



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 6900

LCO No. 3839



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-452 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 All minor parties nominating candidates for any elective office shall
4 make such nominations and certify and file a list of such nominations,
5 as required by this section, not later than the sixty-second day prior to
6 the day of the election at which such candidates are to be voted for. A
7 list of nominees in printed or typewritten form that includes each
8 candidate's name as authorized by each candidate to appear on the
9 ballot, the signature of each candidate, the full street address of each
10 candidate and the title and district of the office for which each
11 candidate is nominated shall be certified by the presiding officer of the
12 committee, meeting or other authority making such nomination and
13 shall be filed by such presiding officer with the Secretary of the State,
14 in the case of [state or district office or the municipal office of state
15 representative, state senator or judge of probate,] any state, district or

16 municipal office to be voted upon at a state election, or with the clerk
17 of the municipality, in the case of any municipal office to be voted
18 upon at a municipal election, not later than the sixty-second day prior
19 to the day of the election. [The registrars of voters of such municipality
20 shall promptly verify and correct the names on any such list filed with
21 him, or the names of nominees forwarded to the clerk of the
22 municipality by the Secretary of the State, in accordance with the
23 registry list of such municipality and endorse the same as having been
24 so verified and corrected.] For purposes of this section, a list of
25 nominations shall be deemed to be filed when it is received by the
26 Secretary of the State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate. If
27 such certificate of a party's nomination is not received by the Secretary
28 of the State or the clerk of the municipality, as the case may be, by such
29 time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for purposes of
30 sections 9-460, 9-461 and 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made
31 nor certified any nomination of any candidate for such office. A
32 candidacy for nomination by a minor party to a district or municipal
33 office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the
34 last-completed registry list of the district or municipality represented
35 by such office, as the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by a
36 minor party to a state office may be filed on behalf of any person
37 whose name appears on the last-completed registry list of the state.

38 Sec. 2. Section 9-391 of the general statutes is repealed and the
39 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

40 (a) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the
41 nomination of candidates for municipal office to be voted upon at a
42 municipal election, or for the election of town committee members
43 shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier than the
44 fifty-sixth day or later than the forty-ninth day preceding the day of
45 such primary. In the case of an endorsement of a candidate for a
46 municipal office of state senator or state representative, such
47 endorsement may be made of a candidate whose name appears upon
48 the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the

49 municipality or political subdivision within which such candidate is to
50 run for nomination. The endorsement shall be certified to the clerk of
51 the municipality by either (1) the chairman or presiding officer, or (2)
52 the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention, as the case
53 may be, not later than four o'clock p.m. on the forty-eighth day
54 preceding the day of such primary. Such certification shall be signed
55 by such candidate and contain the name and street address of each
56 person so endorsed, the title of the office or the position as committee
57 member and the name or number of the political subdivision or
58 district, if any, for which each such person is endorsed. Such
59 certification shall be made on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the
60 State or on such other form as may comply with the provisions of this
61 subsection. If such a certificate of a party's endorsement is not received
62 by the town clerk by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and
63 such party, for purposes of sections 9-417, 9-418 and 9-419, shall be
64 deemed to have neither made nor certified such endorsement of any
65 candidate for such office.

66 (b) Each selection of delegates to a state or district convention shall
67 be made in accordance with the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier
68 than the one-hundred-fortieth day and not later than the one-hundred-
69 thirty-third day preceding the day of the primary for such state or
70 district office. Such selection shall be certified to the clerk of the
71 municipality by the chairman or presiding officer and the secretary of
72 the town committee or caucus, as the case may be, not later than four
73 o'clock p.m. on the one-hundred-thirty-second day preceding the day
74 of such primary. Each such certification shall be signed by such
75 delegate and contain the name and street address of each person so
76 selected, the position as delegate, and the name or number of the
77 political subdivision or district, if any, for which each such person is
78 selected. If such a certificate of a party's selection is not received by the
79 town clerk by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such
80 party, for purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-420, shall be deemed to
81 have neither made nor certified any selection of any person for the

82 position of delegate.

83 (c) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the
84 nomination of candidates for a municipal office to be voted upon at a
85 state election shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not
86 earlier than the eighty-fourth day or later than the seventy-seventh day
87 preceding the day of such primary. Any certification to be filed under
88 this subsection shall be received by the Secretary of the State [, in the
89 case of a candidate for the office of state senator or state representative,
90 or the town clerk, in the case of a candidate for any other municipal
91 office to be voted upon at a state election,] not later than four o'clock
92 p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of the town committee
93 meeting, caucus or convention, as the case may be. If such a certificate
94 of a party's endorsement is not received by the Secretary of the State
95 [or the town clerk, as the case may be,] by such time, such certificate
96 shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and
97 9-418, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any
98 endorsement of any candidate for such office. The candidate so
99 endorsed for a municipal office to be voted upon at a state election,
100 other than the office of justice of the peace, shall file with the Secretary
101 of the State [or the town clerk, as the case may be,] a certificate, signed
102 by that candidate, stating that such candidate was so endorsed, the
103 candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot,
104 the candidate's full street address and the title and district of the office
105 for which the candidate was endorsed. Such certificate may be filed by
106 a candidate whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment
107 list of such party within the senatorial district within which the
108 candidate is endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the
109 municipal office of state senator, or the assembly district within which
110 a person is endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal
111 office of state representative, or the municipality or political
112 subdivision within which a person is to run for nomination for other
113 municipal offices to be voted on at a state election. Such certificate
114 shall be attested by the [chairman] chairperson or presiding officer

115 [and] or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention
116 which made such endorsement. The endorsement of [candidates] any
117 candidate for the office of justice of the peace shall be certified to the
118 clerk of the municipality by the [chairman] chairperson or presiding
119 officer [and] or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or
120 convention, and shall contain the name and street address of each
121 person so endorsed and the title of the office for which each such
122 person is endorsed. Such certification shall be made on a form
123 prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on such other form as may
124 comply with the provisions of this subsection.

125 Sec. 3. Section 9-159q of the general statutes is repealed and the
126 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

127 (a) As used in this section:

128 (1) "Institution" means a veterans' health care facility, residential
129 care home, health care facility for the handicapped, nursing home, rest
130 home, mental health facility, alcohol or drug treatment facility, an
131 infirmary operated by an educational institution for the care of its
132 students, faculty and employees or an assisted living facility; and

133 (2) "Designee" means an elector of the same town and political party
134 as the appointing registrar of voters which elector is not an employee
135 of the institution at which supervised voting is conducted.

136 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the
137 contrary, if less than twenty of the patients in any institution in the
138 state are electors, absentee ballots voted by such electors shall, upon
139 request of either registrar of voters in the town of such electors' voting
140 residence or the administrator of such institution, be voted under the
141 supervision of such registrars of voters or their designees in
142 accordance with the provisions of this section. The registrars of voters
143 of a town other than the town in which an institution is located may
144 refuse a request by the administrator of such institution when, in their
145 written opinion, the registrars agree that such request is unnecessary,

146 in which case this section shall not apply. Such registrars shall inform
147 the administrator and the town clerk of the electors' town of voting
148 residence of their refusal.

149 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, such request
150 shall be made in writing and filed with the town clerk and registrars of
151 voters of the town of such electors' voting residence, not more than
152 forty-five days prior to an election or thirty-four days prior to a
153 primary and not later than the seventh day prior to an election or
154 primary. The request shall specify the name and location of the
155 institution and the date and time when the registrars of voters or their
156 designees shall supervise the casting of absentee ballots at the
157 institution. The request shall also specify one or more alternate dates
158 and times when supervised voting may occur. No request shall specify
159 a date or an alternate date for supervised voting which is later than the
160 last business day before the election or primary.

161 (d) The town clerk shall not mail or otherwise deliver an absentee
162 ballot to an applicant who is a patient in any institution if a request for
163 supervision of absentee balloting at that institution has been filed with
164 the clerk during the period set forth in subsection (c) of this section.
165 The clerk shall instead deliver such ballot or ballots to the registrars of
166 voters or their designees who will supervise the voting of such ballots
167 in accordance with this section.

168 (e) Except in the case of a written refusal as provided in subsection
169 (b) of this section, upon receipt of a request for supervision of absentee
170 balloting during the period set forth in subsection (c) of this section,
171 the registrar or registrars of voters who received the request shall
172 inform the registrar or administrator who made the request and the
173 town clerk as to the date and time when such supervision shall occur,
174 which shall be the date and time contained in the request or the
175 alternate date and time contained in the request. If the registrar or
176 registrars fail to select either date, the supervision shall take place on
177 the date and time contained in the request. If a request for supervision

178 of absentee balloting at an institution is filed during the period set
179 forth in subsection (c) of this section and the town clerk receives an
180 application for an absentee ballot from a patient in the institution after
181 the date when supervised balloting occurred, either registrar of voters
182 may request, in writing, to the appropriate town clerk and registrars of
183 voters that the supervision of the voting of absentee ballots at such
184 institution in accordance with this section be repeated, and in such
185 case the registrars or their designees shall supervise absentee balloting
186 at such institution on the date and at the time specified in the
187 subsequent request, which shall be not later than the last business day
188 before the election or primary.

189 (f) On the date when the supervision of absentee balloting at any
190 institution is to occur, the town clerk shall deliver to the registrars or
191 their designees the absentee ballots and envelopes for all applicants
192 who are electors of such clerk's town and patients at such institution.
193 The ballot and envelopes shall be prepared for delivery to the
194 applicant as provided in sections 9-137 to 9-140a, inclusive. The
195 registrars or their designees shall furnish the town clerk a written
196 receipt for such ballots.

197 (g) The registrars or their designees, as the case may be, shall jointly
198 deliver the ballots to the respective applicants at the institution and
199 shall jointly supervise the voting of such ballots. The ballots shall be
200 returned to the registrars or their designees by the electors in the
201 envelopes provided and in accordance with the provisions of sections
202 9-137, 9-139 and 9-140a. If any elector asks for assistance in voting his
203 ballot, two registrars or their designees of different political parties or,
204 for a primary, their designees of different candidates, shall render such
205 assistance as they deem necessary and appropriate to enable such
206 elector to vote his ballot. The registrars or their designees may reject a
207 ballot when (1) the elector declines to vote a ballot, or (2) the registrars
208 or their designees are unable to determine how the elector who has
209 requested their assistance desires to vote the ballot. When the
210 registrars or their designees reject a ballot, they shall mark the serially-

211 numbered outer envelope "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection.
212 Nothing in this section shall limit the right of an elector to vote his
213 ballot in secret.

214 (h) After all ballots have been voted or marked "rejected" in
215 accordance with subsection (g) of this section, the registrars or their
216 designees shall jointly deliver or mail them in the envelopes, which
217 shall be sealed, to the appropriate town clerk, who shall retain them
218 until delivered in accordance with section 9-140c.

219 (i) When an institution is located in a town having a primary, the
220 registrar in that town of the party holding the primary shall appoint
221 for each such institution, one designee of the party-endorsed
222 candidates and one designee of the contestants from the lists, if any,
223 submitted by the party-endorsed candidates and contestants. Such
224 registrar shall notify all party-endorsed candidates and all contestants
225 of their right to submit a list of potential designees under this section.
226 Each party-endorsed candidate and each contestant may submit to
227 such registrar in writing a list of names of potential designees,
228 provided any such list shall be submitted not later than ten days before
229 the primary. If no such lists are submitted within said period, such
230 registrar shall appoint one designee of the party-endorsed candidates
231 and one designee of the contestants. Each designee appointed
232 pursuant to this section shall be sworn to the faithful performance of
233 his duties, and the registrar shall file a certificate of each designation
234 with his town clerk.

235 (j) Any registrar of voters who has filed a request that the absentee
236 balloting at an institution be supervised and any registrar required to
237 conduct a supervision of voting under this section, who neglects to
238 perform any of the duties required of him by this section so as to cause
239 any elector to lose his vote shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
240 Any registrar from the same town as a registrar who has filed such a
241 request may waive his right to participate in the supervision of
242 absentee balloting.

243 (k) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, if
244 the spouse or a child of a registrar of voters or a dependent relative
245 residing in the registrar's household is a candidate in the election or
246 primary for which supervised absentee voting is to occur, such
247 registrar shall not supervise such absentee voting but may designate
248 the deputy registrar of voters or an assistant registrar of voters,
249 appointed by the registrar pursuant to section 9-192, to supervise the
250 absentee voting in his place.

251 [(l) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, if a town
252 clerk receives twenty or more absentee ballot applications from the
253 same street address in a town, including, but not limited to, an
254 apartment building or complex, absentee ballots voted by the electors
255 submitting such applications may, at the discretion of the registrars of
256 voters of such town, be voted under the supervision of such registrars
257 of voters or their designees in accordance with the same procedures set
258 forth in this section for supervised absentee voting at institutions.]

259 Sec. 4. Section 9-453b of the general statutes is repealed and the
260 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

261 The Secretary of the State shall not issue any nominating petition
262 forms for a candidate for an office to be filled at a regular election to be
263 held in any year prior to the first business day of such year. The
264 Secretary shall not issue any nominating petition forms unless the
265 person requesting the nominating petition forms makes a written
266 application for such forms, which application shall contain the
267 following: (1) The name or names of the candidates to appear on such
268 nominating petition, compared by the town clerk of the town of
269 residence of each candidate with the candidate's name as it appears on
270 the last-completed registry list of such town, and verified and
271 corrected by such town clerk or in the case of a newly admitted elector
272 whose name does not appear on the last-completed registry list, the
273 town clerk shall compare the candidate's name as it appears on the
274 candidate's application for admission and verify and correct it

275 accordingly; (2) a signed statement by each such candidate that the
276 candidate consents to the placing of the candidate's name on such
277 petition; and (3) the party designation, if any. An applicant for petition
278 forms who does not wish to specify a party designation shall so
279 indicate on the application for such forms and the application, if so
280 marked, shall not be amended in this respect. No application made
281 after November 3, 1981, shall contain any party designation unless a
282 reservation of such party designation with the Secretary is in effect for
283 all of the offices included in the application or unless the party
284 designation is the same as the name of a minor party which is qualified
285 for a different office or offices on the same ballot as the office or offices
286 included in the application. The Secretary shall not issue such forms
287 (A) unless the application for forms on behalf of a candidate for the
288 office of presidential elector is accompanied by the names of the
289 candidates for President and Vice-President whom the candidate for
290 the office of presidential elector represents and includes the consent of
291 such candidates for President and Vice-President; (B) unless the
292 application for forms on behalf of Governor or Lieutenant Governor is
293 accompanied by the name of the candidate for the other office and
294 includes the consent of both such candidates; (C) if petition forms have
295 previously been issued on behalf of the same candidate for the same
296 office unless the candidate files a written statement of withdrawal of
297 the candidate's previous candidacy with the Secretary; and (D) unless
298 the application meets the requirements of this section. A candidacy for
299 nomination by nominating petition to a district or municipal office
300 may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-
301 completed registry list of the district or municipality represented by
302 such office, as the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by
303 nominating petition to a state office may be filed on behalf of any
304 person whose name appears on the last-completed registry list of the
305 state.

306 Sec. 5. Section 9-373a of the general statutes is repealed and the
307 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

308 Any person desiring to be a write-in candidate for any state, district
 309 or municipal office to be filled at any regular election shall register his
 310 candidacy with the Secretary of the State on a form prescribed by the
 311 secretary. The registration shall include the candidate's name and
 312 address, the designation and term of the office sought, a statement of
 313 consent to the candidacy, and any other information which the
 314 secretary deems necessary. In the case of a write-in candidacy for the
 315 office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor, the registration shall
 316 include a candidate for each of those offices, or shall be void. The
 317 registration shall not include a designation of any political party. The
 318 registration shall be filed with the secretary not more than ninety days
 319 prior to the election at which the office is to be filled and not later than
 320 four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day preceding the election, or the
 321 registration shall be void. No person nominated for an office by a
 322 major or minor party or by nominating petition shall register as a
 323 write-in candidate for that office under the provisions of this section,
 324 and any registration of a write-in candidacy filed by such a person
 325 shall be void. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
 326 contrary, any person desiring to be a write-in candidate for the
 327 municipal office of town meeting member in any town having a
 328 representative town meeting which has seventy-five or more members
 329 shall register his candidacy with the town clerk of such town not later
 330 than the last business day preceding such election. A person may
 331 register as a write-in candidate to a district or municipal office if such
 332 person's name appears on the last-completed registry list of the district
 333 or municipality represented by such office, as the case may be. A
 334 person may register as a write-in candidate to a state office if such
 335 person's name appears on the last-completed registry list of the state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-452
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-391
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-159q

Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-453b
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-373a

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require that all candidates provide a signature in order to accept an endorsement, (2) require that minor party candidates, petitioning candidates and write-in candidates reside in the district represented by the office they seek, and (3) eliminate discretionary supervised balloting.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]