



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 56**

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 6744

*House of Representatives, March 12, 2015*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. JUTILA of the 37th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATORY REGISTRARS OF VOTERS SESSIONS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-17 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 [(a) For the purposes of this section, "primary day" means the day  
4 that a primary for state, district and municipal offices is being held in  
5 accordance with section 9-423, and "election day" means the day of  
6 each regular election. (1)]

7 (a) The registrars of voters of each town shall hold [sessions] a  
8 session to examine the qualifications of electors and admit those found  
9 qualified on the [dates and at the times set forth in this section. Such  
10 sessions shall be held on the following days during the hours  
11 indicated, except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection:

T1	Day	Hours
T2	Fourteenth day	
T3	before primary day .....	any two hours between
T4		5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
T5	Saturday of third week	
T6	before election day .....	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
T7	Seventh day	
T8	before election day .....	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

12 The session of the registrars of voters on the seventh day before  
 13 election day shall be the last regular session for the admission of  
 14 electors prior to an election, as defined in subsection (y) of section 9-1.  
 15 (2) No town having a population of less than twenty-five thousand  
 16 persons shall be required to hold sessions for admission of electors on  
 17 the fourteenth day before primary day] seventh day before the day of  
 18 each regular election from nine o'clock a.m. to eight o'clock p.m.

19 (b) [Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
 20 the] The registrars of voters shall hold a limited session on the last  
 21 [week day before] weekday before the day of each regular election  
 22 from nine o'clock a.m. to five o'clock p.m. for the purpose of admitting  
 23 only those persons whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or  
 24 residence in the municipality were attained after the [last] session for  
 25 the admission of electors prior to [an] a regular election held pursuant  
 26 to subsection (a) of this section. The registrars shall enter the names of  
 27 those electors admitted at such limited session on the proper list, with  
 28 their residences by street and numbers.

29 (c) In addition to the [sessions] session held pursuant to [subsections  
 30 (a) and] subsection (a) of this section and the limited session held  
 31 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the registrars of voters in  
 32 each town shall hold one session each year, between the first of  
 33 January and the last day of the school year, at each public high school  
 34 in such town, for the admission of persons who are eligible for  
 35 admission under subsection (a) or (b) of section 9-12, provided, in the  
 36 case of a public high school in a regional school district, such session

37 shall be held on a rotating basis by the registrars of voters for each  
38 town which is a member of the regional school district. The registrars  
39 of voters need not give notice of this session by publication in a  
40 newspaper.

41 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 9-19b of the general statutes is  
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
43 *1, 2015*):

44 (d) During the period between the [last] session for the admission of  
45 electors [prior to an election] held pursuant to subsection (a) of section  
46 9-17, as amended by this act, and the opening of the limited session for  
47 the admission of electors held [on the last weekday before such  
48 election under] pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-17, as amended  
49 by this act, the town clerk or assistant town clerk during office hours  
50 and at the office of such official and either registrar of voters or a  
51 deputy or assistant registrar at the office of such official may examine  
52 the qualifications of any person applying in person to be admitted in  
53 such town and approve the application of such person whose  
54 qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in the municipality  
55 were attained after [such last] the session held pursuant to subsection  
56 (a) of section 9-17, as amended by this act, and on or before [the last  
57 weekday prior to such election] the limited session held pursuant to  
58 subsection (b) of section 9-17, as amended by this act.

59 Sec. 3. Section 9-65 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
60 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

61 (a) After the [last session of the registrars of voters under section 9-  
62 17 before each election] session for the admission of electors held  
63 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-17, as amended by this act, the  
64 registrars of voters in each municipality shall submit in writing to the  
65 Secretary of the State a statement setting forth the total number of  
66 names of new electors added to the registry list, and the total number  
67 of names of former electors removed from the registry list, in such  
68 municipality during the period between the two most recent such [last]  
69 sessions. Such statement shall be submitted annually at a time to be

70 determined by the Secretary of the State.

71 (b) Not later than a week after the [last session of the registrars of  
72 voters before an election under] session for the admission of electors  
73 held pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-17, as amended by this act,  
74 the Secretary of the State shall issue a report on the total number of  
75 electors on the active and inactive registry list, the total number of  
76 electors enrolled on each active and inactive party enrollment list and  
77 the total number of unaffiliated electors on the active and inactive  
78 registry list in such municipality, as reported by the registrars of voters  
79 on the state-wide centralized voter registration system. The Secretary  
80 shall omit from such report electors on the last-completed registry list  
81 or enrollment lists who have died, but shall include electors who have  
82 acquired electoral or enrollment privileges since the last-completed  
83 registry list or enrollment lists were perfected.

84 Sec. 4. Section 9-170 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
85 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

86 At any regular or special town election any person may vote who is  
87 registered as an elector on the revised registry list of the town last  
88 completed and he shall vote only in the district in which he is so  
89 registered, provided any person may vote whose name is restored to  
90 the list under the provisions of section 9-42 or whose name is added  
91 [on the last week day before a regular election under the provisions] at  
92 the limited session for the admission of electors held pursuant to  
93 subsection (b) of section 9-17, as amended by this act. Each person so  
94 registered shall be permitted to vote unless he is not a bona fide  
95 resident of the town and political subdivision holding the election or  
96 has been convicted of a disfranchising crime. Any person offering to  
97 vote and being challenged as to his identity or residence shall, before  
98 he votes, prove his identity with the person on whose name he offers  
99 to vote or his bona fide residence in the town and political subdivision  
100 holding the election, as the case may be, by the testimony, under oath,  
101 of at least one other elector or by such other evidence acceptable to the  
102 moderator.

103 Sec. 5. Section 9-171 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
104 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

105 In all cities, unless otherwise provided by law, any person entitled  
106 to vote at city elections who is registered on the revised registry list  
107 last completed, and any person having a legal right to vote at such  
108 elections whose name is entered on a copy of such list before voting,  
109 may vote therein in the district for which such registry list is made;  
110 provided those persons may vote whose names are restored to the list  
111 under the provisions of section 9-42 or whose names are added [on the  
112 last week day before a regular election under the provisions] at the  
113 limited session for the admission of electors held pursuant to  
114 subsection (b) of section 9-17, as amended by this act. Each person so  
115 registered shall be permitted to vote, unless he has lost his right by  
116 removal from such city since he has registered or by conviction of a  
117 disfranchising crime. Any person offering so to vote, and being  
118 challenged as to his identity or residence, shall, before he votes, prove  
119 his identity with the person on whose name he offers to vote or his  
120 bona fide residence in such city, as the case may be, by the testimony,  
121 under oath, of at least one other elector or by such other evidence  
122 acceptable to the moderator. The names of those voting shall be  
123 checked on such copy of such list, and such copy so checked shall be  
124 kept on file in the office of the town clerk, as in the case of state  
125 elections.

126 Sec. 6. Section 9-172 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
127 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

128 At any regular or special state election any person may vote who  
129 was registered on the last-completed revised registry list of the town in  
130 which he offers to vote, and he shall vote in the district in which he  
131 was so registered; provided those persons may vote whose names are  
132 restored to the list under the provisions of section 9-42 or whose names  
133 are added [on the last weekday before a regular election under the  
134 provisions] at the limited session for the admission of electors held  
135 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-17, as amended by this act. Each

136 person so registered shall be permitted to vote if he is a bona fide  
 137 resident of the town and political subdivision holding the election and  
 138 has not lost his right by conviction of a disfranchising crime. Any  
 139 person offering so to vote and being challenged as to his identity or  
 140 residence shall, before he votes, prove his identity with the person on  
 141 whose name he offers to vote or his bona fide residence in the town  
 142 and political subdivision holding the election, as the case may be, by  
 143 the testimony, under oath, of at least one other elector or by such other  
 144 evidence as is acceptable to the moderator.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	9-17
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	9-19b(d)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	9-65
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	9-170
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	9-171
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	9-172

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>	<b>FY 17 \$</b>
All Municipalities	Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

**Explanation**

The bill reduces the number of mandatory qualification examination sessions that registrars of voters must hold prior to a primary election for state, district, or municipal office. Reducing the number of such sessions may result in a minimal savings to municipalities.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6744*****AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATORY REGISTRARS OF VOTERS SESSIONS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates the requirements that registrars of voters hold voter registration sessions on the (1) 14<sup>th</sup> day before a primary for two hours between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and (2) Saturday of the third week before a regular election, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm.

It retains the requirements that registrars hold (1) a session on the seventh day before each regular election, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; (2) a limited session on the last weekday before a regular election, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to admit individuals who become eligible to vote after the last voter registration session before an election; and (3) one session, annually, between January 1 and the last day of school at each public high school in their town. (In regional school districts, the registrars of the member towns rotate the responsibility for conducting this last session.)

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (02/25/2015)