Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	Res 2023-2013	**Version:** *	**Name:**	Voter Empowerment Act of New York. (A.187-A)
Type:	Resolution		**Status:**	Filed
			In control:	Committee on Governmental Operations
On agenda:	11/14/2013			
Enactment date:			**Enactment #:**	
Title:	Resolution in support of A.187A, also known as the Voter Empowerment Act of New York, which would streamline and improve the voter registration system in the city of New York.			
Sponsors:				
Indexes:				
Attachments:				

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
11/14/2013	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
11/14/2013	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
12/31/2013	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Res. No. 2023

Resolution in support of A.187A, also known as the Voter Empowerment Act of New York, which would streamline and improve the voter registration system in the city of New York.

By Council Members Brewer, Chin, James, Koppell, Lander and Wills

Whereas, According to the New York State Governor's Office, New York State ranks 47th in the nation in voter registration, with less than 64% of eligible New Yorkers registered to vote; and

Whereas, The League of Women Voters reported that only 18.4 percent of New Yorkers turned out to vote in the New York City citywide elections of 2009; and

Whereas, The voter registration system is currently a costly paper-based system that is prone to human error, which could potentially disenfranchise a voter if a mistake is made; and

Whereas, Modernizing the antiquated New York voter registration process to an electronic system will help increase the amount of voters registering while saving money; and

Whereas, Other counties that implemented electronic registration systems, such as Maricopa County in

powered by Legistar™

Arizona, have saved money on data entry, printing, and mailing costs totaling more than $450,000 in 2008 alone; and

Whereas, By modernizing the voting registration system, voters will be able to register to vote and change their party affiliation closer to Election Day, have their registration information transferred to the correct county if they move within the state, and access and update their voter registration records online; and

Whereas, The Brennan Center for Justice has noted that New Yorkers can already bank and pay their taxes online, and should also be allowed to safely and securely access and update their voter registration forms online; and

Whereas, In order to increase voter turnout and ease the process of registration, the Voter Empowerment Act would allow certain government agencies to automatically and electronically transfer voter registration information to local election offices, provided that the eligible citizen consents; and

Whereas, In other states, such as Washington and Kansas, where such modernized ways of registration have already been implemented, the number of voters able to register and cast a ballot have doubled through the electronic registration transactions at DMVs; and

Whereas, In a report of the New York City Campaign Finance Board, adults under the age of 30 were found to be less likely to vote than older adults, while a Project Vote study of the 2008 election found that voters age 18 to 29 were both underrepresented in the electorate and less likely to be registered; and

Whereas, In order to address such disparities in voting amongst the young adult population, the Voter Empowerment Act will permit sixteen and seventeen year-olds to pre-register and allow college students to vote in the community they consider home; and

Whereas, If a youth considers his or her parental community of primary concern, the student will retain his or her residence for voting purposes, however if the community of the New York college or university in which a student resides is of primary concern to the student, he or she will be permitted to register to vote

within this community, thereby potentially increasing participation among young voters; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York supports A.187A, also known as the Voter Empowerment Act of New York, which would streamline and improve the voter registration system in the city of New York.

TH
LS4970
10/24/2013