STATE OF NEW YORK

9347

IN SENATE

March 4, 2026

Introduced by Sen. MARTINEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to providing public input on local fire protection in New York state

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

Section 1. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 777-a to read as follows:

§ 777-a. Referendum resolution for dissolution of fire districts. 1. If a dissolution plan calls for the dissolution of a fire district, then contemporaneous with the final approval of the dissolution plan pursuant to subdivision three of section seven hundred seventy-six of this title, the governing body of the fire district shall enact a resolution calling for a referendum on the proposed dissolution by the electors in the fire district.

2. The resolution calling for the referendum on the proposed dissolution shall:

(a) provide: (i) the name of the fire district to be dissolved; and (ii) the date for the referendum, in accordance with subdivision one of section seven hundred eighty of this title;

(b) state the substance of the question to be submitted to the electors; and

(c) set forth such other matters as may be necessary to call, provide for and give notice of the referendum and to provide for the conduct thereof and the canvass of the returns thereupon.

3. The resolution calling for the referendum on the proposed dissolution shall have attached to it the final approved version of the dissolution plan.

4. A fire district dissolved pursuant to a dissolution plan shall continue to be governed as before dissolution until the effective date of the dissolution specified in the dissolution plan; provided, however, that no dissolution plan for a fire district shall take effect unless approved by a majority of electors of the fire district at a referendum called through a resolution.

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

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5. A referendum on a proposed dissolution of a fire district shall be placed before the electors in the fire district to be dissolved at a special election to be held not less than sixty or more than ninety days after the enactment of a resolution calling for the referendum, provided, however, that in cases where a town general election falls within such period, the referendum question may be considered during a town general election.

6. Notice of the referendum shall be given to the electors of the fire district to be dissolved by publication in a newspaper having a general circulation within the boundaries of the entity at least once a week for four consecutive weeks immediately prior to the referendum. The notice shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) a summary of the contents of the resolution and dissolution plan or petition for dissolution, as the case may be;

(b) a statement as to where may be examined copies of the resolution and dissolution plan or petition for dissolution, as the case may be;

(c) the name of the fire district to be dissolved and a statement fully describing its territory;

(d) the time and place or places at which the referendum will be held; and

(e) such other matters as may be necessary to call, provide for and give notice of the referendum and to provide for the conduct thereof and the canvass of the returns thereupon.

7. The referendum question placed before the electors of the fire district to be dissolved shall be in a form reading substantially as follows:

"Shall (insert type and name of fire district) be dissolved?

YES ____

NO ____"

8. In any referendum held pursuant to this title, the fire district to be dissolved shall bear the costs associated with the conduct of such referendum.

9. In any referendum held pursuant to this title, and except as otherwise specified herein, the referendum shall be conducted in the same manner as other municipal elections or referendums for the local government entity affected by the proposed dissolution.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.