STATE OF NEW YORK

3562--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 24, 2017

Introduced by Sens. STEWART-COUSINS, ADDABBO, ALCANTARA, BROOKS, COMRIE, DILAN, GIANARIS, HOYLMAN, KAVANAGH, KRUEGER, PERSAUD, STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs -- recommitted to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to primary elections and amending certain deadlines to facilitate the timely transmission of ballots to military voters stationed overseas; to amend the public officers law, in relation to filling vacancies in elective offices; to amend the election law, in relation to date of primary elections; and to amend the election law, in relation to canvass and audit of returns

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 1-106 of the election law, as amended by chapter 700 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:

1. All papers required to be filed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall, unless otherwise provided, be filed between the hours of nine A.M. and five P.M. If the last day for filing shall fall on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the next business day shall become the last day for filing. All papers sent by mail in an envelope postmarked prior to midnight of the last day of filing shall be deemed timely filed and accepted for filing when received, except **that all certificates and petitions of designation or nomination, certificates of acceptance or declination of such designations or nominations, certificates of authorization for such designations or nominations, certificates of disqualification, certificates of substitution for such designations or nominations and objections and specifications of objections**

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

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to such certificates and petitions required to be filed with the state board of elections or a board of elections outside of the city of New York shall be deemed timely filed and accepted for filing if sent by mail or overnight delivery service pursuant to subdivision three of this section, and received no later than two business days after the last day to file such certificates, petitions, objections or specifications. Failure of the post office or any other person or entity to deliver any such petition, certificate or objection to such board of elections outside the city of New York no later than two business days after the last day to file such certificates, petitions, objections or specifications shall be a fatal defect. Excepted further that all certificates and petitions of designation or nomination, certificates of acceptance or declination of such designations and nominations, certificates of substitution for such designations or nominations and objections and specifications of objections to such certificates and petitions required to be filed with the board of elections of the city of New York must be actually received by such city board of elections on or before the last day to file any such petition, certificate or objection and such office shall be open for the receipt of such petitions, certificates and objections until midnight on the last day to file any such petition, certificate or objection. Failure of the post office or any other person or entity to deliver any such petition, certificate or objection to such city board of elections on or before such last day shall be a fatal defect.

§ 2. 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. Such polling places must be designated by [~~May first~~] March fifteenth, 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 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.

§ 3. Subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 4-106 of the election law, subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 635 of the laws of 1990, are amended to read as follows:

1. The state board of elections shall, [~~at least eight months before each~~] by February first in the year of each general election, make and transmit to the board of elections of each county, a certificate stating each office, except county, city, village and town offices to be voted for at such election in such county.

2. Each county, city, village and town clerk, [~~at least eight months before each~~] by February first in the year of each general election, shall make and transmit to the board of elections a certificate stating each county, city, village or town office, respectively to be voted for at each such election. Each village clerk, at least five months before each general village election conducted by the board of elections, shall make, and transmit to such board, a certificate stating each village office to be filled at such election.

§ 4. Paragraph b of subdivision 1 of section 4-108 of the election law, as amended by chapter 117 of the laws of 1985, is amended to read as follows:

b. Whenever any proposal, proposition or referendum as provided by law is to be submitted to a vote of the people of a county, city, town, village or special district, at an election conducted by the board of elections, the clerk of such political subdivision, at least [~~thirty-six days~~] three months prior to the general election at which such proposal, proposition or referendum is to be submitted, shall transmit to each board of elections a certified copy of the text of such proposal, proposition or referendum and a statement of the form in which it is to be submitted. If a special election is to be held, such transmittal shall also give the date of such election.

§ 5. Section 4-110 of the election law, as amended by chapter 434 of the laws of 1984, is amended to read as follows:

§ 4-110. Certification of primary election candidates; state board of elections. The state board of elections, not later than [~~thirty-six~~] fifty-five days before a primary election, shall certify to each county board of elections: The name and residence of each candidate to be voted for within the political subdivision of such board for whom a designation has been filed with the state board; the title of the office or position for which the candidate is designated; the name of the party upon whose primary ballot his or her name is to be placed; and the order in which the names of the candidates are to be printed as determined by the state board. Where an office or position is uncontested, such certification shall state such fact.

§ 6. Subdivision 1 of section 4-112 of the election law, as amended by chapter 4 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

1. The state board of elections, not later than [~~thirty-six~~] fifty-five days before a general election, or fifty-three days before a special election, shall certify to each county board of elections the name and residence of each candidate nominated in any valid certificate filed with it or by the returns canvassed by it, the title of the office for which nominated; the name of the party or body specified of which he or she is a candidate; the emblem chosen to distinguish the candidates of the party or body; and a notation as to whether or not any litigation is pending concerning the candidacy. Upon the completion of any such litigation, the state board of elections shall forthwith notify the appropriate county boards of elections of the results of such litigation.

§ 7. Section 4-114 of the election law, as amended by chapter 4 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

§ 4-114. Determination of candidates and questions; county board of elections. The county board of elections, not later than the [~~thirty-fifth~~] **fifty-fourth** day before the day of a primary or general election, or the fifty-third day before a special election, shall determine the candidates duly nominated for public office and the questions that shall appear on the ballot within the jurisdiction of that board of elections.

§ 8. Subdivision 1 of section 4-117 of the election law, as amended by chapter 44 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

1. The board of elections, [~~between August first and August fifth of each year~~] **not less than sixty-five days nor more than seventy days before the primary election in each year**, shall send by mail on which is endorsed such language designated by the state board of elections to ensure postal authorities do not forward such mail but return it to the board of elections with forwarding information, when it cannot be delivered as addressed and which contains a request that any such mail received for persons not residing at the address be dropped back in the mail, a communication, in a form approved by the state board of elections, to every registered voter who has been registered without a change of address since the beginning of such year, except that the board of elections shall not be required to send such communications to voters in inactive status. The communication shall notify the voter of the days and hours of the ensuing primary and general elections, the place where he **or she** appears by his **or her** registration records to be entitled to vote, the fact that voters who have moved or will have moved from the address where they were last registered must re-register or, that if such move was to another address in the same county or city, that such voter may either notify the board of elections of his **or her** new address or vote by paper ballot at the polling place for his **or her** new address even if such voter has not re-registered, or otherwise notified the board of elections of the change of address. If the location of the polling place for the voter's election district has been moved, the communication shall contain the following legend in bold type: "YOUR POLLING PLACE HAS BEEN CHANGED. YOU NOW VOTE AT.....". The communication shall also indicate whether the polling place is accessible to physically disabled voters, that a voter who will be out of the city or county on the day of the primary or general election or a voter who is ill or physically disabled may obtain an absentee ballot, that a physically disabled voter whose polling place is not accessible may request that his **or her** registration record be moved to an election district which has a polling place which is accessible, the phone number to call for applications to move a registration record or for absentee ballot applications, the phone number to call for the location of registration and polling places, the phone number to call to indicate that the voter is willing to serve on election day as an election inspector, poll clerk, interpreter or in other capacities, the phone number to call to obtain an application for registration by mail, and such other information concerning the elections or registration as the board may include. In lieu of sending such communication to every registered voter, the board of elections may send a single communication to a household containing more than one registered voter, provided that the names of all such voters appear as part of the address on such communication.

§ 9. Subdivision 1 of section 5-604 of the election law, as amended by chapter 28 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

1. The board of elections shall also cause to be published for each election district a complete list of the registered voters of each election district. Such list shall, in addition to the information required for registration lists, include the party enrollment of each voter. At least as many copies of such list shall be prepared as the required minimum number of registration lists.

Lists for all the election districts in a ward or assembly district may be bound together in one volume. The board of elections shall also cause to be published a complete list of names and residence addresses of the registered voters, including the party enrollment of each voter, for each town and city over which the board has jurisdiction. The names for each town and city may be arranged according to street and number or alphabetically. Such lists shall be published before the first day of [~~April~~] **February**. The board shall keep at least five copies for public inspection at each main office or branch office of the board. Surplus copies of the lists shall be sold at a charge not exceeding the cost of publication.

§ 10. Paragraph a of subdivision 5 of section 5-708 of the election law, as added by chapter 659 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

a. At least once each year during the month of [~~May~~] **February**, each board of elections shall obtain through the National Change of Address System, the forwarding address for every voter registered with such board of elections for whom the United States Postal Service has such a forwarding address together with the name of each such voter whom the Postal Service records indicate has moved from the address at which he is registered without leaving a forwarding address.

§ 11. Subdivision 1 of section 6-108 of the election law, as amended by chapter 160 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

1. In any town in a county having a population of over seven hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, as shown by the latest federal decennial or special population census, party nominations of candidates for town offices shall be made at the primary preceding the election. In any other town, nominations of candidates for town offices shall be made by caucus or primary election as the rules of the county committee shall provide, except that the members of the county committee from a town may adopt by a two-thirds vote, a rule providing that the party candidates for town offices shall be nominated at the primary election. If a rule adopted by the county committee of a political party or by the members of the county committee from a town, provides that party candidates for town offices, shall be nominated at a primary election, such rule shall not apply to nor affect a primary held less than four months after a certified copy of the rule shall have been filed with the board of elections. After the filing of such a rule, the rule shall continue in force until a certified copy of a rule revoking the same shall have been filed with such board at least four months before a subsequent primary. Such a caucus shall be held no earlier than the first day on which designating petitions for the [~~fall~~] primary election may be signed.

§ 12. Subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 6-147 of the election law, as amended by chapter 434 of the laws of 1984, are amended to read as follows:

1. The name of a person designated on more than one petition as a candidate for a party position to be filled by two or more persons shall be printed on the ballot with the group of candidates designated by the petition first filed unless such person, in a certificate duly acknowledged by him **or her** and filed with the board of elections not later than

the [~~eighth~~] tenth Tuesday preceding the primary election or five days after the board of elections mails such person notice of his or her designation in more than one group, whichever is later, specifies another group in which his or her name shall be printed.

2. A person designated as a candidate for the position of member of the county committee in more than one election district shall be deemed to have been designated in the lowest numbered election district unless such person, in a certificate duly acknowledged by him or her, and filed with the board of elections not later than the [~~eighth~~] tenth Tuesday preceding the primary election or five days after the board of elections mails such person notice of his or her designation in more than one election district whichever is later, specifies that he or she wishes to be deemed designated in a different election district.

§ 13. Subdivisions 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12 and 14 of section 6-158 of the election law, subdivisions 1, 4, 11 and 12 as amended by chapter 434 of the laws of 1984, subdivision 6 as amended by chapter 79 of the laws of 1992, and subdivision 9 as amended by chapter 517 of the laws of 1986, are amended to read as follows:

1. A designating petition shall be filed not earlier than the [~~tenth~~] thirteenth Monday before, and not later than the [~~ninth~~] twelfth Thursday preceding the primary election.

4. A petition of enrolled members of a party requesting an opportunity to write in the name of an undesignated candidate for a public office or party position at a primary election shall be filed not later than the [~~eighth~~] eleventh Thursday preceding the primary election. However, where a designating petition has been filed and the person named therein has declined such designation and another person has been designated to fill the vacancy, then in that event, a petition for an opportunity to ballot in a primary election shall be filed not later than the [~~seventh~~] tenth Thursday preceding such primary election.

5. A judicial district convention shall be held not earlier than the [~~Tuesday~~] Thursday following the [~~third Monday in September~~] first Monday in August preceding the general election and not later than [~~the fourth Monday in September preceding such election~~] six days thereafter.

6. (a) A certificate of a party nomination made other than at the primary election for an office to be filled at the time of a general election shall be filed not later than [~~seven~~] thirty days after the [~~fall~~] primary election, (b) except that a certificate of nomination for an office which becomes vacant after the seventh day preceding such primary election shall be filed not later than [~~fourteen~~] thirty days after the primary election or ten days after the creation of such vacancy, whichever is later, and (c) except, further, that a certificate of party nomination of candidates for elector of president and vice-president of the United States shall be filed not later than [~~fourteen~~] seventy-four days after the [~~fall~~] primary election, and (d) except still further that a certificate of party nomination made at a judicial district convention shall be filed not later than the day after the last day to hold such convention and the minutes of such convention, duly certified by the chairman and secretary, shall be filed within seventy-two hours after adjournment of the convention. A certificate of party nomination for an office to be filled at a special election shall be filed not later than ten days following the issuance of a proclamation of such election.

9. A petition for an independent nomination for an office to be filled at the time of a general election shall be filed not earlier than [~~twelve~~] twenty-four weeks and not later than [~~eleven~~] twenty-three

weeks preceding such election. A petition for an independent nomination for an office to be filled at a special election shall be filed not later than twelve days following the issuance of a proclamation of such election. [~~A petition for trustee of the Long Island Power Authority shall be filed not earlier than seven weeks and not later than six weeks preceding the day of the election of such trustees.~~]

11. A certificate of acceptance or declination of an independent nomination for an office to be filled at the time of a general election shall be filed not later than the third day after the [~~eleventh~~] twenty-third Tuesday preceding such election except that a candidate who files such a certificate of acceptance for an office for which there have been filed certificates or petitions designating more than one candidate for the nomination of any party, may thereafter file a certificate of declination not later than the third day after the primary election. A certificate of acceptance or declination of an independent nomination for an office to be filled at a special election shall be filed not later than fourteen days following the issuance of a proclamation of such election.

12. A certificate to fill a vacancy caused by a declination of an independent nomination for an office to be filled at the time of a general election shall be filed not later than the sixth day after the [~~eleventh~~] twenty-third Tuesday preceding such election. A certificate to fill a vacancy caused by a declination of an independent nomination for an office to be filled at a special election shall be filed not later than sixteen days following the issuance of a proclamation of such election.

14. A vacancy occurring three months before [~~September twentieth of~~] the general election in any year in any office authorized to be filled at a general election, except in the offices of governor, lieutenant-governor, or United States senator shall be filled at the general election held next thereafter, unless otherwise provided by the constitution, or unless previously filled at a special election.

§ 14. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 8-100 of the election law, as amended by chapter 17 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A primary election[~~, to be known as the fall primary,~~] shall be held on the [~~first~~] fourth Tuesday [~~after the second Monday~~] in [~~September~~] June before every general election unless otherwise changed by an act of the legislature. Members of the state and county committees and assembly district leaders and associate district leaders and all other party positions to be elected shall be elected at such primary and all nominations for public office required to be made at a primary election in such year shall be made at such primary. In each year in which electors of president and vice president of the United States are to be elected an additional primary election, to be known as the spring primary, shall be held on the first Tuesday in February unless otherwise changed by an act of the legislature, for the purpose of electing delegates to the national convention[~~, members of state and county committees and assembly district leaders and associate assembly district leaders~~].

§ 15. Subdivision 1 of section 9-200 of the election law, as amended by chapter 250 of the laws of 1984, is amended to read as follows:

1. The board of elections shall canvass the returns of primary elections filed with it. It shall canvass first the votes of the delegates and alternates to judicial district conventions and complete such canvass at the earliest time possible. It shall complete the canvass otherwise within [~~nine~~] thirteen days from the day upon which the prima-

ry election is held. Upon the completion of the canvass the board shall make and file in its office tabulated statements, signed by the members of such board or a majority thereof, of the number of votes cast for all the candidates for nomination to each public office or for election to each party position, and the number of votes cast for each such candidate. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for nomination for a public office or for election to a party position voted for wholly within the political unit for which such board is acting, shall be the nominee of his party for such office or elected to such party position and the board, if requested by a candidate elected to a party position, shall furnish to him a certificate of election.

§ 16. Subdivision 1 of section 9-208 of the election law, as amended by chapter 163 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

1. Within fifteen days after each general[~~,~~] **or** special [~~**or**~~] **election, and within twenty days after a** primary election, and within seven days after every village election conducted by the board of elections at which ballot scanners are used, the board of elections, or a bipartisan committee of or appointed by said board shall, in each county using ballot scanners, make a record of the serial number of each ballot scanner used in each election district in such general, special or primary election. No person who was a candidate at such election shall be appointed to membership on the committee. Such board of elections or bipartisan committee shall recanvass the tabulated result tape from each ballot scanner used in each election district by comparing such tape with the numbers as recorded on the return of canvass. The said board or committee shall also make a recanvass of any election day paper ballots that have not been scanned and were hand counted pursuant to subdivision two of section 9-110 of this article and compare the results with the number as recorded on the return of canvass. The board or committee shall then recanvass write-in votes, if any, on ballots which were otherwise scanned and canvassed at polling places on election night. The board or committee shall validate and prove such sums. Before making such canvass the board of elections, with respect to each election district to be recanvassed, shall give notice in writing to the voting machine custodian thereof, to the state and county chair of each party or independent body which shall have nominated candidates for the said general or special election or nominated or elected candidates at the said primary election and to each individual candidate whose name appears on the office ballot, of the time and place where such canvass is to be made; and the state and county chair of each such party or independent body and each such individual candidate may send a representative to be present at such recanvass. Each candidate whose name appears on the official ballot, or his or her representative, shall have the right personally to examine and make a record of the vote recorded on the tabulated result tape and any ballots which were hand counted.

§ 17. Subdivision 1 of section 9-211 of the election law, as amended by chapter 515 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

1. Within fifteen days after each general or special election, [~~**and**~~] within [~~**seven**~~] **thirteen** days after every primary [~~**or**~~] **election, and within seven days after every** village election conducted by the board of elections, the board of elections or a bipartisan committee appointed by such board shall audit the voter verifiable audit records from three percent of voting machines or systems within the jurisdiction of such board. Such audits may be performed manually or via the use of any automated tool authorized for such use by the state board of elections which is independent from the voting system it is being used to audit. Voting

machines or systems shall be selected for audit through a random, manual process. At least five days prior to the time fixed for such selection process, the board of elections shall send notice by first class mail to each candidate, political party and independent body entitled to have had watchers present at the polls in any election district in such board's jurisdiction. Such notice shall state the time and place fixed for such random selection process. The audit shall be conducted in the same manner, to the extent applicable, as a canvass of paper ballots. Each candidate, political party or independent body entitled to appoint watchers to attend at a polling place shall be entitled to appoint such number of watchers to observe the audit.

§ 18. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 10-108 of the election law, as amended by chapter 4 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Ballots for military voters shall be mailed or otherwise distributed by the board of elections, in accordance with the preferred method of transmission designated by the voter pursuant to section 10-107 of this article, as soon as practicable but in any event not later than [~~thirty-two~~] **forty-six** days before a primary or general election[~~; twenty-five days before~~] a New York city community school board district or city of Buffalo school district election; fourteen days before a village election conducted by the board of elections; and forty-five days before a special election. A voter who submits a military ballot application shall be entitled to a military ballot thereafter for each subsequent election through and including the next two regularly scheduled general elections held in even numbered years, including any run-offs which may occur; provided, however, such application shall not be valid for any election held within seven days after its receipt. Ballots shall also be mailed to any qualified military voter who is already registered and who requests such military ballot from such board of elections in a letter, which is signed by the voter and received by the board of elections not later than the seventh day before the election for which the ballot is requested and which states the address where the voter is registered and the address to which the ballot is to be mailed. The board of elections shall enclose with such ballot a form of application for military ballot. In the case of a primary election, the board shall deliver only the ballot of the party with which the military voter is enrolled according to the military voter's registration records. In the event a primary election is uncontested in the military voter's election district for all offices or positions except the party position of member of the ward, town, city or county committee, no ballot shall be delivered to such military voter for such election; and the military voter shall be advised of the reason why he or she will not receive a ballot.

§ 19. Subdivision 4 of section 11-204 of the election law, as amended by chapter 4 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

4. If the board of elections shall determine that the applicant making the application provided for in this section is qualified to receive and vote a special federal ballot, it shall, as soon as practicable after it shall have so determined, or not later than [~~thirty-two~~] **forty-six** days before each general or primary election [~~and forty-five days before each~~] **or** special election in which such applicant is qualified to vote, or three days after receipt of such an application, whichever is later, mail to him or her at the residence address outside the United States shown in his or her application, a special federal ballot, an inner affirmation envelope and an outer envelope, or otherwise distribute same

to the voter in accordance with the preferred method of transmission designated by the voter pursuant to section 11-203 of this title. The board of elections shall also mail, or otherwise distribute in accordance with the preferred method of transmission designated by the voter pursuant to section 11-203 of this title, a special federal ballot to every qualified special federal voter who is already registered and who requests such special federal ballot from such board of elections in a letter, which is signed by the voter and received by the board of elections not later than the seventh day before the election for which the ballot is first requested and which states the address where the voter is registered and the address to which the ballot is to be mailed. The board of elections shall enclose with such ballot a form of application for a special federal ballot.

§ 20. Subdivision 4 of section 16-102 of the election law, as added by chapter 135 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

4. A final order **including the resolution of any appeals** in any proceeding involving the names of candidates on ballots or voting machines shall be made, if possible, at least five weeks before the day of the election at which such ballots or voting machines are to be used, or if such proceeding is commenced within five weeks of such election, no later than the day following the day on which the case is heard.

§ 21. Subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 16-104 of the election law, subdivision 3 as added by chapter 136 of the laws of 1978 and subdivision 4 as amended by chapter 117 of the laws of 1985, are amended to read as follows:

3. A proceeding pursuant to subdivision two of this section must be instituted within [~~fourteen~~] **seven** days after the last day to certify the wording of any such abstract or form of submission.

4. A final order **including the resolution of any appeals** in any proceeding involving the contents of official ballots on voting machines shall be made, if possible, at least five weeks before the day of the election at which such voting machines are to be used, or if such proceeding is commenced within five weeks of an election, no later than the day following the day on which the case is heard.

§ 22. Subdivisions 1 and 4 of section 42 of the public officers law, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 878 of the laws of 1946 and subdivision 4 as amended by chapter 317 of the laws of 1954, are amended to read as follows:

1. A vacancy occurring **three months** before [~~September twentieth of~~] **the general election in** any year in any office authorized to be filled at a general election, except in the offices of governor or lieutenant-governor, shall be filled at the general election held next thereafter, unless otherwise provided by the constitution, or unless previously filled at a special election.

4. A special election shall not be held to fill a vacancy in the office of a representative in congress unless such vacancy occurs on or before the first day of July of the last year of the term of office, or unless it occurs thereafter and a special session of congress is called to meet before the next general election, or be called after [~~September nineteenth of~~] **three months before the general election in** such year; nor to fill a vacancy in the office of state senator or in the office of member of assembly, unless the vacancy occurs before the first day of April of the last year of the term of office, or unless the vacancy occurs in either such office of senator or member of assembly after such first day of April and a special session of the legislature be called to meet between such first day of April and **the next general election or be**

called after three months before the next general election [~~or be called after September nineteenth~~] in such year. If a special election to fill an office shall not be held as required by law, the office shall be filled at the next general election.

§ 23. This act shall take effect on December 31, 2018.