

STATE OF NEW YORK

5800

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 18, 2021

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- 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 mandatory training curriculum for election commissioners, key staff of boards of elections and poll workers

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

1 Section 1. The election law is amended by adding a new section 3-213
2 to read as follows:

3 § 3-213. Boards of elections; mandatory training curriculum. 1.
4 Election commissioners and such other board of elections employees as
5 determined by the state board of elections shall within six months after
6 their first appointment complete a course of instruction on the opera-
7 tion of a board of elections which shall be provided by the state board
8 of elections. The curriculum shall be established by the state board of
9 elections in consultation with election commissioners and shall not
10 exceed thirty hours of instruction.

11 2. Annually, election commissioners and other board of elections
12 employees as determined by the state board of elections, shall complete
13 before June first a continuing course of instruction on the operation of
14 a board of elections which shall be provided by the state board of
15 elections. The curriculum shall be established by the state board of
16 elections in consultation with the election commissioners and shall not
17 exceed three hours of instruction.

18 3. The state board of elections shall provide the training required by
19 subdivision two of this section through, in addition to other methods it
20 may choose, a web-based recorded format.

21 4. Upon the failure of a commissioner or other employee to complete
22 the instruction within the time required by this section, the state
23 board of elections shall send a letter to the county legislature or city

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

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1 council and the respective county party chair of the jurisdiction of the
2 commissioner stating the delinquency.

3 § 2. Subdivision 1-a of section 3-412 of the election law, as added
4 by chapter 181 of the laws of 2005, is amended and three new subdivi-
5 sions 1-b, 1-c and 1-d are added to read as follows:

6 1-a. The state board of elections shall establish a mandatory core
7 curriculum for poll worker training which includes the requirements in
8 subdivision two of this section, [~~as amended by a chapter of the laws of~~
9 ~~2005,~~] and the rights of voters at the polls and obligation of election
10 workers to protect those rights while maintaining the integrity of the
11 franchise, including assisting voters with disabilities or with limited
12 or no proficiency in the English language, handling, processing and
13 entitlement to ballots, including affidavit and emergency ballots, prop-
14 er identification requirements, procedures to be followed with respect
15 to voters whose names are not on the list of registered voters or whose
16 identities have not been verified, electioneering and other violations
17 of the elective franchise as defined in this chapter, solicitation by
18 individuals and groups at the polling place and procedures to be
19 followed after the polls close. Each board of elections shall augment
20 the core curriculum with local procedures not inconsistent with the core
21 curriculum adopted by the state board of elections and which includes
22 procedures relating to proper operation of, and remedying problems with,
23 the voting machine or system in use in that jurisdiction.

24 1-b. The state board of elections shall establish and host an educa-
25 tion and training institute which shall be responsible for the develop-
26 ment and implementation of a statewide program wherein persons can
27 become certified poll worker trainers. This institute shall also create
28 a train-the-trainer program, in order for county boards of elections to
29 implement an effective training program at their respective local level
30 of program delivery. The state board's trainers shall include in the
31 trainer curriculum to be developed, attention to, inter alia, poll work-
32 er ability to serve a diverse electorate with complete confidence and
33 respect; professionalizing the delivery of all election day services;
34 providing assistance to voters with disabilities and those with limited
35 English language proficiency, ensuring the dignity and privacy of such
36 individuals; and to individuals who are members of racial or ethnic
37 minorities, complete familiarity and comfort with all voting systems in
38 use in poll sites, including ballot marking devices or other
39 systems/services available to voters with disabilities; and poll worker
40 ability to recognize and resolve a variety of issues which may arise in
41 poll sites. The state board's trainers and all certified poll worker
42 instructors shall utilize industry-proven training techniques aimed at
43 adult learners including role-based training and hands-on training
44 opportunities using official election day forms and poll site voting
45 systems and may further include a web-based component and companion
46 video.

47 1-c. County boards shall enroll trainers in the program in such quan-
48 tities to ensure that an adequate contingent of fully trained and certi-
49 fied poll worker trainers are available to meet the training needs of
50 such county. Each county board of elections shall enroll not less than
51 two persons designated by the county board on a bipartisan basis, in the
52 state board of elections training institute. Certified trainers must
53 maintain their certification by attending once every two years, a
54 continuing education program, to ensure the professionalism of the poll
55 worker training agenda set by the state board of elections. Enrollees
56 who have successfully completed the state board's training program and

1 been awarded a "certified poll worker instructor" certificate may serve
2 at the county board as a trainer of poll workers as well as a trainer of
3 other bi-partisan designees of the county board, however the conferring
4 of the title "certified poll worker instructor" may be made only by the
5 state board of elections.

6 1-d. The state board of elections shall adopt such rules and regu-
7 lations which may be necessary to create the training institute and
8 associated curricula provided for in subdivisions one-a, one-b and one-c
9 of this section, including a process whereby attendees who successfully
10 complete a state board-sponsored training program shall be awarded a
11 certificate conferring upon him or her, the title of "certified poll
12 worker instructor".

13 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
14 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-
15 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
16 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to
17 be made and completed on or before such effective date.