STATE OF NEW YORK

8827--A

IN SENATE

March 19, 2024

Introduced by Sen. BAILEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to requiring any student graduating from a high school in New York state be provided with a voter registration form

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 5-232 to read as follows:

§ 5-232. Graduating high school students. 1. In addition to any other method of voter registration provided for in this article, every qualified person shall be provided with an application for registration and enrollment upon graduation from any public or private high school within the state. Such application shall be in the same form as prescribed by section 5-210 of this title.

2. A school district in which qualified persons are graduating shall transmit any completed application for registration form to the appropriate board of elections not later than ten days after receipt except that all such completed applications and forms received by the school districts or department of education after the twentieth day prior to an election and by the twelfth day before such election shall be transmitted in such manner and at such time as to assure their receipt by such board of elections as soon as practicable and not later than the tenth day before such election. All transmittals shall include original signatures.

3. Completed application forms received by a school district not later than the twelfth day before the next ensuing primary, general or special election and transmitted by such school district to the appropriate board of elections so that they are received not later than the tenth day before such election shall entitle the applicant to vote in such election provided the board determines that the applicant is otherwise qualified.

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

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4. Disclosure of voter registration information, including a declination to register, by a school district, its agents or employees, for purposes other than voter registration shall be deemed an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy pursuant to the provisions of subdivision two of section eighty-nine of the public officers law and shall constitute a violation of this chapter.

5. Application forms shall be processed by the board of elections in the manner prescribed by section 5-210 of this title. The board shall send the appropriate notice of approval or rejection as required by subdivision nine of such section 5-210.

6. Strict neutrality with respect to a person's party enrollment shall be maintained and all persons seeking voter registration forms and information shall be advised that government services are not conditioned on being registered to vote.

7. No statement shall be made nor any action taken to discourage the applicant from registering to vote.

8. The state board of elections shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the requirements of this section. The board shall also adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to require county boards and the department of education to provide the state board of elections with such information and data as the board deems necessary to assess compliance with this section and to compile such statistics as may be required by the federal elections commission.

9. The state board of elections shall develop and distribute public information and promotional materials relating to the purposes and implementation of this program.

10. The state board of elections shall prepare and distribute to the department of education written instructions as to the implementation of the program and shall be responsible for establishing training programs for employees of the department of education and each school district involved in such program.

11. The commissioner of education shall take all actions which are necessary and proper for the implementation of this section. The commissioner of education shall designate one person within the department as the department voter registration coordinator who will, under the direction of the state board of elections, be responsible for the voter registration program in such department.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July 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.