



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 493

January Session, 2007

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1184

Senate, April 16, 2007

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE
PRIMARY.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-464 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 On the first Tuesday in [March] February of each year in which the
4 President of the United States is to be elected, each party shall conduct
5 a primary in each town if the names of two or more candidates are to
6 be placed on such party's ballot in accordance with the provisions of
7 this chapter.

8 Sec. 2. Section 9-466 of the general statutes is repealed and the
9 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

10 The secretary shall, at ten o'clock a.m. on the [seventy-fourth]
11 seventy-eighth day preceding the day of the primary, publicly
12 announce a list of candidates whose names are to be placed on the

13 ballot of each party at such primary pursuant to subsection (a) of
14 section 9-465. Forthwith upon announcing such list, said secretary
15 shall notify each such candidate, by registered mail with return receipt
16 requested, that his name will be included on the ballot unless he files
17 with the secretary, not later than [four] twelve o'clock p.m. of the
18 [thirty-sixth] fortieth day before the primary, a written request, signed
19 by the candidate, to the following effect: "I request that my name be
20 omitted from the ballot at Connecticut's forthcoming (name of
21 party) presidential preference primary". The name of any candidate
22 who files a request as provided by this section, within the time
23 specified, shall be omitted from the ballot, but no such withdrawal
24 shall be honored if it is received later than the time specified by this
25 section.

26 Sec. 3. Section 9-467 of the general statutes is repealed and the
27 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

28 On or after twelve o'clock noon of the [seventy-fourth] seventy-
29 eighth day preceding the day of the primary, any person seeking the
30 nomination of a party for President, whose name is not included in the
31 list of candidates announced by the secretary pursuant to section 9-466,
32 as amended by this act, or any person advocating the nomination of
33 such person, by such party, may obtain petition pages from the
34 secretary in the manner provided by this section. Such pages shall be
35 in a form prescribed by the secretary and shall conform, as nearly as
36 may be, to the requirements for primary petition forms provided in
37 section 9-410. Any person requesting the petition pages shall give to
38 the secretary, in writing, his name and address, the name and address
39 of the candidate for whom the petition is to be circulated and the party
40 holding the primary, and shall also file, or cause to be filed, with said
41 secretary a written statement, signed by such candidate, to the effect
42 that he consents to the inclusion of his name on the primary ballot of
43 such party. Upon completion of these requirements, the secretary shall
44 give to the person so requesting such petition pages [a number of
45 pages sufficient to contain at least two times the number of signatures
46 required in accordance with the provisions of section 9-469] one

47 petition page, suitable for duplication. If the person is requesting the
48 form on behalf of an indigent candidate, the secretary shall give the
49 person the number of original pages that such person requests or the
50 number of original pages that the secretary deems to be sufficient. The
51 secretary shall also fill in on each petition page the name and address
52 of the candidate, the words "nomination for President of the United
53 States" as the designation of the office sought, and the name of the
54 party conducting the primary.

55 Sec. 4. Section 9-468 of the general statutes is repealed and the
56 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

57 Except as hereinafter provided, such petitions shall be circulated,
58 filed with the registrars of voters, and verified by said registrars, as
59 nearly as may be, in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-410
60 and 9-412. Each page of such a petition shall be filed with the registrar
61 of voters of the party holding the primary in the town of voting
62 residence of the signers thereof, not later than four o'clock p.m. of the
63 [forty-sixth] fiftieth day preceding the day of the primary; and such
64 registrar shall verify the signatures on each such page and forward it
65 to the secretary not later than four o'clock p.m. of the [forty-second]
66 forty-sixth day preceding the day of the primary. If, prior to such last
67 day for filing such pages with the registrar, such a petition was issued
68 under section 9-467, as amended by this act, the office or office
69 facilities of each registrar of such party in each town shall open not
70 later than one o'clock p.m. and remain open until at least four o'clock
71 p.m., and each such registrar or his deputy assistant registrar shall be
72 present therein.

73 Sec. 5. Section 9-472 of the general statutes is repealed and the
74 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

75 If, after determination of the order of candidates on the ballot, a
76 candidate dies, his name shall not appear on such ballot; provided that
77 the position of each remaining candidate on the ballot shall not be
78 altered by the deletion of such name. [The voting machine candidate
79 pointer over any blank space on the ballot resulting from the deletion

80 of such name shall be locked so that no vote shall be registered for
 81 such position.] The secretary may authorize the use of blank stickers
 82 on the ballot by town clerks in order to comply with the provisions of
 83 this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-464
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-466
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-467
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-468
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-472

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill changes the date of Connecticut's presidential preference primary and makes other conforming changes. The bill does not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1184*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE
PRIMARY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill changes the date of Connecticut's presidential preference primary, from the first Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in February in a presidential election year. It makes conforming changes by increasing the number of days before the primary when:

1. the secretary of the state must announce the list of candidates whose names will appear on the ballot (from 74 to 78 days);
2. a candidate may ask the secretary to remove his or her name from the ballot (from 36 to 40 days);
3. petitioning candidates may begin circulating nominating petitions and must file them with the registrar of voters (from 74 to 78 days and 46 to 50 days, respectively); and
4. registrars must verify the signatures and forward the petitions to the secretary (from 42 to 46 days).

The bill also changes, from 4 p.m. to 12 p.m., the time by which a candidate who wants the secretary to remove his or her name from the ballot must submit a written request. As noted above, this may be done 40 days, rather than 36 days, before the primary.

The bill removes a requirement that the secretary provide petitioning candidates with a number of petition pages that would allow them to collect at least twice the number of required signatures, or 1% of enrolled party members in the state. Under the bill, she must

provide one petition page suitable for duplication, unless a candidate is indigent. In that case she must provide the candidate with the number of pages the person requests or she thinks is sufficient.

The bill removes an obsolete provision concerning lever voting machines.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/30/2007)