STATE OF NEW YORK

1226

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 8, 2021

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the New York voter integrity fund; and to repeal section 92-t of the state finance law relating to the New York state campaign finance fund

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

Section 1. Section 92-t of the state finance law is REPEALED and a new section 92-t is added to read as follows:

§ 92-t. New York voter integrity fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of taxation and finance a fund to be known as the New York voter integrity fund.

2. Such fund shall consist of all revenues from the abandoned property fund pursuant to section ninety-five of this article, from the general fund, and from all other moneys credited or transferred thereto from any other fund or source pursuant to law. Such fund shall also receive contributions from private individuals, organizations, or other persons to fulfill the purposes of the voter integrity fund.

3. Moneys of the fund, following appropriation by the legislature, may be expended for the purposes of making payments to the board of elections for expenses related to conducting elections, including, but not limited to, expenses related to personal protective equipment, poll worker wages, pre-paid postage for absentee ballots, absentee ballot envelopes, mail notification cards, absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots.

4. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if, in any state fiscal year, the New York voter integrity fund lacks the amount of money to pay all claims vouchered by the board of elections and certified or approved by the state board of elections, any such deficiency shall be paid by the state comptroller, from funds deposited in the

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

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general fund of the state not more than four working days after such voucher is received by the state comptroller.

§ 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 5 of section 95 of the state finance law, as added by section 6 of part ZZZ of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this section authorizing the transfer of any moneys in the abandoned property fund to the general fund, the comptroller, after receiving amounts sufficient to pay claims against the abandoned property fund, shall, based upon a certification of the state board of elections pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, and at the direction of the director of the budget, transfer the requested amount from remaining available monies in the abandoned property fund to the [~~campaign finance~~] **New York voter integrity** fund established by section ninety-two-t of this article.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.