YEARS OF AGE AND WHO IS OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO REGISTER TO VOTE MAY  
26 PRE-REGISTER TO VOTE, AND SHALL BE AUTOMATICALLY REGISTERED UPON REACH-  
27 ING THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY, FOLLOWING VERIFICATION OF THE PERSON'S QUAL-  
28 IFICATIONS AND ADDRESS.

29 S 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015; provided, however, that  
30 the provisions of this act shall only apply to school districts on and  
31 after July 1, 2016.