STATE OF NEW YORK

10886

IN ASSEMBLY

April 8, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. WALKER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to security expenses for candidates for and holders of elective office

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 14-131 to read as follows:

§ 14-131. Use of campaign funds for security expenses. 1. Contributions received by a candidate or a political committee may be expended for any security expense incurred to address ongoing dangers and threats to such candidate, the campaign staff for such candidate, or the candidate's immediate family related to the status or activities as a candidate for elective office or holder of elective office.

2. Security expenses authorized pursuant to this section shall not:

(a) be paid from public matching funds provided pursuant to title two of this article;

(b) be used to purchase firearms or ammunition; or

(c) be directed to any family member of a candidate or office holder or entity owned or controlled by such candidate or office holder or family member thereof.

3. Any candidate or office holder may determine that the security expense is reasonable and shall not require a finding or evidence of a specific danger or threat or verification by law enforcement.

4. Any security expense incurred pursuant to this section shall be included in the statements required to be filed pursuant to this article.

5. The state board of elections may issue advisory opinions upon request regarding the eligibility of use of contributions for security expenditures.

6. As used in this section:

(a) "Security expense" means any purchase, installation, maintenance, and upgrade of security measures, including but not limited to:

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

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(i) non-structural security devices, such as security hardware, locks, alarm systems, motion detectors, and security camera systems;

(ii) structural security devices, such as wiring, lighting, gates, doors, and fencing intended solely to provide security; security personnel and services that are bona fide, legitimate, and professional;

(iii) cybersecurity software, devices, and services; and

(iv) monitoring and other services, including maintenance, directly associated with such non-structural and structural security devices.

(b) "Immediate family" means a spouse, registered domestic partner, or any minor child residing in the household of the candidate or office holder.

7. The state board of elections is authorized to promulgate any rules or regulations necessary to implement this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law.