



# House of Representatives

## File No. 819

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**(Reprint of File No. 500)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6370  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 31, 2003

### **AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION DAY VOTER REGISTRATION AND THE DUTIES OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-17 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) For the purposes of this section, "primary day" means the day  
4 that a primary for state, district and municipal offices is being held in  
5 accordance with section 9-423, and "election day" means the day of  
6 each regular election. (1) The registrars of voters of each town shall  
7 hold sessions to examine the qualifications of electors and admit those  
8 found qualified on the dates and at the times set forth in this section.  
9 Such sessions shall be held on the following days during the hours  
10 indicated, except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection:

T1	Day	Hours
T2	Fourteenth day	
T3	before primary day .....	any two hours between

T4		5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
T5	<u>Primary day.....</u>	<u>6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.</u>
T6	Saturday of third week	
T7	before election day .....	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
T8	Fourteenth day	
T9	before election day .....	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
T10	<u>Election day.....</u>	<u>6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.</u>

11 The session of the registrars of voters on the fourteenth day before  
 12 election day shall be the last regular session for the admission of  
 13 electors prior to an election, as defined in subsection (y) of section 9-1.  
 14 (2) No town having a population of less than twenty-five thousand  
 15 persons shall be required to hold sessions for admission of electors on  
 16 the fourteenth day before primary day. (3) The sessions on primary  
 17 day and election day shall be held in accordance with the provisions of  
 18 section 2 of this act.

19 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), the registrars  
 20 of voters shall hold a limited session on the last week day before each  
 21 regular election from nine o'clock a.m. to twelve o'clock noon for the  
 22 purpose of admitting only those persons whose qualifications as to  
 23 age, citizenship or residence in the municipality were attained after the  
 24 last session for the admission of electors prior to an election. The  
 25 registrars shall enter the names of those electors admitted at such  
 26 limited session on the proper list, with their residences by street and  
 27 numbers, if any, before one o'clock p.m. of such last week day before  
 28 the election.

29 (c) In addition to the sessions held pursuant to subsections (a) and  
 30 (b) of this section, the registrars of voters in each town shall hold one  
 31 session each year, between the first of January and the last day of the  
 32 school year, at each public high school in such town, for the admission  
 33 of persons who are eligible for admission under subsection (a) or (b) of  
 34 section 9-12, provided, in the case of a public high school in a regional  
 35 school district, such session shall be held on a rotating basis by the

36 registrars of voters for each town which is a member of the regional  
37 school district. The registrars of voters need not give notice of this  
38 session by publication in a newspaper.

39 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The registrars of voters shall  
40 examine the qualifications of electors at the session held on the day  
41 that a primary for state, district and municipal offices is being held in  
42 accordance with section 9-423 of the general statutes or the day of a  
43 regular election, pursuant to section 9-17 of the general statutes, as  
44 amended by this act, or on the day that a presidential preference  
45 primary is held under section 9-464 of the general statutes, and admit  
46 those found qualified in accordance with the provisions of section 9-20  
47 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, except that:

48 (1) Each applicant for admission shall present to the registrars a  
49 preprinted form of identification that shows the applicant's name and  
50 residence within the municipality in which the applicant is applying. If  
51 the applicant does not have a preprinted form of identification that  
52 includes a photograph of the applicant, the registrars shall provide for  
53 a photograph of the applicant to be taken;

54 (2) (A) In addition to the application for admission as an elector  
55 submitted to the registrars of voters, the applicant shall also submit a  
56 statement substantially as follows, which the applicant shall sign  
57 under oath or affirmation:

58 I swear or affirm that:

59 1. I meet the eligibility requirements to be an elector as indicated on  
60 today's application for admission as an elector;

61 2. I have not registered or voted this day in any other election  
62 jurisdiction; and

63 3. I have read and understand the Warning Notice below to mean  
64 that I can be convicted of perjury and imprisoned for not more than  
65 five years or be fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both, if I



96 (6) If the registrars admit an applicant as an elector and, upon  
97 subsequent investigation in accordance with the National Voter  
98 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, cannot validate the applicant, the  
99 registrars shall place the name of the applicant on the inactive registry  
100 list and forward such name to the State Elections Enforcement  
101 Commission.

102 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State, in  
103 cooperation with the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut,  
104 shall train persons to train registrars of voters concerning the  
105 provisions of section 9-17 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
106 act, and section 2 of this act. After receiving such training, registrars of  
107 voters shall train their deputies and assistants and other election  
108 officials concerning said provisions.

109 Sec. 4. Section 9-158a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
110 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

111 As used in sections 9-139c, 9-140b, 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, and  
112 9-307:

113 (1) "Federal election" means any general or special election or any  
114 primary held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting, nominating  
115 or electing any candidate for the office of President, Vice President,  
116 presidential elector, member of the United States Senate or member of  
117 the United States House of Representatives;

118 (2) "Former resident" means a person who was a bona fide resident  
119 of a town in this state and who has [removed] moved from that town  
120 to another state less than thirty days before the day of a presidential  
121 election and who for that reason is unable to register to vote in the  
122 election in [his] said person's present [town or] state of residence;

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

125 (4) "Presidential election" means an election at which electors of

126 President and Vice-President are elected;

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

128 (6) "State" includes any of the several states, the District of  
129 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin  
130 Islands; and

131 (7) "United States" includes the several states, the District of  
132 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin  
133 Islands, but does not include American Samoa, The Canal Zone, the  
134 trust territory of the Pacific Islands or any other territory or possession  
135 of the United States.

136 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 9-158b of the general statutes is  
137 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
138 *passage*):

139 (a) Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of  
140 age, is a [resident or] former resident and [who] has not forfeited [his]  
141 said citizen's electoral privileges because of a disfranchising crime,  
142 may vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors, but for no  
143 other offices, in the town in this state in which [he resides, or] said  
144 citizen formerly resided in the manner provided in sections 9-158c to 9-  
145 158m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

146 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-158c of the general statutes is  
147 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
148 *passage*):

149 (a) Not earlier than forty-five days before the election and not later  
150 than the close of the polls on election day, each [resident, or] former  
151 resident who desires to vote in a presidential election under sections 9-  
152 158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act, may apply for a  
153 "presidential ballot" to the municipal clerk of the town in which [he]  
154 said former resident is qualified to vote on the form prescribed in  
155 section 9-158d, as amended by this act. Application for a "presidential

156 ballot" may be made in person or absentee, in the manner provided for  
157 applying for an absentee ballot under section 9-140, except as provided  
158 in said sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

159 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-158d of the general statutes is  
160 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
161 *passage*):

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

165 To the Town Clerk of the Town of ..., Connecticut

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

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

169 2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction  
170 of a disfranchising crime.

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

174 [4. RESIDENT. I am a bona fide resident of the above town, to  
175 which I am making this application, and I reside at ... Street. I moved  
176 to said town on the ... day of ..., 20... Before becoming a resident of  
177 said town, I resided at ... Street, in the Town of ... County of ..., State  
178 of ...]

179 [5.] 4. FORMER RESIDENT. I am a former resident of the above  
180 town, to which I am making this application, and resided at ... Street  
181 therein. I moved from such town to my present town of residence on  
182 the ... day of ..., 20.., being within thirty days before the date of the  
183 next presidential election, and for that reason I cannot register to vote  
184 in said presidential election in my present town of residence. I am now

185 a bona fide resident of the Town of ..., in the state of ..., now residing  
186 at .... Street therein.

187 [6.] 5. I hereby apply for a "presidential ballot" for the election to be  
188 held on ..., 20... I have not voted and will not vote otherwise than by  
189 this ballot at that election. I am not eligible to vote for electors of  
190 President and Vice-President [in any other town in Connecticut or] in  
191 any other state.

192 [7.] 6. The said ballot is to be given to me personally mailed to me at  
193 .... (bona fide mailing address)

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

195 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 9-158e of the general statutes is  
196 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
197 *passage*):

198 (a) Upon receipt of an application for a presidential ballot under  
199 sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act, the clerk,  
200 if satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is  
201 qualified to vote under said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the  
202 applicant, as the case may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-  
203 presidential electors for use at the election and instructions and  
204 envelopes for its return. At such time the clerks shall also mail a  
205 duplicate of the application to the appropriate official of [(1) the state  
206 or the town in this state in which the applicant last resided in the case  
207 of an applicant who is a resident, or (2)] the state [or the town in this  
208 state] in which the applicant now resides. [in the case of an applicant  
209 who is a former resident.]

210 Sec. 9. Section 9-158j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
211 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

212 Upon receipt of an application for a "Presidential Ballot" or  
213 "Overseas Ballot" the town clerk shall forthwith notify the registrars of  
214 voters of the applicant's name, with a notation designating [him] the

215 applicant as a person voting for presidential and vice-presidential  
216 electors or federal offices only. If the name of a presidential voter [who  
217 is a former resident] appears on the registry list, the registrars shall  
218 insert the letters "pf" in the margin preceding [his] the voter's name.  
219 The registrars shall prepare a list of names and addresses of  
220 presidential voters and overseas electors whose names do not appear  
221 on the registry list, for each voting district, which list shall accompany  
222 the check list to be used at such election in such district. The registrars  
223 shall insert the letters "pf" in the margin of such list of presidential  
224 voters preceding the name of each applicant, [who is a former  
225 resident.]

226 Sec. 10. Section 9-158k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
227 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

228 The municipal clerk shall file each duplicate application or other  
229 official information received by [him] such clerk from another state, [or  
230 from another town in this state,] indicating that a person who formerly  
231 resided [or presently resides] in such town has made application to  
232 vote at a presidential election in such other state, [or town,] and shall  
233 maintain an alphabetical index of such information for a period of one  
234 hundred eighty days after the election. The clerk shall compare each  
235 such application or statement of information with applications made  
236 under the provisions of sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as  
237 amended by this act, and, after the election, with the names checked  
238 off as having voted on the check list for the election, to ascertain that  
239 any such person has not voted more than once. Whenever the record  
240 indicates that any person has applied for a presidential ballot and  
241 indicated in [his] such person's application that [he] such person is  
242 applying as a former resident, and there is record evidence that such  
243 person has applied in another state [or town] as a new resident, the  
244 applicant's ballot shall not be cast in [his] such person's former town of  
245 residence.

246 Sec. 11. Section 9-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
247 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

248 Except as otherwise provided, the following terms, as used in this  
249 title and sections 3-124, 7-5, 7-6, 7-7, 7-17, 7-20, 7-39, 7-157, 7-214, 7-275,  
250 7-295, 7-343, 7-407, 8-1, 8-5, 8-19, 10-219, 11-36, 13a-11, 30-10, 30-11, 45a-  
251 18, 45a-19 and 51-95 shall have the following meanings:

252 (a) "Ballot label" means that portion of cardboard, paper or other  
253 material placed on the front of the voting machine, containing the  
254 names of the candidates or a statement of a proposed constitutional  
255 amendment or other question or proposition to be voted on;

256 (b) "Board for admission of electors" means the board as composed  
257 under subsection (a) of section 9-15a;

258 (c) "Clerical error" means any error in the registry list or enrollment  
259 list due to a mistake or an omission on the part of the printer or a  
260 mistake or omission made by the registrars or their assistants;

261 (d) "Election" means any electors' meeting at which the electors  
262 choose public officials by use of voting machines or by paper ballots as  
263 provided in sections 9-271 and 9-272;

264 (e) "Elector" means any person possessing the qualifications  
265 prescribed by the Constitution and duly admitted to, and entitled to  
266 exercise, the privileges of an elector in a town;

267 (f) Repealed by P.A. 77-298, S. 14;

268 (g) "Municipal clerk" means the clerk of a municipality;

269 (h) "Municipal election" means the regularly recurring election held  
270 in a municipality at which the electors of the municipality choose  
271 public officials of such municipality;

272 (i) "Municipality" means any city, borough or town within the state;

273 (j) "Official ballot" means the official ballot label to be used at an  
274 election, or the official paper ballot to be used thereat in accordance  
275 with the provisions of sections 9-271 and 9-272;

276 (k) "Population" means the population according to the last-  
277 completed United States census;

278 (l) "Presidential electors" means persons elected to cast their ballots  
279 for President and Vice President of the United States;

280 (m) "Print" means methods of duplication of words by mechanical  
281 process, but shall not include typewriting;

282 (n) "Referendum" means (1) a question or proposal which is  
283 submitted to a vote of the electors or voters of a municipality at any  
284 regular or special state or municipal election, as defined in this section,  
285 (2) a question or proposal which is submitted to a vote of the electors  
286 or voters, as the case may be, of a municipality at a meeting of such  
287 electors or voters, which meeting is not an election, as defined in  
288 subsection (d) of this section, and is not a town meeting, or (3) a  
289 question or proposal which is submitted to a vote of the electors or  
290 voters, as the case may be, of a municipality at a meeting of such  
291 electors or voters pursuant to section 7-7 or pursuant to charter or  
292 special act;

293 (o) "Regular election" means any state or municipal election;

294 (p) "Registrars" means the registrars of voters of the municipality,  
295 who shall be the administrators of elections held in the municipality;

296 (q) "Registry list" means the list of electors of any municipality  
297 certified by the registrars;

298 (r) "Special election" means any election not a regular election;

299 (s) "State election" means the election held in the state on the first  
300 Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the even-numbered  
301 years in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of  
302 Connecticut;

303 (t) "State officers" means the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
304 Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller and Attorney General;

305 (u) "Voter" means a person qualified to vote at town and district  
306 meetings under the provisions of section 7-6;

307 (v) "Voting district" means any municipality, or any political  
308 subdivision thereof, having not more than one polling place in a  
309 regular election;

310 (w) "Voting machine" means a machine, including but not limited  
311 to, a device which operates by electronic means, for the registering and  
312 recording of votes cast at elections, primaries and referenda;

313 (x) "Write-in ballot" means a vote cast for any person whose name  
314 does not appear on the official ballot as a candidate for the office for  
315 which his name is written in;

316 (y) "The last session for admission of electors prior to an election"  
317 means the day which is the fourteenth day prior to an election.

318 Sec. 12. Section 9-23 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
319 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

320 (a) [In towns which do not have full-time registrars of voters with  
321 regular office hours, the] The registrars of voters shall post, at the town  
322 hall or municipal building in the town in which they serve, the hours  
323 they are available to the public.

324 (b) The registrars shall enter the name, residence, [place and] date  
325 of birth and date of admission of each person admitted as an elector  
326 [shall be entered by the town clerk] in the records of [such town] the  
327 registrars' office, which shall be prima facie evidence that each such  
328 person possesses the requisite qualifications of an elector. [In towns  
329 which do have full-time registrars of voters with regular office hours,  
330 such registrars] The registrars shall also enter such voter information  
331 in the state-wide centralized voter registration system and shall  
332 maintain such voter information for active electors in a fire-proof  
333 cabinet in the registrars' office. The registrars shall file monthly in the  
334 office of the town clerk [a record of each person admitted as an elector,

335 bearing the name, residence, place and date of birth and date of  
336 admission of such person. For purposes of this section, full-time  
337 registrars of voters include those registrars whose offices maintain  
338 daily office hours] an updated list of active electors in the town.

339 [(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply in  
340 towns whose registrars maintain all applications for admission as an  
341 elector on file as permanent records, in manual files or on microfilm,  
342 pursuant to a retention schedule approved by the Public Records  
343 Administrator, or maintain an inactive elector file as a permanent  
344 record, by means of electronic data processing, pursuant to a retention  
345 schedule approved by the Public Records Administrator.]

346 Sec. 13. Section 9-23a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
347 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

348 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section and section 2  
349 of this act, no person admitted as an elector after twelve o'clock noon  
350 on the last business day before a primary shall be permitted to vote in  
351 such primary.

352 (b) An applicant for admission or enrollment under section 9-26  
353 shall be entitled to vote in a primary if he files his application for  
354 admission or enrollment with the town clerk before the day of the  
355 primary and is otherwise eligible to vote in the primary.

356 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 9-23g of the general statutes is  
357 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
358 *passage*):

359 (b) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe, and provide to  
360 registrars of voters, town clerks and voter registration agencies, as  
361 defined in section 9-23n, application forms and other materials  
362 necessary to complete such application and admission process. The  
363 Secretary of the State, registrars of voters and town clerks shall provide  
364 a reasonable number of such forms and materials to any elector who  
365 requests such forms and materials. The secretary shall also, in the

366 course of the secretary's elections duties, prepare instructions and  
367 related materials describing procedures for such application and  
368 admission process and shall provide the materials to registrars of  
369 voters and town clerks. The application shall contain the information  
370 required under section 9-23h. All statements of the applicant shall be  
371 made under the penalties of perjury. The application for admission as  
372 an elector shall include a statement that (1) specifies each eligibility  
373 requirement, (2) contains an attestation that the application meets each  
374 such requirement, and (3) requires the signature of the applicant under  
375 penalty of perjury. Nothing in this section or section 9-23h shall  
376 require that the application be executed in the state. An applicant who  
377 is unable to write may cause the applicant's name to be signed on the  
378 application form by an authorized agent who shall, in the space  
379 provided for the signature, write the name of the applicant followed  
380 by the word "by" and the agent's own signature. The completed  
381 application may be mailed or returned in person to the office of the  
382 registrars of voters or the office of the town clerk of the applicant's  
383 town of residence or a voter registration agency. If the applicant  
384 entrusts the applicant's application to another person or to such a voter  
385 registration agency for mailing or return to the registrars of voters,  
386 such person or agency shall immediately mail or return the  
387 application. Any such person who returns the application for the  
388 applicant between the twenty-eighth day and the fourteenth day,  
389 inclusive, before an election shall print such person's name, residential  
390 address and telephone number and sign a statement indicating that  
391 such person is returning the application for the applicant. Any such  
392 voter registration agency shall also provide the applicant with an  
393 application receipt, on which the agency shall record the date that the  
394 agency received the application, using an official date stamp bearing  
395 the name of the agency. The agency shall provide such receipt whether  
396 the application was submitted in person or by mail. The town clerk  
397 shall promptly forward any application which the town clerk receives  
398 to the registrars of voters. Such application form shall be provided by  
399 or authorized by the Secretary of the State.

400 Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than February 1, 2004, the  
 401 Secretary of the State, in consultation with the State Elections  
 402 Enforcement Commission and registrars of voters, shall submit a  
 403 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
 404 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
 405 having cognizance of matters relating to elections on the  
 406 implementation of the provisions of section 2 of this act.

407 (b) Said report shall include, but not be limited to: (1) A review and  
 408 assessment of said sections with regard to the elections held in  
 409 November, 2003, including (A) the implementation of the new voter  
 410 identification requirements, (B) the experience of voters and election  
 411 officials at polling places and voter registration sites, the length of the  
 412 lines at polling places and voter registration sites and the ability of  
 413 registrars of voters, moderators and election officials to implement the  
 414 new voter registration procedures, (C) a summary of the number of  
 415 voters participating in the elections, the number of individuals  
 416 utilizing the election day registration option, and the number of people  
 417 experiencing delays or difficulty in complying with new voter  
 418 identification procedures, and (D) other issues pertinent to the conduct  
 419 of the elections, and (2) recommendations for administrative changes  
 420 or amendments to said sections to address issues raised by the report.

421 (c) Not later than December 31, 2003, registrars of voters shall  
 422 submit to the Secretary of the State any information required by the  
 423 Secretary for the completion of the report in accordance with  
 424 subsection (a) of this section.

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</i>
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>

Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Elect. Enforcement Com.	GF - None	None	None
Secretary of the State	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
All Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

This bill allows people to register to vote in the registrars of voters’ office on the day of an election or primary. The bill requires the Secretary of the State (SOTS) and the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to submit a report to the Government Administration and Elections Committee on the implementation of the new voter identification requirements, and the experience of voters and election officials at polling places and voter registration sites. The bill also requires the SOTS to train registrars and poll workers on the new registration procedures.

The bill further requires registrars of voters to enter voter information in the statewide centralized voter registration system and maintain voter information for active electors in a fireproof cabinet in the registrars’ office.

This bill will result in an increased workload for the SOTS and SEEC, which will not require additional funding.

### **Municipal Impact**

This bill will result in a cost to municipalities. Municipalities may have to hire additional part-time or temporary personnel to handle people who register to vote on election or primary day. The extent of municipalities' personnel costs depends on the population of the municipality and the anticipated number of people who register to vote on election or primary day. Municipalities that do not have a fireproof cabinet are required to purchase one to store voter records. Depending on the size, a fireproof filing cabinet can cost from \$300 - \$2,500. Municipalities will also incur costs to purchase instant cameras and film to take photographs of those voter registration applicants not possessing photo identification. Municipalities will have to join the centralized voter registration system. As of April 7, 2003, nine municipalities have committed to join the centralized system.<sup>1</sup> Eleven municipalities have not joined, nor made a commitment to join, the centralized system.<sup>2</sup> The SOTS provides each municipality that joins the centralized voter registration system with a computer, associated software, a printer and an ISDN connection. Municipalities will incur minimal costs for system maintenance and upkeep of the computer hardware.

House "A" eliminates the extended voter registration period. Eliminating the voter registration period between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> days before an election will reduce municipalities' personnel costs in the bill.

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<sup>1</sup> The municipalities who have committed to join are East Hartford, Enfield, Madison, North Branford, Simsbury, Stratford, Warren, Waterbury, and Westport.

<sup>2</sup> Bristol, Danbury, East Haddam, Fairfield, Greenwich, Milford, New Britain, Norwalk, Shelton, Stamford, and Wallingford have not joined the centralized voter registration system.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6370 (as amended by House "A")\*

**AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION DAY VOTER REGISTRATION  
AND THE DUTIES OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows people to register to vote in the registrars of voters' offices on the day of an election, primary, or presidential preference primary during the hours of voting. It establishes procedures applicants and registrars must follow for registration on election day. The bill also:

1. eliminates the use of presidential ballots for people who live in the state;
2. requires the secretary of the state and the registrars' association to train registrars and poll workers in the new procedures;
3. requires the secretary, in consultation with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), to report to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee on the bill's implementation;
4. designates the registrars of voters as the "administrators of elections held in the municipality;"
5. expands and clarifies some of the registrars' duties with respect to voter registration records; and
6. requires identification information on anyone who returns a mail-in registration application on behalf of another just before the deadline.

\*House Amendment "A" restores (1) the 14-day deadline for registering to vote that the original bill set at seven days and (2) crosstown voter registration that the original bill repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for the provision on voter registration records, which is effective October 1, 2003.

### **ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION**

The bill requires registrars of voters to conduct a voter registration session in their offices on the day of a state, district, or municipal election or primary and a presidential preference primary. The applicant must show the registrars identification with his name, address, and photograph. If the ID has no photograph, the registrars must have one taken. The applicant must also sign a statement swearing or affirming that he meets the eligibility requirements to register and has not registered or voted elsewhere. The statement includes a notice of the penalty for signing a false statement (a perjury conviction and five years in prison, a fine up to \$5,000, or both). If the registrars admit an applicant who registers on election day, they (1) give the person a notice of acceptance (as prescribed by the secretary), (2) attach a copy of the ID including the photo, and (3) seal and sign the notice. The person can go to his polling place, present the notice and copies, and vote. At the polling place, the assistant registrar adds the person's name to the supplementary list with the notation "ED."

The registrars must keep a copy of the identification (including the photograph) with the registration card until they are satisfied that the post office has delivered the applicant's confirmation notice. If the registrars cannot validate the application, they must put the person's name on the inactive registry list and notify the SEEC.

### **PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTS**

The bill removes the provision for Connecticut residents to vote by presidential ballot, leaving the procedures in place only for former state residents (see BACKGROUND). A former state resident who moved to another state after the deadline to register in that state has passed can apply for a presidential ballot and vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors, but no other offices. The application and voting procedures remain the same as under current law.

### **TRAINING**

The bill requires the secretary of the state, in cooperation with the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut, to train people who

will train the state's registrars in the registration procedures. In turn, the registrars must train deputy and assistant registrars and other poll workers.

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The bill requires the secretary of the state, in consultation with SEEC and registrars, to report to the GAE Committee by February 1, 2004 on its implementation. By December 31, 2003, the registrars must submit information the secretary requests for her report. She must review and assess the program for the November 2003 municipal elections, and report on the new identification requirements; voters' and election officials' experiences with the procedures, including the length of lines at registrars' offices and polling places; the numbers of people who voted, those who registered on election day, and those who experienced difficulties with the new procedures; and other issues and recommend changes to the procedures or the statutes.

### **REGISTRARS' DUTIES**

The bill requires registrars of voters in all towns to post their office hours in the town hall, enter the voter information in the statewide centralized voter registration system that the secretary of the state maintains, and maintain voter information records for those on the active registry list in a fireproof cabinet in the registrars' office. The bill also modifies the requirement that registrars file voter registration records in the town clerk's office by making the filing in that office monthly and replacing the separate records with an updated list of the active voters in the town. It removes an obsolete statutory reference to the space for "place of birth" on the voter registration application form.

In towns with part-time registrars, the bill requires registrars, rather than town clerks, to file voter information in the town clerk's office, just as full-time registrars do currently. With the elimination of this distinction, the bill repeals a provision exempting registrars who maintain voter records in their offices from the town clerk's office filing requirement.

### **MAIL-IN APPLICATION**

The bill requires anyone who returns a mail-in application form

between the 28<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> days before an election on behalf of an applicant to sign a statement with his printed name, address, and telephone number, indicating that he is returning the form for the applicant. Fourteen days before an election is the deadline for submitting a mail-in registration application.

**BACKGROUND**

***Presidential Ballots***

The federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 USC § 1973aa-1) requires states to provide by law for those otherwise qualified to vote who fail to meet a residency requirement to vote in an election for U.S. president and vice-president. A person who has moved after the deadline for voter registration in his new residence must be allowed to vote for president and vice-president in the state or town where he lived prior to moving.

***Legislative History***

The House referred the bill (File 500) to the Planning and Development and Appropriations committees on April 30 and May 13, respectively. They reported the bill favorably with no changes.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 15    Nay 4

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 11    Nay 6

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 32    Nay 4