



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1051**

**Public Act No. 15-224**

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE STATE'S ELECTIONS.**

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

Section 1. Section 9-4b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Secretary of the State shall establish an elections training unit to coordinate all training for registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters [, permanent assistant registrars of voters as described in section 9-192] and poll workers. Such unit shall employ at least one person having field experience in the conduct of elections.

Sec. 2. Section 9-192a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) The Secretary of the State shall, in consultation with the advisory committee created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, establish a program and criteria for the certification of registrars of voters. All registrars taking such office on or before July 1, 2015, shall complete such program and satisfy such criteria for certification not later than July 1, 2017. Any registrar taking such office after July 1, 2015, shall complete such program and satisfy such criteria for certification (A) in the case of a two-year term, not later than the

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conclusion of such term, and (B) in the case of a four-year term, not later than two years after the date of first holding such office, except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection. Each municipality shall pay on behalf of such municipality's registrar of voters the cost of completing such program and satisfying such criteria for certification.

(2) If a deputy registrar becomes registrar, in accordance with the provisions of section 9-192, on or after the ninetieth day prior to a state election, as defined in section 9-1, such new registrar shall complete an abridged program prescribed by the Secretary of the State for a provisional certification. Completion of such abridged program and receipt of a provisional certification shall not be deemed to satisfy the requirements for certification described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) Once certified, pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, each registrar shall participate each year in not less than eight hours of training, not including any training described under subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, in order to maintain such certification. Such training shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the State and shall be conducted by said Secretary or a third party approved by said Secretary to conduct such training. Any registrar who fails to satisfy such annual training requirement shall be directed by the Secretary of the State to take remedial measures prescribed by said Secretary.

[[a)] (b) There is created [a] an advisory committee for the purpose of establishing programs and procedures for training, examining and certifying registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters and [permanent assistants] assistant registrars of voters, as described in section 9-192. The committee shall consist of six members, one of whom shall be from the office of the Secretary of the State, one of whom shall be from the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and four of whom shall be registrars of voters. The Secretary of the State shall appoint the registrars of voters, in consultation with the

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Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut, or its successor organization. The committee members shall serve without pay. The Secretary of the State shall determine the length of the terms of the initial members, in accordance with the following: Two of such members shall serve for a one-year term; two of such members shall serve for a two-year term; and two of such members shall serve for a four-year term. Thereafter, all members shall serve for four-year terms. The committee shall select a chairperson, who shall be one of the registrars who is a member of the committee.

[(b)] (c) The [committee] Secretary of the State, in consultation with the advisory committee, shall adopt criteria for the training, examination and certification requirements of registrars [, deputies and permanent assistants] pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. In advising the Secretary of the State on the adoption of such criteria, the committee (1) shall consider whether the prescribed training leading to certification may, in part, be satisfied through participation in the required two conferences a year called by the Secretary of the State, pursuant to section 9-6, for purposes of discussing the election laws, procedures or matters related to election laws and procedures, and (2) may recommend programs at one or more institutions of higher education that satisfy such criteria. Any [registrar of voters, deputy or permanent assistant] deputy or assistant registrar of voters may participate in the course of training prescribed by the [committee and, upon completing such training and successfully completing any examination or examinations prescribed by the committee, shall be recommended by the committee to the Secretary of the State as a candidate] Secretary for certification as a certified Connecticut registrar of voters. [The Secretary of the State shall certify any such qualified, recommended candidate as a certified Connecticut registrar of voters. The Secretary of the State may rescind any such certificate only upon a finding, by a majority of the committee, of sufficient cause as defined by the criteria adopted pursuant to this subsection. No provision of

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this subsection shall require any registrar of voters, deputy or permanent assistant to be a certified registrar of voters.] The Secretary of the State shall certify any individual who completes such training and successfully completes any examination or examinations prescribed by the Secretary as a certified Connecticut registrar of voters.

[(c)] (d) The advisory committee shall also (1) develop a training program in election procedures for poll workers, and (2) develop an election law and procedures training program and guide for registrars, deputy registrars and assistant registrars. The training program developed under subdivision (2) of this [section] subsection shall provide for training to be conducted by trained registrars or former registrars hired for such purpose by the Secretary of the State. The committee shall submit such training programs and training guide to the Secretary of the State, who shall approve or modify the programs and guide.

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

The Secretary of the State, by virtue of the office, shall be the Commissioner of Elections of the state, with such powers and duties relating to the conduct of elections as are prescribed by law and, unless otherwise provided by state statute, the secretary's regulations, declaratory rulings, instructions and opinions, if in written form, shall be presumed as correctly interpreting and effectuating the administration of elections and primaries under this title, except for [chapter 155] chapters 155 to 158, inclusive, and shall be executed, carried out or implemented, as the case may be, provided nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the right of appeal provided under the provisions of chapter 54. Any such written instruction or opinion shall be labeled as an instruction or opinion issued pursuant to this section, as applicable, and any such instruction or opinion shall

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cite any authority that is discussed in such instruction or opinion.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Whenever the Secretary of the State is of the opinion that a registrar of voters has engaged in misconduct, wilful and material neglect of duty or incompetence in the conduct of such registrar's office, the Secretary may seek removal of such registrar from office by filing a statement in writing to that effect with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of section 9-7a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, not later than thirty days after the filing of such statement, the commission shall investigate such statement and render a determination of whether the matter should be referred to the Attorney General to request that he or she pursue such removal pursuant to this section. Upon referral from the commission of such matter, the Attorney General may request that the commission undertake such further investigation as he or she deems appropriate. If the Attorney General concludes that the commission's investigation so warrants, he or she may prepare a citation in the name of the state commanding such registrar of voters to appear before a judge of the Superior Court at a date named in the citation and show cause, if any, why such registrar of voters should not be removed from office. The Attorney General shall cause a copy of such statement and such citation to be served by some proper officer upon the defendant registrar of voters at least ten days before the date of appearance named in such citation, and the original statement and citation, with the return of the officer thereon, shall be returned to the clerk of the superior court for the judicial district within which the municipality served by such registrar is situated. To carry into effect the proceedings authorized by this section, the Attorney General shall have power to summon witnesses, require the production of necessary books, papers and other documents and administer oaths to witnesses; and upon the date named in such citation for the appearance of such registrar of voters, or upon any adjourned date fixed by the judge

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before whom such proceedings are pending, the Attorney General shall appear and conduct the hearing on behalf of the state. If, after a full hearing of all the evidence offered by the Attorney General and by and on behalf of the defendant, such judge is of the opinion that the evidence presented warrants the removal of such registrar of voters from office, the judge shall cause to be prepared a written order to that effect, which order shall be signed by the judge and lodged with the clerk of the superior court for the judicial district within which such municipality is situated. Such clerk of the superior court shall cause a certified copy of such order to be served forthwith upon such registrar of voters, and upon such service such registrar of voters shall be removed from such office and the deputy registrar of voters appointed by such registrar of voters shall immediately become registrar of voters, in accordance with section 9-192 of the general statutes. Any witness summoned and any officer making service under the provisions of this section shall be allowed and paid by the state in accordance with the provisions of sections 52-260 and 52-261 of the general statutes. The Attorney General may designate an attorney of the State Elections Enforcement Commission as a special assistant attorney general for the purposes of performing the duties and responsibilities set forth in this section.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) If a registrar of voters fails to attain or maintain, whichever is applicable, certification required under subsection (a) of section 9-192a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or is the subject of an investigation of any matter related to the duties of such registrar's office resulting from a statement filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission by the Secretary of the State, the Secretary may issue a written instruction, pursuant to section 9-3 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to such registrar to appear before the Secretary on the date and at such time as provided in such instruction. The Secretary shall cite the reasons for such instruction and inform such registrar that such

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appearance is for the purpose of determining whether to temporarily relieve such registrar of his or her duties as provided in this section. The registrar shall appear before the Secretary and be given a fair opportunity to show cause, if any, why such registrar should not be temporarily relieved of his or her duties. If, after such opportunity, the Secretary determines that the public interest in the orderly conduct of elections would be so served, the Secretary may temporarily relieve such registrar of his or her duties and require the deputy registrar of voters appointed by such registrar to administer the operations of such office until such certification has been attained or maintained or until the State Elections Enforcement Commission has completed such investigation and taken final action on such matter. The proceeding described in this section shall not be considered a contested case under chapter 54 of the general statutes. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a municipality from paying the salary of such registrar of voters while such resolution is pending.

Sec. 6. Subsection (g) of section 9-7a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(g) [In] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, in the case of a written complaint filed with the commission pursuant to section 9-7b on or after January 1, 1988, if the commission does not, by the sixtieth day following receipt of the complaint, either issue a decision or render its determination that probable cause or no probable cause exists for one or more violations of state election laws, the complainant or respondent may apply to the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford for an order to show cause why the commission has not acted upon the complaint and to provide evidence that the commission has unreasonably delayed action. [Such proceeding]

(2) In the case of a statement filed by the Secretary of the State with

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the commission pursuant to section 9-7b on or after July 1, 2015, if the commission does not, by the thirtieth day following such filing, make a determination to investigate such statement and, by the ninetieth day following such filing, complete any investigation of such statement and issue a decision, the Secretary may apply to the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford for an order to show cause why the commission has not acted upon the statement and to provide evidence that the commission has unreasonably delayed action.

(3) Any judicial proceeding pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection shall be privileged with respect to assignment for trial. The commission shall appear and give appropriate explanation in the matter. The court may, in its discretion, order the commission to: [(1)] (A) Continue to proceed pursuant to section 9-7b, [(2)] (B) act by a date certain, or [(3)] (C) refer the complaint or statement to the Chief State's Attorney. Nothing in this subsection shall require the commission, in any proceeding brought pursuant to this subsection, to disclose records or documents which are not required to be disclosed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1-210. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the commission from continuing its investigation or taking any action permitted by section 9-7b, unless otherwise ordered by the court. The commission or any other party may, within seven days after a decision by the court under this subsection, file an appeal of the decision with the Appellate Court.

Sec. 7. Section 9-17a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

As used in sections 9-17, 9-19b, as amended by this act, [9-19c(a)] 9-19c, 9-20, 9-23a, 9-24, 9-31a, 9-31b and 9-31l, unless otherwise provided, the term "admitting official" means a town clerk, assistant town clerk, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters [,] or assistant registrar of voters [, special assistant registrar of voters] or the board for admission of electors.

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Sec. 8. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 9-19b of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) Except during the period between the last session for the admission of electors prior to an election and the day following that election, either registrar of voters, or a deputy registrar [, assistant registrar or special assistant registrar] or assistant registrar appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 9-192 may examine the qualifications of any person applying to be admitted as an elector in the town and, except for applications submitted pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection, approve such application submitted in person (1) at the office of such official; (2) at any enrollment session of the registrars of voters; (3) at any public place; (4) at any time and at any place in the town, other than a public place; or (5) at any public office of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Labor Department or Department of Social Services which is located in the town in which the registrar, deputy registrar [, assistant registrar or special assistant registrar] or assistant registrar serves, if written notice of the date and time is given seven days in advance thereof to the commissioner of such department. Upon receipt of a written notice under subdivision (5) of this subsection, the commissioner of the department may designate a portion of the public office which shall be used for the admission of electors. The other registrar, or any deputy [, assistant or special assistant registrar] or assistant registrar, shall be permitted to be present during the admission of any person pursuant to subdivisions (4) and (5) of this subsection. Applications accepted and examined prior to the last session for admission of electors prior to an election pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection may be approved after such last session. The admission of any person pursuant to subdivision (4) shall be effective on the date when both registrars approve such application. The registrar who receives such application from the applicant shall give written notice to the other

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registrar within one business day after such receipt and the registrars shall forthwith act on such applications. No rejection of any application under subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be effective until the registrar has mailed to the other registrar and the applicant a notice stating [the reasons] any reason for the rejection. Any applicant whose application is rejected may appeal under the provisions of section 9-31l.

(c) Such registrar, deputy [, assistant or special assistant registrar] or assistant registrar accepting applications in accordance with subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section shall provide the applicant with a receipt. Upon approval or disapproval of the application, the registrars shall send a notice thereof by first-class mail with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the address shown thereon. If such notice of approval is returned undeliverable, the registrars shall take the necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43.

(d) During the period between the last session for the admission of electors prior to an election and the opening of the limited session for the admission of electors held on the last weekday before such election under section 9-17, the town clerk or assistant town clerk during office hours and at the office of such official and either registrar of voters or a deputy or assistant registrar at the office of such official may examine the qualifications of any person applying in person to be admitted in such town and approve the application of such person whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in the municipality were attained after such last session and on or before the last weekday prior to such election.

Sec. 9. Section 9-19k of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (g) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (g) Nothing in this section shall prevent the registrars of

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voters or any election official appointed by such registrars of voters to admit any applicant as an elector from utilizing the online voter registration system established pursuant to this section for the purpose of admitting such applicant on election day pursuant to section 9-19j.

Sec. 10. Subsections (a) to (f), inclusive, of section 9-23g of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) In addition to the procedures for admission of electors under sections 9-19b, as amended by this act, 9-19c, 9-19e, 9-20 and 9-31, any person may apply to a registrar of voters of the town of his residence for admission as an elector in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 9-23h.

(b) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe, and provide to registrars of voters, town clerks and voter registration agencies, as defined in section 9-23n, application forms and other materials necessary to complete such application and admission process. The Secretary of the State, registrars of voters and town clerks shall provide a reasonable number of such forms and materials to any elector who requests such forms and materials. The secretary shall also, in the course of the secretary's elections duties, prepare instructions and related materials describing procedures for such application and admission process and shall provide the materials to registrars of voters and town clerks. The application shall contain the information required under section 9-23h. All statements of the applicant shall be made under the penalties of perjury. The application for admission as an elector shall include a statement that (1) specifies each eligibility requirement, (2) contains an attestation that the application meets each such requirement, and (3) requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury. Nothing in this section or section 9-23h shall require that the application be executed in the state. An applicant who is unable to write may cause the applicant's name to be signed on the

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application form by an authorized agent who shall, in the space provided for the signature, write the name of the applicant followed by the word "by" and the agent's own signature. The completed application may be mailed or returned in person to the office of the registrars of voters or the office of the town clerk of the applicant's town of residence or a voter registration agency. If the applicant entrusts the applicant's application to another person or to such a voter registration agency for mailing or return to the registrars of voters, such person or agency shall immediately mail or return the application. Any such voter registration agency shall also provide the applicant with an application receipt, on which the agency shall record (A) the date that the agency received the application, using an official date stamp bearing the name of the agency, and (B) the party affiliation, if any, of the applicant. The agency shall provide such receipt whether the application was submitted in person or by mail. The town clerk shall promptly forward any application which the town clerk receives to the registrars of voters. Such application form shall be provided by or authorized by the Secretary of the State.

(c) Forthwith upon receipt of a registration application in the office of the registrars of voters, the registrar shall mark such date on the application and review the application to determine whether the applicant has properly completed it and is legally qualified to register. Forthwith upon completing his review, the registrar shall (1) indicate on the application whether the application has been accepted or rejected, (2) mail a notice to the applicant, (3) indicate on the application the date on which such notice is mailed, and (4) provide a copy of such notice to the other registrar. If the registrar determines that the applicant has not properly completed the application or is not legally qualified to register, the notice shall indicate that the application has been rejected and shall state [the] any reason for rejection. If the registrar determines that the applicant has properly completed the application and is legally qualified to register, the notice

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shall indicate that the application has been accepted. A notice of acceptance or a notice of rejection shall be sent (A) [within four days of] not later than four days after receipt of an application during the period beginning on the forty-ninth day before an election and ending on the twenty-first day before such election, (B) on the day of receipt of an application if it is received (i) during the period beginning on the twentieth day before such election and ending on the [fourteenth] seventh day before such election, (ii) during the period beginning on the [thirteenth] sixth day before an election and ending on election day if the application has been received by the [fourteenth] seventh day before an election by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, (iii) during the period beginning on the twenty-first day before a primary and ending on the fifth day before a primary, or (iv) during the period beginning on the fourth day before a primary and ending at twelve o'clock noon on the last weekday before a primary, if the application has been postmarked by the fifth day before the primary and is received in the office of the registrars of voters during such period or if the application is received by the fifth day before a primary by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, and (C) within ten days of receipt of an application at any other time. A notice of acceptance shall be sent by first-class mail with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the address shown on the envelope. A notice of acceptance shall indicate the effective date of the applicant's registration and enrollment, the date of the next regularly scheduled election or primary in which the applicant shall be eligible to vote and the applicant's precinct and polling place. If a notice of acceptance of an application is returned undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, notwithstanding the May first deadline in section 9-35. An applicant for admission as an elector pursuant to this section and section 9-23h may only be admitted as an elector by a registrar of voters of the town of his residence. Not later than December thirty-first, annually, the

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Secretary of the State shall establish an official calendar of all deadlines set forth in this subsection for regularly scheduled elections and primaries to be held in the following calendar year.

(d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the privileges of an elector for any applicant for admission under this section and section 9-23h shall attach immediately upon approval by the registrar, and the registrars shall enter the name of the elector on the registry list.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, if a mailed application is postmarked, or if a delivered application is received in the office of the registrars of voters, after the [fourteenth] seventh day before an election or after the fifth day before a primary, the privileges of an elector shall not attach until the day after such election or primary, as the case may be. In such event, the registrars of voters may contact such applicant, either by telephone or mail, in order to inform such applicant of the effect of such late received mail-in application and any applicable deadline for applying for admission in person.

(3) If an application is received after the [fourteenth] seventh day before an election or after the fifth day before a primary by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, the privileges of an elector shall not attach until the day after the election or primary, as the case may be, or on the day the registrar approves it, whichever is later.

(4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present to the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received through the mail or an application receipt that was previously provided to the applicant pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h, subsection (b) of this section or section 9-23n. If an

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applicant presents said notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the registrar, or assistant registrar upon notice to and approval by the registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official check list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if otherwise eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the polling place a preprinted form of identification pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261.

(e) A registration application filed under this section shall be rejected if the application (1) has not been signed or dated by the applicant or the authorized agent of the applicant pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, (2) does not indicate the applicant's date of birth or bona fide residence, (3) does not indicate United States citizenship, provided the registrars of voters have contacted such applicant to provide an opportunity to answer such question, or (4) is determined by the Secretary of the State to be substantially defective. No registration application filed under this section shall be rejected if the application fails to provide the applicant's Social Security number or the zip code of the applicant's bona fide residence.

(f) Upon admission of an applicant under subsection (d) of this section, who indicated on his registration application that he changed residence since voting last in Connecticut, the registrar of voters of the town of such applicant's current residence shall notify the registrar of any other town who accepted the voter's last registration [, and the registrar in the voter's place of last residence, if different] and the registrar of the town of the voter's last residence, if different. Notification shall be made upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State. A registrar receiving such a notification shall delete the elector's name from the registry list.

Sec. 11. Section 9-391 of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

(a) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the nomination of candidates for municipal office to be voted upon at a municipal election, or for the election of town committee members shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier than the fifty-sixth day or later than the forty-ninth day preceding the day of such primary. In the case of an endorsement of a candidate for a municipal office of state senator or state representative, such endorsement may be made of a candidate whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the municipality or political subdivision within which such candidate is to run for nomination. The endorsement shall be certified to the clerk of the municipality by either (1) the chairman or presiding officer, or (2) the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention, as the case may be, not later than four o'clock p.m. on the forty-eighth day preceding the day of such primary. Such certification shall be signed by such candidate and contain the name and street address of each person so endorsed, the title of the office or the position as committee member and the name or number of the political subdivision or district, if any, for which each such person is endorsed. Such certification shall be made on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on such other form as may comply with the provisions of this subsection. If such a certificate of a party's endorsement is not received by the town clerk by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for purposes of sections 9-417, 9-418 and 9-419, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified such endorsement of any candidate for such office.

(b) Each selection of delegates to a state or district convention shall be made in accordance with the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier than the one-hundred-fortieth day and not later than the one-hundred-thirty-third day preceding the day of the primary for such state or

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district office. Such selection shall be certified to the clerk of the municipality by the chairman or presiding officer and the secretary of the town committee or caucus, as the case may be, not later than four o'clock p.m. on the one-hundred-thirty-second day preceding the day of such primary. Each such certification shall contain the name and street address of each person so selected, the position as delegate, and the name or number of the political subdivision or district, if any, for which each such person is selected. If such a certificate of a party's selection is not received by the town clerk by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-420, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any selection of any person for the position of delegate.

(c) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the nomination of candidates for a municipal office to be voted upon at a state election shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier than the eighty-fourth day or later than the seventy-seventh day preceding the day of such primary. Any certification to be filed under this subsection shall be received by the Secretary of the State [, in the case of a candidate for the office of state senator or state representative, or the town clerk, in the case of a candidate for any other municipal office to be voted upon at a state election,] not later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of the town committee meeting, caucus or convention, as the case may be. If such a certificate of a party's endorsement is not received by the Secretary of the State [or the town clerk, as the case may be,] by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any endorsement of any candidate for such office. The candidate so endorsed for a municipal office to be voted upon at a state election, other than the office of justice of the peace, shall file with the Secretary of the State [or the town clerk, as the case may be,] a certificate, signed by that candidate, stating that such candidate was so endorsed, the

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candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full street address and the title and district of the office for which the candidate was endorsed. Such certificate may be filed by a candidate whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the senatorial district within which the candidate is endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal office of state senator, or the assembly district within which a person is endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal office of state representative, or the municipality or political subdivision within which a person is to run for nomination for other municipal offices to be voted on at a state election. Such certificate shall be attested by the [chairman] chairperson or presiding officer [and] or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention which made such endorsement. The endorsement of [candidates] any candidate for the office of justice of the peace shall be certified to the clerk of the municipality by the [chairman] chairperson or presiding officer [and] or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention, and shall contain the name and street address of each person so endorsed and the title of the office for which each such person is endorsed. Such certification shall be made on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on such other form as may comply with the provisions of this subsection.

Sec. 12. Section 9-395 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

(a) Forthwith upon the certification provided in section 9-391, as amended by this act, the clerk of the municipality shall publish, in a newspaper having a general circulation in such municipality, the fact of such certification and that a list of the persons endorsed as candidates is on file in his office and copies thereof are available for public distribution. If, with respect to any office or position to be filled, the clerk of the municipality has failed to receive the certification of the

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name of any person as a party-endorsed candidate within the time limited in section 9-391, as amended by this act, such fact shall be published by the clerk of the municipality. Together with such information, the clerk shall publish a notice that a primary will be held for the nomination by such political party of a candidate for the offices to be filled or for the election of members of the town committee, as the case may be, if a candidacy is filed in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive. Such notice shall specify the final date for the filing of such candidacy and the date of the primary, shall state where forms for petitions may be obtained and shall generally indicate the method of procedure in the filing of such candidacy. The Secretary of the State shall prescribe the form of such notice. The clerk shall forthwith publish any change in the party-endorsed candidates, listing such changes.

(b) In any year in which a state election is to be held, the notice described in subsection (a) of this section shall: (1) Be published not later than the seventy-sixth day preceding the day of the primary, (2) indicate that the certification provided in section 9-391, as amended by this act, can be made, and (3) indicate that a list of persons endorsed as candidates will be on file [in the clerk's office, as provided in subsection (a) of this section] with the Secretary of the State. The requirement contained in subsection (a) of this section to publish the fact that the clerk of the municipality has failed to receive the certification of the name of any person as a party-endorsed candidate within the time limit in section 9-391, as amended by this act, shall not apply to the notice required by this subsection.

Sec. 13. Section 9-453b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

The Secretary of the State shall not issue any nominating petition forms for a candidate for an office to be filled at a regular election to be held in any year prior to the first business day of such year. The

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Secretary shall not issue any nominating petition forms unless the person requesting the nominating petition forms makes a written application for such forms, which application shall contain the following: (1) The name or names of the candidates to appear on such nominating petition, compared by the town clerk of the town of residence of each candidate with the candidate's name as it appears on the last-completed registry list of such town, and verified and corrected by such town clerk or in the case of a newly admitted elector whose name does not appear on the last-completed registry list, the town clerk shall compare the candidate's name as it appears on the candidate's application for admission and verify and correct it accordingly; (2) a signed statement by each such candidate that the candidate consents to the placing of the candidate's name on such petition; and (3) the party designation, if any. An applicant for petition forms who does not wish to specify a party designation shall so indicate on the application for such forms and the application, if so marked, shall not be amended in this respect. No application made after November 3, 1981, shall contain any party designation unless a reservation of such party designation with the Secretary is in effect for all of the offices included in the application or unless the party designation is the same as the name of a minor party which is qualified for a different office or offices on the same ballot as the office or offices included in the application. The Secretary shall not issue such forms (A) unless the application for forms on behalf of a candidate for the office of presidential elector is accompanied by the names of the candidates for President and Vice-President whom the candidate for the office of presidential elector represents and includes the consent of such candidates for President and Vice-President; (B) unless the application for forms on behalf of Governor or Lieutenant Governor is accompanied by the name of the candidate for the other office and includes the consent of both such candidates; (C) if petition forms have previously been issued on behalf of the same candidate for the same office unless the candidate files a written statement of withdrawal of

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the candidate's previous candidacy with the Secretary; and (D) unless the application meets the requirements of this section. A candidacy for nomination by nominating petition to a district or municipal office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed registry list of the district or municipality represented by such office, as the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by nominating petition to a state office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed registry list of the state.

Sec. 14. Section 9-373a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

Any person desiring to be a write-in candidate for any state, district or municipal office to be filled at any regular election shall register his candidacy with the Secretary of the State on a form prescribed by the secretary. The registration shall include the candidate's name and address, the designation and term of the office sought, a statement of consent to the candidacy, and any other information which the secretary deems necessary. In the case of a write-in candidacy for the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor, the registration shall include a candidate for each of those offices, or shall be void. The registration shall not include a designation of any political party. The registration shall be filed with the secretary not more than ninety days prior to the election at which the office is to be filled and not later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day preceding the election, or the registration shall be void. No person nominated for an office by a major or minor party or by nominating petition shall register as a write-in candidate for that office under the provisions of this section, and any registration of a write-in candidacy filed by such a person shall be void. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, any person desiring to be a write-in candidate for the municipal office of town meeting member in any town having a

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representative town meeting which has seventy-five or more members shall register his candidacy with the town clerk of such town not later than the last business day preceding such election. A person may register as a write-in candidate for a district or municipal office if such person's name appears on the last-completed registry list of the district or municipality represented by such office, as the case may be. A person may register as a write-in candidate for a state office if such person's name appears on the last-completed registry list of the state.

Sec. 15. Section 9-452 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

All minor parties nominating candidates for any elective office shall make such nominations and certify and file a list of such nominations, as required by this section, not later than the sixty-second day prior to the day of the election at which such candidates are to be voted for. A list of nominees in printed or typewritten form that includes each candidate's name as authorized by each candidate to appear on the ballot, the signature of each candidate, the full street address of each candidate and the title and district of the office for which each candidate is nominated shall be certified by the presiding officer of the committee, meeting or other authority making such nomination and shall be filed by such presiding officer with the Secretary of the State, in the case of [state or district office or the municipal office of state representative, state senator or judge of probate] any state, district or municipal office to be voted upon at a state election, or with the clerk of the municipality, in the case of any municipal office to be voted upon at a municipal election, not later than the sixty-second day prior to the day of the election. The registrars of voters of such municipality shall promptly verify and correct the names on any such list filed with him, or the names of nominees forwarded to the clerk of the municipality by the Secretary of the State, in accordance with the registry list of such municipality and endorse the same as having been

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so verified and corrected. For purposes of this section, a list of nominations shall be deemed to be filed when it is received by the Secretary of the State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate. If such certificate of a party's nomination is not received by the Secretary of the State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate, by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for purposes of sections 9-460, 9-461 and 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any nomination of any candidate for such office. A candidacy for nomination by a minor party to a district or municipal office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed registry list of the district or municipality represented by such office, as the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by a minor party to a state office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed registry list of the state.

Sec. 16. Section 9-412 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Upon the receipt of any page of a petition proposing a candidacy for a municipal office or for member of a town committee, the registrar shall forthwith sign and give to the person submitting the petition a receipt in duplicate, stating the number of pages filed and the date and time of filing and shall forthwith certify on each such page the number of signers on the page who were enrolled on the last-completed enrollment list of such party in the municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be, and shall forthwith file such certified page in person or by mail, as described in section 9-140b, with the clerk of the municipality, together with the registrar's certificate as to the whole number of names on the last-completed enrollment list of such party in such municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be, [within] not later than seven days after receipt of the page. If such page involves a municipal office to be voted upon at a state election, such registrar shall also file a certificate, on a form prescribed by the

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Secretary of the State, that includes the name and full street address of each candidate and the title and district of such office not later than seven days after receipt of such page. In checking signatures on primary petition pages, the registrar shall reject any name if such name does not appear on the last-completed enrollment list in the municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be. Such rejection shall be indicated by placing a mark in a manner prescribed by the Secretary before the name so rejected. The registrar may place a check mark before each name appearing on the enrollment list to indicate approval but shall place no other mark on the page except as provided in this chapter. The registrar shall not reject any name for which the street address on the petition is different from the street address on the enrollment list, if (1) such person is eligible to vote for the candidate or candidates named in the petition, and (2) the person's date of birth, as shown on the petition page, is the same as the date of birth on the person's registration record. The registrar shall reject any page of a petition which does not contain the certifications provided in section 9-410, or which the registrar determines to have been circulated in violation of any other provision of section 9-410. Petitions filed with the municipal clerk shall be preserved for a period of three years and then may be destroyed.

Sec. 17. Section 9-235d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of sections 9-233, 9-235 and 9-258 to the contrary, a United States citizen who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and a bona fide resident of a town may be (1) appointed as a challenger or unofficial checker in an election, or (2) appointed as a checker, translator, ballot clerk or voting tabulator tender in an election after (A) attending poll worker training, and (B) receiving the written permission of a parent, guardian or the principal of the school that the citizen attends if the citizen is a secondary school student and the

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citizen is to be appointed to work on a day when such school is in session.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of section 9-436 or 9-436a to the contrary, a United States citizen who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and a bona fide resident of a town or political subdivision holding a primary may be (1) appointed as a challenger or candidate checker in the primary, or (2) appointed as a checker, translator, ballot clerk or voting tabulator tender in a primary after (A) attending poll worker training, and (B) receiving the written permission of a parent, guardian or the principal of the school that the citizen attends if the citizen is a secondary school student and the citizen is to be appointed to work on a day when such school is in session.

Sec. 18. Section 9-236b of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (f) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (f) For use at each primary, election and referendum, the Secretary of the State shall prescribe and the registrars of voters shall provide for all polling places in the municipality a display of the provisions of section 9-261, describing requirements for identification. Such display shall be prominently posted where the official checkers are located in each polling location so that such display is visible to each elector whose name is being checked on the official checklist.

Sec. 19. Section 9-250 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Ballots shall be printed in plain clear type and on material of such size as will fit the tabulator, and shall be furnished by the registrar of voters. The size and style of the type used to print the name of a political party on a ballot shall be identical with the size and style of the type used to print the names of all other political parties appearing on such ballot. The name of each major party candidate for a municipal

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office, as defined in section 9-372, except for the municipal offices of state senator and state representative, shall appear on the ballot [as it appears on the registry list of the candidate's town of voting residence, except as provided in section 9-42a] as authorized by each candidate. The name of each major party candidate for a state or district office, as defined in section 9-372, or for the municipal office of state senator or state representative shall appear on the ballot as it appears on the certificate or statement of consent filed under section 9-388, subsection (b) of section 9-391, as amended by this act, or section 9-400 or 9-409. The name of each minor party candidate shall appear on the ballot [as it appears on the registry list in accordance with the provisions of section 9-452] as authorized by each candidate. The name of each nominating petition candidate shall appear on the ballot as it is verified by the town clerk on the application filed under section 9-453b, as amended by this act. The size and style of the type used to print the name of a candidate on a ballot shall be identical with the size and style of the type used to print the names of all other candidates appearing on such ballot. Such ballot shall contain the names of the offices and the names of the candidates arranged thereon. The names of the political parties and party designations shall be arranged on the ballots and followed by the word "party", either in columns or horizontal rows as set forth in section 9-249a, immediately adjacent to the column or row occupied by the candidate or candidates of such political party or organization. The ballot shall be printed in such manner as to indicate how many candidates the elector may vote for each office, provided in the case of a town adopting the provisions of section 9-204a, such ballot shall indicate the maximum number of candidates who may be elected to such office from any party. If two or more candidates are to be elected to the same office for different terms, the term for which each is nominated shall be printed on the official ballot as a part of the title of the office. If, at any election, one candidate is to be elected for a full term and another to fill a vacancy, the official ballot containing the names of the candidates in the foregoing order

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shall, as a part of the title of the office, designate the term which such candidates are severally nominated to fill. No column, under the name of any political party or independent organization, shall be printed on any official ballot, which contains more candidates for any office than the number for which an elector may vote for that office.

Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) At the top of each ballot shall be printed the name of the party holding the primary, and each ballot shall contain the names of all candidates to be voted upon at such primary, except the names of justices of the peace. The vertical columns shall be headed by the designation of the office or position and instructions as to the number for which an elector may vote for such office or position, in the same manner as a ballot used in a regular election. The name of each candidate for town committee or municipal office, except for the municipal offices of state senator and state representative, shall appear on the ballot [as it appears on the registry list of such candidate's town of voting residence, except as provided in section 9-42a] as authorized by each candidate. The name of each candidate for state or district office or for the municipal offices of state senator or state representative shall appear on the ballot as it appears on the certificate or statement of consent filed under section 9-388, 9-391, as amended by this act, 9-400 or 9-409. On the first horizontal line, below the designation of the office or position in each column, shall be placed the name of the party-endorsed candidate for such office or position, such name to be marked with an asterisk; provided, where more than one person may be voted for for any office or position, the names of the party-endorsed candidates shall be arranged in alphabetical order from left to right under the appropriate office or position designation and shall continue, if necessary, from left to right on the next lower

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line or lines. In the case of no party endorsement there shall be inserted the designation "no party endorsement" at the head of the vertical column, immediately beneath the designation of the office or position. On the horizontal lines below the line for party-endorsed candidates shall be placed, in the appropriate columns, the names of all other candidates as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 21. Section 9-307 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Immediately after the polls are closed, the official checker or checkers, appointed under the provisions of section 9-234, shall make and deliver to the moderator a certificate stating the whole number of names on the registry list or enrollment list including, if applicable, unaffiliated electors authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary, and the number checked as having voted in that election or primary. For the purpose of computing the whole number of names on the registry list, the lists of persons who have applied for presidential or overseas ballots prepared in accordance with section 9-158h shall be included. If a paper registry list is used, the registrars or assistant registrars, as the case may be, [acting at the respective polls,] shall write and sign with ink, on the list or lists so used and checked, a certificate of the whole number of names registered on the list eligible to vote in the election or primary and the number checked as having voted in that election or primary, and deposit it in the office of the municipal clerk [of their town on or before the following day] not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls. If an electronic version of the registry list is used, the electronic device upon which such list is stored shall be returned to the registrars of voters who shall cause the electronic registry list to be printed. Such printed list shall be signed by each registrar, who shall deposit such list in the office of the municipal clerk [on the following day] not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls. The municipal clerk shall carefully preserve

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the paper registry list or printed electronic registry list, as applicable, on file, with the marks on it without alteration, for public inspection, and shall immediately enter a certified copy of such certificate on the town records. Subject to the provisions of section 7-109, the municipal clerk may destroy any voting checklist four years after the date upon which it was used. The moderator shall place the certificate which the moderator received from the official checker or checkers in the office of the municipal clerk [on or before the following day] not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls.

Sec. 22. Section 9-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Immediately on the close of the polls, the election officials shall proceed to canvass the returns as provided in section 9-309, as amended by this act, and shall not stop for any purpose until the canvass is completed, except as provided in said section. The room in which such canvass is made shall be clearly lighted and such canvass shall be made in plain view of the public. No person or persons, during the canvass, shall close or cause to be closed the main entrance to the room in which such canvass is conducted, in such manner as to prevent ingress or egress thereby, but, during such canvass, no person other than the election officials shall be permitted to be in the area where the voting tabulator is located.

Sec. 23. Section 9-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

[As soon as the polls are closed] Upon the close of the polls, the moderator, in the presence of the other election officials, shall immediately lock the voting tabulator against voting and immediately cause the vote totals for all candidates and questions to be produced. The moderator shall, in the order of the offices as their titles are arranged on the ballot, read and announce in distinct tones the result

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as shown, giving the number indicated and indicating the candidate to whom such total belongs, and shall read the votes recorded for each office on the ballot. The moderator shall also, in the same manner, announce the vote on each constitutional amendment, proposition or other question voted on. The vote so announced by the moderator shall be taken down by each checker and recorded on the tally sheets. Each checker shall record the number of votes received for each candidate on the ballot and also the number received by each person for whom write-in ballots were cast. The moderator shall make out a preliminary list from the vote totals produced by the tabulators and shall prepare such preliminary list for transmission to the Secretary of the State pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-314, as amended by this act. After such preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State, the canvass may be temporarily interrupted, during which time the moderator shall (1) return the keys for all tabulators to the registrars of voters, (2) seal the tabulators against voting or being tampered with, (3) prepare and seal individual envelopes for all (A) write-in ballots, (B) absentee ballots, (C) moderators' returns, and (D) other notes, worksheets or written materials used at the election, and (4) store all such tabulators and envelopes in a secure place or places directed by the registrars of voters. At the end of such temporary interruption, the moderator shall receive such keys from the registrars and shall take possession of and break the seal on all such tabulators and envelopes for the purpose of completing the canvass. The result totals shall remain in full public view until the statement of canvass and all other reports have been fully completed and signed by the moderator, checkers and registrars, or assistant registrars, as the case may be. [The] Any other remaining result of the votes cast shall be publicly announced by the moderator [who shall read] not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls. Such public announcement shall consist of reading both the name of each candidate, with the designating number and letter on the ballot and the absentee vote as furnished to the moderator by the

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absentee ballot counters, [; also] and also the vote cast for and against each question submitted. While such announcement is being made, ample opportunity shall be given to any person lawfully present to compare the results so announced with the result totals provided by the tabulator and any necessary corrections shall then and there be made by the moderator, checkers and registrars or assistant registrars, after which the compartments of the voting tabulator shall be closed and locked. In canvassing, recording and announcing the result, the election officials shall be guided by any instructions furnished by the Secretary of the State.

Sec. 24. Section 9-266 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

When the voting tabulator has been locked at the close of an election, the moderator shall return the keys for the tabulator to the registrars of voters with the official returns. Except as provided in section 9-309, as amended by this act, or 9-311, such registrars of voters shall securely keep such keys and not permit the same to be taken, or any tabulator to be unlocked, for a period of fourteen days from the election, unless otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by the State Elections Enforcement Commission. All tabulators shall be collected immediately on the day after election or as soon thereafter as possible, and shall be secured and stored in a place or places directed by the registrars of voters.

Sec. 25. Section 9-310 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

As soon as the count is completed and the moderator's return required under the provisions of section 9-259 has been executed, the moderator shall place the sealed tabulator in the tabulator bag, and so seal the bag, and the tabulator shall remain so sealed against voting or being tampered with for a period of fourteen days, except as provided

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in section 9-309, as amended by this act, or 9-311 or pursuant to an order issued by the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If it is determined that a recanvass is required pursuant to section 9-311 or 9-311a, immediately upon such determination the tabulators, write-in ballots, absentee ballots, moderators' returns and all other notes, worksheets or written materials used at the election shall be impounded at the direction of the Secretary of the State. Such package shall be preserved for one hundred eighty days after such election and may be opened and its contents examined in accordance with section 9-311 or upon an order of a court of competent jurisdiction. At the end of one hundred eighty days, unless otherwise ordered by the court, such package and its contents may be destroyed. [Any] Except as provided in section 9-309, as amended by this act, for moderators temporarily interrupting a canvass, any person who unlocks the voting or operating mechanism of the tabulator or the counting compartment after it has been locked as above directed or breaks or destroys or tampers with the seal after it has been affixed as above directed or changes the indication of the counters on any voting tabulator within fourteen days after the election or within any longer period during which the tabulator is kept locked as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction or by the State Elections Enforcement Commission in any special case, except as provided in section 9-311, shall be imprisoned for not more than five years. Any tabulator may be released in less than fourteen days, for use in another election, by order of a court, if there is no disagreement as to the returns from such machine and no order directing impoundment has been issued by the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

Sec. 26. Section 9-314 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this subsection, "moderator" means the moderator of each state election in each town not divided into voting districts and

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the head moderator in each town divided into voting districts. The moderator shall make out a preliminary list of the votes given for each of the following officers: Presidential electors, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, United States senator, representative in Congress, state senator, judge of probate, state representative and registrars of voters when said officers are to be chosen, as reported solely by the tabulator, as provided in section 9-309, as amended by this act, in the moderator's town and shall immediately transmit such preliminary list to the Secretary of the State not later than midnight on election day. Once the preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State, the moderator shall make out a duplicate list of the votes given in the moderator's town for each of the following officers: Presidential electors, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, United States senator, representative in Congress, state senator, judge of probate, state representative and registrars of voters when said officers are to be chosen. [Said] Such duplicate list shall include a statement of the total number of names on the official check list of such town and the total number checked as having voted. The moderator [may] shall transmit such duplicate list to the Secretary of the State by [facsimile machine or other] electronic means as prescribed by the Secretary of the State [,] not later than [midnight on election day. If the moderator transmits such list by such electronic means, the] forty-eight hours after the close of the polls on election day. The moderator shall also seal and deliver one of such duplicate lists to the Secretary of the State not later than the third day after the election. [If the moderator does not transmit such list by such electronic means, the moderator shall seal and deliver one of such lists by hand either (1) to the Secretary of the State not later than six o'clock p.m. of the day after the election, or (2) to the state police not later than four o'clock p.m. of the day after the election, in which case the state police shall deliver it by hand to the Secretary of the State not later than six o'clock p.m. of the day after the election.]

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Any such moderator who fails to so deliver such duplicate list to [either] the Secretary of the State [or the state police] by the time required shall pay a late filing fee of fifty dollars. The moderator shall also deliver one of such duplicate lists to the clerk of such town, [on or before the day after such election.] The Secretary of the State shall enter the returns in tabular form in books kept by the Secretary for that purpose and present a printed report of the same, with the name of, and the total number of votes received by, each of the candidates for said offices, to the General Assembly at its next session.

(b) As used in this subsection, "moderator" means the moderator of each municipal election in each town not divided into voting districts, and the head moderator in each town divided into voting districts. The moderator shall forthwith transmit to the Secretary of the State the results of the vote for each office contested at such election by [facsimile machine or other] electronic means as prescribed by the Secretary of the State [,] not later than [midnight on election day. If the moderator transmits such list by such electronic means, the] forty-eight hours after the close of the polls on election day. The moderator shall also seal and deliver one of such lists to the Secretary of the State not later than the third day after the election. [If the moderator does not transmit such list by such electronic means, the moderator shall seal and deliver one of such lists by hand either (1) to the Secretary of the State not later than six o'clock p.m. of the day after the election, or (2) to the state police not later than four o'clock p.m. of the day after the election, in which case the state police shall deliver it by hand to the Secretary of the State not later than six o'clock p.m. of the day after the election.] Any such moderator who fails to so deliver such list to [either] the Secretary of the State [or the state police] by the time required shall pay a late filing fee of fifty dollars. Such moderator shall include in such return a statement of the total number of names on the official check list of such town and the total number checked as having voted. Such return shall be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the

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State.

Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 9-322a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than [seven days] forty-eight hours following each regular state election, the registrars of voters shall provide the results of the votes cast at such election to the town clerk. Not later than nine o'clock a.m. on the third day following each regular state election, the head moderator, registrars of voters and town clerk for each town divided into voting districts shall meet to identify any error in the returns. Not later than [fourteen days] one o'clock p.m. on the third day following each regular state election, the head moderator shall correct any error identified and file an amended return with the Secretary of the State and the registrars of voters.

Sec. 28. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision of title 9 of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State, in consultation and coordination with The University of Connecticut, may authorize the use of electronic equipment for the purpose of conducting any audit required pursuant to section 9-320f of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for any primary or general election held on or after January 1, 2016, provided (1) the Secretary of the State prescribes specifications for (A) the testing, set-up and operation of such equipment, and (B) the training of election officials in the use of such equipment; and (2) the Secretary of the State and The University of Connecticut agree that such equipment is sufficient in quantity to accommodate the total number of audits to be conducted. Nothing in this section shall preclude any candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to chapter 149 of the general statutes as a result of any information revealed by such process.

Sec. 29. Section 9-320f of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any election or primary and not later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, for any federal or state election or primary, or by the town clerk for any municipal election or primary, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit or, for an election or primary held on or after January 1, 2016, an electronic audit authorized under section 28 of this act of the votes recorded in not less than ten per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or municipality, whichever is applicable. Such manual or electronic audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public observation. Any election official who participates in the administration and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

(b) The voting districts subject to [the] an audit described in subsection (a) of this section shall be selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State and such selection process shall be open to the public. The offices subject to [the] an audit pursuant to this section shall be, (1) in the case of an election where the office of presidential elector is on the ballot, all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional office selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State, but in no case less than three offices, (2) in the case of an election where the office of Governor is on the ballot, all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional office selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State, but in no case less than three offices, (3) in the case of a municipal election, three offices or twenty per cent of the number of offices on the ballot, whichever is greater, selected at random by the municipal clerk, and (4) in the case of a primary election, all offices required to be audited

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by federal law, plus one additional office, if any, but in no event less than twenty per cent of the offices on the ballot, selected in a random drawing by the municipal clerk.

(c) If a selected voting district has an office that is subject to recanvass or an election or primary contest pursuant to the general statutes, the Secretary shall select an alternative district, pursuant to the process described in subsection (b) of this section.

(d) The manual or electronic audit described in subsection (a) of this section shall consist of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper ballots cast and counted by each voting tabulator subject to such audit. Once complete, the vote totals established pursuant to [the] such manual or electronic tabulation shall be compared to the results reported by the voting tabulator on the day of the election or primary. The results of [the] such manual or electronic tabulation shall be reported on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State which shall include the total number of ballots counted, the total votes received by each candidate in question, the total votes received by each candidate in question on ballots that were properly completed by each voter and the total votes received by each candidate in question on ballots that were not properly completed by each voter. Such report shall be filed with the Secretary of the State who shall immediately forward such report to The University of Connecticut for analysis. The University of Connecticut shall file a written report with the Secretary of the State regarding such analysis that describes any discrepancies identified. After receipt of such report, the Secretary of the State shall file such report with the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

(e) For the purposes of this section, a ballot that has not been properly completed will be deemed to be a ballot on which (1) votes have been marked by the voter outside the vote targets, (2) votes have been marked by the voter using a manual marking device that cannot be read by the voting tabulator, or (3) in the judgment of the registrars

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of voters, the voter marked the ballot in such a manner that the voting tabulator may not have read the marks as votes cast.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-311, the Secretary of the State shall order a discrepancy recanvass of the returns of an election or primary for any office if a discrepancy, as defined in subsection (o) of this section, exists where the margin of victory in the race for such office is less than the amount of the discrepancy multiplied by the total number of voting districts where such race appeared on the ballot, provided in a year in which the Secretary of the State is a candidate for an office on the ballot and that office is subject to an audit as provided by this section, the State Elections Enforcement Commission shall order a discrepancy recanvass if a discrepancy, as defined by subsection (o) of this section, has occurred that could affect the outcome of the election or primary for such office.

(g) If The University of Connecticut report described in subsection (d) of this section indicates that a voting tabulator failed to record votes accurately and in the manner provided by the general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall require that the voting tabulator be examined and recertified by the Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary of the State from requiring that a voting tabulator be examined and recertified.

(h) The audit report filed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public inspection and may be used as prima facie evidence of a discrepancy in any contest arising pursuant to chapter 149 or for any other cause of action arising from such election or primary.

(i) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the manual or electronic count from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the electronic vote tabulation and discrepancies from the

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election or primary, the Secretary of the State shall conduct such further investigation of the voting tabulator malfunction as may be necessary for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to decertify the voting tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the voting tabulator to be examined and recertified pursuant to subsection (g) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary of the State as a result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission and the commission may initiate such further investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b as may be required to determine if any violations of the general statutes concerning election law have been committed.

(j) The individual paper ballots used at an election or primary shall be carefully preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in accordance with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310, as amended by this act, whichever is applicable.

(k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to chapter 149.

(l) After an election or primary, any voting tabulator may be kept locked for a period longer than that prescribed by sections 9-266, as amended by this act, 9-310, as amended by this act, and 9-447, if such an extended period is ordered by either a court of competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of the State or the State Elections Enforcement Commission. Either the court or the Secretary of the State may order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted by such persons as the court or the Secretary of the State may designate, provided the State Elections Enforcement Commission may order such an audit under the circumstances prescribed in subsection (f) of this section. If the machine utilized in such election or primary is an optical scan voting system, such order to lock such machine shall include the tabulator, memory card and all other components and processes

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utilized in the programming of such machine.

(m) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, as may be necessary for the conduct of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper ballots described in subsection (a) of this section and to establish guidelines for expanded audits when there are differences between the manual or electronic counts from the audit described in subsection (a) of this section and tabulator counts from the election or primary.

(n) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine whenever any problem is discovered as a result of [the] an audit described in subsection (a) of this section.

(o) As used in this section, "discrepancy" means any difference in vote totals between tabulator counts from an election or primary and manual or electronic counts from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section in a voting district that exceeds one-half of one per cent of the lesser amount of the vote totals between such tabulator counts and such manual or electronic counts where such differences cannot be resolved through an accounting of ballots that were not marked properly in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, "state election" means "state election", as defined in section 9-1, [and] "municipal election" means a municipal election held pursuant to section 9-164, "manual" means by hand and without the assistance of electronic equipment and "electronic" means through the use of equipment described in section 28 of this act.

Sec. 30. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Two or more municipalities may jointly perform any function that each municipality is required to perform individually under title 9 of the general statutes by entering into an agreement pursuant to this section. Any such agreement shall be negotiated and shall contain all provisions upon

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which each participating municipality agrees. Any such agreement shall establish a process for amendment of, termination of and withdrawal from such agreement. Any proposed agreement shall be submitted to the legislative body of each participating municipality for a vote to ratify or reject such agreement. The legislative body of each participating municipality shall provide an opportunity for public comment prior to any such vote. For purposes of this section, providing an opportunity for public comment does not require a legislative body to conduct a public hearing.

(b) For any municipality in which the legislative body is the town meeting, such legislative body may, by resolution, vote to delegate its authority to ratify or reject a proposed agreement to the board of selectmen, provided such board of selectmen provides an opportunity for public comment in accordance with this section.

(c) A copy of any such agreement entered into by two or more municipalities pursuant to this section shall be filed with the municipal clerk of each participating municipality and the Secretary of the State not later than seven days after the legislative body of the last participating municipality to ratify such agreement so ratifies such agreement.

Sec. 31. Section 9-192b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Each registrar of voters shall annually designate either said registrar, the deputy registrar of voters or an assistant registrar of voters to receive at least ten hours of instruction under the elections training program developed under subdivision (2) of subsection [(c)] (d) of section 9-192a, as amended by this act.

Sec. 32. Subsection (b) of section 9-249 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

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*passage*):

(b) The election officials of such voting districts shall attend the elections training program developed under subdivision (1) of subsection [(c)] (d) of section 9-192a, as amended by this act, and any other meeting or meetings as are called for the purpose of receiving such instructions concerning their duties as are necessary for the proper conduct of the election.

Sec. 33. Section 51-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) All jurors shall be electors, or citizens of the United States who are residents of this state having a permanent place of abode in this state and appear on the list compiled by the Jury Administrator under subsection (b) of section 51-222a, who have reached the age of eighteen. A person shall be disqualified to serve as a juror if such person: (1) Is found by a judge of the Superior Court to exhibit any quality which will impair the capacity of such person to serve as a juror, except that no person shall be disqualified on the basis of deafness or hearing impairment; (2) has been convicted of a felony within the past seven years or is a defendant in a pending felony case or is in the custody of the Commissioner of Correction; (3) is not able to speak and understand the English language; (4) is the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or Attorney General; (5) is a judge of the Probate Court, Superior Court, Appellate Court or Supreme Court, is a family support magistrate or is a federal court judge; (6) is a member of the General Assembly, provided such disqualification shall apply only while the General Assembly is in session; (7) is a registrar of voters or deputy registrar of voters of a municipality, provided such disqualification shall apply only during the period from twenty-one days before the date of a federal, state or municipal election, primary or referendum to twenty-one days after the date of such election, primary or referendum,

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inclusive; (8) is seventy years of age or older and chooses not to perform juror service; or ~~[(8)]~~ (9) is incapable, by reason of a physical or mental disability, of rendering satisfactory juror service. Any person claiming a disqualification under subdivision ~~[(8)]~~ (9) of this subsection must submit to the Jury Administrator a letter from a licensed health care provider stating the health care provider's opinion that such disability prevents the person from rendering satisfactory juror service. In reaching such opinion, the health care provider shall apply the following guideline: A person shall be capable of rendering satisfactory juror service if such person is able to perform a sedentary job requiring close attention for six hours per day, with short work breaks in the morning and afternoon sessions, for at least three consecutive business days.

(b) The Jury Administrator may determine, in such manner and at such times as the Jury Administrator deems feasible, whether any person is qualified to serve as juror under this section and whether any person may be excused for extreme hardship.

(c) The Jury Administrator shall have the authority to establish and maintain a list of persons to be excluded from the summoning process, which shall consist of (1) persons who are disqualified from serving on jury duty on a permanent basis due to a disability for which a licensed physician has submitted a letter stating the physician's opinion that such disability permanently prevents the person from rendering satisfactory jury service, (2) persons seventy years of age or older who have requested not to be summoned, (3) elected officials enumerated in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section and judges enumerated in subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section during their term of office, and (4) persons excused from jury service pursuant to section 51-217a who have not requested to be summoned for jury service pursuant to said section. Persons requesting to be excluded pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection must provide

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the Jury Administrator with their names, addresses, dates of birth and federal Social Security numbers for use in matching. The request to be excluded may be rescinded at any time with written notice to the Jury Administrator.

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