



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 576

February Session, 2016

Substitute Senate Bill No. 255

Senate, April 11, 2016

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. CASSANO, S. of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof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] the Secretary of the State or a
31 third party approved by [said Secretary] the Secretary of the State to
32 conduct such training. Any registrar who fails to satisfy such annual
33 training requirement shall be directed by the Secretary of the State to
34 take remedial measures prescribed by [said Secretary] the Secretary of
35 the State.

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

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

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

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

80 Sec. 2. Section 9-192b of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes
81 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

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 17 \$	FY 18 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

The bill reduces the training certificate requirement for registrars of voters from at least 10 instruction hours to at least 8 hours. To the extent that the registrar of voter training is reduced, municipalities may realize a minimal savings.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 255*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY AND PROVISION OF TRAINING FOR REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates the requirement that registrars of voters, or their deputies or assistants, receive at least 10 instruction hours annually under the existing election law and procedures training program. It retains requirements that (1) registrars complete at least eight training hours annually to maintain certification and (2) an advisory committee develops the election law and procedures training program.

By law, the advisory committee (1) develops training programs for registrars of voters and poll workers and (2) consists of representatives of the Office of the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and four registrars of voters whom the secretary appoints in consultation with the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/21/2016)