



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

***Raised Bill No. 5480***

LCO No. 2150



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRARS OF VOTERS, THE AUTHORITY  
OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE AND THE STATE ELECTIONS  
ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION, AND THE POSTING OF  
REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTER IDENTIFICATION.***

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 Section 9-5a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 voters of a town shall be  
9 accessible to all registrars of voters in such town and [they] all of the  
10 registrars of voters shall be [jointly] responsible for [their] the  
11 safekeeping of such 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 Section 9-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 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] chapters 155 to 158, inclusive, and shall be executed,  
22 carried out or implemented, as the case may be, provided nothing in  
23 this section shall be construed to alter the right of appeal provided  
24 under the provisions of chapter 54. Any such written instruction or  
25 opinion shall be labeled as an instruction or opinion issued pursuant to  
26 this section, as applicable, and any such instruction or opinion shall  
27 cite any authority that is discussed in such instruction or opinion.

28 Sec. 3. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the 2014  
29 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
30 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

31 (2) To levy a civil penalty not to exceed (A) two thousand dollars  
32 per offense against any person the commission finds to be in violation  
33 of any provision of chapter 145, part V of chapter 146, part I of chapter  
34 147, chapter 148, section 7-9, section 9-12, subsection (a) of section 9-17,  
35 section 9-19b, 9-19e, 9-19g to 9-19k, inclusive, 9-20, 9-21, 9-23a, 9-23g, 9-  
36 23h, 9-23j to 9-23o, inclusive, 9-23r, 9-26, 9-31a, 9-32, 9-35, 9-35b, 9-35c,  
37 9-40a, 9-42, 9-43, 9-50a, 9-56, 9-59, 9-168d, 9-170, 9-171, 9-172, 9-232i to  
38 9-232o, inclusive, 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive, 9-409, 9-410, 9-412, 9-436,  
39 9-436a, 9-453e to 9-453h, inclusive, 9-453k or 9-453o, (B) two thousand  
40 dollars per offense against any town clerk, registrar of voters, an  
41 appointee or designee of a town clerk or registrar of voters, or any  
42 other election or primary official whom the commission finds to have  
43 failed to discharge a duty imposed by any provision of [chapter 146 or

44 147] title 9, except chapters 155 to 158, inclusive, (C) two thousand  
45 dollars per offense against any person the commission finds to have (i)  
46 improperly voted in any election, primary or referendum, and (ii) not  
47 been legally qualified to vote in such election, primary or referendum,  
48 or (D) two thousand dollars per offense or twice the amount of any  
49 improper payment or contribution, whichever is greater, against any  
50 person the commission finds to be in violation of any provision of  
51 [chapter 155 or 157] chapters 155 to 158, inclusive. The commission  
52 may levy a civil penalty against any person under subparagraph (A),  
53 (B), (C) or (D) of this subdivision only after giving the person an  
54 opportunity to be heard at a hearing conducted in accordance with  
55 sections 4-176e to 4-184, inclusive. In the case of failure to pay any such  
56 penalty levied pursuant to this subsection within thirty days of written  
57 notice sent by certified or registered mail to such person, the superior  
58 court for the judicial district of Hartford, on application of the  
59 commission, may issue an order requiring such person to pay the  
60 penalty imposed and such court costs, state marshal's fees and  
61 attorney's fees incurred by the commission as the court may  
62 determine. Any civil penalties paid, collected or recovered under  
63 subparagraph (D) of this subdivision for a violation of any provision of  
64 chapter 155 applying to the office of the Treasurer shall be deposited  
65 on a pro rata basis in any trust funds, as defined in section 3-13c,  
66 affected by such violation.

67 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is  
68 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
69 *passage*):

70 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has  
71 entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street  
72 address, if any, and the elector's name to the official checkers in a tone  
73 sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials present  
74 to hear the same. Each elector who registered to vote by mail for the  
75 first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the  
76 elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r,

77 shall present to the official checkers, before the elector votes, either a  
 78 current and valid photo identification that shows the elector's name  
 79 and address or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,  
 80 government check, paycheck or other government document that  
 81 shows the name and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1)  
 82 present to the official checkers the elector's Social Security card or any  
 83 other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector's name  
 84 and either the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a  
 85 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's  
 86 residential address and date of birth, print the elector's name and sign  
 87 a statement under penalty of false statement that the elector is the  
 88 elector whose name appears on the official checklist. Such form shall  
 89 clearly state the penalty of false statement. A separate such form shall  
 90 be used for each elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of  
 91 identification under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the official  
 92 checkers shall check the name of such elector on the official checklist. If  
 93 the elector completes the form under subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
 94 the registrar of voters or the assistant registrar of voters, as the case  
 95 may be, shall examine the information on such form and either instruct  
 96 the official checkers to check the name of such elector on the official  
 97 checklist or notify the elector that the form is incomplete or inaccurate.  
 98 The provisions of this subsection describing requirements for  
 99 identification shall be posted where the official checkers are located in  
 100 each polling location, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the  
 101 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>	9-7b(a)(2)
Sec. 4	<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 clarify that 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 provide requirements for the form of any such written instruction or opinion, 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.]*