



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5700**

*February Session, 2002*

**AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections*  
2 *held after January 1, 2003*) (a) As used in this section, "election day"  
3 means the day on which a regular election, as defined in section 9-1 of  
4 the general statutes, is held.

5 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 143 of the general  
6 statutes, a person who (1) is not an elector and does not have a  
7 pending application for admission as elector under said chapter 143,  
8 and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) of  
9 section 9-12 of the general statutes, may apply for admission as an  
10 elector on election day.

11 (c) Any such application shall be made in accordance with the  
12 provisions of section 9-20 of the general statutes, provided (1) the  
13 applicant shall appear in person at the office of the registrars of voters  
14 on election day, (2) an applicant who is a student enrolled at an  
15 institution of higher education may submit a current photo  
16 identification card issued by said institution in lieu of the identification  
17 required by said section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under  
18 oath that the applicant is not, to the applicant's knowledge, already  
19 properly admitted as an elector and has not previously voted in the  
20 election. If the information that the applicant is required to provide

21 under section 9-20 of the general statutes and this section does not  
22 include proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall  
23 also submit a United States passport, a military identification card, a  
24 learner's permit or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and  
25 current address and is due within thirty days after the election or, in  
26 the case of a student enrolled at an institution of higher education, a  
27 registration or fee statement from such institution that has the  
28 applicant's name and current address. If the registrars determine that  
29 an applicant is qualified and admit the applicant as an elector, the  
30 registrars shall give the applicant a notice of acceptance which  
31 indicates the applicant's voting district and polling place. A notice of  
32 acceptance shall be on a form designed to prevent forgery or  
33 counterfeiting, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State. On and after  
34 the date that the Secretary of the State certifies to the General  
35 Assembly that the state-wide centralized voter registration system is  
36 fully operational, pursuant to section 3 of this act, the registrars shall  
37 check said system before admitting an applicant as an elector in order  
38 to determine whether the applicant is an elector in another  
39 municipality in the state.

40 (d) Not later than seven days after each election day, the registrars  
41 of voters shall send a confirmation to the residential address of each  
42 applicant who is admitted as an elector on election day under this  
43 section. Such confirmation shall be sent by first-class mail with  
44 instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the  
45 address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation is returned  
46 undelivered, the registrars shall refer the matter to the State Elections  
47 Enforcement Commission which shall immediately conduct an  
48 investigation.

49 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is  
50 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
51 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

52 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has  
53 entered the polling place, [he] the elector shall (1) announce [his] the

54 elector's street address, if any, and [his] the elector's name to the  
55 checkers in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the  
56 election officials present to hear the same, and (2) (A) present to the  
57 checkers [his] the elector's Social Security card or any other preprinted  
58 form of identification which shows [his] the elector's name and either  
59 [his] the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (B) sign a  
60 statement under penalty of false statement, on a form prescribed by  
61 the Secretary of the State, that [he] the elector is the elector whose  
62 name appears on the official checklist. Each of the checkers shall check  
63 the name of such elector on the official checklist. In the case of an  
64 elector who is admitted on election day under section 1 of this act, the  
65 elector shall also present to the moderator the notice of acceptance  
66 given to the elector under said section 1, and the moderator shall add  
67 the elector's name and address to the official checklist on such day and  
68 the elector shall be allowed to vote if otherwise eligible to vote.

69 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held*  
70 *after January 1, 2003*) Upon determining that the state-wide centralized  
71 voter registration system is fully completed and operational, the  
72 Secretary of the State shall certify such completion to the General  
73 Assembly.

74 Sec. 4. Section 9-158a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
75 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003, and*  
76 *applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

77 As used in sections 9-139c, 9-140b, 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, and  
78 9-307:

79 (1) "Federal election" means any general or special election or any  
80 primary held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting, nominating  
81 or electing any candidate for the office of president, vice president,  
82 presidential elector, member of the United States Senate or member of  
83 the United States House of Representatives;

84 (2) "Former resident" means a person who was a bona fide resident  
85 of a town in this state and who has [removed] moved from that town

86 to another state less than thirty days before the day of a presidential  
87 election and who for that reason is unable to register to vote in the  
88 election in [his] said person's present [town or] state of residence;

89 (3) "Overseas elector" means any person permitted to vote pursuant  
90 to subsection (b) of section 9-158b;

91 (4) "Presidential election" means an election at which electors of  
92 President and Vice-President are elected;

93 (5) "Resident" means a bona fide resident of a town in this state;

94 (6) "State" includes any of the several states, the District of  
95 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin  
96 Islands; and

97 (7) "United States" includes the several states, the District of  
98 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin  
99 Islands, but does not include American Samoa, The Canal Zone, the  
100 trust territory of the Pacific Islands or any other territory or possession  
101 of the United States.

102 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 9-158b of the general statutes is  
103 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
104 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

105 (a) Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of  
106 age, is a [resident or] former resident and [who] has not forfeited [his]  
107 said citizen's electoral privileges because of a disfranchising crime,  
108 may vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors, but for no  
109 other offices, in the town in this state in which [he resides, or] said  
110 citizen formerly resided in the manner provided in sections 9-158c to 9-  
111 158m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

112 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-158c of the general statutes is  
113 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
114 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

115 (a) Not earlier than forty-five days before the election and not later  
116 than the close of the polls on election day, each [resident, or] former  
117 resident who desires to vote in a presidential election under sections 9-  
118 158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act, may apply for a  
119 "presidential ballot" to the municipal clerk of the town in which [he]  
120 said former resident is qualified to vote on the form prescribed in  
121 section 9-158d, as amended by this act. Application for a "presidential  
122 ballot" may be made in person or absentee, in the manner provided for  
123 applying for an absentee ballot under section 9-140, except as provided  
124 in said sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive.

125 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-158d of the general statutes is  
126 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
127 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

128 (a) The application for a presidential ballot shall be a form signed in  
129 duplicate by the applicant under penalty of false statement in absentee  
130 balloting, which shall provide substantially as follows:

131 To the Town Clerk of the Town of .... Connecticut

132 I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of false statement in  
133 absentee balloting that the following statements are true:

134 1. I am a citizen of the United States.

135 2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction  
136 of a disfranchising crime.

137 3. I was born on ...., and on the day of the next presidential election,  
138 I shall be at least 18 years of age. [Check and complete 4 or 5,  
139 whichever applies:

140 4. RESIDENT. I am a bona fide resident of the above town, to which  
141 I am making this application, and I reside at .... Street. I moved to said  
142 town on the .... day of ...., 20... Before becoming a resident of said town,  
143 I resided at .... Street, in the Town of .... County of ...., State of ....]

144 [5.] 4. FORMER RESIDENT. I am a former resident of the above  
145 town, to which I am making this application, and resided at .... Street  
146 therein. I moved from such town to my present town of residence on  
147 the .... day of ...., 20.., being within thirty days before the date of the  
148 next presidential election, and for that reason I cannot register to vote  
149 in said presidential election in my present town of residence. I am now  
150 a bona fide resident of the Town of ...., in the state of ...., now residing  
151 at .... Street therein.

152 [6.] 5. I hereby apply for a "presidential ballot" for the election to be  
153 held on ...., 20... I have not voted and will not vote otherwise than by  
154 this ballot at that election. I am not eligible to vote for electors of  
155 President and Vice-President [in any other town in Connecticut or] in  
156 any other state.

157 [7.] 6. The said ballot is to be given to me personally mailed to me at  
158 .... (bona fide mailing address)

159 Dated at ...., this .... day of .... 20...

160 .... (Signature of applicant)

161 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 9-158e of the general statutes is  
162 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
163 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

164 (a) Upon receipt of an application for a presidential ballot under  
165 sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act, the clerk,  
166 if satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is  
167 qualified to vote under said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the  
168 applicant, as the case may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-  
169 presidential electors for use at the election and instructions and  
170 envelopes for its return. At such time the clerks shall also mail a  
171 duplicate of the application to the appropriate official of [(1) the state  
172 or the town in this state in which the applicant last resided in the case  
173 of an applicant who is a resident, or (2)] the state [or the town in this

174 state] in which the applicant now resides. [in the case of an applicant  
175 who is a former resident.]

176 Sec. 9. Section 9-158j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
177 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003, and*  
178 *applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

179 Upon receipt of an application for a "Presidential Ballot" or  
180 "Overseas Ballot" the town clerk shall forthwith notify the registrars of  
181 voters of the applicant's name, with a notation designating [him] the  
182 applicant as a person voting for presidential and vice-presidential  
183 electors or federal offices only. If the name of a presidential voter [who  
184 is a former resident] appears on the registry list, the registrars shall  
185 insert the letters "pf" in the margin preceding [his] the voter's name.  
186 The registrars shall prepare a list of names and addresses of  
187 presidential voters and overseas electors whose names do not appear  
188 on the registry list, for each voting district, which list shall accompany  
189 the check list to be used at such election in such district. The registrars  
190 shall insert the letters "pf" in the margin of such list of presidential  
191 voters preceding the name of each applicant. [who is a former  
192 resident.]

193 Sec. 10. Section 9-158k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
194 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003, and*  
195 *applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

196 The municipal clerk shall file each duplicate application or other  
197 official information received by [him] such clerk from another state, [or  
198 from another town in this state,] indicating that a person who formerly  
199 resided [or presently resides] in such town has made application to  
200 vote at a presidential election in such other state, [or town,] and shall  
201 maintain an alphabetical index of such information for a period of one  
202 hundred eighty days after the election. The clerk shall compare each  
203 such application or statement of information with applications made  
204 under the provisions of sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as  
205 amended by this act, and, after the election, with the names checked

206 off as having voted on the check list for the election, to ascertain that  
 207 any such person has not voted more than once. Whenever the record  
 208 indicates that any person has applied for a presidential ballot and  
 209 indicated in [his] such person's application that [he] such person is  
 210 applying as a former resident, and there is record evidence that such  
 211 person has applied in another state [or town] as a new resident, the  
 212 applicant's ballot shall not be cast in [his] such person's former town of  
 213 residence.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 9	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 10	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*