STATE OF NEW YORK

2659--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 17, 2017

Introduced by Sen. HAMILTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to the creation of an internet website to discuss and introduce issues and ideas to the government of this state and to provide for the creation, viewing and signing of petitions

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

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 31-a to read as follows:

§ 31-a. The People of the State of New York; internet website. 1. The department shall, in consultation with the office of information technology services, develop and maintain an internet website for the purpose of providing the people of this state with the opportunity to voice opinions, create and sign petitions, and otherwise discuss and introduce issues and ideas to the government of this state. Such internet website shall be called "The People of the State of New York" and shall use as its model the "We the People" internet website implemented and maintained by the executive branch of the federal government. Such internet website shall provide:

a. a platform for the people of this state to create, view, respond to and sign petitions;

b. a blog maintained by the executive;

c. responses to petitions pursuant to subdivision two of this section; and

d. any additional information the executive deems relevant.

2. Upon the creation of a petition on the internet website developed and maintained pursuant to subdivision one of this section, any person who is a resident of this state may sign such petition as a method of

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

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demonstrating such person's agreement with the content of such petition. Any petition that receives two thousand five hundred or more signatures within thirty days shall be provided with a response on or before the sixtieth day after such total of two thousand five hundred signatures was reached. Such response shall be:

a. made by the executive, or by any state agency that the executive designates to provide such response;

b. made in writing;

c. posted on the The People of the State of New York internet website.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law, provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date is authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.