

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/N.Y.S.
62 Grand Street ■ Albany, New York 12207 ■ 518 465-4162
NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (NYPIRG)
107 Washington Avenue, 2nd Floor ■ Albany, New York 12210 ■ 518 436-0876

MEMO OF OPPOSITION

A.9321-A (Schimel)

June 16, 2014

AN ACT to amend Chapter 359 of the laws of 2010 amending the education law relating to use of lever voting machines; to amend chapter 3 of the laws of 2011 amending the election law relating to the number and use of voting machines in village elections; and to amend chapter 170 of the laws of 2011 amending the town law relating to the types of voting machines used in certain elections, in relation to extending the provisions of such chapters

Summary of Provisions

This legislation would permit the use of lever voting machines for school district, town, village and special districts for a one-year period and require the New York State Board of Elections to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by January 31, 2015, concerning the administration of these elections and to include recommendations and guidance on how these jurisdictions can migrate to the use of voting machines that are compliant with section 7-202 of the NYS Election Law. The bill requires the participation of certain stakeholders, but does not include persons with disabilities who are regularly disenfranchised by the continued use of lever voting machines.

Statement of Opposition

By permitting the continued use of lever voting machines, New York State sets up a separate parallel voting system for specific classes of elections. A uniform and standardized voting system, used for all classes of elections, promotes confidence in the reliability and efficiency of our elections and is important for public understanding of our election system.

Our organizations fully supported the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the New York State Election Reform Modernization Act (ERMA) and their goals of using voting systems that provide a permanent paper record and manual audit capacity and that promote accessibility for persons with disabilities. Lever voting machines do not meet those requirements.

The League of Women Voters/N.Y.S. and NYPIRG urge you to reject this bill.