



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 98**

January Session, 2019

House Bill No. 7212

*House of Representatives, March 21, 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 bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING PRIMARY PETITIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-409 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) [Petition] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,  
4 petition forms for candidacies for nomination to municipal office or for  
5 election as members of town committees shall be available from the  
6 registrar beginning on the day following the making of the party's  
7 endorsement of a candidate or candidates for such office or position, or  
8 beginning on the day following the final day for the making of such  
9 endorsement under the provisions of section 9-391, whichever comes  
10 first.

11 (b) Petition forms for candidacies for nomination to the municipal  
12 offices of state senator and state representative shall be available from  
13 the registrar beginning on the seventy-seventh day preceding the day  
14 of the primary for such office.

15 (c) Any person who requests a petition form shall give his name and  
 16 address and the name, address and office or position sought of each  
 17 candidate for whom the petition is being obtained, and shall file a  
 18 statement signed by each such candidate that he consents to be a  
 19 candidate for such office or position. In the case of the municipal  
 20 offices of state senator and state representative, each such candidate  
 21 shall include on the statement of consent his name as he authorizes it  
 22 to appear on the ballot. Upon receiving such information and  
 23 statement, the registrar shall type or print on a petition form the name  
 24 and address of each such candidate, the office sought and the political  
 25 party holding the primary. The registrar shall give to any person  
 26 requesting such form one or more petition pages, suitable for  
 27 duplication, as the registrar deems necessary. If the person is  
 28 requesting the form on behalf of an indigent candidate or a group of  
 29 indigent candidates listed on the same petition, the registrar shall give  
 30 the person a number of petition pages determined by the registrar as at  
 31 least two times the number needed to contain the required number of  
 32 signatures for a candidacy for nomination to municipal office or a  
 33 number of petition pages determined by the registrar as at least five  
 34 times the number needed to contain the required number of signatures  
 35 for a candidacy for election as a town committee member. An original  
 36 petition page filled in by the registrar may be duplicated by or on  
 37 behalf of the candidate or candidates listed on the page and signatures  
 38 may be obtained on such duplicates. The duplicates may be filed in the  
 39 same manner and shall be subject to the same requirements as original  
 40 petition pages. All information relative to primary petitions shall be a  
 41 public record.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	9-409

**GAE**      *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.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which requires primary petitions of state representatives and state senators for municipal offices to be available the same number of days as those for district offices, has no fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.

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

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 7212*****AN ACT CONCERNING PRIMARY PETITIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires that primary petitions for the municipal offices of state representative and state senator be available from registrars of voters starting 77 days before the primary, just as existing law requires for the district offices of state representative and state senator (CGS § 9-404a). By law, the municipal offices of state representative and state senator represent a single-town district; the district offices of state representative and state senator represent a multi-town district (CGS § 9-372).

Current law requires that primary petitions for the municipal offices of state representative and state senator be available on the day following the party endorsement or final day for making the party endorsement, whichever is earlier. Thus, the bill potentially decreases the number of days that these petitions are available since, by law, endorsements for these offices are made in accordance with party rules as early as 84 days, or as late as 77 days, before the primary (CGS § 9-391(c)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/06/2019)