



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Amendment

LCO No. 5257

SB0088705257SR0

Offered by:

SEN. SMITH, 14th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 887

File No. 441

Cal. No. 306

"AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY."

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 9-236 of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

5 (a) On the day of any primary, referendum or election, no person
6 shall solicit in behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or
7 himself or in behalf of or in opposition to any question being
8 submitted at the election or referendum, or loiter or peddle or offer
9 any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a
10 radius of [seventy-five] five hundred feet of any outside entrance in
11 use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or
12 other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling
13 place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or
14 approach, except as provided in section 9-294. Nothing contained in
15 this section shall be construed to prohibit (1) parent-teacher

16 associations or parent-teacher organizations from holding bake sales or
17 other fund-raising activities on the day of any primary, referendum or
18 election in any school used as a polling place, provided such sales or
19 activities shall not be held in the room in which the election booths are
20 located, (2) the registrars of voters from directing the officials at a
21 primary, referendum or election to distribute, within the restricted
22 area, adhesive labels on which are imprinted the words "I Voted
23 Today", or (3) the registrars of voters in a primary, election or
24 referendum from jointly permitting nonpartisan activities to be
25 conducted in a room other than the room in which the election booths
26 are located. The registrars may jointly impose such conditions and
27 limitations on such nonpartisan activity as deemed necessary to ensure
28 the orderly process of voting. The moderator shall evict any person
29 who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting.

30 (b) (1) The selectmen shall provide suitable markers to indicate the
31 [seventy-five-foot] five-hundred-foot distance from such entrance.
32 Such markers shall consist of a board resting on an iron rod, which
33 board shall be not less than twelve inches square and painted a bright
34 color and shall bear the figures and letters "[75] 500 feet" and the
35 following words: "On the day of any primary, referendum or election
36 no person shall solicit in behalf of or in opposition to another or
37 himself or peddle or offer any ballot, advertising matter or circular to
38 another person or loiter within a radius of [seventy-five] five hundred
39 feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in
40 any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such
41 outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon
42 any such corridor, passageway or approach." (2) Notwithstanding the
43 provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the selectmen may
44 provide the markers required by the provisions of this subsection in
45 effect prior to October 1, 1983, except that in the case of a referendum
46 which is not held in conjunction with an election or a primary, the
47 selectmen shall provide the markers required by subdivision (1) of this
48 subsection. (3) The moderator and his assistants shall meet at least
49 twenty minutes before the opening of a primary, referendum or an

50 election in the voting district, and shall cause to be placed by a police
51 officer or constable, or such other primary or election official as they
52 select, a suitable number of distance markers. Such moderator or any
53 police officer or constable shall prohibit loitering and peddling of
54 tickets within that distance.

55 (c) No person except those permitted or exempt under this section
56 or section 9-236a and primary or election officials and party checkers
57 appointed under section 9-235 shall be allowed within any polling
58 place except for the purpose of casting his vote. Representatives of the
59 news media shall be allowed to enter, remain within and leave any
60 polling place or restricted area surrounding any polling place to
61 observe the election, provided any such representative who in any way
62 interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the
63 moderator. A number of students in grades four to twelve, inclusive,
64 not to exceed four at any one time in any one polling place, may enter
65 any polling place between twelve o'clock noon and three o'clock p.m.
66 for the purpose of observing the activities taking place therein,
67 provided there is proper parental or teacher supervision present, and
68 provided further, any such student who in any way interferes with the
69 orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. An elector
70 may be accompanied into any polling place by one or more children
71 who are fifteen years of age or younger and supervised by the elector,
72 if the elector is the parent or legal guardian of such children. Any
73 person who violates any provision of this section or, while the polls are
74 open for voting, removes or injures any such distance marker, shall be
75 fined not more than fifty dollars or imprisoned not more than three
76 months or both."