



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 177

January Session, 2019

House Bill No. 5844

House of Representatives, March 28, 2019

The Committee on Housing reported through REP. MCGEE of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-19h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) The Department of Social Services, the Labor Department, [and]
4 the Department of Motor Vehicles and housing authorities, as defined
5 in section 8-39, shall make voter registration information and materials
6 available to the public. Such information and materials shall be placed
7 in public areas of the offices of such departments and housing
8 authorities. The State Library and the libraries of the state's public
9 institutions of higher education shall also make such information and
10 materials available to users of the libraries. The Secretary of the State
11 shall provide such departments, such housing authorities, such
12 libraries and any libraries open to the public with suitable nonpartisan
13 literature, materials and voter registration application forms
14 authorized under sections 9-23g and 9-23h. The secretary shall also

15 provide to the Department of Social Services, the Labor Department,
16 [and] the Department of Motor Vehicles and each housing authority
17 any furniture needed to display such literature, materials and forms.

18 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,
19 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, not later than January 1, 1994,
20 shall include an application for the admission of an elector with each
21 application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a
22 motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under
23 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form
24 provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such
25 application form for the admission of an elector (1) shall be subject to
26 the approval of the Secretary of the State, (2) shall not include any
27 provisions for the witnessing of the application, and (3) shall contain a
28 statement that (A) specifies each eligibility requirement, (B) contains
29 an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, and (C)
30 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury. The
31 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept any such completed
32 application for admission which is submitted in person or by mail. The
33 applicant shall state on such form, under penalty of perjury, the
34 applicant's name, bona fide residence address, date of birth, whether
35 the applicant is a United States citizen, party enrollment, if any, prior
36 voting address, if registered previously, and that the applicant's
37 privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction of a
38 felony. No Social Security number on any such application form for the
39 admission of an elector filed prior to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed
40 to the public or to any governmental agency. The commissioner shall
41 indicate on each such form the date of receipt of such application to
42 ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if
43 it is received by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles by the last day
44 for registration to vote in an election. The commissioner shall provide
45 the applicant with an application receipt, on a form approved by the
46 Secretary of the State and on which the commissioner shall record the
47 date that the commissioner received the application, using an official
48 date stamp bearing the words "Department of Motor Vehicles". The
49 commissioner shall provide such receipt whether the application was

50 submitted in person or by mail. The commissioner shall forthwith
 51 transmit the application to the registrars of voters of the applicant's
 52 town of residence. If a registration application is accepted within five
 53 days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular election,
 54 the application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters of the
 55 town of voting residence of the applicant not later than five days after
 56 the date of acceptance. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and
 57 (g) of section 9-23g which are not inconsistent with the National Voter
 58 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time,
 59 shall apply to applications made under this section. The commissioner
 60 is not an admitting official and may not restore, under the provisions
 61 of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.

62 (c) On and after January 1, 2020, each housing authority shall
 63 include an application for the admission of an elector with each
 64 application form provided to an individual or family for admission to
 65 or continued occupancy of a housing authority unit and, in the case of
 66 a family, shall include an application for the admission of an elector for
 67 each member of such family who is eligible to be admitted as an
 68 elector pursuant to section 9-12. A housing authority shall assist an
 69 individual in completing the application form, if such assistance is
 70 requested.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	9-19h

HSG *Joint Favorable*

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 requires the Secretary of the State (SOS) to provide housing authorities with certain voter registration materials, has no fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.¹ The SOS currently produces sufficient quantities of such materials to meet the bill's requirements.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹ Local housing authorities are autonomous governmental entities which are generally funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), but may also receive state grants. The authorities operate under HUD regulations for federal developments, and both the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and the Department of Housing (DOH) for state developments.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5844*****AN ACT REQUIRING HOUSING AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS TO PROSPECTIVE TENANTS.*****SUMMARY**

Starting January 1, 2020, this bill requires that housing authorities include voter registration applications with the applications that they distribute to individuals or families for admission to, or continued occupancy with, the authority. In the case of a family, a housing authority must provide a voter registration application for each individual who is eligible to be admitted as an elector (see BACKGROUND). (It is unclear whether the bill applies to 17-year-olds who, by law, are eligible to apply for admission, to take effect upon turning age 18.) 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.

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 18th 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)