

STATE OF NEW YORK

835

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL, DINOWITZ, GALEF, PAULIN, CAHILL, QUART, MALLIOTAKIS -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. GOTTFRIED -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law and the public officers law, in relation to creating a special primary election to take place prior to a special election and mandating the governor to proclaim all special elections within ten days of the vacancy

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

1 Section 1. Section 6-114 of the election law is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 § 6-114. Party nominations; special election. Party nominations for an
4 office to be filled at a special election shall be made [~~in the manner~~
5 ~~prescribed by the rules of the party~~] at a special primary election
6 pursuant to section 6-161 of this article, at which the candidate
7 receiving the most votes shall be the nominee of the party.

8 § 2. The election law is amended by adding a new section 6-161 to read
9 as follows:

10 § 6-161. Special primary elections. 1. The special primary election
11 shall take place on the first Tuesday occurring at least thirty days but
12 no more than thirty-six days prior to the special election.

13 2. Designating petitions for a primary nomination shall be subjected
14 to the same form and rules set out in sections 6-132 and 6-134 of this
15 article. Designating petitions shall be filed within twelve days of the
16 date the governor proclaims the need for a special election.

17 3. Notwithstanding section 6-136 of this article, the required amount
18 of signatures for a designating petition, pursuant to this section,
19 shall be five hundred for a state senatorial district and two hundred
20 fifty for an assembly district.

21 4. Petitions for independent nominations shall be filed within fifteen
22 days of the date the governor proclaims the need for a special election.
23 Notwithstanding section 6-138 of this article, the required amount of
24 signatures for a designating petition, pursuant to this section, shall

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

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1 be one thousand for a state senatorial district and five hundred for an
2 assembly district.

3 § 3. Subdivisions 1, 3 and 4 of section 42 of the public officers law,
4 subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 878 of the laws of 1946, subdivision
5 3 as amended by chapter 4 of the laws of 2011 and subdivision 4 as
6 amended by chapter 317 of the laws of 1954, are amended and a new subdi-
7 vision 4-b is added to read as follows:

8 1. A vacancy occurring before September twentieth of any year in any
9 office authorized to be filled at a general election, except in the
10 offices of governor [~~ex~~], lieutenant-governor, state senator or member
11 of assembly, shall be filled at the general election held next thereaft-
12 er, unless otherwise provided by the constitution, or unless previously
13 filled at a special election.

14 3. Upon the failure to elect to any office, except that of governor or
15 lieutenant-governor, at a general or special election, at which such
16 office is authorized to be filled, or upon the death or disqualification
17 of a person elected to office before the commencement of his or her
18 official term, or upon the occurrence of a vacancy in any elective
19 office which cannot be filled by appointment for a period extending to
20 or beyond the next general election at which a person may be elected
21 thereto, the governor [~~may in his or her discretion~~] shall make a proc-
22 lamation within ten days of the vacancy of a special election to fill
23 such office, specifying the district or county in which the election is
24 to be held, and the day thereof, which shall be [~~not less than seventy~~
25 ~~nor more than eighty~~] ninety days or on the first Tuesday following the
26 ninety days from the date of the proclamation.

27 4. A special election shall not be held to fill a vacancy in the
28 office of a representative in congress unless such vacancy occurs on or
29 before the first day of July of the last year of the term of office, or
30 unless it occurs thereafter and a special session of congress is called
31 to meet before the next general election, or be called after September
32 nineteenth of such year[~~, nor to fill a vacancy in the office of state~~
33 ~~senator or in the office of member of assembly, unless the vacancy~~
34 ~~occurs before the first day of April of the last year of the term of~~
35 ~~office, or unless the vacancy occurs in either such office of senator or~~
36 ~~member of assembly after such first day of April and a special session~~
37 ~~of the legislature be called to meet between such first day of April and~~
38 ~~the next general election or be called after September nineteenth in~~
39 ~~such year~~]. If a special election to fill an office shall not be held as
40 required by law, the office shall be filled at the next general
41 election.

42 4-b. If a vacancy occurs in the office of state senator or in the
43 office of member of assembly between one hundred eighty and ninety days
44 prior to an annual primary election or if a vacancy occurs between one
45 hundred eighty and ninety days prior to a general election, the special
46 election shall be held on the day of the annual primary election or
47 general election respectively, with the special primary election to be
48 held on the first Tuesday occurring at least thirty days but no more
49 than thirty-six days prior to the special election.

50 § 4. If any section of this act or any part thereof shall be adjudged
51 by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment
52 shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder or any other
53 section or part thereof.

54 § 5. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
55 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.