STATE OF NEW YORK

10563

IN SENATE

May 22, 2026

Introduced by Sen. SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to providing notice regarding the timeliness of the receipt by the board of elections of ballots capable of return by mail

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 7-127 to read as follows:

§ 7-127. Notification to accompany all early mail, absentee, and special ballots capable of return by mail. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any ballot issued pursuant to this chapter that is permitted to be returned by mail shall be accompanied by a conspicuous written notice, in a form prescribed by the state board of elections, informing the voter of all the methods by which such ballot may be timely returned under applicable law, including, as applicable, return by mail, express delivery services, delivery by the voter or agent to the appropriate board of elections, or appropriate early voting site or poll site on election day, and deposit in a ballot drop box established pursuant to section 8-416 of this chapter.

2. Such notice shall advise the voter that, to ensure timely receipt, such ballot should be returned to the board of elections as soon as possible by any approved methods, and further recommend the use of alternative methods of return besides domestic mail services if the voter will be returning their ballot within several days of the election. The notice shall also include a reminder of the importance of seeking a hand cancellation date for any ballot returned by domestic postal mail to ensure the date of mailing can always be determined. For overseas voters, such notice shall advise voters to consult the anticipated delivery times of their chosen delivery service to ensure ballots will be returned timely. Such notice shall include the website and telephone number of the appropriate board of elections for the location and hours of operation of ballot drop-off locations and information about other return options. The state board of elections, each county board of

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

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elections, and the New York city board of elections, shall prominently publish such notice, or a substantially similar notice, in a conspicuous location on its official website, and shall also transmit such notice, or a substantially similar notice, to any electronic mail address or telephone number maintained by such board with respect to any voter who has requested an early mail ballot, and post the same on any official social media account maintained by such board.

3. The state board of elections shall promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.