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

6818

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

April 6, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. CRESPO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to student-voter pre-registration

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that youths aged eighteen to twenty-four have the lowest rate of registration in New York. Experience in other states and countries indicates that pre-registration of students before they reach eighteen will significantly increase such voter participation.

S 2. The election law is amended by adding a new section 5-231 to read as follows:

S 5-231. VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION. 1. EVERY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK STATE SHALL OFFER SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN YEAR-OLD STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRE-REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE TIME OF STUDENTS' REGISTRATION OR CLASS SELECTION FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

2. THE PRE-REGISTRATION SHALL BE OPTIONAL FOR STUDENTS.

3. THE SCHOOL SHALL INCLUDE THIS OPTION IN CLASS OFFERING SCHEDULES FOR STUDENT COURSE REGISTRATION.

4. ONCE SUCH STUDENTS ARE PRE-REGISTERED, THE LOCAL BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL MAINTAIN REGISTRATION ON FILE AND REGISTRATION SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME ACTIVE WHEN THE REGISTRANT TURNS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

S 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

LBD05761-01-5