



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 69

LCO No. 814

00814_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY AND CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-168d of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (b) The registrars of voters in each town, or the legislative body of
5 the town, shall select as polling places only those sites which meet the
6 standards of accessibility required under the State Building Code, as
7 revised pursuant to section 29-269, if applicable, or this section. The
8 registrars of voters in each town shall file with the Secretary of the
9 State either: (1) A certification, as prescribed by the Secretary of the
10 State, that states that each polling place selected complies with the
11 provisions set forth in this subsection, or (2) an application for waiver,
12 as described in subsection (c) of this section.

13 Sec. 2. Section 9-388 of the general statutes is repealed and the
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

15 Whenever a convention of a political party is held for the
16 endorsement of candidates for nomination to state or district office,
17 each candidate endorsed at such convention shall file with the
18 Secretary of the State a certificate, signed by him, stating that he was
19 endorsed by such convention, his name as he authorizes it to appear
20 on the ballot, his full residence address and the title and district, if
21 applicable, of the office for which he was endorsed. Such certificate
22 shall be attested by either (1) the chairman or presiding officer, or (2)
23 the secretary of such convention and shall be received by the Secretary
24 of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after
25 the close of such convention. If a certificate of a party's endorsement
26 for a particular state or district office is not received by the Secretary of
27 the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party,
28 for purposes of section 9-416 and section 9-416a shall be deemed to
29 have made no endorsement of any candidate for such office. If
30 applicable, the chairman of a party's state convention shall, forthwith
31 upon the close of such convention, file with the Secretary of the State
32 the names and full residence addresses of persons selected by such
33 convention as the nominees of such party for electors of President and
34 Vice-President of the United States in accordance with the provisions
35 of section 9-175.

36 Sec. 3. Section 9-391 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes is
37 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
38 *passage*):

39 (a) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the
40 nomination of candidates for municipal office to be voted upon at a
41 municipal election, or for the election of town committee members
42 shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier than the
43 fifty-sixth day or later than the forty-ninth day preceding the day of
44 such primary. The endorsement shall be certified to the clerk of the
45 municipality by either (1) the chairman or presiding officer, [and] or
46 (2) the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention, as the
47 case may be, not later than four o'clock p.m. on the forty-eighth day

48 preceding the day of such primary. Such certification shall contain the
49 name and street address of each person so endorsed, the title of the
50 office or the position as committee member and the name or number of
51 the political subdivision or district, if any, for which each such person
52 is endorsed. If such a certificate of a party's endorsement is not
53 received by the town clerk by such time, such certificate shall be
54 invalid and such party, for purposes of sections 9-417, 9-418, as
55 amended, and 9-419, shall be deemed to have neither made nor
56 certified such endorsement of any candidate for such office.

57 (b) Each selection of delegates to a state or district convention shall
58 be made in accordance with the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier
59 than the one-hundred-fortieth day and not later than the one-hundred-
60 thirty-third day preceding the day of the primary for such state or
61 district office. Such selection shall be certified to the clerk of the
62 municipality by the chairman or presiding officer and the secretary of
63 the town committee or caucus, as the case may be, not later than four
64 o'clock p.m. on the one-hundred-thirty-second day preceding the day
65 of such primary. Each such certification shall contain the name and
66 street address of each person so selected, the position as delegate, and
67 the name or number of the political subdivision or district, if any, for
68 which each such person is selected. If such a certificate of a party's
69 selection is not received by the town clerk by such time, such certificate
70 shall be invalid and such party, for purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-
71 420, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any selection
72 of any person for the position of delegate.

73 (c) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the
74 nomination of candidates for a municipal office to be voted upon at a
75 state election shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not
76 earlier than the eighty-fourth day or later than the seventy-seventh day
77 preceding the day of such primary. Any certification to be filed under
78 this subsection shall be received by the Secretary of the State, in the
79 case of a candidate for the office of state senator or state representative,
80 or the town clerk, in the case of a candidate for any other municipal

81 office to be voted upon at a state election, not later than four o'clock
82 p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of the town committee
83 meeting, caucus or convention, as the case may be. If such a certificate
84 of a party's endorsement is not received by the Secretary of the State or
85 the town clerk, as the case may be, by such time, such certificate shall
86 be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418,
87 as amended, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any
88 endorsement of any candidate for such office. The candidate so
89 endorsed for a municipal office to be voted upon at a state election,
90 other than the office of justice of the peace, shall file with the Secretary
91 of the State or the town clerk, as the case may be, a certificate, signed
92 by that candidate, stating that such candidate was so endorsed, the
93 candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot,
94 the candidate's full street address and the title and district of the office
95 for which the candidate was endorsed. Such certificate shall be attested
96 by the chairman or presiding officer and the secretary of the town
97 committee, caucus or convention which made such endorsement. The
98 endorsement of candidates for the office of justice of the peace shall be
99 certified to the clerk of the municipality by the chairman or presiding
100 officer and the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention,
101 and shall contain the name and street address of each person so
102 endorsed and the title of the office for which each such person is
103 endorsed.

104 Sec. 4. Section 9-404a of the general statutes is repealed and the
105 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

106 Petition forms for candidacies for nomination by a political party to
107 a state office, as defined in section 9-372, or the district office of
108 representative in Congress shall be available from the Secretary of the
109 State beginning on the one-hundred-fifth day preceding the day of the
110 primary for such state and district offices. Petition forms for
111 candidacies for nomination by a political party to the district office of
112 judge of probate, state senator or state representative shall be available
113 from the Secretary of the State beginning on the [day following the

114 close of the district convention held for the purpose of nominating
115 such party's candidate for such office] seventy-seventh day preceding
116 the day of the primary for such office. Any person who requests a
117 petition form shall give the person's name and address and the name,
118 address and office sought of each candidate for whom the petition is
119 being obtained and shall file a statement signed by each such
120 candidate that such candidate consents to be a candidate for such
121 office. Each such candidate shall include on the statement of consent
122 the candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the
123 ballot. Upon receiving such information and statement, the Secretary
124 shall type or print on a petition form the name and address of each
125 such candidate, the office sought and the political party holding the
126 primary. The Secretary shall give to any person requesting such form
127 one or more petition pages, suitable for duplication, as the Secretary
128 deems necessary. If the person is requesting the form on behalf of an
129 indigent candidate or a group of indigent candidates listed on the
130 same petition, the Secretary shall give the person the number of
131 original pages that the person requests or the number which the
132 Secretary deems sufficient. An original petition page filled in by the
133 Secretary may be duplicated by or on behalf of the candidate or
134 candidates listed on the page and signatures may be obtained on such
135 duplicates. The duplicates may be filed in the same manner and shall
136 be subject to the same requirements as original petition pages. All
137 information relative to primary petitions shall be a public record.

138 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 9-390 of the general statutes is
139 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
140 *passage*):

141 (d) The selection of party-endorsed candidates in the manner
142 provided in subsection (a) or (c) of this section and the selection of
143 delegates to conventions in the manner provided in subsection (b) of
144 this section shall be made and certified to the clerk of the municipality
145 or the Secretary of the State, as the case may be, within the time
146 specified in section 9-391, as amended by this act.

147 Sec. 6. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-400 of the general statutes
148 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
149 *from passage*):

150 (a) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a state office
151 may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon
152 the last-completed enrollment list of such party in any municipality
153 within the state and who has either (1) received at least fifteen per cent
154 of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-
155 call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a
156 candidate for such state office, whether or not the party-endorsed
157 candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on the last ballot,
158 or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of at least two
159 per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the state, in
160 accordance with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive.
161 Candidacies described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be
162 filed by submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four
163 o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of the state
164 convention, a certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by
165 either (A) the chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the
166 convention, that such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of
167 such votes, and that such candidate consents to be a candidate in a
168 primary of such party for such state office. Such certificate shall specify
169 the candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the
170 ballot, the candidate's full residence address and the title of the office
171 for which the candidacy is being filed. A single such certificate or
172 petition for state office may be filed on behalf of two or more
173 candidates for different state offices who consent to have their names
174 appear on a single row of the primary ballot label under subsection (b)
175 of section 9-437. Candidacies described in subdivision (2) of this
176 subsection shall be filed by submitting said petition not later than four
177 o'clock p.m. on the [fourteenth] sixty-third day [following the close of
178 the state convention] preceding the day of the primary for such office
179 to the registrar of voters of the towns in which the respective petition
180 pages were circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such

181 petition with the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of section
182 9-404c. A petition filed by or on behalf of a candidate for state office
183 shall be invalid for such candidate if such candidate is certified as the
184 party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by
185 this act, or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the convention vote
186 for such office pursuant to this subsection. Except as provided in
187 section 9-416a, upon the expiration of the [fourteen-day period] time
188 period for party endorsement and circulation and [the completion of
189 the] tabulation of [petition] petitions and signatures, if any, if one or
190 more candidacies for such state office have been filed pursuant to the
191 provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall notify all
192 town clerks in accordance with the provisions of section 9-433, that a
193 primary for such state office shall be held in each municipality in
194 accordance with the provisions of section 9-415.

195 (b) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a district
196 office may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears
197 upon the last-completed enrollment list of such party within any
198 municipality or part of a municipality forming a component part of
199 such district and who has either (1) received at least fifteen per cent of
200 the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-
201 call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a
202 candidate for such district office, whether or not the party-endorsed
203 candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on the last ballot,
204 or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of at least two
205 per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the district for the
206 district office of representative in Congress, and at least five per cent of
207 the enrolled members of such party in the district for the district offices
208 of state senator, state representative and judge of probate, in
209 accordance with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive.
210 Candidacies described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be
211 filed by submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four
212 o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of the district
213 convention, a certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by
214 either (A) the chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the

215 convention, that such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of
216 such votes, and that the candidate consents to be a candidate in a
217 primary of such party for such district office. Such certificate shall
218 specify the candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear
219 on the ballot, the candidate's full residence address and the title and
220 district of the office for which the candidacy is being filed. Candidacies
221 described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be filed by
222 submitting said petition not later than four o'clock p.m. on the
223 [fourteenth] sixty-third day [following the close of the district
224 convention] preceding the day of the primary for such office to the
225 registrar of voters of the towns in which the respective petition pages
226 were circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such petition with
227 the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of section 9-404c. A
228 petition may only be filed by or on behalf of a candidate for the district
229 office of state senator, state representative or judge of probate who is
230 not certified as the party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388,
231 as amended by this act, or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the
232 convention vote for such office pursuant to this subsection. A petition
233 filed by or on behalf of a candidate for the district office of
234 representative in Congress shall be invalid if said candidate is certified
235 as the party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended
236 by this act, or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the convention
237 vote for such office pursuant to this subsection. Except as provided in
238 section 9-416a, upon the expiration of the [fourteen-day period] time
239 period for party endorsement and circulation and [the completion of
240 the] tabulation of [petition] petitions and signatures, if any, if one or
241 more candidacies for such district office have been filed pursuant to
242 the provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall notify all
243 town clerks within the district, in accordance with the provisions of
244 section 9-433, that a primary for such district office shall be held in
245 each municipality and each part of a municipality within the district in
246 accordance with the provisions of section 9-415.

247 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-405 of the general statutes is
248 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

249 *passage*):

250 (a) (1) Candidacies of persons other than party-endorsed candidates
 251 for nomination by a political party to a municipal office to be voted
 252 upon at a municipal election, or for election as town committee
 253 members shall be filed with the registrar, as provided in section 9-406,
 254 not later than four o'clock p.m. on the thirty-fourth day preceding the
 255 day of the primary of such party for the nomination of candidates for
 256 such office or for the election of town committee members. Said day
 257 and hour shall be specified on the petition forms.

258 (2) Candidacies of persons, other than party-endorsed candidates,
 259 for nomination by a political party to a municipal office to be voted
 260 upon at a state election shall be filed with the registrars, as provided in
 261 section 9-406, not later than four o'clock p.m. on the [fourteenth day
 262 following the making of the party's endorsement of a candidate] sixty-
 263 third day preceding the day of the primary for such office. Said day
 264 and hour shall be specified on the petition forms.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-168d(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-388
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-391
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-404a
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-390(d)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-400(a) and (b)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-405(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To make certain clarifications to election law procedures.

[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.]