



# House of Representatives

**File No. 828**

General Assembly

January Session, 2011

**(Reprint of File No. 493)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6532  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 20, 2011

**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 Section 9-464 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 July 1, 2011*):

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

8 Sec. 2. Section 9-466 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
9 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

10 The secretary shall, at ten o'clock a.m. on the [seventy-eighth]  
11 seventy-fourth 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 twelve o'clock p.m. of the [fortieth]  
18 thirty-sixth day before the primary, a written request, signed by the  
19 candidate, to the following effect: "I request that my name be omitted  
20 from the ballot at Connecticut's forthcoming .... (name of party)  
21 presidential preference primary". The name of any candidate who files  
22 a request as provided by this section, within the time specified, shall be  
23 omitted from the ballot, but no such withdrawal shall be honored if it  
24 is received later than the time specified by this section.

25 Sec. 3. Section 9-467 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
26 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

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

48 shall also fill in on each petition page the name and address of the  
49 candidate, the words "nomination for President of the United States" as  
50 the designation of the office sought, and the name of the party  
51 conducting the primary.

52 Sec. 4. Section 9-468 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

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

70 Sec. 5. Section 9-469 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
71 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

72 The secretary shall complete tabulation of the signatures on such  
73 petitions not later than the [thirty-sixth] forty-sixth day preceding the  
74 day of the primary. The secretary shall place on the ballot of each party  
75 at the primary the name of each candidate whose petition has been  
76 signed by a number of enrolled members of such party equal to at least  
77 one per cent of the total number of enrolled members of such party in  
78 the state, according to the most recent enrollment records on file in the  
79 office of the secretary. No candidate who has filed a statement of

80 consent pursuant to the provisions of section 9-467, as amended by this  
81 act, and whose name is placed on the ballot pursuant to the provisions  
82 of this section shall be permitted to withdraw his name from such  
83 ballot.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	9-464
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	9-466
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	9-467
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	9-468
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	9-469

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:** None

**Explanation**

The bill makes changes to presidential preference primary statutes conforming state law to recent revisions by the Democratic and Republican national committees. This bill has no fiscal impact on the state or municipalities.

House "A" makes a technical change and does not result in a fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

---

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6532 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill changes the date of Connecticut's presidential preference primary from the first Tuesday in February to the last Tuesday in April to conform state law to recent rules revisions by the Democratic and Republican national committees (see BACKGROUND). To effectuate this change, the bill alters the number of days before the presidential preference primary when:

1. the secretary of the state must announce publicly the list of candidates whose names will appear on the ballot (from 78 to 74 days before the primary);
2. a candidate may ask the secretary to remove his or her name from the ballot (from 40 to 36 days before the primary);
3. petitioning candidates may begin circulating nominating petitions and must file them with the registrar of voters (from 78 to 74 days and 50 to 53 days, respectively, before the primary);
4. registrars must verify the signatures and forward the petitions to the secretary (from 46 to 49 days before the primary); and
5. the secretary must finish calculating the number of signatures on the petitions to determine whether each candidate has enough for his or her name to be placed on the ballot (from 36 to 46 days before the primary).

These changes also accommodate the federal Military and Overseas

Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act (P.L. 111-84). Among other things, the MOVE Act requires states to transmit validly requested absentee ballots to overseas and military voters no later than 45 days before a federal election, unless they request and receive a hardship waiver from the Department of Defense.

\*House Amendment "A" changes the presidential preference primary date from the first Tuesday in March to the last Tuesday in April.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***National Democratic and Republican Committee Rules***

In August 2010, the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee both adopted rules prohibiting states, other than Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, or Nevada from holding a presidential preference primary before the first Tuesday in March in the year in which a national convention is held (Democratic National Committee, Delegate Selection Rules 11(A) and Republican National Committee, Revised Rule No. 15(b)).

### ***MOVE Act***

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986 (UOCAVA) (P.L. 99-410) requires U.S. states and territories to allow certain U.S. citizens to register and vote by absentee ballot in federal elections. The MOVE Act requires states, by the November 2010 general election to, among other things:

1. establish procedures allowing UOCAVA voters to request voter registration and absentee ballot applications by mail or electronically for general, special, and primary elections for federal office;
2. designate at least one means of electronic communication for (a) UOCAVA voters to request voter registration and absentee ballot applications, (b) sending voter registration and absentee

ballot applications to voters, and (c) providing UOCAVA voters with election and voting information;

3. develop procedures for transmitting blank ballots to UOCAVA voters by mail and electronically for general, special, and primary elections for federal office; and
4. develop a free access system that allows a UOCAVA voter to determine whether his or her absentee ballot was received.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14    Nay 1    (03/23/2011)