

7832--B

R. R. 285

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

June 5, 2013

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Introduced by M. of A. CUSICK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported and referred to the Committee on Rules -- passed by Assembly and delivered to the Senate, recalled from the Senate, vote reconsidered, bill amended, ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the special order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to run-off elections in the city of New York; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

1     Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds and declares  
2 that the effective and timely administration of local elections in the  
3 city of New York is a matter of substantial state concern. In further-  
4 ance of this concern, the legislature finds that it is essential to the  
5 local democratic process to ensure that the board of elections in the  
6 city of New York utilizes voting machines that allow for the timely and  
7 orderly administration of elections. In order to modernize and update  
8 the voting systems utilized in New York State, the legislature passed  
9 the Election Reform and Modernization Act of 2005, which set forth  
10 requirements for electronic voting systems, including optical scanning  
11 voting machines, throughout the state. The implementation of these elec-  
12 tronic voting systems has brought the state into conformance with  
13 national standards for voting system performance and modernization. The  
14 state has a substantial interest in ensuring that elections in the city  
15 of New York are generally conducted with an electronic voting system  
16 that meets the above mentioned statewide standards. At the same time,  
17 the city of New York is uniquely situated in that a run-off primary is  
18 required to be held two weeks after the local primary election in  
19 certain circumstances. In recent elections administered with optical

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

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1 scanning voting machines, approved by the state board of elections, it  
2 has taken over two weeks for the board of elections in the city of New  
3 York to finalize election results. A series of one-time and immediate  
4 short-term changes to the current election law, as applied to the city  
5 of New York, are therefore necessary to further the state's substantial  
6 concerns and ensure that the 4.2 million registered voters in the city  
7 of New York are able to exercise their voting rights in a timely and  
8 orderly primary election and run-off election, should a run-off be  
9 required.

10 S 2. Section 4-114 of the election law, as amended by chapter 4 of the  
11 laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

12 S 4-114. Determination of candidates and questions; county board of  
13 elections. The county board of elections, not later than the thirty-  
14 fifth day before the day of a primary or general election, or the  
15 fifty-third day before a special election, shall determine the candi-  
16 dates duly nominated for public office and the questions that shall  
17 appear on the ballot within the jurisdiction of that board of elections.  
18 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, IN ANY YEAR IN WHICH THERE HAS BEEN A RUN-OFF  
19 ELECTION IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF SUCH CITY  
20 SHALL, NOT LATER THAN THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION  
21 IN THAT YEAR, DETERMINE THE CANDIDATES DULY NOMINATED FOR PUBLIC OFFICE  
22 AND THE QUESTIONS THAT SHALL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT WITHIN THE JURISDIC-  
23 TION OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

24 S 3. Subdivision 1 of section 7-200 of the election law, as amended by  
25 chapter 181 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

26 1. The board of elections of the city of New York and other county  
27 boards of elections may adopt any kind of voting machine or system  
28 approved by the state board of elections, or the use of which has been  
29 specifically authorized by law; and thereupon such voting machine or  
30 system may be used at any or all elections and shall be used at all  
31 general or special elections held by such boards in such city, town or  
32 village and in every contested primary election in the city of New York  
33 and in every contested primary election outside the city of New York in  
34 which there are one thousand or more enrolled voters qualified to vote.  
35 No more than two types of voting machines or systems may be used by any  
36 local board of elections at a single election. Notwithstanding the other  
37 provisions of this subdivision, any local board of elections may borrow  
38 or lease for use on an experimental basis for a period of not more than  
39 one year each, voting machines or systems of any type approved by the  
40 state board of elections.

41 (A) (I) THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK SHALL DEPLOY  
42 AND UTILIZE OPTICAL SCANNING VOTING MACHINES APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD  
43 OF ELECTIONS AT ALL PRIMARY ELECTIONS CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
44 8-100 OF THIS CHAPTER.

45 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE BOARD OF  
46 ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO PREPARE,  
47 DEPLOY AND UTILIZE MECHANICAL LEVER VOTING MACHINES AT ANY NON-FEDERAL  
48 PRIMARY ELECTION, CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-100 OF THIS CHAPTER.  
49 THE PREPARATION, DEPLOYMENT AND UTILIZATION OF SUCH MECHANICAL LEVER  
50 MACHINES SHALL ONLY OCCUR AFTER SUCH BOARD OF ELECTIONS DETERMINES THE  
51 USE OF SUCH MECHANICAL LEVER MACHINES AT SUCH A NON-FEDERAL PRIMARY  
52 ELECTION IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE TIMELY AND ORDERLY ADMINISTRATION OF  
53 THE PRIMARY ELECTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A TIMELY VOTE COUNT.

54 (B) (I) THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK SHALL DEPLOY  
55 AND UTILIZE OPTICAL SCANNING VOTING MACHINES APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD

1 OF ELECTIONS IN ALL RUN-OFF ELECTIONS CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
2 8-100 OF THIS CHAPTER.

3 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE BOARD OF  
4 ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO PREPARE,  
5 DEPLOY AND UTILIZE MECHANICAL LEVER VOTING MACHINES AT ANY RUN-OFF  
6 ELECTION, CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-100 OF THIS CHAPTER. THE PREP-  
7 ARATION, DEPLOYMENT AND UTILIZATION OF SUCH MECHANICAL LEVER MACHINES  
8 SHALL ONLY OCCUR AFTER SUCH BOARD OF ELECTIONS DETERMINES THAT THE PREP-  
9 ARATION, DEPLOYMENT AND UTILIZATION OF OPTICAL SCANNING VOTING MACHINES  
10 APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, AT SUCH RUN-OFF ELECTION IS  
11 IMPRACTICABLE GIVEN THE COSTS AND STATUTORY TIME CONSTRAINTS ASSOCIATED  
12 WITH THE PREPARATION, DEPLOYMENT AND UTILIZATION OF SUCH OPTICAL SCAN-  
13 NING MACHINES.

14 (C) SHOULD THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK DETERMINE TO  
15 UTILIZE SUCH MECHANICAL LEVER VOTING MACHINES PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (A)  
16 OR (B) OF THIS SUBDIVISION, IN ANY PRIMARY OR RUN-OFF ELECTION, PURSUANT  
17 TO SECTION 8-100 OF THIS CHAPTER, SUCH DETERMINATION SHALL BE MADE ON OR  
18 BEFORE JULY TWENTY-SEVENTH, TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN. SHOULD THE CHAPTER  
19 OF THE LAWS OF TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN THAT ADDED THIS PARAGRAPH TAKE  
20 EFFECT ON A DATE ON OR AFTER JULY SEVENTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN,  
21 THEN SUCH DETERMINATION SHALL BE MADE WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER SUCH DATE.  
22 IN NO EVENT SHALL SUCH DETERMINATION BE MADE AFTER AUGUST THIRTY-FIRST,  
23 TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN.

24 (D) SHOULD THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK UTILIZE SUCH  
25 MECHANICAL LEVER VOTING MACHINES PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (A) OR (B) OF  
26 THIS SUBDIVISION, IN ANY PRIMARY OR RUN-OFF ELECTION, PURSUANT TO  
27 SECTION 8-100 OF THIS CHAPTER, SUCH BOARD OF ELECTIONS MUST ALSO PROVIDE  
28 A VOTING SYSTEM THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPHS A, B AND C OF  
29 SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION 7-202 OF THIS TITLE IN EACH POLLING SITE.

30 S 4. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 8-100 of the election  
31 law, as added by chapter 373 of the laws of 1978, is amended to read as  
32 follows:

33 (b) In the event a run-off primary election is required in the city of  
34 New York, it shall be held on the [second] THIRD Tuesday next succeeding  
35 the date on which the initial primary election was held.

36 S 5. Subdivision 1 of section 8-412 of the election law, as amended by  
37 chapter 155 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

38 1. The board of elections shall cause all absentee ballots received by  
39 it before the close of the polls on election day and all ballots  
40 contained in envelopes showing a cancellation mark of the United States  
41 postal service or a foreign country's postal service, or showing a dated  
42 endorsement of receipt by another agency of the United States govern-  
43 ment, with a date which is ascertained to be not later than the day  
44 before election and received by such board of elections not later than  
45 seven days following the day of election, OR FOURTEEN DAYS FOLLOWING THE  
46 DAY OF THE GENERAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK IN ANY YEAR IN WHICH  
47 THERE HAS BEEN A RUN-OFF ELECTION, to be cast and counted except that  
48 the absentee ballot of a voter who requested such ballot by letter,  
49 rather than application, shall not be counted unless a valid application  
50 form, signed by such voter, is received by the board of elections with  
51 such ballot.

52 S 6. Section 9-214 of the election law, the section heading and first  
53 undesignated paragraph as amended by chapter 286 of the laws of 1983,  
54 and the second undesignated paragraph as amended by chapter 4 of the  
55 laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

1 S 9-214. Transmission of statements of canvassing boards to state  
2 board of elections and secretary of state. The board of elections shall  
3 transmit by mail or cause to be delivered personally to the state board  
4 of elections, a certified copy of the statement of the canvassing board  
5 relating to the offices of electors of president and vice-president of  
6 the United States, United States senator, representatives in congress  
7 and state offices, including members of the state senate and assembly,  
8 and to the votes cast on any ballot proposal submitted to all the voters  
9 of the state, within twenty-five days after the election. If any certi-  
10 fied copy shall not be received by the state board on or before the  
11 twenty-fifth day following a general election, or a special election, it  
12 shall dispatch a special messenger to obtain such certified copy, and  
13 the board of elections, immediately upon demand of such messenger at its  
14 office, shall make and deliver a certified copy to such messenger who  
15 shall deliver it forthwith to the state board.

16 The board of elections shall transmit to the secretary of state within  
17 twenty-five days after a general election, and within twenty days after  
18 a special election, a list of the names and residences of all persons  
19 determined by the canvassing board to be elected to any county office.  
20 NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, IN ANY YEAR IN  
21 WHICH THERE HAS BEEN A RUN-OFF ELECTION IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE  
22 BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK SHALL TRANSMIT TO THE SECRE-  
23 TARY OF STATE NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION IN  
24 THAT YEAR A LIST OF THE NAMES AND RESIDENCES OF ALL PERSONS DETERMINED  
25 BY THE CANVASSING BOARD TO BE ELECTED TO ANY COUNTY OFFICE.

26 The board of elections shall transmit to the state board, on or before  
27 the tenth day of December following an election for governor, a certi-  
28 fied tabulated statement, by election districts, of the official canvass  
29 of the votes cast for candidates for governor, to include, in the case  
30 of a candidate who was nominated by two or more parties or independent  
31 bodies, a separate statement of the number of votes cast for him as the  
32 candidate of each party or independent body by which he was nominated  
33 and if the county contains more than one assembly district or parts of  
34 more than one assembly district, a statement of the number of votes cast  
35 for governor by assembly district.

36 S 7. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 10-108 of the election  
37 law, as amended by chapter 4 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as  
38 follows:

39 (a) Ballots for military voters shall be mailed or otherwise distrib-  
40 uted by the board of elections, in accordance with the preferred method  
41 of transmission designated by the voter pursuant to section 10-107 of  
42 this article, as soon as practicable but in any event not later than  
43 thirty-two days before a primary or general election; twenty-five days  
44 before a New York city community school board district or city of  
45 Buffalo school district election; fourteen days before a village  
46 election conducted by the board of elections; and forty-five days before  
47 a special election. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS OF THIS  
48 SECTION, IN ANY YEAR IN WHICH THERE HAS BEEN A RUN-OFF ELECTION IN THE  
49 CITY OF NEW YORK, BALLOTS FOR MILITARY VOTERS SHALL BE MAILED OR OTHER-  
50 WISE DISTRIBUTED BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF SUCH CITY IN ACCORDANCE  
51 WITH THE PREFERRED METHOD OF TRANSMISSION DESIGNATED BY THE VOTER PURSU-  
52 ANT TO SECTION 10-107 OF THIS ARTICLE, AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BUT IN ANY  
53 EVENT NOT LATER THAN TWENTY-FIVE DAYS BEFORE A GENERAL ELECTION IN THAT  
54 YEAR. A voter who submits a military ballot application shall be enti-  
55 tled to a military ballot thereafter for each subsequent election  
56 through and including the next two regularly scheduled general elections

1 held in even numbered years, including any run-offs which may occur;  
2 provided, however, such application shall not be valid for any election  
3 held within seven days after its receipt. Ballots shall also be mailed  
4 to any qualified military voter who is already registered and who  
5 requests such military ballot from such board of elections in a letter,  
6 which is signed by the voter and received by the board of elections not  
7 later than the seventh day before the election for which the ballot is  
8 requested and which states the address where the voter is registered and  
9 the address to which the ballot is to be mailed. The board of elections  
10 shall enclose with such ballot a form of application for military  
11 ballot. In the case of a primary election, the board shall deliver only  
12 the ballot of the party with which the military voter is enrolled  
13 according to the military voter's registration records. In the event a  
14 primary election is uncontested in the military voter's election  
15 district for all offices or positions except the party position of  
16 member of the ward, town, city or county committee, no ballot shall be  
17 delivered to such military voter for such election; and the military  
18 voter shall be advised of the reason why he or she will not receive a  
19 ballot.

20 S 8. Subdivision 1 of section 10-114 of the election law, as amended  
21 by chapter 165 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

22 1. The board of elections shall cause all military ballots received by  
23 it before the close of the polls on election day and all ballots  
24 contained in envelopes showing a cancellation mark of the United States  
25 postal service or a foreign country's postal service, or showing a dated  
26 endorsement of receipt by another agency of the United States government  
27 or are signed and dated by the voter and one witness thereto, with a  
28 date which is ascertained to be not later than the day before election  
29 and received by such board of elections not later than seven days  
30 following the day of a primary election and not later than thirteen days  
31 following the day of a general or special election to be cast and count-  
32 ed. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, IN ANY  
33 YEAR IN WHICH THERE HAS BEEN A RUN-OFF ELECTION IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK,  
34 THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF SUCH CITY SHALL CAUSE ALL MILITARY BALLOTS  
35 RECEIVED BY IT BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY AND ALL  
36 BALLOTS CONTAINED IN ENVELOPES SHOWING A CANCELLATION MARK OF THE UNITED  
37 STATES POSTAL SERVICE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY'S POSTAL SERVICE, OR SHOWING A  
38 DATED ENDORSEMENT OF RECEIPT BY ANOTHER AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES  
39 GOVERNMENT OR ARE SIGNED AND DATED BY THE VOTER AND ONE WITNESS THERETO,  
40 WITH A DATE WHICH IS ASCERTAINED TO BE NOT LATER THAN THE DAY BEFORE  
41 ELECTION DAY AND RECEIVED BY SUCH BOARD OF ELECTIONS NOT LATER THAN  
42 TWENTY DAYS FOLLOWING THE DAY OF A GENERAL ELECTION IN THAT YEAR TO BE  
43 CAST AND COUNTED.

44 S 9. The amendments to the election law set forth in this act shall  
45 apply notwithstanding any other provision of general, special or local  
46 law, including but not limited to any provision of law that would render  
47 the preparation, deployment and utilization of mechanical lever voting  
48 machines impracticable where the board of elections in the city of New  
49 York makes a determination with respect to such machines as authorized  
50 by subdivision 1 of section 7-200 of the election law as amended by  
51 section three of this act.

52 S 10. On or before July 1, 2014, the board of elections in the city  
53 of New York shall submit a report to the governor, temporary president  
54 of the senate, speaker of the assembly, minority leader of the senate,  
55 minority leader of the assembly, chair of the senate standing committee  
56 on elections, chair of the assembly standing committee on election law,

1 mayor of the city of New York, and speaker of the New York city council,  
2 detailing a plan for administering effective and timely elections in the  
3 city of New York with a voting machine system that meets the require-  
4 ments of title 2 of article 7 of the election law and without the use of  
5 mechanical lever machines. Such plan shall address, at a minimum, train-  
6 ing of board of elections staff, including poll clerks and election  
7 inspectors in connection with the preparation, testing, deployment and  
8 utilization of optical scanning voting machines approved by the state  
9 board of elections, including further education and training regarding  
10 the needs of voters with disabilities, appropriate and effective methods  
11 for streamlining election night canvassing procedures, and appropriate  
12 and effective methods of ensuring full and fair voting machine access  
13 for all voters.

14 S 11. The board of elections in the city of New York shall adopt  
15 procedures regarding the preparation, deployment and utilization of  
16 mechanical lever voting machines should such board of elections deter-  
17 mine under section three of this act that such lever voting machines  
18 shall be used. Such procedures shall seek to ensure that the canvass and  
19 recanvass of the mechanical lever voting machines occurs in a timely and  
20 efficient manner and, to the extent practicable, in a manner not incon-  
21 sistent with article 9 of the election law as in effect on January 1,  
22 2010, as such article applied to elections conducted with mechanical  
23 lever voting machines.

24 S 12. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be  
25 deemed repealed December 31, 2013, except that section ten of this act  
26 shall expire and be deemed repealed August 1, 2014.