



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 141

LCO No. 954

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING MAIL-IN VOTER REGISTRATION PROCEDURES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-19h of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,
4 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, not later than January 1, 1994,
5 shall include an application for the admission of an elector with each
6 application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a
7 motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under
8 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form
9 provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such
10 application form for the admission of an elector (1) shall be subject to
11 the approval of the Secretary of the State, (2) shall not include any
12 provisions for the witnessing of the application and (3) shall contain a
13 statement that (A) specifies each eligibility requirement, (B) contains
14 an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement and (C)
15 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury. On

16 and after January 1, 1994, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
17 accept in person any such completed application for admission. The
18 applicant shall state on such form, under penalty of perjury, [his] the
19 applicant's name, bona fide residence address, date of birth, whether
20 [he] the applicant is a United States citizen, party enrollment, if any,
21 prior voting address, if registered previously, and that [his] the
22 applicant's privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of
23 conviction of a felony. No Social Security number on any such
24 application form for the admission of an elector filed prior to January
25 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency.
26 The commissioner shall indicate on each such form the date of receipt
27 of such application to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to
28 vote in an election if it is received by the Commissioner of Motor
29 Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote in an election. The
30 commissioner shall provide the applicant with a receipt for the
31 application, on a form approved by the Secretary of the State, and
32 forthwith transmit the application to the registrars of voters of the
33 applicant's town of residence. If a registration application is accepted
34 within five days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular
35 election, the application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters
36 of the town of voting residence of the applicant not later than five days
37 after the date of acceptance. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f)
38 and (g) of section 9-23g, as amended by this act, which are not
39 inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-
40 31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made
41 under this section. The commissioner is not an admitting official and
42 may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral
43 privileges of persons convicted of a felony. Not later than January 15,
44 1993, the commissioner and secretary shall submit a report to the
45 General Assembly concerning the status of the implementation of the
46 provisions of this subsection, including an estimate of the cost of such
47 implementation.

48 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 9-23g of the general statutes is
49 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

50 (b) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe, and provide to
51 registrars of voters, town clerks and voter registration agencies, as
52 defined in section 9-23n, as amended by this act, application forms and
53 other materials necessary to complete such application and admission
54 process. The Secretary of the State, registrars of voters and town clerks
55 shall provide a reasonable number of such forms and materials to any
56 elector who requests such forms and materials. The secretary shall
57 also, in the course of [his] the secretary's elections duties, prepare
58 instructions and related materials describing procedures for such
59 application and admission process and shall provide the materials to
60 registrars of voters and town clerks. The application shall contain the
61 information required under section 9-23h, as amended by this act. All
62 statements of the applicant shall be made under the penalties of
63 perjury. The application for admission as an elector shall include a
64 statement that (1) specifies each eligibility requirement, (2) contains an
65 attestation that the application meets each such requirement, and (3)
66 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury.
67 Nothing in this section or section 9-23h, as amended by this act, shall
68 require that the application be executed in the state. An applicant who
69 is unable to write may cause [his] the applicant's name to be signed on
70 the application form by an authorized agent who shall, in the space
71 provided for the signature, write the name of the applicant followed
72 by the word "by" and [his] the agent's own signature. The completed
73 application may be mailed or returned in person to the office of the
74 registrars of voters or the office of the town clerk of the applicant's
75 town of residence or a voter registration agency. If the applicant
76 entrusts [his] the applicant's application to another person or to such a
77 voter registration agency for mailing or return to the registrars of
78 voters, such person or agency shall immediately mail or return the
79 application, and any such agency shall provide a receipt for the
80 application to the applicant. The town clerk shall promptly forward
81 any application which he receives to the registrars of voters. Such
82 application form shall be provided by or authorized by the Secretary of
83 the State.

84 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 9-23g of the general statutes is
85 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

86 (d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the
87 privileges of an elector for any applicant for admission under this
88 section and section 9-23h, as amended by this act, shall attach
89 immediately upon approval by the registrar, and the registrars shall
90 enter the name of the elector on the registry list.

91 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, if a
92 mailed application is postmarked, or if a delivered application is
93 received in the office of the registrars of voters, after the fourteenth day
94 before an election or after the fifth day before a primary, the privileges
95 of an elector shall not attach until the day after such election or
96 primary, as the case may be.

97 (3) If an application is received after the fourteenth day before an
98 election or after the fifth day before a primary by the Commissioner of
99 Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, the privileges of an
100 elector shall not attach until the day after the election or primary, as
101 the case may be, or on the day the registrar approves it, whichever is
102 later.

103 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant
104 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present
105 to the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received
106 through the mail [to the moderator at the polls, after which] or an
107 application receipt that was previously provided to the applicant
108 pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h, as amended
109 by this act, subsection (b) of this section, as amended by this act, or
110 section 9-23n, as amended by this act. If an applicant presents said
111 notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original
112 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the
113 registrar, or assistant registrar [,] upon notice to the registrar, shall add
114 such person's name and address to the official check list on such day
115 and the person shall be allowed to vote if otherwise eligible to vote.

116 Sec. 4. Section 9-23n of the general statutes is repealed and the
117 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

118 (a) As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means (1)
119 public assistance offices, (2) all offices in the state that provide
120 state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to
121 persons with disabilities, (3) libraries that are open to the public, and
122 (4) such other appropriate offices as the Secretary of the State shall
123 designate in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of
124 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

125 (b) Voter registration agencies shall (1) distribute mail voter
126 registration application forms, (2) assist applicants for such assistance
127 or services in completing voter registration application forms, except
128 for applicants who refuse such assistance, [and] (3) accept completed
129 voter registration application forms and [forthwith transmit such
130 forms] provide applicants with a receipt for such applications, and (4)
131 immediately transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of
132 the town of voting residence of the applicants. If a registration
133 application is accepted within five days before the last day for
134 registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be
135 transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence
136 of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance.
137 The voter registration agency shall indicate on the completed mail
138 voter registration application form, without indicating the identity of
139 the voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such agency,
140 to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election
141 if it is received by the registration agency by the last day for
142 registration to vote in an election. If a state-funded program primarily
143 engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities provides
144 services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency
145 shall provide such voter registration services at the person's home. The
146 procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g, as
147 amended by this act, that are not inconsistent with the National Voter
148 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time,

149 shall apply to applications made under this section. Officials and
150 employees of such voter registration agencies are not admitting
151 officials, as defined in section 9-17a, and may not restore, under the
152 provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of
153 a felony.

154 Sec. 5. Section 9-23h of the general statutes is repealed and the
155 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

156 The application provided for in section 9-23g, as amended by this
157 act, shall provide spaces for the following information for each
158 applicant: (1) Name, (2) bona fide residence, including street number,
159 street address, apartment number if applicable, town and zip code, (3)
160 telephone number, (4) date of birth, (5) whether the applicant is
161 registered as an elector in any other town in the state of Connecticut or
162 in any other state, and if so, the applicant's last previous voting
163 residence, (6) whether [he] the applicant is a United States citizen, (7)
164 party affiliation, if any, and (8) the applicant's signature and date of
165 signature. The spaces for the applicant's telephone number and party
166 affiliation shall indicate that such information does not have to be
167 provided. No Social Security number on any such form filed prior to
168 January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental
169 agency. The application shall contain a notice that if the applicant does
170 not receive a notice of acceptance or rejection of the application from
171 the office of the registrars of voters for the municipality in which the
172 applicant resides, the applicant should contact said office. The
173 application shall also contain any other information, questions or
174 instructions prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

175 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect January 1, 2002.

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure that eligible voters are afforded the right to vote by requiring voter registration agencies to provide applicants with receipts.

[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.]