

Supporting The Passage Of New York State Senate Bill 7622, An Act To Amend The Election Law, In Relation To Requiring The State To Assume The Cost Of Purchasing Ballots For General Elections And Primaries

Referred to: The Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee (Chairman Richard Parete and Legislators Archer, Donaldson, Roberts, and Ronk)

Legislator Peter M. Loughran offers the following:

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 7622 has been introduced in the 2013-2014 Legislative Session which requires the State to assume the cost of purchasing ballots for general elections and primaries; and

WHEREAS, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 mandated that States and localities upgrade their election procedures, including the purchase of paper ballot scanning machines which not only recorded a vote but also maintained paper ballot records; and

WHEREAS, the prior lever machines had relatively inexpensive rolls of paper that could be easily removed and the votes physically counted; and

WHEREAS, the new scanner voter machines have expensive individual ballots which scans the vote while at the same time stores the paper ballot; and

WHEREAS, Election Commissioners in all 62 Counties are mandated to purchase ballots for 100% of the registered voters rather than estimate and purchase individual ballots for the actual number of anticipated votes; and

WHEREAS, there are only two places where the ballots can be printed and purchased, Phoenix Graphics and Fort Orange Press, with a cost range of 42 to 57 cents or higher per ballot; and

WHEREAS, all unused ballots are held for four months and then discarded; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2014, the New York State League of Women Voters testified for the need of State monies to ensure the “acquisition of technological tools that will provide an accurate, reliable, professional voting system that will instill confidence in all voters”; and

WHEREAS, varying greatly from year-to-year, the cost for purchasing Ulster County election ballots continues to be substantial, \$52,249.04 in 2011, \$90,493.98 in 2012, and \$51,459.80 in 2013; and

Resolution No. 191 June 17, 2014

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WHEREAS, Senate Bill 7622 would provide relief to Ulster County by reimbursing the County for the purchase of the individual ballots to be used in all general and primary elections; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges the New York State Governor and Legislature to ensure the passage of Senate Bill 7622; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York State Senate Majority Co-Leader Dean Skelos, Majority Co-Leader Jeff Klein, Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Election Committee Chair Thomas O'Mara, and Senators William Larkin, Jr., John Bonacic, Cecelia Tkaczyk and James Seward, New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Assembly Election Law Committee Chair Michael Cusick and Assemblymen Claudia Tenney, Peter Lopez, Kevin Cahill and Frank Skartados,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

No Action Taken by Committee: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services on June 16, 2014

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE