



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 729

LCO No. 5394



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR EARLY VOTING IN
A MUNICIPAL ELECTION.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "election
2 day" means the municipal election held on November 5, 2013,
3 "municipal election" means "municipal election", as defined in section
4 9-1 of the general statutes, and "early voting" means voting in
5 accordance with the provisions of this section.

6 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of title 9 of the general statutes
7 and any regulation adopted pursuant to title 9 of the general statutes,
8 the Secretary of the State may conduct a pilot program for early voting
9 and may select up to three municipalities with a population of less
10 than thirty thousand, three municipalities with a population of thirty
11 thousand or more, but not greater than one hundred twenty-four
12 thousand, and three municipalities with a population that is greater
13 than one hundred twenty-four thousand to participate in such
14 program for the November 5, 2013, municipal election. If a
15 municipality, by majority vote of its legislative body, decides to

16 participate in the pilot program, the registrars of voters shall mutually
17 develop and submit a plan to the Secretary in accordance with
18 subsection (c) of this section.

19 (c) The Secretary shall select the first three municipalities in each
20 population category described in subsection (b) of this section that
21 applies to the pilot program by submitting a plan that satisfies the
22 criteria set forth in subsection (d) of this section. The registrars of
23 voters, on behalf of a municipality, may submit such plan in written
24 form to the Secretary not later than August 1, 2013. The Secretary shall
25 notify each applicant municipality of its status as a participant or
26 nonparticipant in the program not later than September 1, 2013.

27 (d) Each applicant municipality shall provide that its plan for early
28 voting details the following:

29 (1) The hours and locations for early voting starting the eighth
30 calendar day prior to election day, and a manner to provide warning
31 to the electors of such municipality of such hours and locations;

32 (2) A manner to provide that each elector who chooses to vote early
33 in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall vote on the
34 same ballot that he or she would be voting on if such elector were
35 voting on election day at the polling place assigned to the elector for
36 voting on election day;

37 (3) A manner to provide that after the elector has voted his or her
38 ballot, the elector shall place the ballot in a secured ballot depository
39 receptacle;

40 (4) A manner and time for counting ballots cast as part of early
41 voting under this section; and

42 (5) A manner that ensures that each place for early voting under this
43 section is properly staffed with trained election officials.

44 (e) Any elector standing in line at the time that early voting closes

45 for the day shall be permitted to vote and no elector who is not in line
46 at such time shall be permitted to enter such line.

47 (f) Election officials for early voting shall be selected in the same
48 manner as provided under chapter 146 of the general statutes. Before
49 each period of early voting, the registrars of voters and certified head
50 moderator shall instruct the election officials in accordance with the
51 provisions of section 9-249 of the general statutes, as amended by this
52 act.

53 (g) The process of voting under section 9-261 of the general statutes
54 shall apply as nearly as possible to the process of early voting
55 conducted under this section. During all hours of early voting, at least
56 one election official shall be stationed approximately three to four feet
57 from the voting tabulator to regulate the submission of the elector's
58 ballot.

59 (h) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the
60 candidacy of another or himself or herself or on behalf of or in
61 opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or
62 peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another
63 person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in
64 use as an entry to any municipal building used for early voting during
65 the hours of early voting or in any corridor, passageway or other
66 approach leading from any such outside entrance to such location or in
67 any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

68 (i) No ballot cast during the period of early voting pursuant to this
69 section shall be counted prior to the closing of the polls on election
70 day.

71 (j) The Secretary of the State shall assess the pilot program
72 conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section. Not later
73 than January 1, 2013, the Secretary shall report, in accordance with the
74 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on such assessment
75 of the program and include in such report any legislative

76 recommendations needed to create a permanent early voting program
77 for municipalities, to the joint standing committee of the General
78 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a pilot program for early voting in a municipal election.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.; REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.
REP. LEMAR, 96th Dist.

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