STATE OF NEW YORK

5494

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 14, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BROOK-KRASNY, NOVAKHOV -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Employees

AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to leave time for certain employees to volunteer as a poll worker

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

Section 1. The civil service law is amended by adding a new section 159-e to read as follows:

§ 159-e. Leave time for poll volunteers. 1. Every public officer and every employee of the state, any county, any community college, any public authority, any public benefit corporation, any board of cooperative educational services (BOCES), any vocational education and extension board or a school district enumerated in section one of chapter five hundred-sixty-six of the laws of nineteen hundred sixty-seven, any municipality, any school district or a participating employer in the New York state and local employees' retirement system, or a participating employer in the New York state teachers' retirement system shall be entitled to absent themself and shall be deemed to have a paid leave of absence from their duties or service for a sufficient period of time, not to exceed eight hours annually, to volunteer as a poll worker during a local, national, or primary election.

2. The entire period of the leave of absence granted pursuant to this section shall be excused leave and shall not be charged against any other leave to which such public officer or employee is otherwise entitled.

3. The commission is hereby authorized and directed to establish any necessary guidelines, including requirements for notice, request, approval of leave and documentation.

4. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to impede, infringe, diminish, or impair the rights of a public employee or employer under any law, rule, regulation or collectively negotiated agreement, or the

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

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rights and benefits which accrue to employees through collective bargaining agreements, or otherwise diminish the integrity of the existing collective bargaining agreement.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.