



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 222**

January Session, 2009

House Bill No. 6439

*House of Representatives, March 25, 2009*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. SPALLONE of the 36th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE VOTING RIGHTS OF CERTAIN SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD PERSONS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-431 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) No person shall be permitted to vote at a primary of a party  
4 unless (1) he is on the last-completed enrollment list of such party in  
5 the municipality or voting district, as the case may be, or (2) if  
6 authorized by the state rules of such party filed pursuant to section 9-  
7 374, he is an unaffiliated elector in the municipality or voting district,  
8 as the case may be, provided if two or more such parties are holding  
9 primaries on the same day in such municipality or voting district,  
10 whether for the same offices or different offices, such unaffiliated  
11 elector may vote in the primary of only one such party. Such state  
12 party rules may authorize unaffiliated electors to vote for some or all  
13 offices to be contested at its primaries.

14 (b) Any such person offering to vote and being challenged as to his  
 15 identity or residence shall, before he votes, prove by the testimony,  
 16 under oath, of at least one other elector qualified to vote in such  
 17 primary or by such other evidence acceptable to the moderator either  
 18 of the following which are applicable: (1) His identity with the person  
 19 on whose name he offers to vote or (2) his bona fide residence in the  
 20 municipality or political subdivision holding the primary, as the case  
 21 may be. The rules of each party in each municipality shall prescribe  
 22 whether members of the town committee shall be elected from the  
 23 municipality at large, in which case any person on the last-completed  
 24 enrollment list of such party in such municipality shall be eligible to  
 25 vote in a primary for the election of such committee members, or  
 26 whether such committee members shall be elected from political  
 27 subdivisions of such municipality, in which case only persons on the  
 28 last-completed list of such party in such a political subdivision shall be  
 29 eligible to vote in a primary for the election of such committee  
 30 members from such political subdivision; provided no town committee  
 31 in any municipality shall be elected both at large and from political  
 32 subdivisions.

33 (c) Any citizen who has not yet attained the age of eighteen years  
 34 but who will have attained the age of eighteen years on or before the  
 35 day of a regular election, and who: (1) Is otherwise qualified to be an  
 36 elector, and (2) has applied for admission as an elector, may vote at a  
 37 primary of a party held for such regular election pursuant to  
 38 subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	from passage	9-431

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 10 \$</b>	<b>FY 11 \$</b>
All Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

**Explanation**

This bill implements the constitutional amendment passed by the electors during the 2008 election - allowing 17 year-olds who will turn 18 on or before the day of a regular election to vote in primary elections. This may result in a minimal cost to municipalities for the cost of additional primary ballots. The cost of each ballot to the municipality is approximately \$0.25.

**The Out Years**

None

*Source: Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC)*

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6439****AN ACT CONCERNING THE VOTING RIGHTS OF CERTAIN SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD PERSONS.****SUMMARY:**

This bill is necessary to implement the constitutional amendment passed by electors during the 2008 election allowing 17-year-olds who will turn 18 on or before the day of a regular election to vote in its primary.

Under the bill, like the constitutional amendment, such an individual must apply and otherwise qualify for admission as an elector. He or she may then vote in a primary of the party with which he or she is affiliated that is held to determine nominees for the regular election (see BACKGROUND). Upon turning 18, the individual's electoral rights attach. By law, a "regular election" means any municipal or state election. State elections include candidates for federal office.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND**

By law, primaries are open to unaffiliated voters only if a party's rules authorize participation. Current Republican and Democratic state party rules do not allow these voters to participate in their primary elections. Minor party nominations are not covered under the primary statutes, but are made pursuant to their rules.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/06/2009)