



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 5257

LCO No. 1164

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR CHANGES TO CERTAIN ELECTIONS STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 At any town meeting other than a regular or special town election
4 or at any meeting of any fire, sewer or school district or any other
5 municipal subdivision of any town incorporated by any special act,
6 any person who is an elector of such town may vote and any citizen of
7 the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or
8 severally, is liable to the town, district or subdivision for taxes assessed
9 against him on an assessment of not less than one thousand dollars on
10 the last-completed grand list of such town, district or subdivision, or
11 who would be so liable if not entitled to an exemption under
12 subdivision (17), (19), (22), (23), (25) or (26) of section 12-81, may vote,
13 unless restricted by the provisions of any special act relating to such
14 town, district or subdivision.

15 Sec. 2. Section 9-9 of the general statutes is repealed and the
16 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

17 For the purpose of representation in the Congress of the United
18 States, there shall be elected in the manner provided by law one
19 representative from each of the [six] five congressional districts, [into
20 which the state shall be divided, as follows:

21 (Districts omitted. See footnote*.)]

22 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 9-35 of the general statutes is
23 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
24 *passage*):

25 (a) The registrars, on the Tuesday of the fifth week before each
26 regular election, shall be in session for the purpose of completing a
27 correct list of all electors who will be entitled to vote at such election.
28 Such registry list shall consist of an active registry list and an inactive
29 registry list. Such session shall be held during such hours between nine
30 o'clock a.m. and five o'clock p.m. as the registrars find necessary to
31 complete the list. Notice of such session shall be given at least five days
32 before the session by publication in a newspaper having a circulation
33 in such municipality, if any, and by posting on the signpost therein, if
34 any, or at some other exterior place near the office of the town clerk.
35 Such publication shall not be required to be in the form of a legal
36 advertisement.

37 Sec. 4. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the
38 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and*
39 *applicable to petitions circulated only on or after said date*):

40 Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be [an elector of
41 a town in this state and eligible to vote for all candidates listed on such
42 petition] a United States citizen, at least eighteen years of age, a
43 resident of a town in this state, and if, applicable, a resident of the
44 district on the petition, and shall not be on parole for conviction of a

45 felony. Any individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating
46 petition may serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating
47 petition.

48 Sec. 5. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the
49 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and*
50 *applicable to petitions circulated only on or after said date*):

51 [At the time a petition page is submitted to the town clerk of the
52 town in which it is circulated or to the Secretary of the State, such page
53 shall contain a statement signed by the town clerk of the town in which
54 the circulator is an elector attesting that the circulator is an elector in
55 the town and setting forth his residence address therein and that he is
56 entitled to vote at the election for the office for which such candidacy is
57 being filed. Any town clerk shall forthwith complete said statement
58 upon request by a circulator prior to the time when the petition page is
59 filed with the town clerk of the town in which it was circulated or with
60 the Secretary of the State.] Each page of a nominating petition
61 submitted to the town clerk or the Secretary of the State and filed with
62 the Secretary of the State under the provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-
63 453s, inclusive, as amended, or section 9-216 shall contain a statement
64 as to the residency in this state and eligibility of the circulator and
65 authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed under penalties of false
66 statement, by the person who circulated the same. [, setting forth] Such
67 statement shall set forth (1) such circulator's residence address, [and]
68 including the town in this state, and, if applicable, the district, in which
69 such circulator is [an elector] a resident, (2) the circulator's date of birth
70 and that the circulator is at least eighteen years of age, (3) that the
71 circulator is a United States citizen and not on parole for conviction of
72 a feony, and [stating] (4) that each person whose name appears on
73 such page signed the same in person in the presence of such circulator
74 and that either the circulator knows each such signer or that the signer
75 satisfactorily identified himself to the circulator. Any false statement
76 committed with respect to such statement shall be deemed to have
77 been committed in the town in which the petition was circulated.

78 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-453k of the general statutes is
79 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
80 *passage and applicable to petitions circulated only on or after said date*):

81 (a) The town clerk or Secretary of the State shall not accept any page
82 of a nominating petition unless the circulator thereof has signed before
83 him or an appropriate person as provided in section 1-29, the
84 statement as to the residency in this state and eligibility of the
85 circulator and authenticity of the signatures thereon required by
86 section 9-453j, as amended by this act.

87 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-453o of the general statutes is
88 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
89 *passage and applicable to petitions circulated only on or after said date*):

90 (a) The Secretary of the State may not count for purposes of
91 determining compliance with the number of signatures required by
92 section 9-453d the signatures certified by the town clerk on any
93 petition page filed under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, as
94 amended, or 9-216 if: (1) The name of the candidate, his address or the
95 party designation, if any, has been omitted from the face of the
96 petition; (2) the page does not contain a statement by the circulator as
97 to the residency in this state and eligibility of the circulator and
98 authenticity of the signatures thereon as required by section 9-453j, as
99 amended by this act, or upon which such statement of the circulator is
100 incomplete in any respect; or (3) the page does not contain the
101 certifications required by sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, as
102 amended, by the town clerk of the town in which the signers reside.
103 The town clerk shall cure any omission on his part by signing any such
104 page at the office of the Secretary of the State and making the
105 necessary amendment or by filing a separate statement in this regard,
106 which amendment shall be dated.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 4	<i>from passage and applicable to petitions circulated only on or after said date</i>
Sec. 5	<i>from passage and applicable to petitions circulated only on or after said date</i>
Sec. 6	<i>from passage and applicable to petitions circulated only on or after said date</i>
Sec. 7	<i>from passage and applicable to petitions circulated only on or after said date</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) clarify that "citizen" in section 7-6 of the general statutes means a citizen of the United States, (2) update section 9-9 of the general statutes to reflect the reduction in Connecticut's congressional districts from six to five, (3) streamline the notice of registrars' sessions to complete registry lists, and (4) eliminate the requirement that nominating petition circulators be electors and require instead that such circulators be state residents and meet other eligibility requirements.

[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.]