



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 255

LCO No. 2013



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY AND PROVISION OF
TRAINING FOR REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-192a of the 2016 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) (1) The Secretary of the State shall, in consultation with the
5 advisory committee created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,
6 establish a program and criteria for the certification of registrars of
7 voters. All registrars taking such office on or before July 1, 2015, shall
8 complete such program and satisfy such criteria for certification not
9 later than July 1, 2017. Any registrar taking such office after July 1,
10 2015, shall complete such program and satisfy such criteria for
11 certification (A) in the case of a two-year term, not later than the
12 conclusion of such term, and (B) in the case of a four-year term, not
13 later than two years after the date of first holding such office, except as
14 provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection. Each municipality shall

15 pay on behalf of such municipality's registrar of voters the cost of
16 completing such program and satisfying such criteria for certification.

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

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

35 (b) There is created an advisory committee for the purpose of
36 establishing programs and procedures for training, examining and
37 certifying registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters and assistant
38 registrars of voters, as described in section 9-192. The committee shall
39 consist of six members, one of whom shall be from the office of the
40 Secretary of the State, one of whom shall be from the State Elections
41 Enforcement Commission, and four of whom shall be registrars of
42 voters. The Secretary of the State shall appoint the registrars of voters,
43 in consultation with the Registrars of Voters Association of
44 Connecticut, or its successor organization. The committee members
45 shall serve without pay. The Secretary of the State shall determine the
46 length of the terms of the initial members, in accordance with the

47 following: Two of such members shall serve for a one-year term; two
48 of such members shall serve for a two-year term; and two of such
49 members shall serve for a four-year term. Thereafter, all members shall
50 serve for four-year terms. The committee shall select a chairperson,
51 who shall be one of the registrars who is a member of the committee.

52 (c) The Secretary of the State, in consultation with the advisory
53 committee, shall adopt criteria for the training, examination and
54 certification requirements of registrars pursuant to subsection (a) of
55 this section. In advising the Secretary of the State on the adoption of
56 such criteria, the committee (1) shall consider whether the prescribed
57 training leading to certification may, in part, be satisfied through
58 participation in the required two conferences a year called by the
59 Secretary of the State, pursuant to section 9-6, for purposes of
60 discussing the election laws, procedures or matters related to election
61 laws and procedures, and (2) may recommend programs at one or
62 more institutions of higher education that satisfy such criteria. Any
63 deputy or assistant registrar of voters may participate in the course of
64 training prescribed by the Secretary for certification as a certified
65 Connecticut registrar of voters. The Secretary of the State shall certify
66 any individual who completes such training and successfully
67 completes any examination or examinations prescribed by the
68 Secretary as a certified Connecticut registrar of voters.

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

79 Sec. 2. Section 9-192b of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes
80 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-192a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To eliminate (1) the requirement that each registrar, or a deputy or assistant designated by such registrar, attend the Secretary of State's election law and procedures training program, and (2) the Secretary of State's authority to delegate the conduct of certain other training for purposes of certification to a third party.

[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.]