STATE OF NEW YORK

4666

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 20, 2019

Introduced by Sen. CARLUCCI -- 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 poll watchers for special, town or village elections being held for the sole purpose of a ballot proposal

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

Section 1. Subdivisions 1 and 3 of section 8-500 of the election law, as amended by chapter 373 of the laws of 1978, are amended to read as follows:

1. At any general, special, town or village election, any party committee or independent body whose candidates are upon the ballot, **and when a special, town or village election is being held for the sole purpose of a ballot proposal or proposals, the board of elections of the county in which the election is being held** and at any primary election, any two or more candidates and any political committee may have for each election district three watchers at any one time, not more than one of whom may be within the guard rail at any one time. Watchers shall be appointed by the chairman of any such party, committee or independent body or by the candidates **or by the board of elections, upon request, for a special, town or village election that is being held for the sole purpose of a ballot proposal or proposals. In such elections, the board of elections shall appoint watchers in a manner that ensures equitable representation of organizations or individuals that are advocating the passage or defeat of the ballot proposal or proposals**.

3. The appointment of watchers for any election shall be by a certificate in writing issued by the chairman or secretary of the political party or independent body, [~~or~~] the candidates **or the board of elections**. Such certificate shall be delivered to an inspector at the election district.

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

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