



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5503

LCO No. 1891

01891_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-23 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

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

7 (b) The registrars shall enter the name, residence, [place and] date
8 of birth and date of admission of each person admitted as an elector
9 [shall be entered by the town clerk] in the records of [such town] the
10 registrars' office, which shall be prima facie evidence that each such
11 person possesses the requisite qualifications of an elector. [In towns
12 which do have full-time registrars of voters with regular office hours,
13 such registrars] The registrars shall also enter such voter information
14 in the state-wide centralized voter registration system and shall
15 maintain such voter information for active electors in a fire-proof

16 cabinet in the registrars' office. The registrars shall file monthly in the
17 office of the town clerk [a record of each person admitted as an elector,
18 bearing the name, residence, place and date of birth and date of
19 admission of such person. For purposes of this section, full-time
20 registrars of voters include those registrars whose offices maintain
21 daily office hours] an updated list of active electors in the town.

22 [(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply in
23 towns whose registrars maintain all applications for admission as an
24 elector on file as permanent records, in manual files or on microfilm,
25 pursuant to a retention schedule approved by the Public Records
26 Administrator, or maintain an inactive elector file as a permanent
27 record, by means of electronic data processing, pursuant to a retention
28 schedule approved by the Public Records Administrator.]

29 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 9-23g of the general statutes is
30 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
31 *January 1, 2005*):

32 (b) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe, and provide to
33 registrars of voters, town clerks and voter registration agencies, as
34 defined in section 9-23n, application forms and other materials
35 necessary to complete such application and admission process. The
36 Secretary of the State, registrars of voters and town clerks shall provide
37 a reasonable number of such forms and materials to any elector who
38 requests such forms and materials. The secretary shall also, in the
39 course of the secretary's elections duties, prepare instructions and
40 related materials describing procedures for such application and
41 admission process and shall provide the materials to registrars of
42 voters and town clerks. The application shall contain the information
43 required under section 9-23h, as amended. All statements of the
44 applicant shall be made under the penalties of perjury. The application
45 for admission as an elector shall include a statement that (1) specifies
46 each eligibility requirement, (2) contains an attestation that the
47 application meets each such requirement, and (3) requires the

48 signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury. Nothing in this
49 section or section 9-23h, as amended, shall require that the application
50 be executed in the state. An applicant who is unable to write may
51 cause the applicant's name to be signed on the application form by an
52 authorized agent who shall, in the space provided for the signature,
53 write the name of the applicant followed by the word "by" and the
54 agent's own signature. The completed application may be mailed or
55 returned in person to the office of the registrars of voters or the office
56 of the town clerk of the applicant's town of residence or a voter
57 registration agency. If the applicant entrusts the applicant's application
58 to another person or to such a voter registration agency for mailing or
59 return to the registrars of voters, such person or agency shall
60 immediately mail or return the application. Any such voter
61 registration agency shall also provide the applicant with an application
62 receipt, on which the agency shall record (A) the date that the agency
63 received the application, using an official date stamp bearing the name
64 of the agency, and (B) the party affiliation, if any, of the applicant. The
65 agency shall provide such receipt whether the application was
66 submitted in person or by mail. The town clerk shall promptly forward
67 any application which the town clerk receives to the registrars of
68 voters. Such application form shall be provided by or authorized by
69 the Secretary of the State.

70 Sec. 3. Section 9-168b of the general statutes is repealed and the
71 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

72 When in the written opinion of the registrars of any municipality,
73 the lack of an existing convenient or suitable polling place within the
74 lines of a particular voting district necessitates the designation of a
75 polling place in an adjacent district, such registrars may designate a
76 convenient and suitable polling place in a voting district adjacent
77 thereto, located as near as possible to the boundaries of the voting
78 district for which designated. A separate location from the existing
79 polling place for such adjacent district shall be designated, except that
80 a separate room within such existing polling place may be designated.

81 [with the approval of the legislative body of the municipality.] Such
82 written opinion and designation [, along with such approval if
83 necessary,] shall be filed with the municipal clerk not later than ninety
84 days before a regular election, or primary. Within ten days after such
85 filing, the municipal clerk shall cause notice of such filing to be
86 published in the newspaper having the greatest circulation in the
87 town. Such designation shall remain in effect for future elections and
88 primaries, until the registrars file a document with the municipal clerk
89 stating that the designation of such polling place in an adjacent district
90 is no longer necessary.

91 Sec. 4. Section 9-192 of the general statutes is repealed and the
92 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

93 Each registrar of voters immediately after his election shall appoint
94 a deputy registrar of voters to hold office during his pleasure and may,
95 at any time, fill any vacancy in said office. He shall file with the town
96 clerk a certificate of each such appointment and the town clerk shall
97 record the certificate with the records of town meetings. Each deputy
98 registrar of voters shall assist his principal when required, discharge
99 his duties in his absence or inability to act and, in case of the death,
100 removal or resignation of such principal, shall become registrar of
101 voters and appoint a deputy, and shall file with the town clerk a
102 certificate of such appointment, which shall be recorded with the
103 records of town meetings. If a vacancy exists in the office of registrar of
104 voters in consequence of a refusal or failure to accept the office or a
105 failure of the registrar to appoint a deputy registrar, the town
106 committee of the same political party as the registrar of voters who so
107 refused, failed to accept or failed to appoint, or other appointing
108 authority specified in local party rules shall fill such vacancy by the
109 appointment of some suitable person, who shall belong to the same
110 political party as the registrar of voters who so refused, failed to accept
111 or failed to appoint. Each registrar of voters in any town may, [from
112 time to time] as needed, appoint and employ not more than four
113 [permanent assistants] assistant registrars of voters for each voting

114 district therein, who shall serve at the pleasure of the registrar of
115 voters and assist such registrar in the performance of his duties, and,
116 for purposes of any admission session held pursuant to section 9-19b
117 or subsection (a) of section 9-19c, as many special assistants as are
118 necessary to carry out the duties of such session. Such registrar shall
119 file with the town clerk a certificate of each such appointment, which
120 shall be recorded with the records of the town, and shall appoint such
121 other assistants as are necessary for the performance of duties required
122 by sections 9-12 to 9-45, inclusive, as amended, on election day and the
123 six days preceding. Unless otherwise provided by subsection (b) of
124 section 9-19b, in the absence of either registrar of voters, his deputy or
125 any of his assistants, except special assistants, shall have all the powers
126 conferred, and may perform any of the duties imposed, upon such
127 registrar by any of the provisions of the statutes. Each deputy, assistant
128 or special assistant registrar shall be an elector of the municipality in
129 which he is appointed. [, provided any person who has served as an
130 assistant registrar of a municipality for three or more years may be an
131 elector of any municipality in the state.] Each deputy registrar shall
132 also, at the time of his appointment and during the six months
133 immediately preceding his appointment, be an enrolled member of the
134 same party as the registrar who makes such appointment.

135 Sec. 5. Subsection (e) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is
136 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
137 *1, 2004*):

138 (e) The names of candidates for town committee members which are
139 contained in one primary petition shall be placed in a separate row,
140 precedence as to row being given to the candidates whose names
141 appear in petitions in the order determined in accordance with this
142 subsection. Petitions filed by nine o'clock a.m. on the first business day
143 following the day on which petitions become available shall be given
144 precedence as to row based on the number of valid signatures filed, in
145 descending order from the greatest to the least. Petitions filed after
146 nine o'clock a.m. on the first business day following the day on which

147 petitions become available shall be given precedence as to row based
148 on the order in which they are filed, if such petitions are filed during
149 the regular business hours of the office of the registrars of voters. Such
150 order of precedence shall be determined separately for petitions
151 proposing the full number of candidates which the party may choose
152 at the primary and for petitions proposing fewer than such full
153 number of candidates, and provided further that petitions proposing
154 such full number of candidates shall have precedence as to row over
155 petitions proposing fewer than such full number of candidates.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2005</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To amend statutes affecting certain duties and responsibilities of registrars of voters.

[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.]