AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to permitting absentee voting in the event of an imminent, impending or urgent threat resulting from a disease outbreak; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 8-400 of the election law, as amended by chapter 63 of the laws of 2010 and paragraph (c) as amended by chapter 375 of the laws of 2015, is 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; or

(e) unable or averse to appear personally at the polling place of the election district in which he or she is a qualified voter because of an imminent, impending or urgent threat resulting from a disease outbreak, including, but not limited to, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.
§ 2. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 3 of section 8-400 of the election law, as amended by chapter 63 of the laws of 2010, subparagraph (iii) as amended by chapter 375 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

(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; or

(v) unable or averse to appear personally at the polling place of the election district in which he or she is a qualified voter because of an imminent, impending or urgent threat resulting from a disease outbreak, including, but not limited to, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed July 1, 2020.