STATE OF NEW YORK

2237

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 25, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SIMON, EPSTEIN, ZINERMAN, BUTTENSCHON, JACKSON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to allowing certain campaign funds to be used for disability access services and language interpretation and translation services

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

Section 1. Section 14-130 of the election law is amended by adding two new subdivisions 4-a and 4-b to read as follows:

4-a. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a candidate from using campaign contributions to pay for disability access services, including but not limited to captioning, sign language interpretation, assistive listening device, Braille, large print, communication access real-time translation (CART) and accessible transportation services.

4-b. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a candidate from using campaign contributions to pay for language interpretation or translation services.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 14-206 of the election law, as added by section 4 of part ZZZ of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

1. Public matching funds provided pursuant to this title may be used only by an authorized committee for expenditures to further the participating candidate's nomination for election or election[~~, including~~]. **Such expenditures may include** paying for debts incurred within one year prior to an election to further the participating candidate's nomination for election or election **and paying for disability access services or language interpretation or translation services**.

§ 3. Section 14-204 of the election law is amended by adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

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

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6. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the amount of public funds that may be provided to a candidate for the purpose of paying for disability access services or language interpretation or translation services.

§ 4. Subparagraphs 12 and 13 of paragraph a of subdivision 21 of section 3-702 of the administrative code of the city of New York, subparagraph 12 as amended and subparagraph 13 as added by local law number 196 of the city of New York for the year 2018, are amended and two new subparagraphs 14 and 15 are added to read as follows:

12. Expenditures to facilitate, support, or otherwise assist in the execution or performance of the duties of public office; [~~and~~]

13. Childcare services, provided that: (i) the candidate has received an approved statement of campaign childcare eligibility, pursuant to subdivision 23 of this section, demonstrating that such services are for a child or children under thirteen years of age for whom the candidate is a primary caregiver and that either the need for such services would not exist but for the campaign or the candidate has experienced a significant loss of salary or wage earnings that would not have occurred but for the campaign; and (ii) that expenditures for such services may only be incurred during the calendar year of the election, and the year immediately preceding the calendar year of the election, and may not be incurred after such election is held[~~.~~]**;**

14. Disability access services, including but not limited to captioning, sign language interpretation, assistive listening device, Braille, large print, communication access real-time translation (CART) and accessible transportation services; and

15. Language interpretation and translation services.

§ 5. Section 3-706 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

6. Expenditures made for the purpose of disability access services pursuant to subparagraph 14 or language interpretation and translation services pursuant to subparagraph 15 of paragraph a of subdivision 21 of section 3-702 of this chapter shall not be limited by the expenditure limitations of this section.

§ 6. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after 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.