



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 442

February Session, 2018

Substitute House Bill No. 5424

House of Representatives, April 12, 2018

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. FOX of the 148th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AT REGULAR ELECTIONS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-258 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) For municipalities with more than one voting district, the
4 election officials of each polling place shall be electors of the state and
5 shall consist of (1) one moderator, (2) at least one [,] but not more than
6 two official checkers, (3) two assistant registrars of voters of opposite
7 political parties, each of whom shall be residents of the town, (4) not
8 more than two challengers if the registrars of voters have appointed
9 challengers pursuant to section 9-232, [and] (5) at least one [and] but
10 not more than two ballot clerks, and (6) at least one but not more than
11 two voting tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in use at the
12 polling place. A known candidate for any office shall not serve as an
13 election official on election day or serve at the polls in any capacity,

14 except that (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a
15 candidate for the same office, may perform his or her official duties,
16 and (B) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of
17 registrar of voters, may perform his or her official duties. If, in the
18 opinion of the registrar of voters, the public convenience of the electors
19 in any voting district so requires, provision shall be made for an
20 additional line or lines of electors at the polling place and, if more than
21 one line of electors is established, at least one but not more than two
22 additional official checkers and at least one but not more than two
23 ballot clerks for each line of electors shall be appointed and, if more
24 than one tabulator is used in a polling place, at least one [and] but not
25 more than two additional voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed
26 for each additional machine so used. Head moderators, central
27 counting moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant
28 to law shall also be deemed election officials.

29 (b) For municipalities with one voting district, the election officials
30 of such polling place shall be electors of the state and shall consist of
31 (1) one moderator, (2) at least one [,] but not more than two official
32 checkers, (3) not more than two challengers if the registrars of voters
33 have appointed challengers pursuant to section 9-232, (4) at least one
34 [and] but not more than two voting tabulator tenders for each voting
35 tabulator in use at the polling place, and (5) at least one but not more
36 than two ballot clerks. Additionally, such election officials may consist
37 of two registrars of voters of opposite political parties, or two assistant
38 registrars of voters of opposite political parties, as the case may be,
39 subject to the requirements of sections 9-259 and 9-439, provided if the
40 registrars of voters are present in the polling place, they shall appoint
41 at least one designee to be present in their office. A known candidate
42 for any office shall not serve as an election official on election day or
43 serve at the polls in any capacity, except that (A) a municipal clerk or a
44 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, may perform
45 his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a
46 candidate for the office of registrar of voters, may perform his or her
47 official duties. If, in the opinion of the registrar of voters, the public
48 convenience of the electors in any voting district so requires, provision

49 shall be made for an additional line or lines of electors at the polling
50 place and, if more than one line of electors is established, at least one [,]
51 but not more than two [,] additional official checkers for each line of
52 electors shall be appointed and, if more than one tabulator is used in a
53 polling place, at least one [and] but not more than two additional
54 voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each additional
55 tabulator so used. Head moderators, central counting moderators and
56 absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law shall be deemed to
57 be election officials.

58 (c) No election official shall perform services for any party or
59 candidate on election day nor appear at any political party
60 headquarters prior to eight o'clock p.m. on election day.

61 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 9-236 of the general statutes is
62 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
63 *passage*):

64 (c) No person shall be allowed within any polling place for any
65 purpose other than casting his or her vote, except (1) those permitted
66 or exempt under this section or section 9-236a, [and] (2) primary [or
67 election officials and party checkers appointed under section 9-235
68 shall be allowed within any polling place except for the purpose of
69 casting his vote] officials under section 9-436, (3) election officials
70 under section 9-258, as amended by this act, including (A) a municipal
71 clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office,
72 performing his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of
73 voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,
74 performing his or her official duties, or (4) party checkers under
75 section 9-235. Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to
76 enter, remain within and leave any polling place or restricted area
77 surrounding any polling place to observe the election, provided any
78 such representative who in any way interferes with the orderly process
79 of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. A number of students in
80 grades four to twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in
81 any one polling place, may enter any polling place between twelve

82 o'clock noon and three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the
 83 activities taking place in the polling place, provided there is proper
 84 parental or teacher supervision present, and provided further, any
 85 such student who in any way interferes with the orderly process of
 86 voting shall be evicted by the moderator. An elector may be
 87 accompanied into any polling place by one or more children who are
 88 fifteen years of age or younger and supervised by the elector if the
 89 elector is the parent or legal guardian of such children.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-258
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-236(c)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Throughout Section 1, "at least one and not more" was changed to "at least one [and] but not more" for consistency and designators were added for clarity; and in Section 1(a), "section 9-232, and at" was changed to "section 9-232, [and] at" for clarity.

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 permits deputy registrar of voters to perform their official duties on election day when they are on the ballot for registrar of voters, has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5424

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AT REGULAR ELECTIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill allows a deputy registrar of voters who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters to perform his or her official duties on election day. Current law prohibits a known candidate for any office from serving (1) as an election official on election day or (2) at the polls in any capacity, except that a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, may perform his or her official duties.

The bill also makes related technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/23/2018)