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Youth And Government

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Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 1

Bill #:SF-01

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2 **Sponsors:** Natalie Rivoli, Keelan Crowley, Anne Kosanke, Francesca Fornuto,
3 William Hourihan
4 **An Act To** amend the New York State Constitution Article 3 Section 14.
5 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*
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7 **Purpose:** To grant citizens the direct opportunity to either approve or reject
8 legislation.

9 **Summary of Provisions**

10 **Section 1: Definitions**

11 Referendum: a general vote by the electorate on a single political question which
12 has been referred to them for a direct decision.

13 **Section 2: Provisions**

14 New York State Constitution Article 3 Section 14.

15 No bill shall be passed or become a law unless it shall have

16 been printed and upon the desks of the members, in its final form, at
17 least three calendar legislative days prior to its final passage, unless
18 the governor, or the acting governor, shall have certified, under his or
19 her hand and the seal of the state, the facts which in his or her
20 opinion necessitate an immediate vote thereon, in which case it must
21 nevertheless be upon the desks of the members in final form, not
22 necessarily printed, before its final passage; nor shall any bill be
23 passed or become a law, except by the assent of a majority of the
24 members elected to each branch of the legislature; and upon the last
25 reading of a bill, no amendment thereof shall be allowed, and the
26 question upon its final passage shall be taken immediately thereafter,
27 and the ayes and nays entered on the journal.

28 a. In the event that a bill receives the signatures of 5% of voters of the most
29 recent governmental election, referendum will be justified to be presented on
30 the statewide election ballot.

31 For purposes of this section, a bill shall be deemed to be printed and
32 upon the desks of the members if: it is set forth in a legible
33 electronic format by electronic means, and it is available for review in
34 such format at the desks of the members. For purposes of this section
35 "electronic means" means any method of transmission of information
36 between computers or other machines designed for the purpose of sending
37 and receiving such transmissions and which: allows the recipient to
38 reproduce the information transmitted in a tangible medium of

39 expression; and does not permit additions, deletions or other changes to
40 be made without leaving an adequate record thereof.

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43 **Justification**

44 Today the civic duty of voting is often neglected because citizens feel as if their
45 voice isn't being heard in legislation. By promoting statewide referendum, more
46 citizens will be encouraged to vote, increasing the representation of the common
47 citizen and furthering direct democracy. Controversial laws will be left to be decided
48 upon by citizens rather than by representatives, who vote based on party
49 preference.

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51 **Fiscal Implications**

52 Each ballot costs 15 cents to print, a cost which is already accounted for through
53 state budget. Around 400,000 dollars are spent each year to print statewide
54 election ballots. Adding referendum to the ballot will not add any additional costs to
55 the budget.

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57 **Effective Date**

58 This bill will go into effect one year after passage.

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60 **Environmental Implications**

61 This bill will have no further environmental implications due to the fact that ballots
62 are already being printed for statewide elections annually.

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