

4194

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 29, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. ZEBROWSKI, BUCHWALD, GALEF, SKOUFIS, ABINANTI,  
JAFEE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to poll watchers for  
special, town or village elections being held for the sole purpose of  
a ballot proposal

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

1     Section 1. Subdivisions 1 and 3 of section 8-500 of the election law,  
2     as amended by chapter 373 of the laws of 1978, are amended to read as  
3     follows:  
4     1. At any general, special, town or village election, any party  
5     committee or independent body whose candidates are upon the ballot, AND  
6     WHEN A SPECIAL, TOWN OR VILLAGE ELECTION IS BEING HELD FOR THE SOLE  
7     PURPOSE OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR PROPOSALS, THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF THE  
8     COUNTY IN WHICH THE ELECTION IS BEING HELD and at any primary election,  
9     any two or more candidates and any political committee may have for each  
10    election district three watchers at any one time, not more than one of  
11    whom may be within the guard rail at any one time. Watchers shall be  
12    appointed by the chairman of any such party, committee or independent  
13    body or by the candidates OR BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, UPON REQUEST,  
14    FOR A SPECIAL, TOWN OR VILLAGE ELECTION THAT IS BEING HELD FOR THE SOLE  
15    PURPOSE OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR PROPOSALS. IN SUCH ELECTIONS, THE BOARD  
16    OF ELECTIONS SHALL APPOINT WATCHERS IN A MANNER THAT ENSURES EQUITABLE  
17    REPRESENTATION OF ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE ADVOCATING THE  
18    PASSAGE OR DEFEAT OF THE BALLOT PROPOSAL OR PROPOSALS.  
19    3. The appointment of watchers for any election shall be by a certif-  
20    icate in writing issued by the chairman or secretary of the political  
21    party or independent body, [or] the candidates OR THE BOARD OF  
22    ELECTIONS. Such certificate shall be delivered to an inspector at the  
23    election district.

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

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1       S   2.   This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
2 have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the  
3 addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary  
4 for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized  
5 and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.