



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**Raised Bill No. 5124**

LCO No. 1003

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE METHOD OF SELECTING  
PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-175 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The electors in the several towns in the state, at the state election  
4 in [1964] 2004, and quadrennially thereafter, shall elect two at large  
5 electors of President and Vice President of the United States [, not  
6 exceeding in number the whole number of senators and  
7 representatives to which the state is then entitled in the Congress of  
8 the United States] and the electors in the several towns in each  
9 congressional district in the state, at said election and quadrennially  
10 thereafter, shall also elect one other elector of President and Vice  
11 President of the United States for said district. Voting shall be  
12 conducted and the result declared, and the returns thereof made, as is  
13 provided in respect to state elections. The Secretary of the State shall,  
14 on or before the first Monday of October of the year in which such  
15 presidential electors are to be elected, transmit blank forms to the

16 several town clerks for the return of the votes; and the lists and returns  
17 of the votes shall be made out, certified and directed according to such  
18 forms. When an election is to be held for the choice of presidential  
19 electors, if any political party has nominated candidates for President  
20 and Vice President of the United States, and presidential electors to  
21 vote for such presidential and vice presidential candidates have been  
22 nominated by a political convention of such party in this state, or in  
23 such other manner as entitles the names of such electors to be placed  
24 upon the official ballots to be used in such election, the Secretary of the  
25 State and any other official charged with the preparation of official  
26 ballots to be used in such election, in lieu of placing the names of such  
27 presidential electors on such official ballots, shall place on such official  
28 ballots a space with the words "Presidential electors for (here insert the  
29 last name of the candidate for President, the word 'and' and the last  
30 name of the candidate for Vice President)"; and a vote cast therefor  
31 shall be counted, and shall be in all respects effective, as a vote for each  
32 of the two at large presidential electors and the single congressional  
33 district presidential elector, representing such candidates for President  
34 and Vice President.

35 (b) In the case of a write-in candidate for President of the United  
36 States, such candidate may register [his] the candidate's candidacy  
37 with the Secretary of the State by submitting [his] the candidate's name  
38 and the names of a vice presidential candidate, [and] not more than  
39 two at large candidates for the office of elector [in a number not  
40 exceeding the whole number of electors to which the state is then  
41 entitled] and not more than one candidate for the office of elector for  
42 each congressional district in the state. Such registration shall be on a  
43 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, which form shall include  
44 a statement of consent to being a candidate by each proposed  
45 candidate for elector and by the candidate for Vice President. Such  
46 registration shall not include a designation of political party. A  
47 candidate for President may register at any time after January first of  
48 the election year and not later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth  
49 day preceding the election at which the offices of presidential elector

50 and vice presidential elector are being contested. If a candidate has so  
51 registered, a vote may be cast by write-in ballot for such candidate by  
52 writing in the last name of the candidate for President and the last  
53 name of the candidate for Vice President or only the last name of the  
54 candidate for President; such write-in ballot shall be counted, and shall  
55 be in all respects effective, as a vote for each of the two at large  
56 presidential electors and the single congressional district presidential  
57 elector, representing such candidates for President and Vice President.  
58 No person nominated for the office of President, Vice President, or  
59 presidential elector by a major or minor party or by nominating  
60 petition shall register as a write-in candidate for such office under the  
61 provisions of this section and any such registration of a write-in  
62 candidacy filed by such a person shall be void.

63 Sec. 2. Section 9-315 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

65 The votes returned as cast for a senator in Congress, representatives  
66 in Congress and presidential electors shall be publicly counted by the  
67 Treasurer, Secretary of the State and Comptroller on the last  
68 Wednesday of the month in which they were cast, and such votes shall  
69 be counted in conformity to any decision rendered by the judges of the  
70 Supreme Court as provided in section 9-323. In accordance with the  
71 count so made, they shall, on said day, declare what persons are  
72 elected senators in the Congress of the United States or representatives  
73 in Congress, and the Secretary of the State shall forthwith notify them  
74 by mail of their election. [~~and they~~] The Treasurer, Secretary and  
75 Comptroller shall declare the [proper number of persons] two at large  
76 candidates for presidential elector having the greatest number of votes  
77 in the state to be presidential electors [and, in] and the candidate for  
78 presidential elector in each congressional district having the greatest  
79 number of votes in such congressional district to be a presidential  
80 elector. In case of an equal vote for [said] presidential electors, the  
81 Treasurer, Secretary and Comptroller shall determine by lot from the  
82 persons having such equal number of votes the person or persons

83 appointed, [, and the] The Secretary of the State shall forthwith notify  
84 them by mail of their appointment.

85 Sec. 3. Section 9-388 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
86 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

87 Whenever a convention of a political party is held for the  
88 endorsement of candidates for nomination to state or district office,  
89 each candidate endorsed at such convention shall file with the  
90 Secretary of the State a certificate, signed by [him] the candidate,  
91 stating that [he] the candidate was endorsed by such convention, [his]  
92 the candidate's name as [he] the candidate authorizes it to appear on  
93 the ballot, [his] the candidate's full residence address and the title and  
94 district, if applicable, of the office for which [he] the candidate was  
95 endorsed. Such certificate shall be attested by either (1) the [chairman]  
96 chairperson or presiding officer, or (2) the secretary of such convention  
97 and shall be received by the Secretary of the State not later than four  
98 o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of such convention. If  
99 a certificate of a party's endorsement for a particular state or district  
100 office is not received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such  
101 party, for purposes of section 9-416 and section 9-416a shall be deemed  
102 to have made no endorsement of any candidate for such office. If  
103 applicable, the [chairman] chairperson of a party's state convention  
104 shall, forthwith upon the close of such convention, file with the  
105 Secretary of the State the names and full residence addresses of  
106 persons selected by such convention as the nominees of such party for  
107 at large and congressional district electors of President and Vice-  
108 President of the United States in accordance with the provisions of  
109 section 9-175, as amended by this act.

110 Sec. 4. Section 9-372 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
111 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

112 The following terms, as used in this chapter and sections 9-51 to 9-  
113 67, inclusive, 9-169e, 9-217, 9-236 and 9-361, shall have the following  
114 meanings:

115 (1) "Caucus" means any meeting, at a designated hour and place, or  
116 at designated hours and places, of the enrolled members of a political  
117 party within a municipality or political subdivision thereof for the  
118 purpose of selecting party-endorsed candidates for a primary to be  
119 held by such party or for the purpose of transacting other business of  
120 such party;

121 (2) "Convention" means a meeting of delegates of a political party  
122 held for the purpose of designating the candidate or candidates to be  
123 endorsed by such party in a primary of such party for state or district  
124 office or for the purpose of transacting other business of such party;

125 (3) "District" means any geographic portion of the state which  
126 crosses the boundary or boundaries between two or more towns;

127 (4) "District office" means an elective office for which only the  
128 electors in a district, as defined in subdivision (3) of this section, may  
129 vote, but does not include the office of elector of President and Vice  
130 President of the United States;

131 (5) "Major party" means (A) a political party or organization whose  
132 candidate for Governor at the last-preceding election for Governor  
133 received, under the designation of that political party or organization,  
134 at least twenty per cent of the whole number of votes cast for all  
135 candidates for Governor, or (B) a political party having, at the last-  
136 preceding election for Governor, a number of enrolled members on the  
137 active registry list equal to at least twenty per cent of the total number  
138 of enrolled members of all political parties on the active registry list in  
139 the state;

140 (6) "Minor party" means a political party or organization which is  
141 not a major party and whose candidate for the office in question  
142 received at the last-preceding regular election for such office, under the  
143 designation of that political party or organization, at least one per cent  
144 of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates for such office at  
145 such election;

146 (7) "Municipal office" means an elective office for which only the  
147 electors of a single town, city, borough, or political subdivision, as  
148 defined in subdivision (10) of this section, may vote, including the  
149 office of justice of the peace;

150 (8) "Party designation committee" means an organization, composed  
151 of at least twenty-five members who are electors, which has, on or after  
152 November 4, 1981, reserved a party designation with the Secretary of  
153 the State pursuant to the provisions of this chapter;

154 (9) "Party-endorsed candidate", in the case of a candidate for state or  
155 district office, means a person endorsed by the convention of a political  
156 party as a candidate in a primary to be held by such party and, in the  
157 case of a candidate for municipal office or for member of a town  
158 committee or delegate to a convention, means a person endorsed by  
159 the town committee, caucus or convention, as the case may be, of a  
160 political party as a candidate in a primary to be held by such party;

161 (10) "Political subdivision" means any voting district or combination  
162 of voting districts constituting a part of a municipality;

163 (11) "Primary" means a meeting of the enrolled members of a  
164 political party and, when applicable under section 9-431, unaffiliated  
165 electors, held during consecutive hours at which such members or  
166 electors may, without assembling at the same hour, vote by secret  
167 ballot for candidates for nomination to office or for town committee  
168 members or delegates to conventions;

169 (12) "Registrar" means the registrar of voters in a municipality who  
170 is enrolled with the political party holding a primary and, in each  
171 municipality where there are different registrars for different voting  
172 districts, means the registrar so enrolled in the voting district in which,  
173 at the last-preceding regular election, the presiding officer for the  
174 purpose of declaring the result of the vote of the whole municipality  
175 was moderator;

176 (13) "Slate" means a group of candidates for election as delegates  
177 from a town to a state or district convention of a political party equal  
178 in number to the whole number of delegates to which such town is  
179 entitled at such convention, except that (A) in a case in which only a  
180 portion of the town is in the district for which a district convention is  
181 to be held, "slate" means a group of candidates for election as delegates  
182 from such portion of the town to such district convention equal in  
183 number to the whole number of delegates to which such portion of the  
184 town is entitled at such district convention, and (B) in a case in which  
185 delegates to a state convention are to be selected from a senatorial  
186 district under section 9-394 or section 9-408, "slate" means a group of  
187 candidates for election as delegates from such district to such  
188 convention equal in number to the whole number of delegates to  
189 which such district is entitled at such convention;

190 (14) "State office" means any office for which all the electors of the  
191 state may vote and includes the office of Governor, Lieutenant  
192 Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General and  
193 senator in Congress, but does not include the office of elector of  
194 President and Vice-President of the United States;

195 (15) "Votes cast for the same office at the last-preceding election" or  
196 "votes cast for all candidates for such office at the last-preceding  
197 election" means, in the case of multiple openings for the same office,  
198 the total number of electors checked as having voted at the last-  
199 preceding election at which such office appeared on the ballot label.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To replace the current method of selecting presidential electors, in which all presidential electors representing the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of votes in the state are elected, with one in which two presidential electors would be chosen on the basis of the presidential candidate receiving the largest number of votes in the state and one presidential elector would be chosen for each congressional district on the basis of the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of votes in that congressional district.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*