



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 403

LCO No. 2097

02097_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING WRITE-IN VOTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-175 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) The electors in the several towns in the state, at the state election
4 in 1964, and quadrennially thereafter, shall elect electors of President
5 and Vice President of the United States, not exceeding in number the
6 whole number of senators and representatives to which the state is
7 then entitled in the Congress of the United States. Voting shall be
8 conducted and the result declared, and the returns thereof made, as is
9 provided in respect to state elections. The Secretary of the State shall,
10 on or before the first Monday of October of the year in which such
11 presidential electors are to be elected, transmit blank forms to the
12 several town clerks for the return of the votes; and the lists and returns
13 of the votes shall be made out, certified and directed according to such
14 forms. When an election is to be held for the choice of presidential
15 electors, if any political party has nominated candidates for President
16 and Vice President of the United States, and presidential electors to

17 vote for such presidential and vice presidential candidates have been
18 nominated by a political convention of such party in this state, or in
19 such other manner as entitles the names of such electors to be placed
20 upon the official ballots to be used in such election, the Secretary of the
21 State and any other official charged with the preparation of official
22 ballots to be used in such election, in lieu of placing the names of such
23 presidential electors on such official ballots, shall place on such official
24 ballots a space with the words "Presidential electors for (here insert the
25 last name of the candidate for President, the word 'and' and the last
26 name of the candidate for Vice President)"; and a vote cast therefor
27 shall be counted, and shall be in all respects effective, as a vote for each
28 of the presidential electors representing such candidates for President
29 and Vice President.

30 (b) In the case of a write-in candidate for President of the United
31 States, such candidate may register his candidacy with the Secretary of
32 the State by submitting his name and the names of a vice presidential
33 candidate and candidates for the office of elector in a number not
34 exceeding the whole number of electors to which the state is then
35 entitled. Such registration shall be on a form prescribed by the
36 Secretary of the State, which form shall include a statement of consent
37 to being a candidate by each proposed candidate for elector and by the
38 candidate for Vice President. Such registration shall not include a
39 designation of political party. A candidate for President may register at
40 any time after January first of the election year and not later than four
41 o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day preceding the election at which the
42 offices of presidential elector and vice presidential elector are being
43 contested. If a candidate has so registered, a vote may be cast by write-
44 in ballot for such candidate by writing in the last name of the
45 candidate for President and the last name of the candidate for Vice
46 President or only the last name of the candidate for President; such
47 write-in ballot shall be counted, and shall be in all respects effective, as
48 a vote for each of the presidential electors representing such
49 candidates for President and Vice President. No person nominated for
50 the office of President, Vice President, or presidential elector by a

51 major or minor party or by nominating petition shall register as a
52 write-in candidate for such office under the provisions of this section
53 and any such registration of a write-in candidacy filed by such a
54 person shall be void.

55 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
56 a person may cast a vote for a write-in candidate who has not
57 registered with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the
58 provisions of subsection (b) of this section and whose name does not
59 otherwise appear on such ballot by writing in the full name of the
60 candidate for President and the full name of the candidate for Vice
61 President; such write-in ballot shall be counted, and shall be in all
62 respects effective, as a vote for each of the presidential electors
63 representing such candidates for President and Vice President.

64 Sec. 2. Section 9-265 of the general statutes is repealed and the
65 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

66 (a) A write-in ballot for an office, cast for a person who has
67 registered as a write-in candidate for the office pursuant to subsection
68 (b) of section 9-175, as amended by this act, or section 9-373a, shall be
69 counted and recorded. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a
70 write-in ballot cast for a person who has not registered shall not be
71 counted or recorded.

72 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, in the case of an
73 office for which an elector may vote for only one candidate, a write-in
74 ballot cast for a person nominated for that office by a major or minor
75 party or by nominating petition shall be counted and recorded. In the
76 case of an office for which an elector may vote for more than one
77 candidate, a write-in ballot cast for a person nominated for that office
78 by a major or minor party or by nominating petition shall not be
79 counted or recorded.

80 (c) A write-in ballot for the office of Governor or Lieutenant
81 Governor, cast for a person nominated for either of those offices by a

82 major or minor party or by nominating petition, in conjunction with a
83 write-in ballot for the other such office cast for a person nominated for
84 either office by a different party or petition, shall not be counted or
85 recorded for either office.

86 (d) Except as hereinafter provided, a write-in ballot for the office of
87 President or Vice-President cast for a person nominated for such office
88 by a major or minor party or by nominating petition shall be counted
89 and recorded and deemed to be a vote for each of the duly-nominated
90 candidates for the office of presidential elector represented by such
91 candidate for President or Vice-President. A write-in ballot for the
92 office of President or Vice-President, cast for a person nominated for
93 either of such offices by a major or minor party or by nominating
94 petition, in conjunction with a write-in ballot for the other such office
95 cast for a person nominated for either office by a different party or
96 petition, shall not be counted or recorded for either office.

97 (e) If the name of a person is written in for the office of Governor or
98 Lieutenant Governor, or President or Vice-President, as the case may
99 be, and no name is written in for the other office, such write-in ballot
100 shall be counted and recorded if it meets the other requirements of this
101 section.

102 (f) A write-in ballot for an office, cast for a person who has not
103 registered as a write-in candidate for the office pursuant to subsection
104 (b) of section 9-175, as amended by this act, or section 9-373a, shall be
105 counted and recorded provided the name of such person does not
106 otherwise appear on the ballot for such office and the name of only one
107 candidate for such office appears on the ballot.

108 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) A write-in ballot shall be cast in its appropriate place on the
109 voting machine. A write-in ballot for Governor and Lieutenant
110 Governor, or for President and Vice-President, as the case may be,
111 shall be written in a single space, provided that if only one name is
112 written in the space it shall be deemed to be a vote for Governor, or for
113 President, as the case may be, unless otherwise indicated. A write-in

114 ballot shall be written upon the paper contained in the receptacle or
115 device provided in the voting machine for such purpose. The registrars
116 of voters shall cause an adhesive label, provided by the Secretary of the
117 State, upon which shall be imprinted the words "write-in slides", to be
118 affixed to the upper left-hand corner of each voting machine, directly
119 opposite the write-in slides. The registrars shall (1) lock all write-in
120 slides if there are no registered write-in candidates for any office, or (2)
121 lock the write-in slides for multiple-opening offices if there are
122 registered write-in candidates only for single opening offices.

123 [(g)] (h) A write-in ballot which is not cast as provided in this
124 section shall not be counted or recorded.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	9-175
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	9-265

Statement of Purpose:

To allow voters to write-in the name of any person for any office so long as that person's name does not already appear on the ballot for that office and there is only one candidate for that office.

[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.]