



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

**Raised Bill No. 5600**

LCO No. 2110

\*02110 \_\_\_\_\_ GAE\*

Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-5a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Each town shall (1) provide the registrars of voters with office  
4 space, supplies and equipment, including facilities for the safe storage  
5 of the official records of such registrars [ Such records] of voters, and  
6 (2) ensure that each registrar of voters may access the Internet and  
7 correspond with the Secretary of the State using electronic mail.

8 (b) The official records of the registrars of a town shall be accessible  
9 to all registrars of voters in such town and [they] all of the registrars of  
10 voters shall be [jointly] responsible for [their] the safekeeping of such  
11 records.

12 Sec. 2. Section 9-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
13 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

14 (a) The Secretary of the State, by virtue of the office, shall be the  
15 Commissioner of Elections of the state, with such powers and duties  
16 relating to the conduct of elections as are prescribed by law and, unless  
17 otherwise provided by state statute, the secretary's regulations,  
18 declaratory rulings, instructions and opinions, if in written form, shall  
19 be presumed as correctly interpreting and effectuating the  
20 administration of elections and primaries under this title, except for  
21 chapter 155, provided nothing in this section shall be construed to alter  
22 the right of appeal provided under the provisions of chapter 54.

23 (b) Any declaratory rulings, instructions and opinions issued by the  
24 Secretary pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be binding  
25 upon all registrars of voters and town clerks, as applicable. Failure of  
26 any registrar of voters or town clerk to follow any such declaratory  
27 ruling, instruction or opinion may result in referral of the matter to the  
28 State Elections Enforcement Commission pursuant to section 9-7b. The  
29 State Elections Enforcement Commission shall have the authority to  
30 enforce any declaratory ruling, instruction or opinion issued by the  
31 Secretary pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

32 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is  
33 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
34 *passage*):

35 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has  
36 entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street  
37 address, if any, and the elector's name to the official checkers in a tone  
38 sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials present  
39 to hear the same. Each elector who registered to vote by mail for the  
40 first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the  
41 elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r,  
42 shall present to the official checkers, before the elector votes, either a  
43 current and valid photo identification that shows the elector's name  
44 and address or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,  
45 government check, paycheck or other government document that

46 shows the name and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1)  
47 present to the official checkers the elector's Social Security card or any  
48 other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector's name  
49 and either the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a  
50 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's  
51 residential address and date of birth, print the elector's name and sign  
52 a statement under penalty of false statement that the elector is the  
53 elector whose name appears on the official checklist. Such form shall  
54 clearly state the penalty of false statement. A separate such form shall  
55 be used for each elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of  
56 identification under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the official  
57 checkers shall check the name of such elector on the official checklist. If  
58 the elector completes the form under subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
59 the registrar of voters or the assistant registrar of voters, as the case  
60 may be, shall examine the information on such form and either instruct  
61 the official checkers to check the name of such elector on the official  
62 checklist or notify the elector that the form is incomplete or inaccurate.  
63 The provisions of this subsection describing requirements for  
64 identification shall be posted where the official checkers are located in  
65 each polling location, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the  
66 State.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-5a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-3
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-261(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require towns to provide Internet service to the offices of the registrars of voters, to make any declaratory ruling, instruction or opinion issued by the Secretary of the State binding upon registrars of voters and town clerks and enforceable by the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and to require the posting of the state's law concerning identification for voting requirements at each polling place.

*[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.]*