STATE OF NEW YORK

7962

IN SENATE

March 13, 2018

Introduced by Sen. MARCHIONE -- 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 authorizing any qualified voter to apply for and utilize an absentee ballot

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

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

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

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

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

~~(c) a resident or patient of a veterans health administration hospital; or~~

~~(d) absent from his or her voting residence because he or she is detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial, or confined in jail or prison after a conviction for an offense other than a felony, provided that he or she is qualified to vote in the election district of his or her residence~~] **unavailable to vote in person for any reason**.

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

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

(c) [~~A statement, as appropriate, that on the day of such election the applicant expects in good faith to be in one of the following categories:~~

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

~~(ii) unable to appear at a polling place because of illness or physical disability or duties related to the primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled; or~~

~~(iii) a resident or patient of a veterans health administration hospital; or~~

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

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

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