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

10199--A

I N A S S E M B L Y

May 16, 2016

Introduced by M. of A. ABINANTI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to create a temporary commission on consolidating the conduct of municipal elections by boards of elections; making an appropriation therefor; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. A temporary state commission is hereby created to make recommendations and prepare proposed legislation to: (i) consolidate the conduct of all public entity elections by the county boards of elections; and (ii) consolidate all public entity elections to the date of the November general election or another date upon which multiple public entity elections may be consolidated.

S 2. The commission shall consist of nine members, each to serve for a term of two years, to be forthwith appointed as follows: two shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate and one by the minority leader of the senate; two shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly and one by the minority leader of the assembly; three shall be appointed by the governor. No more than four appointees shall be legislators. By a majority vote, the commission shall designate the chair and vice chair from among the appointees to the commission. Vacancies in the membership of the commission and among its officers shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

S 3. The commission may employ and at pleasure remove such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions and fix their compensation within the amounts made available therefor.

S 4. The commission may meet within and without the state, shall hold public hearings, and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant to the legislative law.

S 5. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder.

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

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S 6. To the maximum extent feasible, the commission shall be entitled to request and receive and shall utilize and be provided with such facilities, resources, and data of any court, department, division, board, bureau, commission, or agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof as it may reasonably request to properly carry out its powers and duties hereunder.

S 7. The commission shall make a preliminary report to the governor and the legislature of its findings, conclusions and recommendation not later than December 31, 2017 and a final report of its findings, conclusions and recommendations not later than April 30, 2018, and shall submit with its report such legislative proposals as it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

S 8. The sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars ($750,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the temporary commission on consolidating the conduct of municipal elections by boards of elections out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund, to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the chair of the temporary commission established by this act.

S 9. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on May 1, 2018, when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.