



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 754

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7160

House of Representatives, April 18, 2019

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 INCREASING VOTER ACCESS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1,
2 2020, the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
3 Secretary of the State, local or regional education officials designated
4 by said commissioner and local election officials designated by the
5 Secretary, shall develop standards for awarding academic credit to any
6 student of a secondary school for the performance of volunteer service
7 in the preparation for and conduct of any election or primary. Such
8 standards shall include, but not be limited to, (1) amount of credit to be
9 awarded, (2) documentation required to obtain such credit, (3)
10 curriculum or other performance measures, (4) procedures for
11 application to local election officials for the performance of such
12 volunteer service, (5) period during which such volunteer service may
13 be performed, and (6) minimum hours of such volunteer service to
14 qualify for such credit, provided such student shall (A) be appointed

15 pursuant to section 9-235d or 9-258 of the general statutes or
16 subsection (c) of section 9-436 of the general statutes, and (B) perform
17 such volunteer service for at least eight hours on the day of such
18 election or primary. On and after March 1, 2020, any such student who
19 performs such volunteer service in accordance with such standards
20 shall be eligible to receive such credit by the local board of education
21 or regional board of education maintaining such secondary school.

22 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the President of the Connecticut
23 State Colleges and Universities, in consultation with the Secretary of
24 the State, a representative of The University of Connecticut, a
25 representative of the Office of Higher Education and local election
26 officials designated by the Secretary, shall develop standards for
27 awarding academic credit to any student of an institution of higher
28 education for the performance of volunteer service in the preparation
29 for and conduct of any election or primary. Such standards shall
30 include, but not be limited to, (1) amount of credit to be awarded, (2)
31 documentation required to obtain such credit, (3) curriculum or other
32 performance measures, (4) procedures for application to local election
33 officials for the performance of such volunteer service, (5) period
34 during which such volunteer service may be performed, and (6)
35 minimum hours of such volunteer service to qualify for such credit,
36 provided such student shall (A) be appointed pursuant to section 9-
37 235d or 9-258 of the general statutes or subsection (c) of section 9-436 of
38 the general statutes, and (B) perform such volunteer service for at least
39 eight hours on the day of such election or primary. On and after March
40 1, 2020, any such student who performs such volunteer service in
41 accordance with such standards shall be eligible to receive such credit
42 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Board of Trustees
43 of The University of Connecticut, as applicable.

44 Sec. 2. Section 1-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the
45 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

46 In each year the first day of January (known as New Year's Day), the
47 fifteenth day of January of each year prior to 1986, and commencing on

48 the twentieth day of January in 1986, the first Monday occurring on or
49 after January fifteenth (known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day), [the
50 twelfth day of February (known as Lincoln Day),] the third Monday in
51 February (known as [Washington's Birthday] Presidents' Day), the last
52 Monday in May (known as Memorial Day or Decoration Day), the
53 fourth day of July (known as Independence Day), the first Monday in
54 September (known as Labor Day), the second Monday in October
55 (known as Columbus Day), the Tuesday after the first Monday in
56 November (known as Election Day), the eleventh day of November
57 (known as Veterans' Day) and the twenty-fifth day of December
58 (known as Christmas) and any day appointed or recommended by the
59 Governor of this state or the President of the United States as a day of
60 thanksgiving, fasting or religious observance, shall each be a legal
61 holiday, except that whenever any of such days which are not
62 designated to occur on Monday, occurs upon a Sunday, the Monday
63 next following such day shall be a legal holiday and whenever any of
64 such days occurs upon a Saturday, the Friday immediately preceding
65 such day shall be a legal holiday. When any such holiday, except
66 holidays in January and December, occurs on a school day, each local
67 and regional board of education may close the public schools under its
68 jurisdiction for such day or hold a session of the public schools on such
69 day, provided, if a session is held, the board shall require each school
70 to hold a suitable nonsectarian educational program in observance of
71 such holiday. If a holiday in January or December occurs on a school
72 day, there shall be no session of the public schools on such day.

73 Sec. 3. Section 9-174 of the general statutes is repealed and the
74 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

75 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general statute, special
76 act or municipal charter to the contrary, at any regular election, or at
77 any special election held to fill a vacancy in a state, district or
78 municipal office, the polls shall remain open for voting from six o'clock
79 a.m. until eight o'clock p.m. No elector shall be permitted to cast his
80 vote after the hour prescribed for the closing of the polls in any
81 election unless such elector is in line at eight o'clock p.m. An election

82 official or a police official of the municipality, who is designated by the
83 moderator, shall be placed at the end of the line at eight o'clock p.m.
84 Such official shall not allow any electors who were not in such line at
85 eight o'clock p.m. to enter such line.

86 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general statute, special
87 act or municipal charter to the contrary, at any regular election, the
88 location designated for election day registration pursuant to
89 subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-19j, as amended by this
90 act, shall remain open for election day registration and voting from six
91 o'clock a.m. until eight o'clock p.m. No applicant for election day
92 registration shall be admitted as an elector or permitted to cast such
93 applicant's vote after the hour prescribed for the closing of the location
94 designated for such purposes in any regular election unless such
95 applicant is in line at eight o'clock p.m. An election official or a police
96 official of the municipality, who is appointed by the registrars of
97 voters, shall be placed at the end of the line at eight o'clock p.m. Such
98 official shall not allow any applicants for election day registration who
99 were not in such line at eight o'clock p.m. to enter such line.

100 Sec. 4. Section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed and the
101 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

102 (a) As used in this subsection and subsections (b) to (i), inclusive, of
103 this section, "election day" means the day on which a regular election,
104 as defined in section 9-1, is held.

105 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, a person who (1)
106 is (A) not an elector, or (B) an elector registered in a municipality who
107 wishes to change his or her registration to another municipality
108 pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this
109 section, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a)
110 of section 9-12, may apply for admission as an elector on election day
111 pursuant to the provisions of subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this
112 section.

113 (c) (1) (A) The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the

114 completion and processing of election day registration applications on
115 election day, provided the registrars of voters have access to the state-
116 wide centralized voter registration system from such location.

117 (B) The registrars of voters may apply to the Secretary of the State,
118 in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, to designate any
119 additional location for the completion and processing of election day
120 registration applications on election day, provided the registrars of
121 voters shall so apply not later than ninety days before election day.
122 Upon approval of any such application by the Secretary, the registrars
123 of voters may so designate any such additional location.

124 (2) The registrars of voters may appoint one or more election
125 officials to serve at any such location and may delegate to such election
126 officials any of the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters.
127 The registrars of voters shall supervise such election officials and train
128 such election officials to be election day registration election officials.

129 (d) Any person applying to register on election day under the
130 provisions of subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section shall make
131 application in accordance with the provisions of section 9-20, provided
132 (1) on election day, the applicant shall appear in person [at the] not
133 later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance with subsection (b) of
134 section 9-174, as amended by this act, at any location designated by the
135 registrars of voters for election day registration, (2) an applicant who is
136 a student enrolled at an institution of higher education may submit a
137 current photo identification card issued by [said] such institution in
138 lieu of the identification required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant
139 shall declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in
140 the election. If the information that the applicant is required to provide
141 under section 9-20 and subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section
142 does not include proof of the applicant's residential address, the
143 applicant shall also submit identification that shows the applicant's
144 bona fide residence address, including, but not limited to, a learner's
145 permit issued under section 14-36 or a utility bill that has the
146 applicant's name and current address and that has a due date that is

147 not later than thirty days after the election or, in the case of a student
148 enrolled at an institution of higher education, a registration or fee
149 statement from such institution that has the applicant's name and
150 current address.

151 (e) If the registrars of voters determine that an applicant satisfies the
152 application requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the
153 registrars of voters shall check the state-wide centralized voter
154 registration system before admitting such applicant as an elector.

155 (1) If the registrars of voters determine that the applicant is not
156 already an elector, the registrars of voters shall admit the applicant as
157 an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

158 (2) If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an
159 elector in another municipality and such applicant states that he or she
160 wants to change the municipality in which the applicant is an elector,
161 notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters
162 of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register shall
163 immediately notify the registrars of voters in such other municipality
164 that such elector is changing the municipality in which the applicant is
165 an elector. The registrars of voters in such other municipality shall
166 notify the election officials in such municipality to remove such elector
167 from the official voter list of such municipality. Such election officials
168 shall cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and
169 mark "off" next to such elector's name on such official voter list.

170 (A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other
171 municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall
172 immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which
173 such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not
174 receive an election day registration ballot from the registrars of voters
175 of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. For any
176 such elector, the election day registration process shall cease in the
177 municipality in which such elector now seeks to register and such
178 matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters in the municipality
179 in which such elector now seeks to register. After completion of such

180 review, if a resolution of the matter can not be made, such matter shall
181 be reported to the State Elections Enforcement Commission which
182 shall conduct an investigation of the matter.

183 (B) If there is no such report that such applicant already voted in the
184 other municipality, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which
185 the applicant seeks to register shall admit the applicant as an elector
186 and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

187 (f) If the applicant is admitted as an elector, the registrars of voters
188 shall provide the elector with an election day registration ballot and
189 election day registration envelope and shall make a record of such
190 issuance. The elector shall complete an affirmation imprinted upon the
191 back of the envelope for an election day registration ballot and shall
192 declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the
193 election. The affirmation shall be in the form substantially as follows
194 and signed by the voter:

195 AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty
196 of false statement, (perjury) that:

197 1. I am the person admitted here as an elector in the town indicated.

198 2. I am eligible to vote in the election indicated for today in the town
199 indicated.

200 3. The information on my voter registration card is correct and
201 complete.

202 4. I reside at the address that I have given to the registrars of voters.

203 5. If previously registered at another location, I have provided such
204 address to the registrars of voters and hereby request cancellation of
205 such prior registration.

206 6. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not
207 vote otherwise than by this ballot at this election.

208 7. I completed an application for an election day registration ballot

209 and received an election day registration ballot.

210 (Signature of voter)

211 (g) The elector shall forthwith mark the election day registration
212 ballot in the presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that
213 the registrars of voters shall not know how the election day
214 registration ballot is marked. The elector shall place the election day
215 registration ballot in the election day registration ballot envelope
216 provided, and deposit such envelope in a secured election day
217 registration ballot depository receptacle. At the time designated by the
218 registrars of voters and noticed to election officials, the registrars of
219 voters shall transport such receptacle containing the election day
220 registration ballots to the central location or polling place, pursuant to
221 subsection (b) of section 9-147a, where absentee ballots are counted
222 and such election day registration ballots shall be counted by the
223 election officials present at such central location or polling place. A
224 section of the head moderator's return shall show the number of
225 election day registration ballots received from electors. The registrars
226 of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for election day registration
227 ballots in a depository envelope with the election day registration
228 ballots and store such election day registration depository envelope
229 with the other election results materials. The election day registration
230 depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for
231 the period of time required to preserve counted ballots for elections.

232 (h) The provisions of the general statutes and regulations
233 concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of
234 absentee ballots shall apply as nearly as possible, to the custody,
235 control and counting of election day registration ballots under
236 subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section.

237 (i) After the acceptance of an election day registration, the registrars
238 of voters shall forthwith send a registration confirmation notice to the
239 residential address of each applicant who is admitted as an elector on
240 election day under subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section. Such
241 confirmation shall be sent by first class mail with instructions on the

242 envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the address shown on
243 the envelope. If a confirmation notice is returned undelivered, the
244 registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in accordance with
245 section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable, notwithstanding the May first
246 deadline in section 9-35.

247 (j) No person shall solicit in behalf of or in opposition to the
248 candidacy of another or himself or herself or in behalf of or in
249 opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or
250 peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another
251 person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in
252 use as an entry to any location designated by the [registrars'] registrars
253 of voters [designated location] for election day registration balloting or
254 in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such
255 outside entrance to any such [registrars' of voters designated] location
256 or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or
257 approach.

258 Sec. 5. Section 9-211 of the general statutes is repealed and the
259 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

260 (a) In case of a vacancy in the office of senator in Congress, the
261 Governor, except as otherwise provided by federal or state law, shall,
262 not more than ten days after the occurrence of such vacancy, issue
263 writs of election directed to the town clerks or assistant town clerks
264 ordering an election to be held on the one hundred fiftieth day after
265 the issue of such writs [on a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday,] to
266 fill such vacancy for the remaining portion of the term vacated,
267 provided (1) except as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this
268 subsection, if such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-
269 fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or
270 municipal election in November of any year, the Governor shall so
271 issue such writs that order an election to be held on the day of such
272 regular election, (2) except as provided in subdivision (3) of this
273 subsection, if such vacancy occurs after the municipal election in the
274 year preceding the last year of the term of a senator or in the last year

275 of the term of a senator, the Governor shall nominate a person to fill
276 such vacancy and such nomination shall be filed with both the clerk of
277 the Senate and the clerk of the House of Representatives. Approval of
278 such nomination shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the
279 membership of each chamber of the General Assembly, or (3) if such a
280 vacancy occurs in the year of a state election and not more than sixty-
281 two days prior to such election, and the office of senator in Congress
282 for which the vacancy exists will be on the ballot during such election,
283 the Governor shall not issue such writs and no election shall be held
284 under this section. If the position vacated is that of member-elect, the
285 Governor shall so issue writs and an election shall be held as provided
286 in this section.

287 (b) The Governor shall cause writs of election issued pursuant to
288 subsection (a) of this section to be (1) conveyed to a state marshal, who
289 shall forthwith transmit an attested copy thereof to such clerks or
290 assistant clerks, or (2) delivered electronically to such clerks or
291 assistant clerks. Such clerks or assistant clerks, on receiving such writs,
292 shall warn elections to be held on the day appointed therein in the
293 same manner as state elections are warned, which elections shall be
294 organized and conducted as are state elections, and the vote shall be
295 declared, certified, directed, deposited, returned and transmitted in the
296 same manner as at a state election.

297 Sec. 6. Section 9-212 of the general statutes is repealed and the
298 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

299 (a) In case of a vacancy in the office of representative in Congress
300 from any district, the Governor, except as otherwise provided by law,
301 shall not more than ten days after the occurrence of such vacancy issue
302 writs of election directed to the town clerks or assistant town clerks, in
303 such district, ordering an election to be held on the sixtieth day after
304 the issue of such writs [on a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday,] to
305 fill such vacancy, provided (1) if such a vacancy occurs between the
306 one hundred twenty-fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of
307 a regular state or municipal election in November of any year, the

308 Governor shall so issue such writs on the sixtieth day before the day of
309 such regular election, ordering an election to be held on the day of
310 such regular election, (2) if such a vacancy occurs after the sixty-third
311 day before the day of a regular state election but before the regular
312 state election, the Governor shall not issue such writs and no election
313 shall be held under this section, unless the position vacated is that of
314 member-elect, in which case the Governor shall issue such writs and
315 an election shall be held as provided in this section, and (3) if a
316 primary for such office occurs pursuant to subparagraph (C) of
317 subdivision (1) of section 9-450, the Governor shall, within ten days
318 following the filing of a candidacy for nomination by a person other
319 than the party-endorsed candidate, issue new writs of election, in place
320 of those first issued pursuant to this section.

321 (b) The Governor shall cause writs of election issued pursuant to
322 subsection (a) of this section to be (1) conveyed to a state marshal, who
323 shall forthwith transmit an attested copy thereof to such clerks or
324 assistant clerks, or (2) delivered electronically to such clerks or
325 assistant clerks. Such clerks or assistant clerks, on receiving such writs,
326 shall warn elections to be held on the day appointed therein in the
327 same manner as state elections are warned, which elections shall be
328 organized and conducted as are state elections, and the vote shall be
329 declared, certified, directed, deposited, returned and transmitted in the
330 same manner as at a state election.

331 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 9-215 of the general statutes is
332 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
333 *passage*):

334 (b) When any such vacancy occurs, except as provided in this
335 section, the Governor shall, within ten days after its occurrence, issue
336 writs of election, directed to the town clerks or assistant town clerks in
337 the several towns in the district in which the vacancy exists, ordering
338 an election to be held therein on the forty-sixth day after the issue of
339 such writs to fill such vacancy, and cause them to be (1) conveyed to
340 such town clerks or assistant town clerks, [. No such election shall be

341 held on a Saturday or Sunday] or (2) delivered electronically or by any
342 other means the Governor deems necessary to ensure such writs are
343 received by such town clerks or assistant town clerks on the day such
344 writs are issued. If such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred
345 twenty-fifth day and the forty-ninth day before the day of a regular
346 state or municipal election in November of any year, the Governor
347 shall so issue such writs on the forty-sixth day before the day of such
348 regular election, ordering an election to be held on the day of such
349 regular election. If such a vacancy occurs after the forty-ninth day
350 before the day of a regular state election but before the Wednesday
351 following the first Monday of January of the next-succeeding year, the
352 Governor shall not issue such writs and no election shall be held under
353 this section, unless the position vacated is that of member-elect, in
354 which case the Governor shall issue such writs and an election shall be
355 held as provided in this section.

356 Sec. 8. Section 9-218 of the general statutes is repealed and the
357 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

358 When there is no election of probate judge in any district by reason
359 of two or more having an equal and the highest number of votes, or
360 when a new probate district is created and no provision made for the
361 election of a judge thereof, or whenever it is shown to the Governor
362 that a vacancy is about to exist in said office by reason of the
363 resignation of the incumbent to take effect at a future time or by reason
364 of constitutional limitation, or when there is a vacancy in said office,
365 the Governor may issue writs of election directed to the town clerk or
366 clerks or assistant town clerk or clerks within such district [,] ordering
367 an election to be held on a day named therein [, other than a Saturday
368 or Sunday,] to fill such vacancy or impending vacancy, and (1)
369 transmit the same to a state marshal [. Such state marshal] who shall
370 forthwith transmit them to such clerk or clerks, [who] or (2) deliver
371 electronically the same to such clerk or clerks. Such clerk or clerks, on
372 receiving the same, shall warn elections to be held on the day
373 appointed in such writs, in the same manner as state elections are
374 warned. Such elections shall be organized and conducted, and the vote

375 shall be declared and returns made, certified, directed, deposited and
376 transmitted, in the same manner as at a state election. The Secretary of
377 the State, Treasurer and Comptroller shall, within thirty days after any
378 such election, count and declare the votes so returned, and notice shall
379 be given to the person declared elected, in the same manner as is
380 provided in the election of probate judges at state elections. The
381 Secretary of the State shall enter the returns in tabular form in books
382 kept by him for that purpose and present a copy of the same, with the
383 name of, and the total number of votes received by, each of the
384 candidates for said office, to the Governor within ten days thereafter.
385 The Probate Court Administrator shall cite a probate judge to act as a
386 judge in the district during any vacancy in said office in accordance
387 with section 45a-120.

388 Sec. 9. Section 9-19h of the general statutes is repealed and the
389 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

390 (a) The Department of Social Services, the Labor Department and
391 the Department of Motor Vehicles shall make voter registration
392 information and materials available to the public. Such information
393 and materials shall be placed in public areas of the offices of such
394 departments. The State Library and the libraries of the state's public
395 institutions of higher education shall also make such information and
396 materials available to users of the libraries. The Secretary of the State
397 shall provide such departments, such libraries and any libraries open
398 to the public with suitable nonpartisan literature, materials and voter
399 registration application forms authorized under sections 9-23g and 9-
400 23h. [The secretary shall also provide to the Department of Social
401 Services, the Labor Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles
402 any furniture needed to display such literature, materials and forms.]

403 (b) (1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this
404 section, and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,
405 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, not later than January 1, 1994,
406 shall include an application for the admission of an elector with each
407 application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a

408 motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under
409 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form
410 provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such
411 application form for the admission of an elector [(1)] (A) shall be
412 subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, [(2)] (B) shall not
413 include any provisions for the witnessing of the application, and [(3)]
414 (C) shall contain a statement, except as provided in subdivision (2) of
415 this subsection, that [(A)] (i) specifies each eligibility requirement, [(B)]
416 (ii) contains an attestation that the applicant meets each such
417 requirement, and [(C)] (iii) requires the signature of the applicant
418 under penalty of perjury. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
419 accept any such completed application for admission which is
420 submitted in person, [or by mail. The] by mail or through an electronic
421 system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. Except as
422 provided in said subdivision, the applicant shall state on such form,
423 under penalty of perjury, the applicant's name, bona fide residence
424 address, date of birth, whether the applicant is a United States citizen,
425 party enrollment, if any, prior voting address, if registered previously,
426 and that the applicant's privileges as an elector are not forfeited by
427 reason of conviction of a felony. No Social Security number on any
428 such application form for the admission of an elector filed prior to
429 January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental
430 agency. The commissioner shall indicate on each such form the date of
431 receipt of such application to ensure that any eligible applicant is
432 registered to vote in an election if it is received by the Commissioner of
433 Motor Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote in an election.
434 The commissioner shall provide the applicant with an application
435 receipt, on a form approved by the Secretary of the State and on which
436 the commissioner shall record the date that the commissioner received
437 the application, using an official date stamp bearing the words
438 "Department of Motor Vehicles". The commissioner shall provide such
439 receipt whether the application was submitted in person, [or] by mail
440 or through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
441 subsection. The commissioner shall forthwith transmit the application
442 to the registrars of voters of the applicant's town of residence. If a

443 registration application is accepted within five days before the last day
444 for registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be
445 transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence
446 of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance.
447 The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g
448 which are not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of
449 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to
450 applications made under this section. The commissioner is not an
451 admitting official and may not restore, under the provisions of section
452 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.

453 (2) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may use an electronic
454 system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to
455 effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding
456 admission of applicants to be electors, except that the condition that an
457 applicant state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may
458 be waived for any such eligibility requirement verified independently
459 by said commissioner. Such electronic system may include a means by
460 which an applicant's signature, on file with said commissioner, may be
461 transmitted to the Secretary. The use of any such electronic system
462 shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L.
463 103-31, as amended from time to time.

464 Sec. 10. Section 9-19i of the general statutes is repealed and the
465 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

466 (a) Any change of address form submitted by a person in
467 accordance with law for purposes of a motor vehicle operator's license
468 shall serve as notification of change of address for voter registration for
469 the person unless the person states on the form that the change of
470 address is not for voter registration purposes. The Commissioner of
471 Motor Vehicles shall forthwith transmit such change of address
472 information to the registrars of voters of the town of the former
473 address of the person. If the name of the person appears on the registry
474 list of the town, and if the new address is also within such town, the
475 registrars shall enter the name of such elector on the registry list at the

476 place where he then resides. If the name of the person appears on the
477 registry list of the town and if the new address is outside such town,
478 the registrars shall remove the name of such elector from the registry
479 list and send the elector the notice, information and application
480 required by subsection (c) of section 9-35, except that if the
481 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is using an electronic system
482 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of the State may
483 prescribe alternative procedures for sending such notice and
484 information and may waive the requirement to send such application.

485 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may use an electronic
486 system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to
487 effectuate the purposes of subsection (a) of this section regarding
488 notifications of change of address for voter registration. The use of any
489 such electronic system shall comply with the National Voter
490 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

491 Sec. 11. Section 9-19k of the general statutes is repealed and the
492 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

493 (a) The Secretary of the State shall establish and maintain a system
494 for online voter registration. Such system shall also permit a registered
495 elector to apply for changes to such elector's registration. An applicant
496 may register to vote through this system, provided the applicant's (1)
497 registration information is verifiable in the manner described in
498 subsection (b) of this section, and (2) (A) signature is in a database
499 described in said subsection (b) and such signature may be imported
500 into such system for online voter registration, or (B) signature has been
501 electronically submitted by the applicant directly to the Secretary in a
502 form and manner prescribed by the Secretary and such signature may
503 be used with such system.

504 (b) A state agency, upon the request of the Secretary of the State,
505 shall provide any information to the Secretary that the Secretary deems
506 necessary to maintain the system for online voter registration. The
507 Secretary may cross reference the information input into the system by
508 applicants with data or information contained in any state agency's

509 database or a database administered by the federal government, or any
510 voter registration database of another state, in order to verify the
511 information submitted by applicants. The Secretary shall not use the
512 information obtained from any such database except to verify
513 information submitted by the applicant, provided the applicant's
514 signature, if part of data contained in the state agency's database, shall
515 be included as part of the applicant's information contained in the
516 system for online voter registration.

517 (c) The submission of an online application shall contain all of the
518 information that is required for an application under section 9-23h,
519 except that a signature shall be obtained (1) from another state
520 agency's database pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, or (2)
521 electronically from the applicant directly in a form and manner
522 prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

523 (d) In order for an applicant's registration or change in registration
524 to be approved, the applicant shall mark the box associated with the
525 following statement included as part of the online application:

526 "By clicking on the box below, I swear or affirm all of the following
527 under penalty of perjury:

528 (1) I am the person whose name and identifying information is
529 provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote in the State of
530 Connecticut.

531 (2) All of the information I have provided on this form is true and
532 correct as of the date I am submitting this form.

533 (3) If I have not submitted my signature electronically to the
534 Connecticut Secretary of the State, I authorize the Department of
535 Motor Vehicles or any other Connecticut state agency to transmit to the
536 [Connecticut] Secretary of the State or my town's registrars of voters
537 my signature that is on file with such agency, and I understand that
538 such signature will be used by the Secretary of the State or my town's
539 registrars of voters on this online application for admission as an

540 elector as if I had signed this form personally."

541 (e) Upon approval of such application, the registrars of voters shall
542 send a notice of approval pursuant to section 9-19b to the applicant.

543 (f) If an applicant registers to vote pursuant to the provisions of this
544 section after the seventh day before an election or after the fifth day
545 before a primary, the privileges of an elector shall not attach until the
546 day after such election or primary, as the case may be. In such event,
547 the registrars of voters may contact such applicant, either by telephone
548 or mail, in order to inform such applicant of the effect of such late
549 received application and any applicable deadline for applying for
550 admission in person.

551 (g) Nothing in this section shall prevent the registrars of voters or
552 any election official appointed by such registrars of voters to admit any
553 applicant as an elector from utilizing the online voter registration
554 system established pursuant to this section for the purpose of
555 admitting such applicant on election day pursuant to section 9-19j, as
556 amended by this act.

557 (h) The Secretary of the State shall develop and implement a system
558 through which the Secretary may permit any person to submit an
559 electronic signature for the purpose of signing any form or application
560 to be filed pursuant to chapters 141 to 154, inclusive. The Secretary
561 may include in, or exclude from, such system any such form or
562 application. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any such
563 form or application on which any such electronic signature appears
564 shall be deemed to have been signed in the original.

565 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 9-23n of the general statutes is
566 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
567 *passage*):

568 (b) [Voter registration agencies shall] (1) Except as provided in
569 subdivision (2) of this subsection, each voter registration agency shall
570 (A) distribute mail voter registration application forms, [(2)] (B) assist

571 applicants for [such] service or assistance [or services] provided by the
572 agency in completing voter registration application forms, except for
573 applicants who refuse [such] assistance in completing such forms, [(3)]
574 (C) accept completed voter registration application forms and provide
575 each applicant with an application receipt, on which the agency shall
576 record the date that the agency received the application, using an
577 official date stamp bearing the name of the agency, and [(4)] (D)
578 immediately transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of
579 the town of voting residence of the applicants. The agency shall
580 provide such receipt whether the application was submitted in person,
581 [or by mail] by mail or through an electronic system pursuant to
582 subdivision (2) of this subsection. If a registration application is
583 accepted within five days before the last day for registration to vote in
584 a regular election, the application shall be transmitted to the registrars
585 of voters of the town of voting residence of the applicant not later than
586 five days after the date of acceptance. [The] Except as provided in
587 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the voter registration agency shall
588 indicate on the completed mail voter registration application form,
589 without indicating the identity of the voter registration agency, the
590 date of its acceptance by such agency, to ensure that any eligible
591 applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is received by the
592 registration agency by the last day for registration to vote in an
593 election. If a state-funded program primarily engaged in providing
594 services to persons with disabilities provides services to a person with
595 a disability at the person's home, the agency shall provide such voter
596 registration services at the person's home. The procedures in
597 subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g that are not inconsistent
598 with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as
599 amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made under
600 this section. Officials and employees of such voter registration agencies
601 are not admitting officials, as defined in section 9-17a, and may not
602 restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of
603 persons convicted of a felony.

604 (2) Each voter registration agency may use an electronic system,
605 subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to effectuate the

606 purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding applications
607 for voter registration. The use of any such electronic system shall
608 comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31,
609 as amended from time to time.

610 Sec. 13. Section 9-23o of the general statutes is repealed and the
611 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

612 A voter registration agency, as defined in section 9-23n, as amended
613 by this act, shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of
614 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, and shall (1)
615 distribute with each application for service or assistance provided by
616 the agency, and with each recertification, renewal or change of address
617 form relating to such service or assistance, a mail voter registration
618 application form approved by the Secretary of the State, or (2) provide,
619 during each application for such service or assistance and each
620 recertification, renewal or change of address relating thereto, an
621 opportunity to apply for voter registration through an electronic
622 system pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of said section,
623 unless the applicant declines to register to vote pursuant to the
624 provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31,
625 as amended from time to time. Such declination shall be in writing,
626 except in the case of an application for service or assistance provided
627 by a library, or a recertification, renewal or change of address form
628 relating to such library service or assistance. Such voter registration
629 agency shall provide each applicant to register to vote the same degree
630 of assistance with regard to the completion of the registration
631 application form as is provided by the agency with regard to the
632 completion of its own forms, unless the applicant refuses such
633 assistance.

634 Sec. 14. Section 9-23p of the general statutes is repealed and the
635 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

636 Each public institution of higher education shall (1) distribute mail
637 voter registration application forms, (2) provide opportunities for voter
638 registration through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2)

639 of subsection (b) of section 9-23n, as amended by this act, and [(2)] (3)
640 assist applicants who request assistance in completing such voter
641 registration application forms or registering through such electronic
642 system.

643 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) (1) Not later than May first
644 in any year in which a federal decennial census has been taken and in
645 which the United States Census Bureau counted any incarcerated
646 individual as a resident of the town in which such incarcerated
647 individual's respective correctional facility is located, the Department
648 of Correction shall deliver to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
649 Management in such form as the secretary shall prescribe:

650 (A) A unique identifier for each incarcerated individual subject to
651 the jurisdiction of the department on the date for which the decennial
652 census reports population;

653 (B) The street address of the correctional facility in which such
654 individual was incarcerated at the time of such report;

655 (C) The residential or other address of such individual prior to
656 incarceration, if known;

657 (D) An indication of whether such individual has attained the age of
658 eighteen years;

659 (E) Such individual's race and whether such individual is of
660 Hispanic or Latino origin, if known; and

661 (F) Any additional information the secretary may request pursuant
662 to law.

663 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
664 information required to be provided under this subsection shall not
665 include the name of any incarcerated individual or in any other way
666 allow for the identification of any such individual from such
667 information. Such information shall be confidential and not otherwise
668 disclosed, except to the secretary for the purposes of subsection (c) of

669 this section, or as aggregated by census block for the purposes of
670 subsection (d) of this section.

671 (b) Not later than May first in any year in which the federal
672 decennial census has been taken and in which the United States
673 Census Bureau counted any incarcerated individual as a resident of the
674 town in which such incarcerated individual's respective correctional
675 facility is located, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
676 shall request each agency that operates a federal correctional facility in
677 this state to provide the secretary with a report including the
678 information listed in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section.

679 (c) (1) For each individual included in a report received under
680 subsection (a) or (b) of this section, the Secretary of the Office of Policy
681 and Management shall determine the geographic units for which
682 population counts are reported in the federal decennial census, which
683 units contain the address of the facility in which such individual was
684 incarcerated, and such individual's residential or other address as
685 listed in such report.

686 (2) For each individual included in a report received under
687 subsection (a) or (b) of this section, if such individual's residential or
688 other address is known and in this state, the secretary shall adjust such
689 information to:

690 (A) Ensure that all relevant population counts reported in the
691 census are as if such individual resided at such address on the date for
692 which the census reports population; and

693 (B) Ensure that such individual is not represented in any applicable
694 population count reported in the federal decennial census for the
695 geographic units that include the facility in which such individual was
696 incarcerated on the date for which the census reports population.

697 (3) For each individual included in a report received under
698 subsection (a) or (b) of this section whose residential or other address
699 is unknown or not in this state, and for each individual reported in the

700 census as residing in a federal correctional facility for whom a report
701 was not provided, the secretary shall adjust such information to:

702 (A) Ensure that such individual is not represented in any applicable
703 population count reported in the federal decennial census for the
704 geographic units that include the facility in which such individual was
705 incarcerated on the date for which the census reports population; and

706 (B) Ensure that such individual is counted as part of a state unit not
707 tied to a specific geographical location, in the same manner that an
708 individual with an unknown state of residency is counted, including,
709 but not limited to, military and federal government personnel
710 stationed abroad.

711 (d) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
712 prepare and publish such information adjusted pursuant to subsection
713 (c) of this section not later than thirty days after the publication of the
714 redistricting data for this state by the United States Census Bureau in
715 the year following the taking of the federal decennial census, and such
716 adjusted information shall be the basis for determining state assembly
717 and senatorial districts, as well as municipal voting districts. No
718 residence at an unknown geographical location within the state under
719 subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of this section may be used to
720 determine the average population of any set of districts. The secretary
721 shall notify each municipality that such information shall be used for
722 the purposes of determining municipal voting districts.

723 (e) The Department of Correction shall determine the residential or
724 other address of each individual committed to the custody of the
725 department on or after January 1, 2020, and maintain an electronic
726 record of such address. Such record shall contain, at a minimum, the
727 last-known residential or other address of each individual prior to
728 incarceration.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	1-4
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-174
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-19j
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-211
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-212
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-215(b)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-218
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-19h
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-19i
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-19k
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	9-23n(b)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	9-23o
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	9-23p
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, "subsection (d) of section 9-436" was changed to "subsection (c) of section 9-436" for accuracy; and in Section 12(b)(1), "voter agency" was changed to "voter registration agency" for accuracy and consistency.

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	Up to 152,500	Up to 30,000
Various State Agencies	GF - Cost	2,500	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes various unrelated changes affecting elections, including Election Day Registration (EDR), special elections, voter registration, and state and local redistricting data.

Section 1 requires that by January 1, 2020, specified education officials, in consultation with the Secretary of the State (SOS), develop standards for awarding academic credit to high school or college student who volunteer in connection with elections or primaries.

There is no cost to the State Department of Education, local and regional boards of education, or the higher education constituent units to develop standards for awarding academic credit to any high school

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

or college student for the performance of volunteer service in the preparation for and conduct of any election or primary, as they have the staff and expertise necessary to do so.

Section 2 designates Election Day as a legal state holiday and eliminates the designation of Lincoln’s Birthday as a legal state holiday. The bill also renames Washington’s Birthday to be known as Presidents’ Day. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this provision as there would be a cost shift from one non-premium holiday² to another.

Section 3 allows individuals who are in line at an EDR location by 8:00 p.m. to vote after completing the voter registration process and being admitted as an elector. Allowing EDR individuals in line by 8:00 p.m. to register to vote, as well as vote, may result in potential minimal costs to certain municipalities. Potential costs would depend on how many individuals are in line and available staffing levels.

Section 4 allows registrars of voters to apply to the SOS to designate additional EDR locations. To the extent municipalities need to designate an additional EDR location, there would be potential costs associated with, but not limited to, providing a polling location, hiring and training additional EDR staff, purchasing additional equipment, and hiring police.

Sections 5 through 8 lift the prohibition on holding a special election on a weekend for certain vacancies and allow the Governor to deliver writs of election electronically for certain vacancies.

To the extent a special election is held on a weekend, there would be potential costs to certain municipalities. Potential costs would depend on available staffing levels and how many individuals vote on such day. There may be certain increased costs to holding a special election on a weekend. For example, hiring police and poll workers, renting a polling location, and renting equipment.

² Premium state holidays are New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Sections 9 through 14 allows the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), voter registration agencies, and requires public high education institutions to use an SOS approved electronic system when registering qualified voter registration applicants as electors. Such system must comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) requirements.

Pursuant to a May 16, 2016, memorandum of understanding between the SOS and DMV there is already an established process and timeline for developing an automatic voter registration system. Thus, these provisions have no fiscal impact to DMV.

In order to develop an electronic system, it is anticipated the SOS will have to hire a consultant at a cost of up to \$150,000 in FY 20. The costs would be associated with the consultant modifying the existing online voter registration system to include the ability for applications to sign using a signature pad and to set up signature kiosks at such agencies. A cost of up to \$30,000 is anticipated in FY 21 in order to maintain the software of such application. In addition, each voter registration agency will need a kiosk set up which can accept electronic signatures from applicants at a cost of \$2,500 in FY 20 to each such agency.

The bill also requires SOS to develop and implement a system through which individuals may submit electronic signatures in order to sign elections-related forms and applications, other than those from campaign finance purposes.

It is anticipated SOS will need to purchase software for developing forms that can be electronically signed at a cost of up to \$2,500 in FY 20. It is unclear how the electronic signature will be implemented once developed and potential costs may be incurred in FY 21 for each form signed.

Section 15 creates a process for the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and Department of Corrections (DOC) to adjust U.S. Census population data to count inmates at their addresses prior

to incarceration instead of the prison address. The adjusted data must be the basis for determining General Assembly districts. This has no fiscal impact as it is anticipated that OPM and DOC have the expertise make these adjustments with existing resources.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the cost of maintaining the electronic voter registration system, the number of forms electronically signed, special elections held on a weekend, and the establishment of additional EDR locations, EDR individuals, and staffing levels.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7160

AN ACT INCREASING VOTER ACCESS.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various unrelated changes affecting elections, including Election Day Registration (EDR), special elections, voter registration, and state and local redistricting data. Principally, it does the following:

1. by January 1, 2020, requires specified education officials, in consultation with the secretary of the state, to develop standards for awarding academic credit to high school or college students who volunteer in connection with elections or primaries;
2. designates the Tuesday after the first Monday in November (Election Day) as a legal holiday, and eliminates February 12 (Lincoln's Birthday) as a legal holiday;
3. authorizes individuals who are in line by 8:00 p.m. at an EDR location to vote, not only register, after they complete the voter registration process and are admitted as electors;
4. authorizes registrars of voters to apply to the secretary of state to designate additional EDR locations;
5. for certain vacancies, lifts the prohibition on holding special elections on a weekend and authorizes the governor to deliver writs of election electronically;
6. authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and voter registration agencies, and requires public higher education institutions, to use a secretary of the state-approved electronic voter registration system that complies with the National Voter

Registration Act (NVRA);

7. requires the secretary of the state to develop and implement a system that individuals may use to submit electronic signatures in order to sign certain elections-related documents; and
8. creates a process to adjust U.S. Census population data to count inmates at their addresses prior to incarceration, instead of at the prison address, and requires that the adjusted data be used in determining General Assembly districts and changing municipal voting districts.

The bill also makes several technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except that the provision on adjusting census data is effective July 1, 2019.

§ 1 — ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEERING

The bill requires certain education and elections officials, in consultation with the secretary of the state, to develop standards for awarding academic credit to high school and college students who volunteer in connection with elections or primaries.

Specifically, by January 1, 2020, the education commissioner, in consultation with the secretary of the state, local or regional education officials, and local election officials must develop standards for awarding academic credit to high school students. The commissioner must designate the local or regional education officials; and the secretary must designate the local election officials.

By the same date, the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities president, in consultation with the secretary of the state, UConn, Office of Higher Education, and local election officials, must develop standards for awarding academic credit to college students. The secretary must designate the local election officials.

For both high school and college volunteers, the standards must include the following:

1. amount of credit to be awarded,
2. documentation required to obtain the credit,
3. curriculum or other performance measures,
4. procedures for applying to local election officials to volunteer,
5. period during which volunteer service may be performed, and
6. minimum hours of volunteer service required for credit.

The bill requires that student volunteers work at least eight hours on the day of a primary or election and be appointed as one of the polling place officials required by state law.

Beginning March 1, 2020, students who perform volunteer service in accordance with the standards are eligible to receive credit through their local or regional board of education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or UConn, whichever applies.

§ 2 — ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY

The bill designates Election Day, which is the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each year, as a legal state holiday. It also removes the designation of Lincoln’s Birthday, which is February 12 of each year, as a legal state holiday.

By law, full-time permanent state employees receive paid time off on legal holidays (CGS § 5-254). Legal state holidays are also bank and credit union holidays, during which time, bank and credit union transactions are generally suspended (CGS § 36a-23). When a legal holiday (other than those in December or January) falls on a weekday, local and regional boards of education may either close public schools in their jurisdiction, or hold a suitable educational program in observance.

§§ 3 & 4 — ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

Hours

Under the bill, individuals who are in line for EDR by 8:00 p.m. may vote, not only register, after they complete the voter registration process and are admitted as electors. Currently, EDR applicants may not vote unless they are admitted as electors by the 8:00 p.m. deadline. By law, individuals admitted as electors before the day of an election may vote if they are in the line at their polling place by 8:00 p.m.

The bill also requires registrars of voters to appoint a municipal police or election official to mark the end of the EDR line, starting at 8:00 p.m., in order to stop individuals from entering the line after such time. Existing law establishes the same requirement for non-EDR lines at polling places.

Locations

Existing law requires registrars of voters to designate one location in the municipality for completing and processing EDR applications. The location must be one where registrars can check applicants' eligibility by accessing the statewide centralized voter registration system (CVRS).

The bill authorizes registrars of voters to apply to the secretary of the state, in a form and manner she prescribes, to designate additional EDR locations. Under the bill, registrars must apply to the secretary at least 90 days before the election. Presumably, any additional EDR location must have CVRS access.

§§ 5-8 — SPECIAL ELECTIONS FOR CERTAIN VACANCIES

Existing law requires the governor to order a special election to fill a vacancy in certain offices, depending on when the vacancy occurs, by issuing writs of election. It establishes a timeframe for issuing the writs and holding the election.

The bill lifts the prohibition on holding a special election on a weekend to fill a vacancy in the following offices:

1. U.S. Senator and senator-elect,

2. U.S. Representative and representative-elect,
3. member and member-elect of the General Assembly, and
4. probate judge.

For special elections to fill vacancies in these offices, current law generally requires the governor to convey the writs of election to a state marshal, who must transmit them to the town clerks or assistant clerks. The bill also gives the governor the option of delivering the writs electronically to the appropriate clerks. By law, town clerks must notice special elections upon receiving the writs.

§ 9-14 — ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

Electronic System for Registering Voters (§§ 9-14)

By law, the DMV commissioner must include a voter registration application as part of each motor vehicle driver's license application or renewal, or identity card application. Similarly, voter registration agencies must include a voter registration application with each service or assistance application, recertification, renewal, or change of address (see BACKGROUND). Public higher education institutions must distribute mail voter registration application forms.

The bill authorizes DMV and voter registration agencies, and requires public higher education institutions, to use a secretary of the state-approved electronic system to register qualified voter registration applicants as electors. The bill additionally authorizes DMV to use a secretary of the state-approved electronic system to notify registrars of voters of address changes. Under the bill, any such electronic system must comply with NVRA requirements (see BACKGROUND).

Procedures at DMV. Under the bill, if DMV uses a secretary of the state-approved electronic system to register voters, the commissioner may waive the requirement that applicants state and attest to meeting all eligibility criteria, as long as DMV can verify any such criteria independently. (It is unclear whether applicants must attest to their eligibility pursuant to CGS § 9-20.) The system may include a way to

electronically transmit applicants' signatures on file with the DMV commissioner to the secretary of the state.

E-Signature System (§ 11)

The bill requires the secretary of the state to develop and implement a system through which individuals may submit electronic signatures in order to sign elections-related forms and applications, other than those for campaign finance purposes. The bill gives the secretary the discretion to include in the system any form or application. When an individual uses the new e-signature system to sign a form or application, it is deemed to have the original signature.

Under the bill, individuals may use the e-signature system to electronically submit signatures when using the secretary of the state's existing online voter registration system. By law, the online voter registration system permits (1) registered voters to apply to change their registration information or (2) new applicants to apply to register to vote.

§ 15 — ADJUSTING U.S. CENSUS POPULATION DATA

The bill creates a process to adjust U.S. Census population data to count inmates at their addresses before incarceration instead of at their prison address. The adjusted data must be the basis for determining state General Assembly districts and municipal voting districts.

The bill's process requires the:

1. Department of Correction (DOC) to provide the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary with a list of inmates and their residential or other addresses before incarceration;
2. secretary to ask federal agencies for a similar list for federal prisons in Connecticut;
3. OPM to adjust the census population counts so inmates, to the extent possible based on the DOC and federal reports, are represented as residing at their addresses before incarceration

and not at their prison address; and

4. secretary to prepare and publish the adjusted data and notify municipalities that they must use it for changing municipal voting districts.

The bill prohibits using residences at unknown geographic locations within the state to determine the average population for any set of districts.

DOC Report to OPM

The bill requires DOC to determine the residential street or other address of everyone committed to DOC custody on or after January 1, 2020. DOC must keep the addresses in an electronic record that at least contains each inmate's last-known residential street or other address before incarceration.

By May 1 of each year when the federal decennial census is taken and the U.S. Census Bureau counts inmates as residents of the town in which they are incarcerated, the bill requires DOC to provide the OPM secretary, in a form the secretary prescribes, with:

1. a unique identifier for each inmate under DOC's jurisdiction on the date when the decennial census reports population;
2. the street address of the prison where the person is incarcerated at the time of the report;
3. the residential or other address of the person before incarceration, if known;
4. information about whether the person is age 18 or older;
5. the person's race and whether he or she is of Hispanic or Latino origin, if known; and
6. other information the secretary may legally request.

The bill prohibits including the inmate's name or anything else that

might identify the inmate. The bill makes the information confidential and prohibits its disclosure, except to OPM or as aggregated by census block for the bill's purposes.

OPM Request to Federal Prison Authorities

By May 1 in each year that the decennial census is taken and the U.S. Census Bureau counts inmates as residents of the towns in which they are incarcerated, the bill requires the OPM secretary to ask each agency operating a federal facility in Connecticut incarcerating inmates convicted of crimes to report the same information as DOC.

OPM Reassignment of Inmate Addresses

For each person included in a DOC or federal agency report, the bill requires the OPM secretary to determine the geographic units (census blocks) in the census that contain the person's (1) correctional facility and (2) residential or other address. When the inmate's non-prison address is known and in Connecticut, OPM must adjust the population counts of geographic units reported in the census to represent the inmate as residing at his or her non-prison address when the census reports population, and not at the prison address.

For inmates with unknown or out-of-state addresses or residing in federal prisons for which a report was not provided, the bill requires OPM to ensure that these inmates are not counted in the geographic unit of the inmate's prison. Instead, they must be counted as part of a state unit not tied to a specific geographical determination in the way that someone with an unknown state of residency is counted (such as military and federal government personnel stationed abroad).

OPM Publication of Adjusted Data

The bill requires the OPM secretary to prepare and publish the adjusted data within 30 days after the U.S. Census Bureau publishes redistricting data for the state. Under federal law, the census must publish this data for each state within one year of Census Day. (During the last cycle, Connecticut received this data on March 9, 2011.)

BACKGROUND**NVRA**

The NVRA (P.L. 103-31) generally requires states to offer eligible citizens the opportunity to register to vote by:

1. applying as part of a motor vehicle driver's license application or renewal;
2. sending a mail-in application; or
3. applying in person at a designated voter registration agency, including offices providing public assistance or services to individuals with disabilities.

The requirements apply to federal elections, but in practice, states, including Connecticut, have extended the procedures to state and local elections.

Voter Registration Agencies

The NVRA requires covered states to designate as voter registration agencies (1) all offices that provide federal or state public assistance, (2) all offices that provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to individuals with disabilities, and (3) Armed Forces recruitment offices. States must also designate additional voter registration agencies, which may include (1) state or local offices like public libraries or schools, fishing and hunting license bureaus, or unemployment compensation offices or (2) with their agreement, federal or nongovernmental offices (52 USC § 20506).

Generally, all voter registration agencies must:

1. distribute the National Mail Voter Registration Form;
2. provide an "information form" on the voter-registration process;
3. help applicants complete the registration application, unless they refuse assistance; and
4. accept completed voter registration applications and transmit them to the appropriate state election official within a prescribed

timeframe.

Those agencies that provide public assistance or services to individuals with disabilities must include the National Mail Voter Registration Form, or an equivalent form that they design, with each application, recertification, renewal, or change of address form related to the assistance or services. Those providing in-home services to individuals with disabilities must provide the above-listed registration services in such an individual's home.

Related Bills

sSB 24, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, requires that DMV, voter registration agencies, and public higher education institutions use a secretary of the state-approved electronic system to automatically admit qualified voter registration applicants as electors, unless they decline admission.

sSB 1046, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, (1) requires that municipalities complete and process EDR applications in each polling place and (2) also authorizes individuals who are in line for EDR by 8:00 p.m. to vote, not only register, after they complete the voter registration process and are admitted as electors.

sSB 1049, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, also requires the secretary of the state to develop and implement a system for individuals submitting electronic signatures to sign certain elections-related documents.

HB 6059, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, also authorizes registrars of voters to apply to the secretary of state to designate additional EDR locations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 5 (04/01/2019)