

STATE OF NEW YORK

7233--B

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 18, 2023

Introduced by Sens. MAYER, JACKSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to empowering the commissioner of education to declare a disaster has substantially impacted a school board or school budget election and to allow school boards to set an additional day for voting

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

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 2022-a
2 to read as follows:

3 § 2022-a. Disaster; additional day for voting. 1. Upon request of a
4 school district, or upon the determination of the commissioner, the
5 commissioner may provide for an additional day of voting for the annual
6 meeting and election if they determine that less than eight percent of
7 qualified voters voted as a direct consequence of a disaster. For the
8 purposes of this section, "disaster" shall include events such as a
9 fire, earthquake, tornado, explosion, power failure, act of sabotage,
10 enemy attack or other event that results in substantial damage to prop-
11 erty or the possible or actual loss of life. The procedures applicable
12 to a school's annual meeting and election shall thereafter be followed
13 as far as applicable and practicable.

14 2. Such additional day of voting shall be held between seven and four-
15 teen days after the original annual meeting and election, provided that
16 when the commissioner determines it would not be feasible to hold the
17 additional day of voting within fourteen days, they may authorize the

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

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1 district to schedule such additional day of voting as soon as may be
2 feasible; provided, further, that where a disaster occurs on the date of
3 a school budget revote pursuant to either section two thousand twenty-
4 three-a or two thousand seven of this part, the district shall hold an
5 additional day of voting no sooner than five days after the school budg-
6 et revote, but no later than the last day of the month of June. The
7 board of education shall determine the hours during which the polls
8 shall remain open on such additional day for voting; provided, however,
9 that in any event the polls shall remain open for not less than eleven
10 hours.

11 3. The commissioner shall notify the board of education and county
12 board of elections of such date. The clerk of the school district shall
13 publish notice of the date of the additional day of voting not less than
14 twice in each week preceding the date for the additional day for voting,
15 in two newspapers having general circulation within such district if
16 there are two, or in one newspaper if there is only one and notify all
17 qualified voters by mail. Such notice shall also direct attention to any
18 change of polling places, the original notice of disaster determination
19 from the commissioner, and contain such other and additional information
20 as in the judgment of the board of education shall be necessary and
21 proper. The notice of the date of the additional day of voting shall be
22 made available on the school district's website, if one exists.

23 4. Official ballots shall be provided at public expense at each poll-
24 ing place for such additional day of voting. In any election district in
25 which voting machines were used upon the original day of voting, they
26 shall be used for the additional day for voting. The original seal on
27 such machines shall not be removed nor shall the machines be unlocked
28 until the opening of the polls on the additional day for voting and the
29 board of elections shall provide an additional seal to be used as soon
30 as the polls are closed on such day. County boards of elections which
31 have provided voting machines to school districts for original days of
32 voting shall continue to provide such voting machines until the addi-
33 tional day of voting is complete.

34 5. Only those persons qualified to vote upon the original date of the
35 school district's annual meeting and election who did not vote on such
36 date shall be entitled to vote on the additional day for voting. Voting
37 on the additional day provided for in this section shall be accomplished
38 solely by physically appearing at the polling place, and nothing
39 contained in this section shall be construed to extend the time set by
40 law for casting or canvassing an absentee, military, or special ballot;
41 provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall be deemed to
42 invalidate any absentee, military, or special ballot duly received on
43 the original date of the annual meeting and election.

44 § 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.