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

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I N A S S E M B L Y

April 5, 2016

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

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to providing voting materials and assistance in Haitian Creole

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

Section 1. The election law is amended by adding a new section 3-507 to read as follows:

S 3-507. BOARD OF ELECTIONS; VOTING MATERIALS AND ASSISTANCE IN HAITIAN CREOLE. A BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN A CITY OF OVER ONE MILLION SHALL:

(A) PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION THAT IS PROVIDED BY SUCH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN ENGLISH ABOUT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, INCLUDING REGISTRATION OR VOTING NOTICES, FORMS, INSTRUCTIONS, VOTING SYSTEMS, BALLOT MARKING DEVICES AND BALLOTS IN HAITIAN CREOLE TO THE EXTENT NEEDED TO ALLOW VOTERS WHO SPEAK HAITIAN CREOLE TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND ALL VOTING-CONNECTED ACTIVITIES. SUCH BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL ALSO PROVIDE THE SAME INFORMATION IN HAITIAN CREOLE 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: (1) A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM IN ENGLISH WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN HAITIAN CREOLE; (2) INSTRUCTIONS IN HAITIAN CREOLE REGARDING THE CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS FOR OBTAINING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT; AND (3) A SECTION WITH GENERAL VOTER INFORMATION IN HAITIAN CREOLE INCLUDING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS. SUCH BOARD MAY INCLUDE OTHER LANGUAGES ON ITS WEBSITE AND IN SUCH BOOKLET.

(B) PROVIDE ONE OR MORE HAITIAN CREOLE-SPEAKING INTERPRETERS AT EACH POLLING LOCATION IN ELECTION DISTRICTS IN ANY COUNTY THAT HAS A POPULATION COMPRISED OF FIVE PERCENT OR MORE OF PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS BEING HAITIAN ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT UNITED STATES CENSUS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING VOTERS WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS HAITIAN CREOLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE VOTING PROCESS.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the commissioners of the New York state board of elections shall promulgate all rules and regulations and take all actions necessary to implement the provisions of this act on or before its effective date.

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

LBD14588-02-6