STATE OF NEW YORK

786

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sens. GOUNARDES, MYRIE -- 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 provision of interpreters at poll sites in certain cities

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 8-110 to read as follows:

§ 8-110. Board of elections, in consultation with the executive office of any city with a population of one million or more; provision of interpreters. 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any board of elections in a city with a population of one million or more shall, at a minimum, provide interpreters for all languages that are designated city-wide languages pursuant to section 23-1101 of the administrative code of the city of New York or other applicable statute at all poll sites that contain an election district with at least fifty voting age residents whose limited English proficiency language is a designated city-wide language. The voting districts with at least fifty voting age residents with limited English proficiency shall be made by the board of elections based upon the most recent United States census data or American community survey data, whichever is more recent, and beginning on January first, two thousand twenty-four, such data shall be reviewed every two years. Unless an election district has at least fifty voting age residents with limited English proficiency who speak a specific city-wide language, an interpreter for such city-wide language shall not be required for any poll site in such election district.

2. All interpreters provided by a board of elections pursuant to subdivision one of this section shall be made available to the public inside the poll site. Any interpreter who engages in any activity in

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

LBD03102-01-1

violation of subdivision one of section 8-104 of this article shall be immediately relieved of his or her duties as an interpreter.

3. Nothing in this section shall restrict or prohibit a board of elections from providing interpreters for languages that are not required pursuant to this section.

4. The state board of elections shall promulgate rules and regulations that include establishing standards for the number of interpreters that will be required at each poll site based upon the number of voting age residents in an election district with limited English proficiency that speak a specific language.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.