

STATE OF NEW YORK

8015

IN SENATE

March 9, 2020

Introduced by Sen. BIAGGI -- 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 permitting absentee voting in the event of a public health risk

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 and paragraph (c) of subdivision 3 of section 8-400 of the election law, subdivision 1 and paragraph (c) of subdivision 3 as amended by chapter 63 of the laws of 2010, paragraph (c) of subdivision 1 and subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 3 as amended by chapter 375 of the laws of 2015, are 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 to appear personally at the polling place of the election district in which he or she is a qualified voter because of the concern that a public health risk exists and such appearance may result in expo-

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

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1 sure to such risk; or such person is concerned that voting in person may
2 expose other persons to a public health risk.

3 (c) A statement, as appropriate, that on the day of such election the
4 applicant expects in good faith to be in one of the following catego-
5 ries:

6 (i) absent from the county of his or her residence, or if a resident
7 of the city of New York absent from said city; provided, however, if the
8 applicant expects to be absent from such county or city for a duration
9 covering more than one election and seeks an absentee ballot for each
10 election, he or she shall state the dates when he or she expects to
11 begin and end such absence; or

12 (ii) unable to appear at a polling place because of illness or phys-
13 ical disability or duties related to the primary care of one or more
14 individuals who are ill or physically disabled; or

15 (iii) a resident or patient of a veterans health administration hospi-
16 tal; or

17 (iv) detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting
18 trial or confined in jail or prison after a conviction for an offense
19 other than a felony and stating the place where he or she is so detained
20 or confined[-]; or

21 (v) unable to appear personally at the polling place of the election
22 district in which he or she is a qualified voter because of the concern
23 that a public health risk exists and such appearance may result in expo-
24 sure to such risk; or such person is concerned that voting in person may
25 expose other persons to a public health risk.

26 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.