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 27, 2016

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

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to primary and secondary schools being used as polling places

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 4-104 of the election law, as amended by chapter 180 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

1. Every board of elections shall, in consultation with each city, town and village, designate the polling places in each election district in which the meetings for the registration of voters, and for any election may be held. The board of trustees of each village in which general and special village elections conducted by the board of elections are held at a time other than the time of a general election shall submit such a list of polling places for such village elections to the board of elections. A polling place may be located in a building owned by a religious organization or used by it as a place of worship. If such a building is designated as a polling place, it shall not be required to be open for voter registration on any Saturday if this is contrary to the religious beliefs of the religious organization. In such a situation, the board of elections shall designate an alternate location to be used for voter registration. *A POLLING PLACE MAY BE LOCATED IN A BUILDING UTILIZED FOR PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL INSTRUCTION. IF SUCH A BUILDING IS DESIGNATED AS A POLLING PLACE, IT SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO BE OPEN FOR VOTER REGISTRATION OR AS A POLLING PLACE IF THE SCHOOL IS IN SESSION AND MINORS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE PRESENT ON SUCH DAY. IN SUCH A SITUATION, THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL DESIGNATE AN ALTERNATE LOCATION TO BE USED FOR VOTER REGISTRATION AND AS A POLLING PLACE.* Such polling places must be designated by May first, of each year, and shall be effective for one year thereafter. Such a list required to be submitted by a village board of trustees must be submitted at least four months before each general village election and shall be effective until four months before the subsequent general village

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

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election. No place in which a business licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption is conducted on any day of local registration or of voting shall be so designated. If, within the discretion of the board of elections a particular polling place so designated is subsequently found to be unsuitable or unsafe or should circumstances arise that make a designated polling place unsuitable or unsafe, then the board of elections is empowered to select an alternative meeting place. In the city of New York, the board of elections shall designate such polling places and alternate registration places if the polling place cannot be used for voter registration on Saturdays.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.