



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7258

LCO No. 4600

04600_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING VOTERS WITH A DISABILITY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-31a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

3 (a) As used in this section, [and section 9-31b,] "permanently
4 physically disabled person" means a person who, by reason of a major
5 defect or infirmity of body, whether congenital or acquired by
6 accident, injury or disease, is permanently physically incapacitated to a
7 degree that prevents him and will continue to prevent him from
8 appearing in person at the office of the town clerk or registrars of the
9 town where he temporarily or permanently resides.

10 [(b) Any permanently physically disabled person may, in the
11 manner prescribed under this section and upon a form as prescribed
12 under section 9-31b, apply to the town clerk or either registrar of
13 voters of such town for examination and admission as an elector of any
14 Connecticut town. (1) In the case of a permanently physically disabled
15 person whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in such

16 town are attained on or before the last session for admission of electors
17 prior to an election to be held in the town, the application shall be
18 submitted so that it will be received by such town clerk or either
19 registrar of voters not later than such last session. Upon receipt of the
20 application, the town clerk or either registrar of voters shall notify the
21 applicant of the day, and the hour, such day to be within ten days of
22 the receipt of the application, at which an admitting official shall meet
23 with the applicant at the temporary or permanent residence of the
24 applicant. (2) In the case of a permanently physically disabled person
25 whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in such town
26 are attained after the last session for admission of electors prior to an
27 election to be held in the town, the application shall be submitted so
28 that it will be received by such town clerk or either registrar of voters
29 not later than the opening of the limited session for the admission of
30 electors held, under section 9-17, on the last weekday prior to the
31 election. Upon receipt of the application, the town clerk or either
32 registrar of voters shall notify the applicant of the day, and the hour,
33 such day and hour to be not later than 5:00 p.m. on the last weekday
34 before the election, at which an admitting official shall meet with the
35 applicant at the temporary or permanent residence of the applicant.

36 (c) Such admitting official shall meet at the appointed time with the
37 applicant for the purpose of examining his qualifications as an elector
38 and for the purpose of admitting him as an elector if the applicant is
39 found qualified. Such official shall make available to the applicant at
40 such time, upon request, a copy of the statement that specifies each
41 eligibility requirement and contains an attestation that the applicant
42 meets each such requirement (1) in video form in accordance with
43 procedures established by the registrars of voters and (2) in braille,
44 large print and audio form. Such official shall provide the applicant
45 with a written notice of approval or disapproval at that time, except as
46 otherwise provided in section 9-19e. Any person making application
47 for registration under this section shall be entitled to the privileges of
48 an elector and party enrollment, if applicable, from the time such
49 application for admission as an elector is approved by the town clerk

50 or registrars of voters of his voting residence.]

51 (b) Any disabled person who cannot register by mail or in person at
52 the office of the registrars of voters may request of the registrars of
53 voters that an election official be sent to the person's residence to assist
54 the applicant with the application to register to vote. The registrars of
55 voters shall act promptly on any such request.

56 (c) In the case of a permanently physically disabled person whose
57 qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in such town are
58 attained after the last session for admission of electors prior to an
59 election to be held in the town, the person shall be admitted by either
60 registrar of voters not later than five o'clock p.m. on the last weekday
61 before the election. An admitting official shall meet with the applicant
62 at the temporary or permanent residence of the applicant at such time
63 of admission.

64 (d) Any person that makes application for registration pursuant to
65 the provisions of this section shall be entitled to the privileges of an
66 elector and party enrollment, if applicable, from the time such
67 application for admission as an elector is approved by the registrars of
68 voters.

69 Sec. 2. Section 9-264 of the general statutes is repealed and the
70 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

71 (a) An elector who requires assistance to vote, by reason of
72 blindness, disability or inability to write or to read the ballot, may be
73 given assistance by a person of the elector's choice, other than (1) the
74 elector's employer, (2) an agent of such employer, [or] (3) an officer or
75 agent of the elector's union, or (4) a candidate on the ballot. Any
76 person who gives such assistance shall provide his or her name to the
77 registrars of voters or the assistant registrars of voters, as the case may
78 be, for recording on a form for the giving of assistance to a voter in the
79 process of voting. The person assisting the elector may accompany the
80 elector into the voting [machine] booth. Such person shall register such

81 elector's vote upon the [machine] ballot as such elector directs. Any
82 person accompanying an elector into the voting [machine] booth who
83 deceives any elector in registering [his] the elector's vote under this
84 section or seeks to influence any elector while in the act of voting, or
85 who registers any vote for any elector or on any question other than as
86 requested by such elector, or who gives information to any person as
87 to what person or persons such elector voted for, or how [he] the
88 elector voted on any question, shall be fined not more than one
89 thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

90 (b) Paper ballots provided by the [municipal clerk] registrars of
91 voters to the moderator [pursuant to section 9-259] shall be made
92 available for electors with disabilities [in] at a polling [places] place in
93 which [a voting machine cannot be adjusted to allow all necessary
94 parts to be reached from a chair] such electors are not able to enter the
95 polling place. Such voting shall be referred to as "curb side voting".
96 Such paper ballots shall be used at the option of the elector with
97 disabilities. The elector shall announce the elector's name to the
98 [checkers] registrars of voters or assistant registrar of voters, as the
99 case may be who shall [cross the elector's name off the registry list and
100 add it with the elector's address to the end of the official checklist
101 where it shall be designated "paper ballot for persons with disabilities"
102 or "PBD" and serially numbered. After the elector has so announced
103 the elector's name, the moderator shall deliver to the elector an
104 absentee ballot and a serially-numbered envelope] deliver to the
105 elector a paper ballot. The election officials shall check the elector's
106 identification in order to ascertain the elector's identity. The elector
107 shall forthwith mark the ballot in the presence of the [moderator]
108 election officials in such manner that the [moderator] election officials
109 shall not know how the ballot is marked. The elector shall [fold] place
110 the ballot in a privacy sleeve, in the presence of the [moderator]
111 election officials so as to conceal the markings. [and deposit and seal it
112 in the serially-numbered envelope. The elector shall deliver the
113 envelope to the moderator who shall place it in a specially-designated
114 depository envelope. The paper ballots thus received shall be counted

115 at the next scheduled absentee ballot count in the same manner as
116 other absentee ballots. Such ballots so counted shall be preserved by
117 placing them in the depository envelopes with the regular absentee
118 ballots, and such serially-numbered envelopes shall be placed in the
119 depository envelopes with the regular absentee ballot envelopes.] The
120 registrars of voters or the assistant registrars of voters, as the case may
121 be, shall mark in red ink on the official check list, "CSV" in front of the
122 elector's name, which shall be designated "paper ballot for electors
123 with disabilities". The election officials shall deliver the privacy sleeve
124 and ballot to the voting machine for processing of the elector's ballot.

125 Sec. 3. Section 9-297 of the general statutes is repealed and the
126 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

127 No official or other person at any election shall, in the [enclosure
128 where the ballot box and stub box are placed, or in any room or booth
129 herein mentioned,] polling place suggest to any elector the name of
130 any political party or candidate for any office. No person shall assist or
131 offer to assist any elector in the preparation of [his] the ballot. [to be
132 used in voting, unless appointed for that purpose by the moderator of
133 the election.] No elector shall receive [such] assistance unless [he is
134 physically incapable of preparing his ballot, and the moderator shall be
135 the sole judge of such physical disability] the elector requests
136 assistance. In such case, [of such physical disability, the moderator] the
137 elector shall [, upon the request of the elector, appoint two electors of
138 different parties, and such persons shall render such assistance as the
139 elector requires in the preparation of his ballot] choose whom the
140 elector would like to have assist him or her in casting the ballot.

141 Sec. 4. Section 9-17a of the general statutes is repealed and the
142 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

143 As used in sections 9-17, 9-19b, 9-19c(a), 9-20, 9-23a, 9-24, 9-31a [, 9-
144 31b] and 9-31l, unless otherwise provided, the term "admitting official"
145 means a town clerk, assistant town clerk, registrar of voters, deputy
146 registrar of voters, assistant registrar of voters, special assistant

147 registrar of voters or the board for admission of electors.

148 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 9-20 of the general statutes is
149 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
150 *October 1, 2007*):

151 (b) The applicant's statement shall be delivered to the registrars
152 immediately and shall be kept by the registrars as a public record in a
153 safe depository, except that no Social Security number obtained by the
154 registrars prior to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to
155 any governmental agency. Any such statement of an elector whose
156 name has been removed from the registry list for a period of at least
157 five years may be placed on microfilm, destroyed or otherwise
158 disposed of by such registrars, in the manner provided in section 7-
159 109. Upon the request of any elector, or if the applicant does not
160 present a birth certificate, drivers' license or Social Security card as
161 required by subsection (a) of this section, at the time an application is
162 made in person to an admitting official or prior to the approval of such
163 an application, any admitting official shall require the applicant to
164 prove his identity, place of birth, age and bona fide residence by the
165 testimony under oath of at least one elector or by the presentation of
166 proof satisfactory to such admitting official. Each person found
167 qualified shall thereupon be admitted as an elector, except as provided
168 in sections 9-12, 9-19e, 9-19g and 9-30. The registrars may request an
169 elector whose date of birth is missing from their records to voluntarily
170 furnish his date of birth. Any admitting official may administer oaths
171 in any matter coming before him under section 9-12, 9-17, 9-19b,
172 subsection (a) of section 9-19c, section 9-19e, 9-19g, 9-23, 9-23a, 9-25, 9-
173 31a, [9-31b,] 9-31l, 9-40a or this section. Said admitting official shall
174 prohibit any activity which interferes with the orderly process of
175 admission of electors.

176 Sec. 6. Sections 9-31b and 9-31d of the general statutes are repealed.
177 (*Effective October 1, 2007*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-31a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-264
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-297
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-17a
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	9-20(b)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To clarify voting procedures utilized for electors with disabilities.

[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.]