

5892

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

March 5, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. KAVANAGH, COLTON, GALEF, GOTTFRIED, MILLER --  
read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to designating additional  
participating agencies for purposes of agency assisted voter registra-  
tion

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

1     Section 1. The opening paragraph of section 5-211 of the election law,  
2     as amended by chapter 265 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as  
3     follows:  
4     Each agency designated as a participating agency under the provisions  
5     of this section shall implement and administer a program of distribution  
6     of voter registration forms pursuant to the provisions of this section.  
7     The following offices which provide public assistance and/or provide  
8     state funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons  
9     with disabilities are hereby designated as voter registration agencies:  
10    designated as the state agencies which provide public assistance are the  
11    office of children and family services, the office of temporary and  
12    disability assistance and the department of health. Also designated as  
13    public assistance agencies are all agencies of local government that  
14    provide such assistance. Designated as state agencies that provide  
15    programs primarily engaged in providing services to people with disabil-  
16    ities are the department of labor, office for the aging, division of  
17    veterans' affairs, office of mental health, office of vocational and  
18    educational services for individuals with disabilities, commission on  
19    quality of care for the mentally disabled, office [of mental retardation  
20    and] FOR PEOPLE WITH developmental disabilities, commission for the  
21    blind, office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, the office of  
22    the advocate for the disabled and all offices which administer programs  
23    established or funded by such agencies. Additional state agencies desig-  
24    nated as voter registration offices are the department of state and the

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

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1 division of workers' compensation. Such agencies shall be required to  
2 offer voter registration forms to persons upon initial application for  
3 services, renewal or recertification for services and change of address  
4 relating to such services. Such agencies shall also be responsible for  
5 providing assistance to applicants in completing voter registration  
6 forms, receiving and transmitting the completed application form from  
7 all applicants who wish to have such form transmitted to the appropriate  
8 board of elections. The state board of elections shall, together with  
9 representatives of the department of defense, develop and implement  
10 procedures for including recruitment offices of the armed forces of the  
11 United States as voter registration offices when such offices are so  
12 designated by federal law. The state board shall also make request of  
13 the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service to include  
14 applications for registration by mail with any materials which are given  
15 to new citizens. All institutions of the state university of New York  
16 and the city university of New York, shall, at the beginning of the  
17 school year, and again in January of a year in which the president of  
18 the United States is to be elected, provide an application for registra-  
19 tion to each student in each such institution. The state board of  
20 elections may, by regulation, grant a waiver from any or all of the  
21 requirements of this section to any office or program of an agency, if  
22 it determines that it is not feasible for such office or program to  
23 administer such requirement. ALSO DESIGNATED AS PARTICIPATING AGENCIES  
24 ARE ALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES, WHICH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO OFFER VOTER REGIS-  
25 TRATION FORMS TO PERSONS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER UPON INITIAL  
26 APPLICATION FOR A LIBRARY CARD. ALSO DESIGNATED AS PARTICIPATING AGEN-  
27 CIES ARE ALL LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES, WHICH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO OFFER  
28 VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO PERSONS UPON INITIAL APPLICATION FOR  
29 SERVICES OR RECERTIFICATION FOR SERVICES. ALSO DESIGNATED AS PARTICIPAT-  
30 ING AGENCIES ARE ALL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS, WHICH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO  
31 OFFER VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO ALL SENIORS UPON THEIR GRADUATION.

32 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
33 it shall have become a law; provided that the state board of elections  
34 is authorized to promulgate any rules necessary to implement this act on  
35 or before its effective date.