

6772

I N   S E N A T E

February 19, 2016

---

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- 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 directing the Queens county board of elections to provide language assistance in Bengali, Punjabi and Hindi

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

1     Section 1. The election law is amended by adding a new section 3-508  
2     to read as follows:  
3     S 3-508. QUEENS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; VOTING MATERIALS IN BENGALI,  
4     LI, PUNJABI AND HINDI. THE QUEENS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL  
5     PROVIDE WRITTEN LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE IN THE BENGALI, PUNJABI AND HINDI  
6     LANGUAGES PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO HUNDRED THREE OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT  
7     OF NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE (42 U.S.C. 1973AA-1A). SUCH LANGUAGE  
8     ASSISTANCE SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, BALLOTS, SIGNS, VOTER  
9     MAILINGS, EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING MATERIALS AND INFORMATION ON  
10    SUCH BOARD'S WEBSITE. IT SHALL ALSO PRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE COUNTYWIDE A  
11    BOOKLET THAT INCLUDES: (A) A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM IN ENGLISH WITH  
12    INSTRUCTIONS IN BENGALI, PUNJABI AND HINDI; (B) INSTRUCTIONS IN BENGALI,  
13    PUNJABI AND HINDI REGARDING THE CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS FOR  
14    OBTAINING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT; AND (C) A SECTION WITH GENERAL VOTER  
15    INFORMATION IN BENGALI, PUNJABI AND HINDI INCLUDING FREQUENTLY ASKED  
16    QUESTIONS. SUCH BOARD MAY INCLUDE OTHER LANGUAGES ON ITS WEBSITE AND IN  
17    SUCH BOOKLET.  
18    S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
19    it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-  
20    ment and/or repeal of any rules or regulations necessary for the imple-  
21    mentation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made on  
22    or before such date.

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

LBD04942-01-5