

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2789

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 29, 2019

Introduced by Sens. COMRIE, CARLUCCI, KRUEGER, SEPULVEDA, SERRANO --  
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 directing the Queens  
county board of elections to provide language assistance in Bengali,  
Punjabi and Hindi

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

Section 1. The election law is amended by adding a new section 3-508  
to read as follows:

§ 3-508. Queens county board of elections; voting materials in Benga-  
li, Punjabi and Hindi. The Queens county board of elections shall  
provide written language assistance in the Bengali, Punjabi and Hindi  
languages pursuant to section two hundred three of the voting rights act  
of nineteen hundred sixty-five (42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a). Such language  
assistance shall include, but not be limited to, ballots, signs, voter  
mailings, employee and volunteer training materials and information on  
such board's website. It shall also produce and disseminate countywide a  
booklet that includes: (a) a voter registration form in English with  
instructions in Bengali, Punjabi and Hindi; (b) instructions in Bengali,  
Punjabi and Hindi regarding the criteria and application process for  
obtaining an absentee ballot; and (c) a section with general voter  
information in Bengali, Punjabi and Hindi including frequently asked  
questions. Such board may include other languages on its website and in  
such booklet.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-  
ment and/or repeal of any rules or regulations necessary for the imple-  
mentation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made on  
or before such date.

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

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