

STATE OF NEW YORK

3929

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 30, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. DINOWITZ, KAY, LEVENBERG, ALVAREZ, TAPIA, SHIMSKY, CUNNINGHAM -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to requiring social media influencers to disclose when they share on social media that they are being paid by a campaign; and authorizes the state board of elections to promulgate certain regulations

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-106 of the election law, as amended by chapter
2 454 of the laws of 2019, subdivisions 5 and 6 as added by section 1 of
3 subpart B of part MM of chapter 58 of the laws of 2024, paragraph (b) of
4 subdivision 5 as amended and subdivision 7 as added by chapter 169 of
5 the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:
6 § 14-106. Political communication. 1. The statements required to be
7 filed under the provisions of this article next succeeding a primary,
8 general or special election shall be accompanied by a copy of all broad-
9 cast, cable or satellite schedules and scripts, paid internet or
10 digital, including social media posts made by individuals being paid by
11 the campaign, print and other types of advertisements, pamphlets, circu-
12 lars, flyers, brochures, letterheads and other printed matter purchased
13 or produced, and reproductions of statements or information published to
14 five hundred or more members of a general public audience by computer or
15 other electronic device including but not limited to electronic mail or
16 text message, purchased in connection with such election by or under the
17 authority of the person filing the statement or the committee or the
18 person on whose behalf it is filed, as the case may be. Such copies,
19 schedules and scripts shall be preserved by the officer with whom or the
20 board with which it is required to be filed for a period of one year
21 from the date of filing thereof.

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

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1 2. All political committees that make an expenditure for a political
2 communication shall be required to disclose the identity of the poli-
3 tical committee which made the expenditure for such political communi-
4 cation. The disclosure on printed or digital political communications,
5 including but not limited to brochures, flyers, posters, mailings, or
6 internet advertising, including social media posts made by individuals
7 being paid by the campaign, shall be printed or typed in an appropriate
8 legible form to read as follows: "Paid for by:" followed by the name of
9 the political committee making the expenditure. The disclosure on non-
10 printed or digital political communications shall clearly and prominent-
11 ly display and/or speak the following statement: "Paid for by:"
12 followed by the name of the political committee making the expenditure.
13 In the case of a political communication that is not visual, such as
14 radio or automated telephone calls, clearly speaking the statement will
15 satisfy the requirements of this section.

16 3. Political communications that are considered promotional items
17 which support a particular candidate, election, ballot measure or issue
18 and limit the content of communication to the name, office and brief
19 message of support, shall be exempt from the provisions of subdivision
20 two of this section. Promotional items shall be items that are of nomi-
21 nal value and are distributed to the general public in an effort to
22 promote a particular candidate, election, ballot measure or issue
23 including but not limited to pens, bumper stickers, yard signs, buttons,
24 shirts, bags or balloons.

25 4. Political communication that is considered digital media which
26 advertises for a particular candidate, election, ballot measure or issue
27 which limits the content of communication to the name, office and brief
28 message shall not be subject to the provisions of subdivision two of
29 this section if such digital media is unable to contain the "paid for
30 by" statement due to its small size and contains a link to another
31 webpage where the "paid for by" statement is prominently displayed.
32 Social media posts made on behalf of a particular candidate, election,
33 ballot measure or other issue shall not be exempted from the provisions
34 of this section.

35 5. (a) For purposes of this subdivision:

36 (i) "Materially deceptive media" means any image, video, audio, text,
37 or any technological representation of speech or conduct fully or
38 partially created or modified that:

39 (1) exhibits a high level of authenticity or convincing appearance
40 that is visually or audibly indistinguishable from reality to a reason-
41 able person;

42 (2) depicts a scenario that did not actually occur or that has been
43 altered in a significant way from how they actually occurred; and

44 (3) is created by or with software, machine learning, artificial
45 intelligence, or any other computer-generated or technological means,
46 including adapting, modifying, manipulating, or altering a realistic
47 depiction.

48 (ii) "Information content provider" means any person or entity that is
49 responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of
50 information provided through the Internet or any other interactive
51 computer service.

52 (b) (i) A person, firm, association, corporation, campaign, committee,
53 or organization that distributes or publishes any political communi-
54 cation that was produced by or includes materially deceptive media and
55 has actual knowledge that it is materially deceptive shall be required
56 to disclose this use.

1 (ii) (1) For visual media the disclosure shall be printed or typed in
2 a legible font size easily readable by the average viewer that is no
3 smaller than other text appearing in the visual media and in the same
4 language used on the communication to read as follows: "This (image,
5 video, or audio) has been manipulated".

6 (2) For communication that is auditory, such as radio or automated
7 telephone calls, clearly speaking the statement at the beginning of the
8 audio, at the end of the audio, and, if the audio is greater than two
9 minutes in length, interspersed within the audio at intervals of not
10 greater than two minutes each and in the same language as the rest of
11 the audio used in the communication, and in a pitch that can be easily
12 heard by the average listener satisfies the requirements of clause one
13 of this subparagraph.

14 (iii) This paragraph shall not apply to the following:

15 (1) materially deceptive media that constitutes satire or parody;

16 (2) materially deceptive media distributed by a bona fide news report-
17 ing entity for the purpose of news reporting or coverage, if the report-
18 ing clearly acknowledges through content or a disclosure, in a manner
19 that can be easily read or heard by the average listener or viewer, that
20 there are questions about the authenticity of the materially deceptive
21 media;

22 (3) a radio or television broadcasting station, including a cable
23 television, satellite television or streaming service operator, program-
24 mer, producer or other similar entity, that broadcasts a political
25 communication when the station or streaming service is paid to broadcast
26 the political communication if the station or streaming service can show
27 that it has disclaimer requirements that are consistent with the
28 requirements provided in this paragraph and that it provided those
29 disclaimer requirements to each person or entity that purchased the
30 broadcast or streaming of the advertisement; or

31 (4) initial dissemination by a platform or service including, but not
32 limited to, a website, regularly published newspaper, or magazine, where
33 the content disseminated is materially deceptive media provided by
34 another information content provider.

35 (iv) A candidate whose voice or likeness appears in materially decep-
36 tive media in violation of this subdivision may seek reasonable court
37 costs and attorneys' fees and injunctive relief prohibiting the distrib-
38 ution, publication or broadcasting of any materially deceptive media in
39 violation of this subdivision against such individual or entity who
40 disseminated or published such media without the consent of the person
41 depicted and who knew or should have known that it was materially decep-
42 tive. An action under this paragraph shall be initiated by filing an
43 application for an order to show cause in the supreme court where the
44 materially deceptive media at issue could deceive and influence electors
45 in an upcoming election. Such action shall be entitled to an automatic
46 calendar preference and be subject to expedited pretrial and trial
47 proceedings.

48 (v) In any action alleging a violation of this subdivision in which a
49 plaintiff seeks preliminary relief with respect to an upcoming election,
50 the court shall grant relief if it determines that:

51 (A) plaintiffs are more likely than not to succeed on the merits; and

52 (B) it is possible to implement an appropriate remedy that would
53 resolve the alleged violation in the upcoming election.

54 (vi) In any action commenced under this subdivision, the plaintiff
55 bears the burden of establishing the use of materially deceptive media
56 by clear and convincing evidence.

1 6. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit, or to enlarge,
2 the protections that 47 U.S.C. § 230 confers on an interactive computer
3 service for content provided by another information content provider, as
4 such terms are defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230.

5 7. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require entities to
6 cancel, edit, or insert video or audio labels into political communi-
7 cations where such action is inconsistent with federal law.

8 8. The state board of elections is authorized to promulgate additional
9 regulations pertaining to the method of filing statements required to be
10 provided pursuant to this section. Such regulations shall be promulgated
11 within ninety days of the effective date of this subdivision.

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