



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 350**

February Session, 2016

Substitute House Bill No. 5394

*House of Representatives, March 31, 2016*

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 substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING ENDORSEMENTS OF TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CLARIFYING RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN STATE OFFICE CANDIDATES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-391 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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the  
5 nomination of candidates for municipal office to be voted upon at a  
6 municipal election, or for the election of town committee members,  
7 shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier than the  
8 fifty-sixth day or later than the forty-ninth day preceding the day of  
9 such primary. [In the case of an endorsement of a candidate for a  
10 municipal office of state senator or state representative, such  
11 endorsement may be made of a candidate whose name appears upon  
12 the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the

13 municipality or political subdivision within which such candidate is to  
14 run for nomination.] The endorsement shall be certified to the clerk of  
15 the municipality by either [(1) the chairman or presiding officer, or (2)]  
16 the chairperson or presiding officer or the secretary of the town  
17 committee, caucus or convention, as the case may be, not later than  
18 four o'clock p.m. on the forty-eighth day preceding the day of such  
19 primary. [Such certification shall be signed by such candidate and]  
20 Each such candidate, except a candidate for the election of town  
21 committee member, shall sign such certification. Each such  
22 certification shall contain the name and street address of each [person]  
23 candidate so endorsed, the title of the office or the position as  
24 committee member and the name or number of the political  
25 subdivision or district, if any, for which each such [person] candidate  
26 is endorsed. Such certification shall be made on a form prescribed by  
27 the Secretary of the State or on such other form as may comply with  
28 the provisions of this subsection. If such a certificate of a party's  
29 endorsement is not received by the [town] clerk of the municipality by  
30 such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the  
31 purposes of sections 9-417, 9-418 and 9-419, shall be deemed to have  
32 neither made nor certified such endorsement of any candidate for such  
33 office.

34 (b) Each selection of delegates to a state or district convention shall  
35 be made in accordance with the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier  
36 than the one-hundred-fortieth day and not later than the one-hundred-  
37 thirty-third day preceding the day of the primary for such state or  
38 district office. Such selection shall be certified to the clerk of the  
39 municipality by [the chairman or presiding officer and] either the  
40 chairperson or presiding officer or the secretary of the town committee  
41 or caucus, as the case may be, not later than four o'clock p.m. on the  
42 one-hundred-thirty-second day preceding the day of such primary.  
43 Each such certification shall contain the name and street address of  
44 each person so selected, the position as delegate, and the name or  
45 number of the political subdivision or district, if any, for which each  
46 such person is selected. If such a certificate of a party's selection is not  
47 received by the [town] clerk of the municipality by such time, such

48 certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections  
49 9-417 and 9-420, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified  
50 any selection of any person for the position of delegate.

51 (c) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the  
52 nomination of candidates for a municipal office to be voted upon at a  
53 state election shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not  
54 earlier than the eighty-fourth day or later than the seventy-seventh day  
55 preceding the day of such primary. [Any] Each certification to be filed  
56 under this subsection shall be received by the Secretary of the State not  
57 later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of the  
58 town committee meeting, caucus or convention, as the case may be. If  
59 such a certificate of a party's endorsement is not received by the  
60 Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and  
61 such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418, shall be  
62 deemed to have neither made nor certified any endorsement of any  
63 candidate for such office. The candidate so endorsed for a municipal  
64 office to be voted upon at a state election, other than the office of  
65 justice of the peace, shall file with the Secretary of the State a  
66 certificate, signed by that candidate, stating that such candidate was so  
67 endorsed, the candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to  
68 appear on the ballot, the candidate's full street address and the title  
69 and district of the office for which the candidate was endorsed. Such  
70 certificate may be filed by a candidate whose name appears upon the  
71 last-completed enrollment list of such party within the senatorial  
72 district within which the candidate is endorsed to run for nomination  
73 in the case of the municipal office of state senator, or the assembly  
74 district within which [a person] the candidate is endorsed to run for  
75 nomination in the case of the municipal office of state representative,  
76 or the municipality or political subdivision within which [a person] the  
77 candidate is to run for nomination for other municipal offices to be  
78 voted on at a state election. Such certificate shall be attested by either  
79 the chairperson or presiding officer or the secretary of the town  
80 committee, caucus or convention which made such endorsement. The  
81 endorsement of any candidate for the office of justice of the peace shall  
82 be certified to the clerk of the municipality by either the chairperson or

83 presiding officer or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or  
 84 convention, and shall contain the name and street address of each  
 85 [person] candidate so endorsed and the title of the office for which  
 86 each such [person] candidate is endorsed. Such certification shall be  
 87 made on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on such  
 88 other form as may comply with the provisions of this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-391

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

The bill became a substitute due to a title change.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which eliminates the requirement that endorsed candidates for town committee membership sign an endorsement certificate with the town clerk, has no fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 5394**

***AN ACT CONCERNING ENDORSEMENTS OF TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CLARIFYING RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN STATE OFFICE CANDIDATES.***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates the requirement that endorsed candidates for town committee member sign the endorsement certificate that, by law, parties must file with the town clerk. It retains the signature requirement for other municipal office candidates, as well as for statewide and legislative office candidates, who receive their party’s endorsement.

The bill also makes technical changes, including removing an erroneous reference to residency requirements for legislative office candidates elected at a municipal election.

By law, party endorsements of candidates for town committee member must be made between the 56<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> day before the primary. Parties must file the certified endorsements by the 48<sup>th</sup> day before the primary, which is held on the first Tuesday in March in even-numbered years (CGS § 9-425).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/11/2016)