



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

Raised Bill No. 5420

LCO No. 1998



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT REQUIRING ADDITIONAL POLLING PLACES AT
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION DURING STATE
ELECTIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-169 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The legislative body of any town, consolidated town and city or
4 consolidated town and borough may divide and, from time to time,
5 redivide such municipality into voting districts. The registrars of
6 voters of any municipality taking such action shall provide a suitable
7 polling place in each district but, if the registrars fail to agree as to the
8 location of any polling place or places, the legislative body shall
9 determine the location thereof. Polling places to be used in an election
10 shall be determined at least thirty-one days before such election, and
11 such polling places shall not be changed within said period of thirty-
12 one days except that, if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters of a
13 municipality unanimously find that any such polling place within such

14 municipality has been rendered unusable within such period, they
15 shall forthwith designate another polling place to be used in place of
16 the one so rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice that such
17 polling place has been so changed. The registrars of voters shall keep
18 separate lists of the electors residing in each district and shall appoint
19 for each district a moderator in accordance with the provisions of
20 section 9-229 and such other election officials as are required by law,
21 and shall designate one of the moderators so appointed or any other
22 elector of such town to be the head moderator for the purpose of
23 declaring the results of elections in the whole municipality. The
24 registrars may also designate a deputy head moderator to assist the
25 head moderator in the performance of his duties provided the deputy
26 head moderator and the head moderator shall not be enrolled in the
27 same major party, as defined in subdivision (5) of section 9-372. The
28 selectmen, town clerk, registrars of voters and all other officers of the
29 municipality shall perform the duties required of them by law with
30 respect to elections in each voting district established in accordance
31 with this section. Voting district lines shall not be drawn by a
32 municipality so as to conflict with the lines of congressional districts,
33 senate districts or assembly districts as established by law, except (1) as
34 provided in section 9-169d and (2) that as to municipal elections, any
35 part of a split voting district containing less than two hundred electors
36 may be combined with another voting district adjacent thereto from
37 which all and the same officers are elected at such municipal election.
38 Any change in the boundaries of voting districts made within ninety
39 days prior to any election or primary shall not apply with respect to
40 such election or primary.

41 (b) In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (a) of this
42 section, (1) the legislative body of any town, consolidated town and
43 city or consolidated town and borough within which an institution of
44 higher education is located shall divide such municipality so as to
45 provide at each state election a separate voting district containing such
46 institution, provided such institution shall have (A) reported to the
47 United States Department of Education, in the year prior to such state

48 election, a twelve-month, full-time equivalent enrollment in excess of
49 three thousand at any campus of such institution, and (B) notified, not
50 later than January first of the year of such state election, the registrars
51 of voters of such municipality in which any such campus is located,
52 and (2) the registrars of voters of any municipality described in
53 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall provide a suitable polling place
54 at, or not more than five hundred feet from, such institution but, if the
55 registrars fail to agree as to the location of such polling place, the
56 legislative body shall determine the location thereof.

57 (c) The provisions of this section shall prevail over any contrary
58 provision of any charter or special act.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | 9-169 |

Statement of Purpose:

To require (1) any municipality containing an institution of higher education to establish a separate voting district containing such institution if such institution reports certain data to the United States Department of Education for the year prior to the election, and (2) the registrars of voters or the legislative body of such municipality, as the case may be, to provide a suitable polling place at or near such institution for which a separate voting district is established.

[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.]