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

6997

I N S E N A T E

March 15, 2016

Introduced by Sen. SAVINO -- 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 voting materials in Russian

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

Section 1. Section 3-506 of the election law, as added by chapter 244 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

S 3-506. Boards of elections; voting materials in Russian. A board of elections in a city of over one million shall provide [the same information in Russian that it provides in languages other than English on its website. It] ALL INFORMATION THAT IS PROVIDED BY SUCH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN ENGLISH ABOUT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, INCLUDING REGISTRATION OR VOTING NOTICES, FORMS, INSTRUCTIONS, ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS INFORMATION PROVIDED AT THE POLLING PLACE, INCLUDING VOTING SYSTEMS, BALLOT MARKING DEVICES AND BALLOTS IN RUSSIAN TO THE EXTENT NEEDED TO ALLOW VOTERS WHO SPEAK RUSSIAN TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND ALL VOTING-CONNECTED ACTIVITIES. SUCH BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL ALSO PROVIDE THE SAME INFORMATION IN RUSSIAN THAT IT PROVIDES IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH ON ITS WEBSITE. SUCH BOARD OF ELECTIONS shall also produce and disseminate citywide a booklet that includes: (a) a voter registration form in English with instructions in Russian; (b) instructions in Russian regarding the criteria and application process for obtaining an absentee ballot; and (c) a section with general voter information in Russian including frequently asked questions. Such board may include other languages on its website and in such booklet.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rules or regulations necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made on or before such date.

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

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