



## MEMO OF SUPPORT

### [A3250-A \(Epstein\) / S6735-A \(May\)](#)

*Allows pre-registered voters to apply for an absentee ballot*

March 2024

#### **TITLE OF BILL**

An act to amend the election law, in relation to allowing pre-registered voters to apply for an absentee or early mail ballot.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

Section 1 adds a new subdivision 3 to Election Law §5-102 to provide that pre-registered voters shall be considered “qualified voters” for the purpose of requesting an absentee ballot provided that they will be 18 years old or over on Election Day.

Section 2 provides a severability clause.

Section 3 states that the bill takes effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

We support this legislation because it will enable more young people to exercise their right to vote.

State law currently prohibits individuals under 18 from requesting an absentee ballot even if they will be of age on Election Day. It’s unreasonable to block an eligible voter from voting absentee simply because their birthday falls between the request date and the day of the election. The current provision also prevents young voters who are disabled or immunocompromised from being able to vote in a way that meets their needs.

We urge the Assembly and Senate to pass the bill, and the Governor to sign it.