STATE OF NEW YORK

1344

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 11, 2021

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- 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 authorizing and directing the state board of elections to create an online petitioning system for designating petitions

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 6-136-a to read as follows:

§ 6-136-a. Online petitioning system for designating petitions. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the state board of elections, in cooperation with county boards of election, is authorized and directed to provide a system for qualified voters to sign a designating petition for a candidate by way of a secure internet portal. Such system shall:

(a) provide for the collection of designating petitions for candidates for the following offices:

(i) United States senate;

(ii) United States house of representatives;

(iii) New York state governor;

(iv) New York state lieutenant governor;

(v) New York state comptroller;

(vi) New York state attorney general;

(vii) New York state senate;

(viii) New York state assembly;

(ix) county offices;

(x) town offices;

(xi) city offices;

(xii) village offices; and

(xiii) school boards.

(b) be integrated with county boards of elections;

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

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(c) provide for the transmission of signed designating petitions or a facsimile of such petitions to the appropriate officer in charge of elections for a particular elected office;

(d) allow only those qualified voters who are eligible to sign a petition for a particular candidate to sign such petition, including providing a method for the qualified voter's identity to be properly verified; and

(e) provide that candidates may choose to collect designating petition signatures up to an amount equal to the full number of required designating petition signatures by use of the online petition system established by this section.

2. Use of the online petition system established by this section shall not preclude the collection and use of paper designating petitions.

3. The state board of elections is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.