

STATE OF NEW YORK

4306--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 3, 2021

Introduced by Sens. GIANARIS, BROOKS, HOYLMAN, JACKSON, KAPLAN, MAY, SKOUFIS, STAVISKY, THOMAS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to enacting the "Make Voting Easy Act" to require that the board of elections designate at least one early voting polling place for every full increment of thirty-five thousand registered voters in each county and to expand polling site hours of operation during early voting

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "Make Voting Easy Act".

3 § 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 8-600 of the election
4 law, as amended by chapter 74 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 (a) The board of elections shall designate polling places for early
7 voting, which may include the offices of the board of elections, for
8 persons to vote early pursuant to this title; provided, however, that
9 the municipality with the highest population in each county based on the
10 latest federal decennial census, or the county seat in Washington coun-
11 ty, shall have at least one polling place designated for early voting,
12 and to the extent practicable if such municipality has public transpor-
13 tation routes, such polling place shall be situated along such transpor-
14 tation routes. There shall be so designated at least one early voting
15 polling place for every full increment of [~~fifty~~] thirty-five thousand
16 registered voters in each county; provided, [~~however, the number of~~
17 ~~early voting polling places in a county shall not be required to be~~
18 ~~greater than ten unless required by any other provision of law, and~~] a

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

LBD03251-04-1

1 county with fewer than [~~fifty~~] thirty-five thousand voters shall have at
2 least one early voting polling place.

3 § 3. Paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subdivision 4 of section 8-600 of
4 the election law, as added by chapter 6 of the laws of 2019, are amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (a) Polls shall be open for early voting for at least eight hours
7 between seven o'clock in the morning and [~~eight~~] nine o'clock in the
8 evening each week day during the early voting period.

9 (b) At least one polling place for early voting shall remain open
10 until [~~eight~~] nine o'clock in the evening on at least [~~two~~] three week
11 days in each calendar week during the early voting period. If polling
12 places for early voting are limited to voters from certain areas pursu-
13 ant to subdivision three of this section, polling places that remain
14 open until [~~eight~~] nine o'clock shall be designated such that any person
15 entitled to vote early may vote until [~~eight~~] nine o'clock in the even-
16 ing on at least [~~two~~] three week days during the early voting period.

17 (c) Polls shall be open for early voting for at least [~~five~~] ten hours
18 between nine o'clock in the morning and [~~six~~] nine o'clock in the even-
19 ing on each Saturday, Sunday and legal holiday during the early voting
20 period.

21 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to any
22 general, primary, run-off primary, or special election held on January
23 1, 2022 and thereafter.