

---

---

## OLR Bill Analysis

### HB 5844 (as amended by House "A")\*

#### ***AN ACT REQUIRING HOUSING AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS TO PROSPECTIVE TENANTS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

Starting January 1, 2020, this bill requires that housing authorities provide, to certain individuals, voter registration applications (1) at the time when a household applies for, or has been accepted for, admission to a housing authority residential unit and (2) at the household's annual recertification. Housing authorities must provide the applications to each household member who is eligible to apply for admission as an elector (see BACKGROUND). Under the bill, a housing authority must assist an individual in completing the voter registration application upon request.

The bill also requires that housing authorities make voter registration materials publicly available, just as existing law requires for the departments of Social Services, Labor, and Motor Vehicles, as well as for the State Library and libraries of the state's public higher education institutions. Under the bill, (1) housing authorities must make voter registration information and materials available in their public areas and (2) the secretary of the state must provide housing authorities with the voter registration applications, materials, including nonpartisan literature, and any needed display furniture.

\*House Amendment "A" clarifies that housing authorities must provide the voter registration applications to 17-year-olds who are eligible to apply for admission and makes minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

#### **BACKGROUND**

***Admission as an Elector***

By law, an individual is eligible for admission as an elector if he or she is (1) a U.S. citizen, (2) age 18 or older, and (3) a bona fide resident of the municipality in which he or she applies for admission. A 17-year-old who will turn age 18 by the day of the next regular election may apply for admission and, if otherwise qualified, becomes an elector on his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday (CGS § 9-12).

A mentally incompetent individual cannot be admitted as an elector. An individual convicted of a felony and committed to any federal or state prison forfeits his or her electoral rights while incarcerated (CGS § 9-46).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9 Nay 5 (03/07/2019)