

STATE OF NEW YORK

612--A

Cal. No. 11

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 5, 2023

Introduced by Sens. MAYER, MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Rules -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to a third reading, passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to prohibiting conflicts of interest among board of elections employees

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 3-304
2 to read as follows:

3 § 3-304. Board employees; conflicts of interest. 1. No board of
4 elections employee, with the exception of a district leader as outlined
5 in section 2-110 of this chapter, shall engage in or participate in any
6 trade or business which creates, or may tend to create, an actual or
7 potential conflict of interest. No board of elections employee, with the
8 exception of a district leader as outlined in section 2-110 of this
9 chapter, shall maintain a financial interest, directly or indirectly, in
10 a company providing services to a candidate who has an election overseen
11 by such employee's office, including but not limited to, printing compa-
12 nies, election consulting companies, direct mail companies and digital
13 marketing companies. No board of elections employee, with the exception
14 of a district leader as outlined in section 2-110 of this chapter, shall
15 maintain a financial interest, directly or indirectly, in or be employed
16 by a vendor or company that sells voting machines, electronic pollbooks,
17 printers or other technical or electronic equipment. A violation of any
18 of the provisions of this subdivision shall be cause for discipline by
19 the board of elections, including removal of the board of elections
20 employee.

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

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1 2. No board of elections employee, with the exception of a district
2 leader as outlined in section 2-110 of this chapter, shall remain on the
3 board of elections payroll while also a candidate for an office who has
4 an election overseen by the board at which they are employed. For the
5 purposes of this article, a board of elections employee shall be deemed
6 a candidate for elective office upon the filing of designating petitions
7 for such office or, where nominations for such office are made other
8 than by petition, upon acceptance of a nomination. Such employee may
9 remain in "leave without pay" status until such time as his or her
10 candidacy shall cease, or upon the day following the certification of
11 election results for such office, whichever comes first. Notwithstanding
12 the provisions of this section, when there are no primary elections for
13 the office being sought by a candidate that is employed by the board of
14 elections, that candidate may remain on the board of elections payroll
15 for no more than ninety days prior to a general election.

16 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that subdivision
17 1 of section 3-304 of the election law, as added by section one of this
18 act, shall take effect one year after this act shall have become a law.