

STATE OF NEW YORK

5529

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 6, 2017

Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to application for an absentee ballot

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1, the opening paragraph of subdivision 2 and
2 paragraphs (c) and (d) of subdivision 3 of section 8-400 of the election
3 law, subdivision 1 and paragraphs (c) and (d) of subdivision 3 as
4 amended by chapter 63 of the laws of 2010, paragraph (c) of subdivision
5 1 and subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 3 as amended by
6 chapter 375 of the laws of 2015, and the opening paragraph of subdivi-
7 sion 2 as amended by chapter 216 of the laws of 1988, are amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. A qualified voter may vote as an absentee voter under this chapter
10 if [~~on the occurrence of any village election conducted by the board of~~
11 ~~elections, primary election, special election, general election or New~~
12 ~~York city community school board district or city of Buffalo school~~
13 ~~district election,~~] he or she expects to be[+]

14 ~~(a) absent from the county of his or her residence, or, if a resident~~
15 ~~of the city of New York absent from said city, or~~

16 ~~(b) unable to appear personally at the polling place of the election~~
17 ~~district in which he or she is a qualified voter because of illness or~~
18 ~~physical disability or duties related to the primary care of one or more~~
19 ~~individuals who are ill or physically disabled, or because he or she~~
20 ~~will be or is a patient in a hospital, or~~

21 ~~(c) a resident or patient of a veterans health administration hospi-~~
22 ~~tal, or~~

23 ~~(d) absent from his or her voting residence because he or she is~~
24 ~~detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial, or~~
25 ~~confined in jail or prison after a conviction for an offense other than~~

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

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1 ~~a felony, provided that he or she is qualified to vote in the election~~
2 ~~district of his or her residence] unable to vote in person due to any~~
3 ~~reason.~~

4 A qualified voter desiring to vote [~~at such election~~] as an absentee
5 voter for any reason [~~specified in subdivision one hereof~~] must make
6 application for an absentee ballot on a form to be obtained and filed as
7 provided herein or by letter as provided in paragraph (d) of this subdi-
8 vision.

9 (c) [~~A statement, as appropriate, that on the day of such election the~~
10 ~~applicant expects in good faith to be in one of the following catego-~~
11 ~~ries:~~

12 ~~(i) absent from the county of his or her residence, or if a resident~~
13 ~~of the city of New York absent from said city, provided, however, if the~~
14 ~~applicant expects to be absent from such county or city for a duration~~
15 ~~covering more than one election and seeks an absentee ballot for each~~
16 ~~election, he or she shall state the dates when he or she expects to~~
17 ~~begin and end such absence, or~~

18 ~~(ii) unable to appear at a polling place because of illness or phys-~~
19 ~~ical disability or duties related to the primary care of one or more~~
20 ~~individuals who are ill or physically disabled, or~~

21 ~~(iii) a resident or patient of a veterans health administration hospi-~~
22 ~~tal, or~~

23 ~~(iv) detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting~~
24 ~~trial or confined in jail or prison after a conviction for an offense~~
25 ~~other than a felony and stating the place where he or she is so detained~~
26 ~~or confined.~~

27 ~~(d)~~] Such application shall permit the applicant to apply for an
28 absentee ballot for either a primary election or the general election in
29 any year and for those persons who will be continuously absent from
30 their county of residence during the period between the fall primary
31 election and the general election in any year to apply for ballots for
32 both such elections in such year. A voter who applies for an absentee
33 ballot shall be sent an absentee ballot for any special election or
34 winter primary that occurs during the period of absence specified in the
35 application.

36 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
37 have become a law.