



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6670**

January Session, 2013



**AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING IN DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES OPERATED MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES, APPLICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED TO MODERATORS.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the State and  
2 the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall  
3 jointly develop a plan to modernize the way patients in mental health  
4 facilities operated by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction  
5 Services vote. Such plan shall ensure that each such patient is provided  
6 an opportunity to vote in any primary, as defined in section 9-372 of  
7 the general statutes, or election, as defined in section 9-1 of the general  
8 statutes, for which such patient is eligible to vote pursuant to title 9 of  
9 the general statutes, in a manner that maintains such patient's right to  
10 vote in privacy.

11 (b) The Secretary and the commissioner shall submit such plan and  
12 any recommendations for legislation to implement such plan not later  
13 than January 1, 2014, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
14 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
15 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections.

16 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is

17 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
18 *October 1, 2013*):

19 (a) Application for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of  
20 the municipality in which the applicant is eligible to vote or has  
21 applied for such eligibility. Any person who assists another person in  
22 the completion of an application shall, in the space provided, sign the  
23 application and print or type his name, residence address and  
24 telephone number. Such signature shall be made under the penalties of  
25 false statement in absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not  
26 invalidate the application solely because it does not contain the name  
27 of a person who assisted the applicant in the completion of the  
28 application. The municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee  
29 ballot application any material which promotes the success or defeat of  
30 any candidate or referendum question. The municipal clerk shall  
31 maintain a log of all absentee ballot applications provided under this  
32 subsection, including the name and address of each person to whom  
33 applications are provided and the number of applications provided to  
34 each such person. Each absentee ballot application provided by the  
35 municipal clerk shall [be consecutively numbered and] be stamped or  
36 marked with the name of the municipality issuing the application and  
37 the municipal clerk shall assign a unique number to the person to  
38 whom the applications are provided. The application shall be signed  
39 by the applicant under the penalties of false statement in absentee  
40 balloting on (1) the form prescribed by the Secretary of the State  
41 pursuant to section 9-139a, (2) a form provided by any federal  
42 department or agency if applicable pursuant to section 9-153a, or (3)  
43 any of the special forms of application prescribed pursuant to section  
44 9-150c, 9-153a, 9-153b, 9-153d, 9-153e, 9-153f or 9-158d, if applicable.  
45 Any such absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write may cause  
46 the application to be completed by an authorized agent who shall, in  
47 the spaces provided for the date and signature, write the date and  
48 name of the absentee ballot applicant followed by the word "by" and  
49 his own signature. If the ballot is to be mailed to the applicant, the  
50 applicant shall list the bona fide personal mailing address of the

51 applicant in the appropriate space on the application.

52 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Any duty or responsibility  
53 assigned to a moderator under title 9 of the general statutes shall be  
54 carried out by the moderator or the moderator's designee, if applicable.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	9-140(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*