STATE OF NEW YORK

7785

IN SENATE

February 20, 2020

Introduced by Sen. KAPLAN -- 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 establishing the misdemeanor of interfering in the election process by electronic means

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

Section 1. The election law is amended by adding a new section 17-158 to read as follows:

§ 17-158. Interfering in the election process by electronic means. Any person who, with intent to interfere with an election, places or causes to be placed, multiple calls by telephone or other electronic means, or sends or causes to be sent, multiple messages by text, email, fax, computer application, tablet application, telephone application or other electronic means, or any combination thereof, to obstruct, prevent or interfere with:

1. the reporting of poll results by any polling place;

2. the receipt of poll results by a local or state board of elections;

3. the ability of a political or party organization to place calls or send messages used for the purpose of encouraging people to vote; or

4. the ability of a political or party organization to place calls or send messages used for the purpose of arranging transportation for people to or from their polling place, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

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