STATE OF NEW YORK

6995

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 28, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the election law, the education law and the town law, in relation to voting by mail

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

Section 1. Subdivisions 3, 6 and 8 of section 7-119 of the election law, as added by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023, are amended to read as follows:

3. There shall be three envelopes for each early mail ballot issued by mail: the inner affirmation envelope into which a voter places their voted ballot, the outer envelope which shall be addressed to the early mail voter, and the mailing envelope which is addressed to the county board of elections. The board of elections shall furnish with each early mail ballot an inner affirmation envelope. On one side of the envelope shall be printed:

OFFICIAL [~~EARLY MAIL~~] BALLOT
for
GENERAL (OR PRIMARY OR SPECIAL) ELECTION,

....., 20.....

Name of voter .....
Residence (street and number if any) .....
City/or town of (village, if any) .....
County of .....

Assembly District .....
Legislative District (as applicable) .....
Ward (as applicable) .....
Election District .....

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

LBD11360-02-5

Party Enrollment (in case of primary election) .....

6. On the reverse side of such inner affirmation envelope shall be printed the following statement:

AFFIRMATION

I do declare that I am a citizen of the United States, that I am duly registered in the election district shown on the reverse side of this envelope and I am qualified to vote in such district; **that the information contained on my application for this ballot is true and correct;** that I have not qualified nor do I intend to vote elsewhere, that I have not committed any act nor am I under any impediment which denies me the right to vote.

I hereby declare that the foregoing is a true statement to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that if I make any material false statement in the foregoing [~~statement of early mail voter~~] **affirmation**, I shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Date ..... 20 .....

.....
Signature or mark of voter

.....
Signature of Witness
(required only if voter
does not sign
their own name)

.....
Address of Witness

8. Each inner affirmation ballot envelope shall be enclosed in an outer envelope addressed to the appropriate board of elections and bearing on it a specific direction that if an original application for an early mail **or absentee** ballot is received with the ballot, such application must be completed by the voter and returned in the outer envelope together with the sealed inner affirmation envelope containing the **corresponding** early mail **or absentee** ballot within the time limits for receipt of the early mail ballot itself. Such inner affirmation envelope and outer envelope shall be enclosed in the third envelope addressed to the [~~early mail~~] voter. The outer and third envelopes shall have printed on the face thereof the words "Election Material--Please Expedite".

§ 2. Subdivisions 3, 6 and 8 of section 7-122 of the election law, as amended by chapter 411 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as follows:

3. There shall be three envelopes for each absentee ballot issued by mail: the inner affirmation envelope into which a voter places [~~his or her~~] **their** voted ballot, the outer envelope which shall be addressed to the absentee voter, and the mailing envelope which is addressed to the county board of elections. The board of elections shall furnish with each absentee ballot an inner affirmation envelope. On one side of the envelope shall be printed:

OFFICIAL [~~ABSENTEE~~] BALLOT
for
GENERAL (OR PRIMARY OR SPECIAL) ELECTION,

....., 20.....
Name of voter.....
Residence (street and number if any).....
City/or town of.....(village, if any).....
County of.....
Assembly district .....
Legislative District (as applicable) .....
Ward (as applicable) .....
Election District.....
Party Enrollment (in case of primary election).....

6. On the reverse side of such inner affirmation envelope shall be printed the following statement:

AFFIRMATION

I do declare that I am a citizen of the United States, that I am duly registered in the election district shown on the reverse side of this envelope and I am qualified to vote in such district; [~~that I will be unable to appear personally on the day of the election for which this ballot is voted at the polling place of the election district in which I am a qualified voter because of the reason given on my application heretofore submitted~~] **that the information contained on my application for this ballot is true and correct**; that I have not qualified nor do I intend to vote elsewhere, that I have not committed any act nor am I under any impediment which denies me the right to vote.

I hereby declare that the foregoing is a true statement to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that if I make any material false statement in the foregoing [~~statement of absentee voter~~] **affirmation**, I shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Date ..... 20 .....

.....
Signature or mark of voter

.....
Signature of Witness
(required only if voter
does not sign [~~his or her~~]
their own name)

.....
Address of Witness

8. Each inner affirmation ballot envelope shall be enclosed in an outer envelope addressed to the appropriate board of elections and bearing on it a specific direction that if an original application for **an early mail or** an absentee ballot is received with the ballot, such application must be completed by the voter and returned in the outer envelope together with the sealed inner affirmation envelope containing the **corresponding early mail or** absentee ballot within the time limits for receipt of the **early mail or** absentee ballot itself. Such inner affirmation envelope and outer envelope shall be enclosed in the third

envelope addressed to the [~~absentee~~] voter. The outer and third envelopes shall have printed on the face thereof the words "Election Material--Please Expedite".

§ 3. Subdivision 3 of section 8-400 of the election law is amended by adding a new paragraph (c-1) to read as follows:

(c-1) If the applicant does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to an absentee ballot as required by paragraph (c) of this subdivision, the application shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to section 8-702 of this article.

§ 4. Subdivision 4 of section 8-400 of the election law, as amended by chapter 63 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

4. A voter who claims permanent illness or physical disability may make application for an absentee ballot and the right to receive an absentee ballot for each election thereafter as provided herein without further application, by filing with the board of elections an application which shall contain a statement to be executed by the voter. Upon filing of such application the board of elections shall cause the registration records of the voter to be marked "Permanently Disabled" and thereafter shall send an absentee ballot for each succeeding primary, special or general election to such voter at [~~his or her~~] **their** last known address by first class mail with a request to the postal authorities not to forward such ballot but to return it in five days in the event that it cannot be delivered to the addressee. The mailing of such ballot for each election shall continue until such voter's registration is cancelled **or inactivated**.

§ 5. Subdivision 10 of section 8-400 of the election law, as amended by chapter 373 of the laws of 1986 and as renumbered by chapter 40 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

10. The state board of elections shall prescribe a standard application form for use under this section. **The standard application form shall indicate that if the applicant does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to an absentee ballot, the application will be processed as an application for an early mail ballot, and the applicant will be sent an early mail ballot if otherwise eligible.** The use of any application form which substantially complies with the provisions of this section shall be acceptable and any application filed on such a form shall be accepted for filing.

§ 6. Subdivision 1 of section 8-402 of the election law, as amended by chapter 666 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:

1. Upon receipt of an application for an absentee ballot the board of elections shall forthwith determine upon such inquiry as it deems proper whether the applicant is qualified to vote and to receive an absentee ballot, and if it finds the applicant is not so qualified it shall reject the application after investigation as hereinafter provided. **Provided that, an application for an absentee ballot that does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to such a ballot shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to paragraph (c-1) of subdivision three of section 8-400 of this title and section 8-702 of this article.**

§ 7. Subdivision 5 of section 8-402 of the election law is amended to read as follows:

5. If the board shall determine that the applicant is not entitled to an absentee ballot it shall immediately notify the applicant, giving [~~him~~] **the applicant** the reason for such rejection. **Provided that no notification of rejection is necessary if the application is processed**

as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to subdivision one of this section.

§ 8. Subdivision 5 of section 8-700 of the election law, as added by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

5. The application for an early mail ballot shall also provide the applicant the opportunity to request to receive an early mail ballot for all remaining elections in the [~~calendar year~~] election cycle in which the applicant is eligible to vote. If an applicant indicates in the application for an early mail ballot that they wish to receive an early mail ballot for all remaining elections in the [~~calendar year~~] election cycle, upon filing of such application, the board of elections shall indicate such request in the voter's registration record. When early mail ballots are mailed for subsequent elections in the [~~calendar year~~] election cycle in which the voter is eligible to vote, the board of elections shall mail an early mail ballot to the voter at their last known address by first class mail with a request to the postal authorities not to forward such ballot but to return it in five days in the event that it cannot be delivered to the addressee. However, the board shall not be required to mail an early mail ballot pursuant to this section if the voter's registration has been canceled or inactivated since the filing of such application. For purposes of this section, "election cycle" means the two-year period beginning on January first in an odd-numbered year and ending on December thirty-first in the subsequent even-numbered year.

§ 9. Subdivision 2 of section 8-702 of the election law, as added by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

2. If the board of elections determines that the applicant is not a registered voter of the county or city at the address listed in the application pursuant to subdivision one of this section or the applicant is not eligible to vote in [~~all~~] one or more of the elections for which the application is filed, the board of elections shall immediately notify the applicant of the rejection of the application to vote early by mail and provide the reason for such rejection.

§ 10. Subdivision 2 of section 10-106 of the election law, as amended by chapter 91 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

2. Such board of elections shall cause such military voter to be registered in the manner provided by this chapter, and in the space designated "other remarks" shall be entered the military address of such voter or such military address shall be entered into the computer files from which the computer generated registration list is prepared. Such registration poll records shall be stamped or marked conspicuously with the legend "Military Voter" or the records of such military voters in such computer files shall be coded in a manner which distinguishes such voters from the other voters in such files. The foregoing provisions of this subdivision as to entry of the military address may be altered by the state board of elections to such extent as may be necessary to the security and safety of the United States. A military voter shall not be required to register personally and an application for a military ballot may be submitted by mail, facsimile transmission, electronic mail, or other electronic method established by the state board of elections. An application for a military ballot shall constitute permanent personal registration and a military voter shall be deemed registered under the rules and regulations prevailing under permanent personal registration upon the filing of [~~his~~] their application and the entering of [~~his~~] their name in the appropriate registration records.

§ 11. Subdivision 2 of section 10-107 of the election law, as added by chapter 104 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

2. Irrespective of the preferred method of transmission designated by a military voter, a military voter's [~~original completed voter registration application, military ballot application and~~] military ballot must be returned by mail or in person [~~notwithstanding that a prior copy was sent to the board of elections by facsimile transmission or electronic mail~~].

§ 12. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 10-108 of the election law, as amended by chapter 164 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Ballots for military voters shall be mailed or otherwise distributed by the board of elections, in accordance with the preferred method of transmission designated by the voter pursuant to section 10-107 of this article, as soon as practicable but in any event not later than forty-six days before a primary or general election; twenty-five days before a New York city community school board district or city of Buffalo school district election; fourteen days before a village election conducted by the board of elections; forty-five days before a special election; and twenty-three days before a special election held pursuant to paragraph b of subdivision three of section forty-two of the public officers law. A voter who submits a military ballot application shall be entitled to a military ballot thereafter for each subsequent election [~~through and including the next two regularly scheduled general elections held in even numbered years, including any run-offs which may occur~~] **unless the voter's registration is cancelled or placed in inactive status, the voter ceases to meet the qualifications to vote a military ballot, or the voter requests otherwise, whichever occurs first**; provided, however, such application shall not be valid for any election held within seven days after its receipt. Ballots shall also be mailed to any qualified military voter who is already registered and who requests such military ballot from such board of elections in a letter, which is signed by the voter and received by the board of elections not later than the seventh day before the election for which the ballot is requested and which states the address where the voter is registered and the address to which the ballot is to be mailed. The board of elections shall enclose with such ballot a form of application for military ballot. In the case of a primary election, the board shall deliver only the ballot of the party with which the military voter is enrolled according to the military voter's registration records. In the event a primary election is uncontested in the military voter's election district for all offices or positions except the party position of member of the ward, town, city or county committee, no ballot shall be delivered to such military voter for such election; and the military voter shall be advised of the reason why [~~he or she~~] **they** will not receive a ballot.

§ 13. Subdivision 2 of section 10-109 of the election law, as amended by chapter 200 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

2. If any ballot, application form or other mail sent to a military voter at [~~his~~] **their** military address by the board of elections is returned by the post office as undeliverable, the board of elections shall ascertain whether the military voter is residing at the address given on [~~his~~] **their** registration records as [~~his~~] **their** permanent address. If [~~he~~] **such military voter** is residing at such address, the board shall not send [~~him~~] **them** any further military ballots unless [~~he~~] **such military voter** applies for them in the regular way, giving a new

military address. If such military voter is not residing at such permanent address, the board of elections shall send a confirmation notice to such military voter at [~~his~~] their last military address pursuant to the provisions of section 5-712 of this chapter and shall place the registration of such voter in inactive status. However, if such a voter notifies the board of elections that [~~he has~~] they have moved to a new military address, the board shall restore the registration of such voter to active status in the manner prescribed by section 5-213 of this chapter and the voter shall continue to receive a ballot for elections in which the voter is entitled to vote pursuant to paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section 10-108 of this article.

§ 14. Paragraphs a and b of subdivision 1 of section 11-202 of the election law, paragraph a as amended by chapter 113 of the laws of 2023, paragraph b as amended by chapter 262 of the laws of 2003, are amended to read as follows:

a. A person, who, pursuant to this title, is qualified to vote as a special federal voter may, by application received by the state board of elections or any local board of elections on or before the tenth day next preceding any election in which such person would be entitled to vote or the last day of local registration for such election, whichever is later, apply to the board of elections of the county in which they resided in person or by personal application by mail, facsimile transmission, electronic mail, or other electronic method established by the state board of elections, for registration and enrollment as a special federal voter. An application for registration and enrollment pursuant to this article shall be treated as an application for a special federal ballot for every election in which the applicant would be eligible to vote [~~which is held through and including the next two regularly scheduled general elections held in even numbered years, including any run-offs which may occur~~] and shall remain in effect unless the special federal voter's registration is cancelled or inactivated, the voter ceases to meet the qualifications to vote as a special federal voter, or the voter requests otherwise, whichever occurs first.

b. A person who, pursuant to the provisions of this title, is already registered as a special federal voter, may, by application received by the state board of elections or any local board of elections, apply to the board of elections of the county in which [~~he is~~] they are so registered in person or by mail, facsimile transmission, electronic mail, or other electronic method established by the state board of elections, for a special federal ballot. Such an application shall entitle such a voter to receive a ballot for every election in which such voter is entitled to vote [~~which is held through and including the next two regularly scheduled general elections held in even numbered years, including any run-offs which may occur~~] and shall remain in effect unless the special federal voter's registration is cancelled or placed in inactive status, the voter ceases to meet the qualifications to vote as a special federal voter, or the voter requests otherwise, whichever occurs first, provided, however, such application shall not apply to any election held on or before the seventh day after receipt of such application.

§ 15. Subdivision 2 of section 11-203 of the election law, as added by chapter 104 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

2. Irrespective of the preferred method of transmission designated by a special federal voter, a special federal voter's [~~original completed voter registration application, special federal ballot application and~~] special federal ballot must be returned by mail or in person [~~notwith-~~

~~standing that a prior copy was sent to the board of elections by facsimile transmission or electronic mail~~].

§ 16. Subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 11-208 of the election law, as amended by chapter 200 of the laws of 1996, are amended to read as follows:

1. Voters registered pursuant to this title shall be eligible to vote in every election in which special federal voters are eligible to vote which is held on or after the [~~thirtieth~~] **tenth** day after receipt of their applications for such registration.

2. If any ballot, application form or other mail sent to a special federal voter at [~~his~~] **their** address outside the United States by such board is returned by the post office as undeliverable, the board of elections shall send a confirmation notice to such special federal voter at such address pursuant to the provisions of section 5-712 of this chapter and shall place the registration of such voter in inactive status. If the board of elections subsequently receives notice of a new address outside the United States for such voter, or notice that the voter is still at the same address outside the United States, the board shall restore the registration of such voter to active status in the manner prescribed by section 5-213 of this chapter **and the voter shall continue to receive a ballot for elections in which the voter is entitled to vote pursuant to paragraph b of subdivision one of section 11-202 of this article**.

§ 17. Subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 11-210 of the election law, as amended by chapter 262 of the laws of 2003, are amended to read as follows:

1. Not earlier than sixty or later than forty days before each general or primary election in which special federal voters are eligible to vote, the board of elections shall mail to each voter who is eligible to vote in such election and who was registered pursuant to this title for the previous election at which such voters were eligible to vote, the application for a special federal ballot provided for by this title; provided, however, the board of elections shall not send such an application to any person who [~~has applied for a ballot and who~~] is **already** entitled to receive a ballot for such election.

2. If a special election for representative in congress is called by proclamation of the governor, such an application shall be mailed to each voter registered pursuant to this title, who is eligible to vote in such special election, not later than three days after the issuance of the proclamation for such special election; provided, however, the board of elections shall not send such an application to any person who [~~has applied for a ballot and who~~] is **already** entitled to receive a ballot for such election.

§ 18. Subdivision 4 of section 15-119 of the election law, as added by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

4. The application for an early mail ballot when filed must contain in each instance the following information:

(a) Applicant's full name, date of birth, and residence address, including the street and number, if any, rural delivery route, if any, mailing address if different from the residence address and their village and an address to which the ballot shall be mailed.

(b) A statement that the applicant is a registered voter.

(c) Such application shall permit the applicant to apply for an early mail ballot for a single election or for all remaining elections in the [~~calendar year~~] **election cycle** for which the voter is eligible to vote. **For purposes of this section, "election cycle" means the two-year period**

beginning on January first in an odd-numbered year and ending on December thirty-first in the subsequent even-numbered year.

§ 19. Subdivision 4 of section 15-120 of the election law is amended by adding a new paragraph (c-1) to read as follows:

(c-1) If the applicant does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to an absentee ballot as required by paragraph (c) of this subdivision, the application shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to section 15-119 of this article.

§ 20. Subdivision 5 of section 15-120 of the election law, as amended by chapter 289 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

5. An application must be received by the village clerk no earlier than four months before the election for which an absentee ballot is sought. If the application requests that the absentee ballot be mailed, such application must be received not later than seven days before the election. If the applicant or [~~his or her~~] **their** agent delivers the application to the village clerk in person, such application must be received not later than the day before the election. The village clerk shall examine each application and shall determine from the information contained therein whether the applicant is qualified under this section to receive an absentee ballot. **Provided that, an application for an absentee ballot that does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to such a ballot shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to paragraph (c-1) of subdivision four of this section and section 15-119 of this article.** The clerk in making such decision shall not determine whether the applicant is a qualified elector, said determination being reserved to the inspectors of election as is hereinafter provided in subdivision nine of this section.

§ 21. Subdivision 6 of section 15-122 of the election law, as amended by chapter 84 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

6. Printed forms containing the application for the absentee ballot, in accordance with the requirements of this section, shall be in the form prescribed by the state board of elections and shall be provided by the village clerk and shall be available at the office of the clerk. Application forms for absentee ballots for use pursuant to this section shall be furnished by the village clerk upon request of the person authorized to vote under this section or by any such person's spouse, parent, child, authorized agent or any nurse charged with the care of such person. **The printed form shall indicate that if the applicant does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to an absentee ballot, the application will be processed as an application for an early mail ballot, and the applicant will be sent an early mail ballot if otherwise eligible. The standard application form shall indicate that if the applicant does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to an absentee ballot, the application will be processed as an application for an early mail ballot, and the applicant will be sent an early mail ballot if otherwise eligible.**

§ 22. Section 17-132 of the election law is amended by adding a second closing paragraph to read as follows:

Provided, further, that a person whose absentee ballot application is processed as an early mail ballot application pursuant to section 8-402 or section 15-120 of this chapter is not subject to penalty under subdivision seven of this section for attempting to vote as an absentee voter.

§ 23. Paragraph b of subdivision 2 of section 2018-a of the education law, as added by chapter 616 of the laws of 2019, is amended and a new paragraph c-1 is added to read as follows:

b. Each person entitled to vote as an absentee voter pursuant to this section and desirous of obtaining an absentee ballot shall make written application therefor to the district clerk. Application forms for use pursuant to this section shall be in a form prescribed by the state board of elections. **The standard application form shall indicate that if the applicant does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to an absentee ballot, the application will be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to paragraph c-1 of this subdivision, and the applicant will be sent an early mail ballot if otherwise eligible.** The use of any application which is on a form prescribed by the state board of elections shall be acceptable.

c-1. If the applicant does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to an absentee ballot pursuant to paragraph c of this subdivision, the application shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to section two thousand eighteen-e of this part.

§ 24. Subdivision 3 of section 2018-a of the education law, as added by chapter 219 of the laws of 1978, is amended to read as follows:

3. If, upon examining the application required under the provisions of subdivision two of this section, and upon such inquiry as it deems proper, the board of registration shall be satisfied that the applicant is a qualified voter of the district, and entitled to vote by absentee ballot, such board shall place [~~his~~] **their** name upon the register, thereupon the applicant shall be issued or mailed an absentee voter's ballot and the board of registration shall make an appropriate entry on the register indicating that an absentee ballot has been applied for by, and issued to, the applicant. **Provided, that an application for an absentee ballot that does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to such a ballot pursuant to paragraph c of subdivision two of this section shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to section two thousand eighteen-e of this part.**

§ 25. Subdivision 5 of section 2018-a of the education law, as added by chapter 219 of the laws of 1978, paragraph a as amended by chapter 375 of the laws of 1984, paragraph b as amended by section 8 of part LL of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

5. a. The board of registration shall enclose each absentee voter's ballot in an envelope which shall be labelled:

ELECTION MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

On one side of such envelope shall be printed:

OFFICIAL BALLOT[~~, ABSENTEE VOTER~~]
for
School District Election

Name of Voter .....

Residence (street and number, if any) .....

City (or Town) of .....

County of .....

School district .....

School Election District (if applicable) .....

The date of the election and name of the school district shall be printed, and the name of the voter, residence, school district and school election district (if applicable) shall be written in by the board of registration.

b. On the reverse side of such envelope shall be printed the following statement:

STATEMENT OF [~~ABSENTEE~~] VOTER

I do declare that I am a citizen of the United States, and will be at least eighteen years of age, on the date of the school district election; that I will have been a resident of this state and of the school district and school election district, if any, shown on the reverse side of this envelope for thirty days next preceding the said election and duly registered in the school district and school election district, if any, shown on the reverse side of this envelope and that I am or on such date will be, a qualified voter of said school district; [~~that I will be unable to appear personally on the day of said school district election at the polling place of the said district in which I am or will be a qualified voter because of the reason stated on my application heretofore submitted~~] **that the information contained on my application for this ballot is true and correct**; that I have not qualified, or do I intend to vote, elsewhere than as set forth on the reverse side of this envelope; that I have not received or offered, do not expect to receive, have not paid, offered or promised to pay, contributed, offered or promised to contribute to another to be paid or used, any money or other valuable thing, as a compensation or reward for the giving or withholding of a vote at this school district election, and have not made any promise to influence the giving or withholding of any such votes; that I have not made or become directly or indirectly interested in any bet or wager depending upon the result of this school district election; and that I have not been convicted of bribery or any infamous crime, or, if so convicted, that I have been pardoned or restored to all the rights of a citizen, without restriction as to the right of suffrage, or received a certificate of relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct pursuant to article twenty-three of the correction law removing my disability to register and vote.

I hereby declare that the foregoing is a true statement to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that if I make any material false statement in the foregoing statement of [~~absentee~~] voter, I shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Date.....Signature of Voter .....

c. The envelope shall be gummed, ready for sealing, and shall have printed thereon, on the side opposite the statement, instructions as to the duties of the voter after the marking of the ballot, which instructions shall include a specific direction stating that the envelope must reach the office of the clerk of the school district not later than five P.M. on the day of the election in order that [~~his~~] **their** vote may be canvassed.

d. A person who shall make any material false statement in the statement of [~~absentee~~] voter appearing on the reverse side of the envelope as provided in this subdivision, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 26. Paragraph a of subdivision 2 of section 2018-b of the education law, as amended by chapter 46 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

a. An applicant for such an absentee ballot shall submit an application setting forth (1) [~~his~~] **their** name and residence address, including the street and number, if any, or town and rural delivery route, if any; (2) that [~~he~~] **such applicant** is or will be, on the day of the school district election, a qualified voter of the school district in which [~~he resides~~] **they reside** in that [~~he is~~] **they are** or will be, on such date, over eighteen years of age, a citizen of the United States and has or will have resided in the district for thirty days next preceding such date; (3) that [~~he~~] **they** will be unable to appear to vote in person on the day of the school district election for which the absentee ballot is requested because [~~he is~~] **they are**, or will be on such day (a) a patient in a hospital, or unable to appear personally at the polling place on such day because of illness or physical disability or (b) because [~~his~~] **their** duties, occupation, business, or studies will require [~~him~~] **them** to be outside of the county or city of [~~his~~] **their** residence on such day, (c) because [~~he~~] **they** will be on vacation outside the county or city of [~~his~~] **their** residence on such day; or, (d) absent from [~~his~~] **their** voting residence because [~~he is~~] **they are** detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial or [~~is~~] **are** confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony. Such application must be received by the district clerk or designee of the trustees or school board at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. **Provided that, if the applicant does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to an absentee ballot pursuant to this subdivision, the application shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to section two thousand eighteen-f of this part.**

§ 27. Subdivision 3 of section 2018-b of the education law, as amended by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

3. If, upon examining the application required under the provisions of subdivision two of this section, and upon such inquiry as it deems proper, the clerk of the school district or designee of the trustees or school board shall be satisfied that the applicant is a qualified voter of the district, and entitled to vote by absentee ballot, such clerk of the school district or designee of the trustees or school board shall cause to be issued or mailed to the applicant an absentee voter's ballot and the clerk of the school district or designee of the trustees or school board shall make an appropriate entry on the poll list pursuant to section two thousand twenty-nine of this part. **Provided that, an application for an absentee ballot that does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to such a ballot shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant paragraph a of subdivision two of this section and section two thousand eighteen-f of this part.**

§ 28. Subdivision 6 of section 2018-b of the education law, as amended by chapter 46 of the laws of 1992, paragraph b as amended by section 9 of part LL of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

6. a. The clerk of the school district or designee of the trustees or school board shall enclose each absentee voter's ballot in an envelope which shall be labelled:

ELECTION MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

On one side of such envelope shall be printed:

OFFICIAL BALLOT, [~~ABSENTEE VOTER~~]
for
School District Election

Name of Voter .....
Residence (street and number, if any) .....
City (or Town) of .....
County of .....
School District .....
School Election District (if applicable) .....

The date of the election and name of the school district shall be printed, and the name of the voter, residence, school district and school election district (if applicable) shall be included.

b. On the reverse side of such envelope shall be printed the following statement:

STATEMENT OF [~~ABSENTEE~~] VOTER

I do declare that I am a citizen of the United States, and will be at least eighteen years of age on the date of the school district election; that I will have been a resident of this state and of the school district and school election district, if any, shown on the reverse side of this envelope for thirty days next preceding the said election and that I am or on such date will be, a qualified voter of said school district; [~~that I will be unable to appear personally on the day of said school district election at the polling place of the said district in which I am or will be a qualified voter because of the reason stated on my application heretofore submitted~~] **that the information contained on my application for this ballot is true and correct**; that I have not qualified, or do I intend to vote, elsewhere than as set forth on the reverse side of this envelope; that I have not received or offered, do not expect to receive, have not paid, offered or promised to pay, contributed, offered or promised to contribute to another to be paid or used, any money or other valuable thing, as a compensation or reward for the giving or withholding of a vote at this school district election, and have not made any promise to influence the giving or withholding of any such votes; that I have not made or become directly or indirectly interested in any bet or wager depending upon the result of this school district election; and that I have not been convicted of bribery or any infamous crime, or, if so convicted, that I have been pardoned or restored to all the rights of a citizen, without restriction as to the right of suffrage, or have received a certificate of relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct pursuant to article twenty-three of the correction law removing my disability to vote.

I hereby declare that the foregoing is a true statement to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that if I make any material false statement in the foregoing statement of [~~absentee~~] voter, I shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Date.....Signature of Voter .....

c. The envelope shall be gummed, ready for sealing, and shall have printed thereon, on the side opposite the statement, instructions as to the duties of the voter after the marking of the ballot, which instructions shall include a specific direction stating that the envelope must reach the office of the clerk of the school district or designee of the trustees or school board not later than five P.M. on the day of the election in order that [~~his~~] **their** vote may be canvassed.

d. A person who shall make any material false statement in the statement of the [~~absentee~~] voter appearing on the reverse side of the envelope as provided in this subdivision, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 29. Subdivision 5 of section 2018-e of the education law, as added by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

5. a. The board of registration shall enclose each early mail voter's ballot in an envelope which shall be labelled:

ELECTION MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

On one side of such envelope shall be printed:

OFFICIAL BALLOT[~~, EARLY MAIL VOTER~~]
for
School District Election

Name of Voter .....
Residence (street and number, if any) .....
City (or Town) of .....
County of .....
School District .....
School Election District (if applicable) .....

The date of the election and name of the school district shall be printed, and the name of the voter, residence, school district and school election district (if applicable) shall be written in by the board of registration.

b. On the reverse side of such envelope shall be printed the following statement:

STATEMENT OF [~~EARLY MAIL~~] VOTER

I do declare that I am a citizen of the United States, and will be at least eighteen years of age, on the date of the school district election; that I will have been a resident of this state and of the school district and school election district, if any, shown on the reverse side of this envelope for thirty days next preceding the said election and duly registered in the school district and school election district, if any, shown on the reverse side of this envelope and that I am or on such date will be, a qualified voter of said school district; **that the information contained on my application for this ballot is true and correct;** that I have not qualified, or do I intend to vote, elsewhere than as set forth on the reverse side of this envelope; that I have not received or offered, do not expect to receive, have not paid, offered or promised to pay, contributed, offered or promised to contribute to another to be paid or used, any money or other valuable thing, as a compensation or reward for the giving or withholding of a vote at this school district election, and have not made any promise to influence the giving or withholding of any such votes; that I have not made or become directly or indirectly interested in any bet or wager depending upon the result of this school district election; and that I have not been convicted of bribery or any infamous crime, or, if so convicted, that I have been pardoned or restored to all the rights of a citizen, without restriction as to the right of suffrage, or received a certificate of

relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct pursuant to article twenty-three of the correction law removing my disability to register and vote.

I hereby declare that the foregoing is a true statement to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that if I make any material false statement in the foregoing statement of [~~early mail~~] voter, I shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Date..... Signature of Voter.....

c. The envelope shall be gummed, ready for sealing, and shall have printed thereon, on the side opposite the statement, instructions as to the duties of the voter after the marking of the ballot, which instructions shall include a specific direction stating that the envelope must reach the office of the clerk of the school district not later than five P.M. on the day of the election in order that their vote may be canvassed.

d. A person who shall make any material false statement in the statement of [~~early mail~~] voter appearing on the reverse side of the envelope as provided in this subdivision, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 30. Subdivision 6 of section 2018-f of the education law, as added by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

6. a. The clerk of the school district or designee of the trustees or school board shall enclose each early mail voter's ballot in an envelope which shall be labelled:

ELECTION MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

On one side of such envelope shall be printed:

OFFICIAL BALLOT[~~, EARLY MAIL VOTER~~]
for
School District Election

Name of Voter .....
Residence (street and number, if any) .....
City (or Town) of .....
County of .....
School District .....
School Election District (if applicable) .....

The date of the election and name of the school district shall be printed, and the name of the voter, residence, school district and school election district (if applicable) shall be included.

b. On the reverse side of such envelope shall be printed the following statement:

STATEMENT OF [~~EARLY MAIL~~] VOTER

I do declare that I am a citizen of the United States, and will be at least eighteen years of age on the date of the school district election; that I will have been a resident of this state and of the school district and school election district, if any, shown on the reverse side of this envelope for thirty days next preceding the said election and that I am or on such date will be, a qualified voter of said school district; **that the information contained on my application for this ballot is true and correct;** that I have not qualified, or do I intend to vote, elsewhere than as set forth on the reverse side of this envelope; that I have not received or offered, do not expect to receive, have not paid, offered or promised to pay, contributed, offered or promised to contribute to another to be paid or used, any money or other valuable thing, as a compensation or reward for the giving or withholding of a

vote at this school district election, and have not made any promise to influence the giving or withholding of any such votes; that I have not made or become directly or indirectly interested in any bet or wager depending upon the result of this school district election; and that I have not been convicted of bribery or any infamous crime, or, if so convicted, that I have been pardoned or restored to all the rights of a citizen, without restriction as to the right of suffrage, or have received a certificate of relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct pursuant to article twenty-three of the correction law removing my disability to vote.

I hereby declare that the foregoing is a true statement to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that if I make any material false statement in the foregoing statement of [~~early mail~~] voter, I shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Date ..... Signature of Voter .....

c. The envelope shall be gummed, ready for sealing, and shall have printed thereon, on the side opposite the statement, instructions as to the duties of the voter after the marking of the ballot, which instructions shall include a specific direction stating that the envelope must reach the office of the clerk of the school district or designee of the trustees or school board not later than five P.M. on the day of the election in order that their vote may be canvassed.

d. A person who shall make any material false statement in the statement of the [~~early mail~~] voter appearing on the reverse side of the envelope as provided in this subdivision, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 31. Subdivision 2 of section 84-a of the town law is amended by adding a new paragraph a-1 to read as follows:

a-1. If the applicant does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to an absentee ballot as required by paragraph a of this subdivision, the application shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to section eighty-four-b of this article.

§ 32. Subdivision 3 of section 84-a of the town law, as added by chapter 396 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

3. If, upon examining the application required under the provisions of subdivision two of this section, and upon such inquiry as it deems proper, the board of inspectors shall be satisfied that the applicant is a qualified voter of the town, and entitled to vote by absentee ballot, such board of inspectors shall place [~~his~~] **their** name upon a list, thereupon the applicant shall be issued or mailed an absentee voter's ballot and the town clerk shall make an appropriate entry on the list indicating that an absentee ballot has been applied for by, and issued to, the applicant. **Provided, that an application for an absentee ballot that does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to such a ballot shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot pursuant to paragraph a-1 of subdivision two of this section and section eighty-four-b of this article.**

§ 33. Subdivision 5 of section 84-a of the town law, as added by chapter 396 of the laws of 1988, paragraph b as amended by section 10 of part LL of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

5. a. The board of registration shall enclose each absentee voter's ballot in an envelope which shall be labelled:

ELECTION MATERIAL

PLEASE EXPEDITE

On one side of such envelope shall be printed:

OFFICIAL BALLOT[~~, ABSENTEE VOTER~~]
for
Special Town Election

Name of Voter.....
Residence (street and number, if any).....
Town of.....
County of.....

The date of the election and name of the town shall be printed, and the name of the voter, residence and district shall be written in by the town clerk.

b. On the reverse side of such envelope shall be printed the following statement:

STATEMENT OF [~~ABSENTEE~~] VOTER

I do declare that I will have been a citizen of the United States for thirty days, and will be at least eighteen years of age, on the date of the special town election; that I will have been a resident of this state and of the town shown on the reverse side of this envelope for thirty days next preceding the said election; that I am or on such date will be, a registered voter of said town; [~~that I will be unable to appear personally on the day of said special town election at the polling place of the election district in which I am or will be a qualified voter because of the reason stated on my application heretofore submitted~~] **that the information contained on my application for this ballot is true and correct**; that I have not qualified, or do I intend to vote, elsewhere than as set forth on the reverse side of this envelope; that I have not received or offered, do not expect to receive, have not paid, offered or promised to pay, contributed, offered or promised to contribute to another to be paid or used, any money or other valuable thing, as a compensation or reward for the giving or withholding of a vote at this special town election, and have not made any promise to influence the giving or withholding of any such votes; that I have not made or become directly or indirectly interested in any bet or wager depending upon the result of this special town election; and that I have not been convicted of bribery or any infamous crime, or, if so convicted, that I have been pardoned or restored to all the rights of a citizen, without restriction as to the right of suffrage, or received a certificate of relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct pursuant to article twenty-three of the correction law removing my disability to register and vote.

I hereby declare that the foregoing is a true statement to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that if I make any material false statement in the foregoing statement of [~~absentee~~] voter, I shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Date..... Signature of Voter.....

c. The envelope shall be gummed, ready for sealing, and shall have printed thereon, on the side opposite the statement, instructions as to the duties of the voter after the marking of the ballot, which instructions shall include a specific direction stating that the envelope must reach the office of the town clerk not later than five P.M. on the day of the election in order that [~~his~~] **their** vote may be canvassed.

d. A person who shall make any material false statement in the statement of [~~absentee~~] voter appearing on the reverse side of the envelope as provided in this subdivision, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 34. Subdivision 5 of section 84-b of the town law, as added by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

5. a. The board of registration shall enclose each early mail voter's ballot in an envelope which shall be labelled:

ELECTION MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

On one side of such envelope shall be printed:

OFFICIAL BALLOT[~~, EARLY MAIL VOTER~~]
for
Special Town Election

Name of Voter .....
Residence (street and number, if any) .....
Town of .....
County of .....

The date of the election and name of the town shall be printed, and the name of the voter, residence and district shall be written in by the town clerk.

b. On the reverse side of such envelope shall be printed the following statement:

STATEMENT OF [~~EARLY MAIL~~] VOTER

I do declare that I will have been a citizen of the United States for thirty days, and will be at least eighteen years of age, on the date of the special town election; that I will have been a resident of this state and of the town shown on the reverse side of this envelope for thirty days next preceding the said election; that I am or on such date will be, a registered voter of said town; **that the information contained on my application for this ballot is true and correct;** that I have not qualified, or do I intend to vote, elsewhere than as set forth on the reverse side of this envelope; that I have not received or offered, do not expect to receive, have not paid, offered or promised to pay, contributed, offered or promised to contribute to another to be paid or used, any money or other valuable thing, as a compensation or reward for the giving or withholding of a vote at this special town election, and have not made any promise to influence the giving or withholding of any such votes; that I have not made or become directly or indirectly interested in any bet or wager depending upon the result of this special town election; and that I have not been convicted of bribery or any infamous crime, or, if so convicted, that I have been pardoned or restored to all the rights of a citizen, without restriction as to the right of suffrage, or received a certificate of relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct pursuant to article twenty-three of the correction law removing my disability to register and vote.

I hereby declare that the foregoing is a true statement to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that if I make any material false statement in the foregoing statement of [~~early mail~~] voter, I shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Date.... Signature of Voter....

c. The envelope shall be gummed, ready for sealing, and shall have printed thereon, on the side opposite the statement, instructions as to the duties of the voter after the marking of the ballot, which instructions shall include a specific direction stating that the envelope must reach the office of the town clerk not later than five P.M. on the day of the election in order that their vote may be canvassed.

d. A person who shall make any material false statement in the statement of [~~early mail~~] voter appearing on the reverse side of the envelope as provided in this subdivision, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 35. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.