



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 212

LCO No. 1084

01084_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS FOR STATE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-232c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The moderator shall keep an accurate memorandum of the
4 challenge which shall include (1) the name of the challenged voter; (2)
5 [his] the challenged voter's registry list address; (3) the reason for the
6 challenge; (4) the name and address of the challenger; (5) pertinent
7 facts concerning the challenge; and (6) the result of the moderator's
8 decision. The challenged voter shall also sign such memorandum and
9 it shall be assigned the same number as the [challenged] provisional
10 ballot.

11 Sec. 2. Section 9-232j of the general statutes is repealed and the
12 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

13 The moderator of the election in each voting district shall appear at
14 the office of the [town clerk] registrars of voters not later than eight

15 o'clock p.m. of the day before an election [for federal office] or a
16 primary. At such time, the [town clerk] registrars of voters shall
17 provide a provisional ballot packet to such moderator or moderators.
18 Each packet shall include: (1) The appropriate number of provisional
19 ballots, [for federal office provided by the Secretary of the State,] which
20 shall be equal to not less than one per cent of the number of electors
21 who are eligible to vote in the voting district served by the moderator,
22 or such other number as the [municipal clerk and the] registrars of
23 voters agree is sufficient to protect electors' voting rights, (2) the
24 appropriate number of serially-numbered envelopes prescribed by the
25 Secretary, (3) a provisional ballot inventory form, (4) a provisional
26 ballot depository envelope, and (5) other necessary forms prescribed
27 by the Secretary.

28 Sec. 3. Section 9-232k of the general statutes is repealed and the
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

30 The Secretary of the State shall prescribe [and provide to town
31 clerks] the provisional ballot which shall be [a] the regular ballot of
32 candidates. [for federal office.] The Secretary may prescribe that the
33 provisional ballot be the [overseas] ballot prepared under section [9-
34 158i] 9-135b.

35 Sec. 4. Section 9-232l of the general statutes is repealed and the
36 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

37 (a) An individual may apply for and be issued a provisional ballot if
38 (1) the individual appears at the polling place and declares that such
39 individual is an elector in the town in which the individual desires to
40 vote and that the individual is eligible to vote in the primary or
41 election [for federal office] in the polling place, but the name of the
42 individual does not appear on the official registry list for such polling
43 place, and (2) the registrars determine that such name cannot be
44 restored under section 9-42 or transferred from another polling place
45 under section 9-35.

46 (b) If the moderator decides that an elector, whose name appears on
47 the registry list and who has been challenged pursuant to [sections]
48 section 9-232, [to 9-232f, inclusive,] is not eligible to vote in the primary
49 or election, [for federal office,] such elector may apply for and cast a
50 provisional ballot upon the execution of a written affirmation by the
51 elector at the polling place affirming that the elector is qualified to vote
52 in the election or primary [for federal office] in the polling place and
53 has neither offered himself or herself to vote nor voted in person or by
54 absentee ballot at said election or primary [for federal office] at the
55 polling place.

56 (c) If a poll worker denies an individual the opportunity to cast a
57 ballot for any reason for which a provisional ballot may be issued, such
58 poll worker shall offer such individual a provisional ballot.

59 [(c)] (d) Such application for provisional ballot shall be prescribed
60 by the Secretary of the State, executed before an election official and
61 include a written affirmation, under penalty of false statement in
62 absentee balloting pursuant to section 9-359a, which shall be in the
63 form substantially as follows:

64 AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under
65 penalties of false statement, that:

66 1. I am an elector in the town indicated.

67 2. I am eligible to vote in the election or primary indicated [for
68 federal office] today in the town and polling place indicated.

69 3.a. My name does not appear on the official list of eligible voters for
70 the polling place indicated, and the polling place officials called the
71 registrars of voters and were told that my name did not appear on the
72 active registry list for this town for at least one of the four years
73 previous or on one of the preliminary active registry lists for this year;
74 or

75 b. The moderator decided that I am not eligible to vote [for federal
76 office] in the town indicated for the reason of disfranchisement, lack of
77 identity, lack of bona fide residence or failure to present the prescribed
78 identification required for new electors after January 1, 2003, indicated.

79 4. My residence address is located in the voting district that this
80 polling place serves.

81 5. I have not voted and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot
82 in person or by absentee ballot at this election or primary. [for federal
83 office.]

84 6. I apply for a provisional ballot. [for federal office.]

85 Sec. 5. Section 9-232n of the general statutes is repealed and the
86 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

87 Immediately after the close of the polls, the moderator shall seal the
88 provisional ballot depository envelope and deliver such envelope to
89 the registrars of voters of the town. The registrars of voters shall
90 forthwith verify the information contained with each provisional
91 ballot. If the registrars of voters determine that the applicant is eligible
92 to vote, they shall note their decision on the outer envelope of the
93 ballot and open and count the provisional ballot in accordance with
94 the provisions of sections [9-232i] 9-232j to 9-232o, inclusive, as
95 amended by this act, and procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the
96 State. If the registrars of voters are unable to determine that the
97 applicant is eligible to vote or determine that the applicant is not
98 eligible to vote, the applicant's provisional ballot sealed envelope shall
99 be marked "rejected", along with the reason for such rejection, and
100 signed by the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall verify
101 and count all provisional ballots in their town not later than six days
102 after the election or primary. The registrars of voters shall forthwith
103 prepare and sign in duplicate a report showing the number of
104 provisional ballots received from electors, the number rejected and the
105 number counted, and showing the additional votes counted for each

106 candidate [for federal office] on the provisional ballots. The registrars
107 of voters shall file one report with the town clerk and shall seal one in
108 the depository envelope with the provisional ballots and file such
109 depository envelope with the town clerk. The depository envelope
110 shall be preserved by the town clerk for the period of time required to
111 preserve counted absentee ballots, [for federal elections.] The head
112 moderator shall forthwith file a corrected return [for federal offices]
113 with the town clerk and the Secretary showing (1) the final votes after
114 any recanvass, pursuant to sections 9-311 to 9-311b, inclusive, the votes
115 on provisional ballots and the totals, and (2) the number of provisional
116 ballots received from electors, the number rejected and the number
117 counted, as reported by the registrars of voters.

118 Sec. 6. Subsection (e) of section 9-236b of the general statutes is
119 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
120 *passage*):

121 (e) For use at elections [for federal office] and primaries, the
122 Secretary of the State shall prescribe and the [municipal clerk]
123 registrars of voters shall provide for all polling places in the
124 municipality: (1) Instructions on how to cast a provisional ballot, (2)
125 instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters who register to
126 vote by mail on or after January 1, 2003, (3) general information
127 concerning voting rights under federal and Connecticut laws,
128 including information on the right of an individual to cast a
129 provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate
130 officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated, and (4)
131 general information on federal and state laws concerning prohibitions
132 on acts of fraud and misrepresentation.

133 Sec. 7. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 9-23r of the general statutes
134 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
135 *from passage*):

136 (d) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section does

137 not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this section
138 as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,
139 when the individual has entered the polling place in an election for
140 federal office, the individual shall present: (1) A current and valid
141 photo identification, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank
142 statement, government check, paycheck or other government
143 document that shows the name and address of the voter. If an
144 individual does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an
145 election for federal office, such individual may cast a provisional ballot
146 prescribed under sections [9-232i] 9-232j to 9-232o, inclusive, as
147 amended by this act. For purposes of this section, "election for federal
148 office" means an election for electors of President and Vice President, a
149 presidential preference primary, an election or primary for United
150 States Senator and an election or primary for Representative in
151 Congress.

152 (e) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section does
153 not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this section
154 as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector, and
155 if the individual votes by absentee ballot in an election for federal
156 office, the individual shall enclose in the outer absentee ballot
157 envelope, and not in the inner envelope with the ballot: (1) A copy of a
158 current and valid photo identification, or (2) a copy of a current utility
159 bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other
160 government document that shows the name and address of the voter.
161 If an individual does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an
162 election for federal office, such individual's absentee ballot shall be
163 processed in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of
164 subsection (d) of section 9-150a, as amended by this act, and treated as
165 a provisional ballot [for federal office only,] pursuant to sections [9-
166 232i] 9-232j to 9-232o, inclusive, as amended by this act.

167 Sec. 8. Subsection (d) of section 9-150a of the 2012 supplement to the
168 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
169 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

170 (d) (1) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as
171 required by section 9-140a, such inner envelope shall not be opened or
172 the ballot removed therefrom, and such inner envelope shall be
173 replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be marked
174 "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the counters.
175 (2) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the ballot
176 is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r and has not
177 met the requirements of subsection (e) of section 9-23r, as amended by
178 this act, the counters shall replace the ballot in the opened inner
179 envelope, replace the inner envelope in the opened outer envelope and
180 mark "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot" and endorse the reason for such
181 rejection on the outer envelope, and the ballot shall be treated as a
182 provisional ballot [for federal offices only,] pursuant to sections [9-
183 232i] 9-232j to 9-232o, inclusive, as amended by this act.

184 Sec. 9. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the 2012
185 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
186 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

187 (2) To levy a civil penalty not to exceed (A) two thousand dollars
188 per offense against any person the commission finds to be in violation
189 of any provision of chapter 145, part V of chapter 146, part I of chapter
190 147, chapter 148, section 7-9, section 9-12, subsection (a) of section 9-17,
191 section 9-19b, 9-19e, 9-19g, 9-19h, 9-19i, 9-20, 9-21, 9-23a, 9-23g, 9-23h,
192 9-23j to 9-23o, inclusive, 9-23r, as amended by this act, 9-26, 9-31a, 9-32,
193 9-35, 9-35b, 9-35c, 9-40a, 9-42, 9-43, 9-50a, 9-56, 9-59, 9-168d, 9-170, 9-
194 171, 9-172, [9-232i] 9-232j to 9-232o, inclusive, as amended by this act,
195 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive, 9-409, 9-410, 9-412, 9-436, 9-436a, 9-453e to
196 9-453h, inclusive, 9-453k or 9-453o, (B) two thousand dollars per
197 offense against any town clerk, registrar of voters, an appointee or
198 designee of a town clerk or registrar of voters, or any other election or
199 primary official whom the commission finds to have failed to
200 discharge a duty imposed by any provision of chapter 146 or 147, (C)
201 two thousand dollars per offense against any person the commission
202 finds to have (i) improperly voted in any election, primary or

203 referendum, and (ii) not been legally qualified to vote in such election,
204 primary or referendum, or (D) two thousand dollars per offense or
205 twice the amount of any improper payment or contribution, whichever
206 is greater, against any person the commission finds to be in violation of
207 any provision of chapter 155 or 157. The commission may levy a civil
208 penalty against any person under subparagraph (A), (B), (C) or (D) of
209 this subdivision only after giving the person an opportunity to be
210 heard at a hearing conducted in accordance with sections 4-176e to 4-
211 184, inclusive. In the case of failure to pay any such penalty levied
212 pursuant to this subsection within thirty days of written notice sent by
213 certified or registered mail to such person, the superior court for the
214 judicial district of Hartford, on application of the commission, may
215 issue an order requiring such person to pay the penalty imposed and
216 such court costs, state marshal's fees and attorney's fees incurred by
217 the commission as the court may determine. Any civil penalties paid,
218 collected or recovered under subparagraph (D) of this subdivision for
219 a violation of any provision of chapter 155 applying to the office of the
220 Treasurer shall be deposited on a pro rata basis in any trust funds, as
221 defined in section 3-13c, affected by such violation;

222 Sec. 10. Section 9-232o of the general statutes is repealed and the
223 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

224 Except as otherwise provided by the general statutes, section 9-23r₂,
225 as amended by this act, and sections [9-232i] 9-232j to 9-232o, inclusive,
226 as amended by this act, the provisions of the general statutes
227 concerning procedures relating to counting absentee ballots shall apply
228 as nearly as may be, in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of the
229 State, to counting the provisional ballots under sections [9-232i] 9-232j
230 to 9-232o, inclusive, as amended by this act.

231 Sec. 11. Sections 9-232d to 9-232f, inclusive, and section 9-232i of the
232 general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-232c
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-232j
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-232k
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-232l
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-232n
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-236b(e)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-23r(d) and (e)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-150a(d)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-7b(a)(2)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-232o
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To make the provisional ballot system apply to state and municipal elections.

[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.]