



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 253

LCO No. 1811



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACES FOR PRIMARIES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-438 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [In] (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this
4 section, in each municipality or voting district, the polling place or
5 places for [primaries] a primary held under sections 9-382 to 9-450,
6 inclusive, shall be the same as those used for the election to be held.

7 (b) (1) In any municipality with fifteen thousand or less electors, the
8 number of polling places required under subsection (a) of this section
9 may be reduced by the registrars of voters of such municipality in
10 accordance with this subsection.

11 (2) If the registrars of voters of any such municipality agree to
12 reduce the number of polling places, the registrars of voters shall, not
13 later than sixty days prior to a primary held under sections 9-382 to 9-

14 450, inclusive, designate the polling place or places for such primary.
15 Such polling place or places may be the same as or different than the
16 polling places used for the election to be held.

17 (3) Not earlier than sixty days, but not later than forty-five days,
18 prior to such primary, the registrars of voters of any such municipality
19 shall notify the Secretary of the State and the candidates seeking
20 nomination to an office in such primary of the change in the polling
21 place or places. If a candidate petitions for nomination to an office after
22 the registrars of voters have notified candidates of such change, the
23 registrars of voters shall immediately notify the petitioning candidate
24 of such change. If any candidate objects to a change in the polling place
25 or places, the candidate shall notify the Secretary of such objection not
26 later than four o'clock p.m. on the thirtieth day prior to the primary.
27 Such notification from the candidate shall be in the form of a written
28 letter, signed by the candidate, and shall be held confidential by the
29 Secretary. The Secretary shall promptly notify such registrars of voters
30 and each candidate seeking nomination to an office in such primary
31 that the Secretary has received a letter of objection. Such notification
32 shall not identify the candidate who objected. If such a candidate so
33 objects, the polling place or places shall be the same as those used for
34 the election to be held.

35 (4) Not later than twenty-five days prior to such primary, the
36 registrars of voters of any such municipality shall send notification of
37 the polling place for the primary, by mail, to each elector whose
38 polling place for the primary will be different than the elector's polling
39 place for the election. The registrars of voters shall not be required to
40 so notify an elector for any subsequent primary if the primary polling
41 place for such elector remains the same as that provided in the initial
42 notification.

43 (5) If any polling place that would otherwise be open pursuant to
44 subsection (a) of this section is closed for a primary pursuant to this
45 subsection, the registrars of voters of any such municipality shall

46 ensure that a sign is posted at such polling place providing electors
47 with information to redirect such electors to the open polling place or
48 places for the primary.

49 (6) Notwithstanding any provision of this title or title 7, any special
50 act, charter or ordinance, if the number of polling places for a primary
51 is reduced pursuant to this subsection, the number of moderators
52 required for such primary may be reduced, if the registrars of voters of
53 any such municipality so agree, provided at least one certified
54 moderator serves each polling place.

55 (c) When unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to
56 vote in the primary of [either of two parties, both] any one of multiple
57 parties, all such parties shall hold their primaries in the same room of
58 each [such] polling place. On the day of the primary, the polls shall
59 remain open for voting from six o'clock a.m. until eight o'clock p.m.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-438

Statement of Purpose:

To allow municipalities to reduce the number of polling places for primaries.

[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.]