



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 763

January Session, 2019

Senate Bill No. 1049

Senate, April 18, 2019

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MODERN ELECTIONS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State
2 shall develop and implement a system through which the Secretary
3 may permit any person to submit an electronic signature for the
4 purpose of signing any form or application pursuant to chapters 141 to
5 154, inclusive, of the general statutes. The Secretary may include in, or
6 exclude from, such system any such form or application.
7 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any such form or
8 application on which any such electronic signature appears shall be
9 deemed to have been signed in the original.

10 Sec. 2. Subsection (k) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is
11 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
12 *passage*):

13 (k) (1) [A] (A) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this

14 subsection, a person shall register with the [town] municipal clerk
15 before distributing five or more absentee ballot applications for an
16 election, primary or referendum, not including applications
17 distributed to such person's immediate family. Such requirement shall
18 not apply to a person who is the designee of an applicant.

19 [(2)] (B) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications
20 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall maintain a list
21 of the names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot applicants
22 who receive such applications, and shall file such list with the [town]
23 municipal clerk prior to the date of the primary, election or
24 referendum for which the applications were so distributed.

25 (2) The Secretary of the State shall develop an online system
26 through which a person may register to distribute absentee ballot
27 applications for an election, primary or referendum. Such system shall
28 provide a unique identifier for each such person, which unique
29 identifier shall appear on each such application that may be
30 distributed. The information of any person registering through such
31 system shall be transmitted to the appropriate municipal clerk, who
32 shall provide such applications to such person. Any such person
33 registering through such system shall be deemed to have fully
34 complied with the provisions of this subsection.

35 (3) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications and
36 receives an executed application shall forthwith file the application
37 with the [town] municipal clerk.

38 Sec. 3. Section 9-324 of the general statutes is repealed and the
39 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

40 (a) Any elector or candidate who claims that such elector or
41 candidate is aggrieved by any ruling of any election official in
42 connection with any election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
43 Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, State
44 Comptroller or judge of probate, held in such elector's or candidate's
45 town, or that there has been a mistake in the count of the votes cast at

46 such election for candidates for said offices or any of them, at any
47 voting district in such elector's or candidate's town, or any candidate
48 for such an office who claims that such candidate is aggrieved by a
49 violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive, 9-
50 364, 9-364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such election or
51 any candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
52 Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, Attorney General or State
53 Comptroller, who claims that such candidate is aggrieved by a
54 violation of any provision of sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive, may
55 bring such elector's or candidate's complaint to any judge of the
56 [Superior Court, in which such] superior court for the judicial district
57 of Hartford. Such elector or candidate shall set out in the complaint the
58 claimed errors of such election official, the claimed errors in the count
59 or the claimed violations of said sections. In any action brought
60 pursuant to the provisions of this section, the complainant shall send a
61 copy of the complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the
62 complaint by hand, to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If
63 such complaint is made prior to such election, such judge shall proceed
64 expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint and shall cause
65 notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the State and the
66 State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made
67 subsequent to the election, it shall be brought not later than fourteen
68 days after the election or, if such complaint is brought in response to
69 the manual tabulation of paper ballots authorized pursuant to section
70 9-320f, such complaint shall be brought not later than seven days after
71 the close of any such manual tabulation. [and, in either such
72 circumstance, such]

73 (b) Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such
74 complaint, upon a day not more than five nor less than three days
75 from the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than
76 three nor more than five days to be given to any candidate or
77 candidates whose election may be affected by the decision upon such
78 hearing, to such election official, the Secretary of the State, the State
79 Elections Enforcement Commission and to any other party or parties
80 whom such judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time and place

81 for the hearing upon such complaint. Such judge shall, on the day
82 fixed for such hearing and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear
83 the parties. If sufficient reason is shown, such judge may order any
84 voting tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and
85 a recount of the votes cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. Such
86 judge shall thereupon, in case such judge finds any error in the rulings
87 of the election official, any mistake in the count of the votes or any
88 violation of said sections, certify the result of such judge's finding or
89 decision to the Secretary of the State before the fifteenth day of the next
90 succeeding December. Such judge may order a new election or a
91 change in the existing election schedule.

92 (c) Such certificate of such judge of such judge's finding or decision
93 shall be final and conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the
94 rulings of such election officials, to the correctness of such count, and,
95 for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations, and shall
96 operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding officers,
97 so as to conform to such finding or decision, unless the same is
98 appealed from as provided in section 9-325, as amended by this act.

99 Sec. 4. Section 9-325 of the general statutes is repealed and the
100 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

101 If, upon any such hearing by a judge of the [Superior Court]
102 superior court for the judicial district of Hartford, any question of law
103 is raised which any party to the complaint claims should be reviewed
104 by the Supreme Court, such judge, instead of filing the certificate of his
105 finding or decision with the Secretary of the State, shall transmit the
106 same, including therein such questions of law, together with a proper
107 finding of facts, to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who shall
108 thereupon call a special session of [said court] the Supreme Court for
109 the purpose of an immediate hearing upon the questions of law so
110 certified. A copy of the finding and decision so certified by the judge of
111 the [Superior Court] superior court for the judicial district of Hartford,
112 together with the decision of the Supreme Court, on the questions of
113 law therein certified, shall be attested by the clerk of the Supreme

114 Court, and by him transmitted to the Secretary of the State forthwith.
115 The finding and decision of the judge of the [Superior Court] superior
116 court for the judicial district of Hartford, together with the decision of
117 the Supreme Court on the questions of law thus certified, shall be final
118 and conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the rulings of
119 the election officials and to the correctness of such count and shall
120 operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding officers so
121 as to conform to such [decision of said court] decisions. Nothing in this
122 section shall be considered as prohibiting an appeal to the Supreme
123 Court from a final judgment of the [Superior Court] superior court for
124 the judicial district of Hartford. The judges of the Supreme Court may
125 establish rules of procedure for the speedy and inexpensive hearing of
126 such appeals within fifteen days of such judgment of a judge of the
127 [Superior Court] superior court for the judicial district of Hartford.

128 Sec. 5. Section 9-328 of the general statutes is repealed and the
129 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

130 (a) Any elector or candidate claiming to have been aggrieved by any
131 ruling of any election official in connection with an election for any
132 municipal office or a primary for justice of the peace, or any elector or
133 candidate claiming that there has been a mistake in the count of votes
134 cast for any such office at such election or primary, or any candidate in
135 such an election or primary claiming that he is aggrieved by a violation
136 of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-
137 364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such election or
138 primary, may bring a complaint to any judge of the [Superior Court]
139 superior court for the judicial district of Hartford for relief therefrom.
140 In any action brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the
141 complainant shall send a copy of the complaint by first-class mail, or
142 deliver a copy of the complaint by hand, to the State Elections
143 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such
144 election or primary, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render
145 judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be
146 given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement
147 Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to such election or

148 primary, it shall be brought not later than fourteen days after such
149 election or primary, except that if such complaint is brought in
150 response to the manual tabulation of paper ballots, authorized
151 pursuant to section 9-320f, such complaint shall be brought not later
152 than seven days after the close of any such manual tabulation, to any
153 judge of the [Superior Court] superior court for the judicial district of
154 Hartford, in which he shall set out the claimed errors of the election
155 official, the claimed errors in the count or the claimed violations of said
156 sections.

157 (b) Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such
158 complaint, upon a day not more than five nor less than three days
159 from the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than
160 three nor more than five days to be given to any candidate or
161 candidates whose election or nomination may be affected by the
162 decision upon such hearing, to such election official, the Secretary of
163 the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and to any
164 other party or parties whom such judge deems proper parties thereto,
165 of the time and place for the hearing upon such complaint. Such judge
166 shall, on the day fixed for such hearing and without unnecessary
167 delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient reason is shown, he may
168 order any voting tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot boxes to be
169 opened and a recount of the votes cast, including absentee ballots, to
170 be made. Such judge shall thereupon, if he finds any error in the
171 rulings of the election official or any mistake in the count of the votes,
172 certify the result of his finding or decision to the Secretary of the State
173 before the tenth day succeeding the conclusion of the hearing. Such
174 judge may order a new election or primary or a change in the existing
175 election schedule.

176 (c) Such certificate of such judge of his finding or decision shall be
177 final and conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the ruling
178 of such election officials, to the correctness of such count, and, for the
179 purposes of this section only, such claimed violations, and shall
180 operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding officers,
181 so as to conform to such finding or decision, except that this section

182 shall not affect the right of appeal to the Supreme Court and it shall
183 not prevent such judge from reserving such questions of law for the
184 advice of the Supreme Court as provided in section 9-325, as amended
185 by this act. Such judge may, if necessary, issue [his] a writ of
186 mandamus, requiring the adverse party and those under him to
187 deliver to the complainant the appurtenances of such office, and shall
188 cause his finding and [decree] decision to be entered on the records of
189 the Superior Court in the proper judicial district.

190 Sec. 6. Section 9-329a of the general statutes is repealed and the
191 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

192 (a) Any (1) elector or candidate aggrieved by a ruling of an election
193 official in connection with any primary held pursuant to (A) section 9-
194 423, 9-425 or 9-464, or (B) a special act, (2) elector or candidate who
195 alleges that there has been a mistake in the count of the votes cast at
196 such primary, or (3) candidate in such a primary who alleges that he is
197 aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-
198 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots
199 at such primary, may bring his complaint to any judge of the [Superior
200 Court] superior court for the judicial district of Hartford for
201 appropriate action. In any action brought pursuant to the provisions of
202 this section, the complainant shall file a certification attached to the
203 complaint indicating that a copy of the complaint has been sent by
204 first-class mail or delivered to the State Elections Enforcement
205 Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such primary such
206 judge shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint
207 and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the
208 State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such
209 complaint is made subsequent to such primary it shall be brought, not
210 later than fourteen days after such primary, or if such complaint is
211 brought in response to the manual tabulation of paper ballots,
212 described in section 9-320f, such complaint shall be brought, not later
213 than seven days after the close of any such manual tabulation, to any
214 judge of the [Superior Court] superior court for the judicial district of
215 Hartford.

216 (b) Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be held upon such
217 complaint upon a day not more than five nor less than three days after
218 the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than three
219 days to be given to any candidate or candidates in any way directly
220 affected by the decision upon such hearing, to such election official, to
221 the Secretary of the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission
222 and to any other person or persons, whom such judge deems proper
223 parties thereto, of the time and place of the hearing upon such
224 complaint. Such judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing, and
225 without delay, proceed to hear the parties and determine the result. If,
226 after hearing, sufficient reason is shown, such judge may order any
227 voting tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and
228 a recount of the votes cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. Such
229 judge shall thereupon, if he finds any error in the ruling of the election
230 official, any mistake in the count of the votes or any violation of said
231 sections, certify the result of his finding or decision to the Secretary of
232 the State before the tenth day following the conclusion of the hearing.
233 Such judge may (1) determine the result of such primary; (2) order a
234 change in the existing primary schedule; or (3) order a new primary if
235 he finds that but for the error in the ruling of the election official, any
236 mistake in the count of the votes or any violation of said sections, the
237 result of such primary might have been different and he is unable to
238 determine the result of such primary.

239 (c) The certification by the judge of his finding or decision shall be
240 final and conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the ruling
241 of such election official, to the correctness of such count, and, for the
242 purposes of this section only, such alleged violations, and shall operate
243 to correct any returns or certificates filed by the election officials,
244 unless the same is appealed from as provided in section 9-325, as
245 amended by this act. In the event a new primary is held pursuant to
246 such [Superior Court] order of the superior court for the judicial
247 district of Hartford, the result of such new primary shall be final and
248 conclusive unless a complaint is brought pursuant to this section. The
249 clerk of the court shall forthwith transmit a copy of such findings and
250 order to the Secretary of the State.

251 Sec. 7. Section 9-329b of the general statutes is repealed and the
252 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

253 At any time prior to a primary held pursuant to sections 9-423, 9-425
254 and 9-464, or a special act or prior to any election, the [Superior Court]
255 superior court for the judicial district of Hartford may issue an order
256 removing a candidate from a ballot where it is shown that [said] such
257 candidate is improperly on the ballot.

258 Sec. 8. Section 9-388 of the general statutes is repealed and the
259 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

260 (a) Whenever a convention of a political party is held for the
261 endorsement of candidates for nomination to state or district office,
262 each candidate endorsed at such convention shall file with the
263 Secretary of the State a certificate, signed by him, stating that he was
264 endorsed by such convention, his name as he authorizes it to appear
265 on the ballot, his full residence address and the title and district, if
266 applicable, of the office for which he was endorsed. Such certificate
267 shall be attested by either (1) the chairman or presiding officer, or (2)
268 the secretary of such convention and shall be received by the Secretary
269 of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after
270 the close of such convention. Such certificate shall either be mailed to
271 the Secretary of the State by certified mail, return receipt requested, or
272 delivered in person, in which case a receipt indicating the date and
273 time of delivery shall be provided by the Secretary of the State to the
274 person making delivery. If a certificate of a party's endorsement for a
275 particular state or district office is not received by the Secretary of the
276 State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for
277 the purposes of [section 9-416 and section 9-416a] sections 9-416 and 9-
278 416a, shall be deemed to have made no endorsement of any candidate
279 for such office. If applicable, the chairman of a party's state convention
280 shall, forthwith upon the close of such convention, file with the
281 Secretary of the State the names and full residence addresses of
282 persons selected by such convention as the nominees of such party for
283 electors of President and Vice-President of the United States in

284 accordance with the provisions of section 9-175.

285 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, in the
286 case of an error or omission in any such certificate of a party's
287 endorsement, which error or omission would operate to invalidate
288 such endorsement and which certificate is timely filed pursuant to
289 subsection (a) of this section, the candidate so certified or an individual
290 authorized to act on behalf of such candidate may correct such error or
291 omission by appearing in person at the office of the Secretary of the
292 State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the nineteenth day after the
293 close of the state or district convention, as applicable, and amending
294 such certificate to make such correction, provided neither failure of
295 such candidate to timely file such certificate pursuant to subsection (a)
296 of this section nor failure of the chairman, presiding officer or secretary
297 of the convention, as applicable, to attest such certificate shall be an
298 error or omission that may be corrected pursuant to this subsection. If
299 such candidate or individual does not appear to so amend such
300 certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party,
301 for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have
302 made no such endorsement.

303 (2) The Secretary of the State may amend a certificate of a party's
304 endorsement to correct any error or omission deemed by the Secretary
305 to be harmless, and shall keep a record of any such amendment made
306 pursuant to this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be
307 construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify
308 any error or omission in any such certificate.

309 Sec. 9. Subsection (c) of section 9-391 of the general statutes is
310 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
311 *passage*):

312 (c) (1) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the
313 nomination of candidates for a municipal office to be voted upon at a
314 state election shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not
315 earlier than the eighty-fourth day or later than the seventy-seventh day
316 preceding the day of such primary. Each certification to be filed under

317 this subsection shall be received by the Secretary of the State not later
318 than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of the town
319 committee meeting, caucus or convention, as the case may be. If such a
320 certificate of a party's endorsement is not received by the Secretary of
321 the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party,
322 for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418, shall be deemed to have
323 neither made nor certified any endorsement of any candidate for such
324 office. The candidate so endorsed for a municipal office to be voted
325 upon at a state election, other than the office of justice of the peace,
326 shall file with the Secretary of the State a certificate, signed by that
327 candidate, stating that such candidate was so endorsed, the candidate's
328 name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the
329 candidate's full street address and the title and district of the office for
330 which the candidate was endorsed. Such certificate may be filed by a
331 candidate whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment
332 list of such party within the senatorial district within which the
333 candidate is endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the
334 municipal office of state senator, or the assembly district within which
335 the candidate is endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the
336 municipal office of state representative, or the municipality or political
337 subdivision within which the candidate is to run for nomination for
338 other municipal offices to be voted on at a state election. Such
339 certificate shall be attested by either the chairperson or presiding
340 officer or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention
341 which made such endorsement. The endorsement of any candidate for
342 the office of justice of the peace shall be certified to the clerk of the
343 municipality by either the chairperson or presiding officer or the
344 secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention, and shall
345 contain the name and street address of each candidate so endorsed and
346 the title of the office for which each such candidate is endorsed. Such
347 certification shall be made on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the
348 State or on such other form as may comply with the provisions of this
349 subsection.

350 (2) (A) In the case of an error or omission in any such certificate of a
351 party's endorsement, which error or omission would operate to

352 invalidate such endorsement and which certificate is timely filed
353 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the candidate so
354 certified or an individual authorized to act on behalf of such candidate
355 may correct such error or omission by appearing in person at the office
356 of the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the
357 nineteenth day after the close of the town committee meeting, caucus
358 or convention, as the case may be, and amending such certificate to
359 make such correction, provided neither failure of such candidate to
360 timely file such certificate pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
361 subsection nor failure of the chairperson, presiding officer or secretary
362 of the town committee, caucus or convention to attest such certificate
363 shall be an error or omission that may be corrected pursuant to this
364 subdivision. If such candidate or individual does not appear to so
365 amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid
366 and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418, shall be
367 deemed to have neither made nor certified such endorsement.

368 (B) The Secretary of the State may amend a certificate of a party's
369 endorsement to correct any error or omission deemed by the Secretary
370 to be harmless, and shall keep a record of any such amendment made
371 pursuant to this subparagraph. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be
372 construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify
373 any error or omission in any such certificate.

374 Sec. 10. Section 9-400 of the general statutes is repealed and the
375 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

376 (a) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a state office
377 may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon
378 the last-completed enrollment list of such party in any municipality
379 within the state and who has either (1) received at least fifteen per cent
380 of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-
381 call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a
382 candidate for such state office, whether or not the party-endorsed
383 candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on the last ballot,
384 or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of at least two

385 per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the state, in
386 accordance with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive.
387 Candidacies described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be
388 filed by submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four
389 o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of the state
390 convention, a certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by
391 either (A) the chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the
392 convention, that such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of
393 such votes, and that such candidate consents to be a candidate in a
394 primary of such party for such state office. Such certificate shall specify
395 the candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the
396 ballot, the candidate's full residence address and the title of the office
397 for which the candidacy is being filed. If such certificate for a state
398 office is not received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such
399 certificate shall be invalid and such person, for the purposes of sections
400 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no valid certification
401 of candidacy for nomination by a political party [for] to such state
402 office. A single such certificate or petition for state office may be filed
403 on behalf of two or more candidates for different state offices who
404 consent to have their names appear on a single row of the primary
405 ballot under subsection (b) of section 9-437. Candidacies described in
406 subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be filed by submitting said
407 petition not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-third day
408 preceding the day of the primary for such office to the registrar of
409 voters of the towns in which the respective petition pages were
410 circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such petition with the
411 Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-
412 404c. A petition filed by or on behalf of a candidate for state office shall
413 be invalid for such candidate if such candidate is certified as the party-
414 endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by this act,
415 or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the convention vote for such
416 office pursuant to this subsection. Except as provided in section 9-416a,
417 upon the expiration of the time period for party endorsement and
418 circulation and tabulation of petitions and signatures, if any, if one or
419 more candidacies for such state office have been filed pursuant to the

420 provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall notify all
421 town clerks and registrars of voters in accordance with the provisions
422 of section 9-433, that a primary for such state office shall be held in
423 each municipality in accordance with the provisions of section 9-415.

424 (b) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a district
425 office may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears
426 upon the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the
427 district the person seeks to represent that is in the office of the
428 Secretary of the State at the end of the last day prior to the convention
429 for the party from which the person seeks nomination and who has
430 either (1) received at least fifteen per cent of the votes of the
431 convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on
432 the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate for such
433 district office, whether or not the party-endorsed candidate for such
434 office received a unanimous vote on the last ballot, or (2) circulated a
435 petition and obtained the signatures of at least two per cent of the
436 enrolled members of such party in the district for the district office of
437 representative in Congress, and at least five per cent of the enrolled
438 members of such party in the district for the district offices of state
439 senator, state representative and judge of probate, in accordance with
440 the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive. Candidacies
441 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be filed by
442 submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m.
443 on the fourteenth day following the close of the district convention, a
444 certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by either (A) the
445 chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the convention,
446 that such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of such votes, and
447 that the candidate consents to be a candidate in a primary of such
448 party for such district office. Such certificate shall specify the
449 candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot,
450 the candidate's full residence address and the title and district of the
451 office for which the candidacy is being filed. If such certificate for a
452 district office is not received by the Secretary of the State by such time,
453 such certificate shall be invalid and such person, for the purposes of
454 sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no valid

455 certification of candidacy for nomination by a political party [for] to
456 such district office. Candidacies described in subdivision (2) of this
457 subsection shall be filed by submitting said petition not later than four
458 o'clock p.m. on the sixty-third day preceding the day of the primary
459 for such office to the registrar of voters of the towns in which the
460 respective petition pages were circulated. Each registrar shall file each
461 page of such petition with the Secretary in accordance with the
462 provisions of section 9-404c. A petition may only be filed by or on
463 behalf of a candidate for the district office of state senator, state
464 representative or judge of probate who is not certified as the party-
465 endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by this act,
466 or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the convention vote for such
467 office pursuant to this subsection. A petition filed by or on behalf of a
468 candidate for the district office of representative in Congress shall be
469 invalid if said candidate is certified as the party-endorsed candidate
470 pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by this act, or as receiving at
471 least fifteen per cent of the convention vote for such office pursuant to
472 this subsection. Except as provided in section 9-416a, upon the
473 expiration of the time period for party endorsement and circulation
474 and tabulation of petitions and signatures, if any, if one or more
475 candidacies for such district office have been filed pursuant to the
476 provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall notify all
477 town clerks within the district, in accordance with the provisions of
478 section 9-433, that a primary for such district office shall be held in
479 each municipality and each part of a municipality within the district in
480 accordance with the provisions of section 9-415.

481 (c) (1) In the case of an error or omission in any such certificate of
482 candidacy for nomination by a political party, which error or omission
483 would operate to invalidate such candidacy and which certificate is
484 timely filed pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, as
485 applicable, the person so certified or an agent of such person may
486 correct such error or omission by appearing in person at the office of
487 the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the
488 nineteenth day after the close of the state or district convention, as
489 applicable, and amending such certificate to make such correction,

490 provided neither failure of such person to timely file such certificate
491 pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section nor failure of the
492 chairperson, presiding officer or secretary of the convention to attest
493 such certificate shall be an error or omission that may be corrected
494 pursuant to this subsection. If such person or agent does not appear to
495 so amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid
496 and such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be
497 deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy for
498 nomination by a political party. As used in this subsection, "agent"
499 means an individual authorized to act on behalf of a person.

500 (2) The Secretary of the State may amend a certificate of candidacy
501 for nomination to correct any error or omission deemed by the
502 Secretary to be harmless, and shall keep a record of any such
503 amendment made pursuant to this subdivision. Nothing in this
504 subdivision shall be construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively
505 attempt to identify any error or omission in any such certificate.

506 [(c)] (d) For the purposes of this section, the number of enrolled
507 members of a party shall be determined by the latest enrollment
508 records in the office of the Secretary of the State prior to the earliest
509 date that primary petitions were available. The names of electors on
510 the inactive registry list compiled under section 9-35 shall not be
511 counted for purposes of computing the number of petition signatures
512 required under this section, as provided in section 9-35c.

513 [(d)] (e) On the last day for filing primary petition candidacies in
514 accordance with the provisions of this section, the office or office
515 facilities of the registrars of voters shall open not later than one o'clock
516 p.m., and remain open until at least four o'clock p.m., and such
517 registrars or the deputy or assistant registrars shall be present.

518 Sec. 11. Section 9-452 of the general statutes is repealed and the
519 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

520 (a) All minor parties nominating candidates for any elective office
521 shall make such nominations and certify and file a list of such

522 nominations, as required by this section, not later than the sixty-second
523 day prior to the day of the election at which such candidates are to be
524 voted for. A list of nominees in printed or typewritten form that
525 includes each candidate's name as authorized by each candidate to
526 appear on the ballot, the signature of each candidate, the full street
527 address of each candidate and the title and district of the office for
528 which each candidate is nominated shall be certified by the presiding
529 officer of the committee, meeting or other authority making such
530 nomination and shall be filed by such presiding officer with the
531 Secretary of the State, in the case of any state, district or municipal
532 office to be voted upon at a state election, or with the clerk of the
533 municipality, in the case of any municipal office to be voted upon at a
534 municipal election, not later than the sixty-second day prior to the day
535 of the election. The registrars of voters of such municipality shall
536 promptly verify and correct the names on any such list filed with him,
537 or the names of nominees forwarded to the clerk of the municipality
538 by the Secretary of the State, in accordance with the registry list of such
539 municipality and endorse the same as having been so verified and
540 corrected. For purposes of this section, a list of nominations shall be
541 deemed to be filed when it is received by the Secretary of the State or
542 clerk of the municipality, as appropriate. If such certificate of a party's
543 nomination is not received by the Secretary of the State or clerk of the
544 municipality, as appropriate, by such time, such certificate shall be
545 invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-460, 9-461 and 9-
546 462, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any
547 nomination of any candidate for such office. A candidacy for
548 nomination by a minor party to a district or municipal office may be
549 filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-
550 completed registry list of the district or municipality represented by
551 such office, as the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by a minor
552 party to a state office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name
553 appears on the last-completed registry list of the state.

554 (b) (1) In the case of an error or omission in any such certificate of
555 nomination for any state, district or municipal office to be voted upon
556 at a state election, which error or omission would operate to invalidate

557 such nomination and which certificate is timely filed pursuant to
558 subsection (a) of this section, the candidate so certified or an individual
559 authorized to act on behalf of such candidate may correct such error or
560 omission by appearing in person at the office of the Secretary of the
561 State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the fifty-seventh day prior to
562 the day of the election and amending such certificate to make such
563 correction, provided neither failure of the presiding officer of the
564 committee, meeting or other authority to timely file such certificate
565 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section nor failure of the candidate to
566 sign such certificate shall be an error or omission that may be corrected
567 pursuant to this subsection. If such candidate or individual does not
568 appear to so amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall
569 be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-460, 9-461 and
570 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any such
571 nomination.

572 (2) The Secretary of the State may amend a certificate of nomination
573 to correct any error or omission deemed by the Secretary to be
574 harmless, and shall keep a record of any such amendment made
575 pursuant to this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be
576 construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify
577 any error or omission in any such certificate.

578 Sec. 12. Section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed and the
579 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

583 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, a person who (1)
584 is (A) not an elector, or (B) an elector registered in a municipality who
585 wishes to change his or her registration to another municipality
586 pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this
587 section, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a)
588 of section 9-12, may apply for admission as an elector on election day
589 pursuant to the provisions of subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this

590 section.

591 (c) (1) The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the
592 completion and processing of election day registration applications on
593 election day, provided (A) the registrars of voters shall have access to
594 the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location,
595 and (B) such location shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the
596 State not later than thirty-one days before election day. The written
597 certification required pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision
598 shall (i) include the name, street address and relevant contact
599 information associated with such location, (ii) list the name and
600 address of each election official appointed to serve at such location, if
601 any, and (iii) provide a description of the design of such location and a
602 plan for effective completion and processing of such applications.
603 Upon review of such written certification, the Secretary may require
604 the registrars of voters to appoint one or more additional election
605 officials or to alter such design or plan.

606 (2) The registrars of voters may [appoint one or more election
607 officials to serve at such location and may delegate to such election
608 officials] delegate to each election official appointed pursuant to
609 subdivision (1) of this subsection, if any, any of the responsibilities
610 assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall
611 supervise each such election [officials] official and train each such
612 election [officials] official to be an election day registration election
613 [officials] official.

614 (d) Any person applying to register on election day under the
615 provisions of subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section shall make
616 application in accordance with the provisions of section 9-20, provided
617 (1) on election day, the applicant shall appear in person at the location
618 designated by the registrars of voters for election day registration, (2)
619 an applicant who is a student enrolled at an institution of higher
620 education may submit a current photo identification card issued by
621 [said] such institution in lieu of the identification required by section 9-
622 20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under oath that the applicant has

623 not previously voted in the election. If the information that the
624 applicant is required to provide under section 9-20 and subsections (a)
625 to (i), inclusive, of this section does not include proof of the applicant's
626 residential address, the applicant shall also submit identification that
627 shows the applicant's bona fide residence address, including, but not
628 limited to, a learner's permit issued under section 14-36 or a utility bill
629 that has the applicant's name and current address and that has a due
630 date that is not later than thirty days after the election or, in the case of
631 a student enrolled at an institution of higher education, a registration
632 or fee statement from such institution that has the applicant's name
633 and current address.

634 (e) If the registrars of voters determine that an applicant satisfies the
635 application requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the
636 registrars of voters shall [check the state-wide centralized voter
637 registration system before admitting] admit such applicant as an
638 elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

639 [(1) If the registrars of voters determine that the applicant is not
640 already an elector, the registrars of voters shall admit the applicant as
641 an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

642 (2) If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an
643 elector in another municipality and such applicant states that he or she
644 wants to change the municipality in which the applicant is an elector,
645 notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters
646 of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register shall
647 immediately notify the registrars of voters in such other municipality
648 that such elector is changing the municipality in which the applicant is
649 an elector. The registrars of voters in such other municipality shall
650 notify the election officials in such municipality to remove such elector
651 from the official voter list of such municipality. Such election officials
652 shall cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and
653 mark "off" next to such elector's name on such official voter list.

654 (A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other
655 municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall

656 immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which
657 such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not
658 receive an election day registration ballot from the registrars of voters
659 of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. For any
660 such elector, the election day registration process shall cease in the
661 municipality in which such elector now seeks to register and such
662 matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters in the municipality
663 in which such elector now seeks to register. After completion of such
664 review, if a resolution of the matter can not be made, such matter shall
665 be reported to the State Elections Enforcement Commission which
666 shall conduct an investigation of the matter.

667 (B) If there is no such report that such applicant already voted in the
668 other municipality, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which
669 the applicant seeks to register shall admit the applicant as an elector
670 and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.]

671 (f) [If the applicant is admitted] Upon admission of the applicant as
672 an elector, the registrars of voters shall provide the elector with an
673 election day registration ballot and election day registration envelope
674 and shall make a record of such issuance. The elector shall complete an
675 affirmation imprinted upon the back of the envelope for an election
676 day registration ballot and shall declare under oath that the applicant
677 has not previously voted in the election. The affirmation shall be in the
678 form substantially as follows and signed by the voter:

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

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

682 2. I am eligible to vote in the election indicated for today in the town
683 indicated.

684 3. The information on my voter registration card is correct and
685 complete.

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

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

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

692 7. I completed an application for an election day registration ballot
693 and received an election day registration ballot.

694 (Signature of voter)

695 (g) The elector shall forthwith mark the election day registration
696 ballot in the presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that
697 the registrars of voters shall not know how the election day
698 registration ballot is marked. The elector shall place the election day
699 registration ballot in the election day registration ballot envelope
700 provided, and deposit such envelope in a secured election day
701 registration ballot depository receptacle. At the time designated by the
702 registrars of voters and noticed to election officials, the registrars of
703 voters shall transport such receptacle containing the election day
704 registration ballots to the central location or polling place, pursuant to
705 subsection (b) of section 9-147a, where absentee ballots are counted
706 and such election day registration ballots shall be counted by the
707 election officials present at such central location or polling place. A
708 section of the head moderator's return shall show the number of
709 election day registration ballots received from electors. The registrars
710 of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for election day registration
711 ballots in a depository envelope with the election day registration
712 ballots and store such election day registration depository envelope
713 with the other election results materials. The election day registration
714 depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for
715 the period of time required to preserve counted ballots for elections.

716 (h) The provisions of the general statutes and regulations
717 concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of
718 absentee ballots shall apply as nearly as possible, to the custody,

719 control and counting of election day registration ballots under
720 subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section.

721 (i) After the acceptance of an election day registration, the registrars
722 of voters shall forthwith send a registration confirmation notice to the
723 residential address of each applicant who is admitted as an elector on
724 election day under subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section. Such
725 confirmation shall be sent by first class mail with instructions on the
726 envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the address shown on
727 the envelope. If a confirmation notice is returned undelivered, the
728 registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in accordance with
729 section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable, notwithstanding the May first
730 deadline in section 9-35.

731 (j) No person shall solicit in behalf of or in opposition to the
732 candidacy of another or himself or herself or in behalf of or in
733 opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or
734 peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another
735 person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in
736 use as an entry to the [registrars' of voters designated location] location
737 designated by the registrars of voters for election day registration
738 balloting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading
739 from any such outside entrance to such [registrars' of voters
740 designated] location or in any room opening upon any such corridor,
741 passageway or approach.

742 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Upon the adoption or
743 determination of a plan of districting pursuant to Article XVI or Article
744 XXXI of the Amendments to the Constitution of Connecticut, as
745 applicable, the Secretary of the State shall request of the authority that
746 so adopted or determined such plan any statistical and voting district
747 information as the Secretary may deem necessary to ensure effective
748 implementation of such plan. In the case of any error in the
749 implementation of such plan in a municipality, the Secretary shall
750 notify the registrars of voters of such municipality of such error and
751 require that such registrars of voters undertake measures to correct

752 such error. Such registrars of voters shall immediately correct such
 753 error and certify in writing to the Secretary when such error has been
 754 corrected.

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>	9-140(k)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-324
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-325
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-328
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-329a
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-329b
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-388
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-391(c)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-400
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-452
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	9-19j
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	New section

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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	Up to 2,500	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

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

Explanation

The bill makes various changes affecting election administration.

Sections 1 and 2 require the Secretary of the State (SOS) to develop and implement a system through which individuals may submit electronic signatures in order to sign certain elections-related forms and applications. 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.

The bill further requires SOS to develop an online system through

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.

which individuals may register to distribute absentee ballot applications for a primary, election, or referendum. No fiscal impact is anticipated as SOS has the expertise to fulfill the requirements of this provision.

Sections 3 through 7 specify that specific types of elections-related litigation must be brought before the Harford Superior Court. This change does not result in a fiscal impact as the court will be able to implement this change with current court staffing.

Sections 8 through 11 give candidates the ability to correct endorsement certificates and certificates of candidacies for nomination, under certain circumstances, and authorize SOS to amend such certificates. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this provision.

Section 12 requires that registrars of voters certify, in writing, Election Day Registration (EDR) locations to the SOS at least 31 days before the election. After reviewing such certification, the SOS may require the registrars of voters to appoint additional election officials, or alter the design or plan.

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.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that, before admitting EDR applicants as electors, registrars of voters check the centralized voter registration system and administer a cross-check procedure. Rather, the bill requires registrars to admit applicants whom they determine satisfy the requirements for admission as electors. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this provision as it is making procedural changes.

Section 13 requires the SOS, upon the adoption of a redistricting plan following the decennial U.S. Census, to request any statistical and voting district information deemed necessary to ensure the plan's

effective implementation. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this provision.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of forms electronically signed and the establishment of additional EDR locations.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1049*****AN ACT CONCERNING MODERN ELECTIONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes affecting election administration. Principally, it does the following:

1. requires the secretary of the state to develop and implement a system for individuals submitting electronic signatures to sign certain elections-related documents;
2. requires the secretary to develop an online system that individuals may use to register to distribute absentee ballot applications;
3. requires that specified types of elections-related litigation be brought in Hartford Superior Court;
4. gives candidates the ability to correct endorsement certificates and certificates of candidacies for nomination, under certain circumstances;
5. requires that Election Day Registration (EDR) locations be certified to the secretary of the state, and authorizes the secretary to require registrars of voters to appoint additional election officials or alter the EDR plan;
6. eliminates the requirement that registrars of voters check the centralized voter registration system (CVRS) and administer the cross-check procedure before admitting an EDR applicant as an elector; and
7. requires the secretary of the state to notify municipalities when

they erroneously implement redistricting plans and requires them to take corrective measures.

The bill also makes several technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 1 & 2 — ONLINE SYSTEMS

Electronic Signatures

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

Registering to Distribute Absentee Ballot Applications

The bill requires the secretary of the state to develop an online system through which individuals may register to distribute absentee ballot applications for a primary, election, or referendum. Current law requires these individuals to register directly with town clerks.

For all registrants, the system must (1) provide a unique identifier that must appear on the applications they distribute and (2) transmit their information to the appropriate town clerk. Town clerks must then provide registrants with the absentee ballot applications.

§§ 3-7 — ELECTION LITIGATION

This bill requires that specified types of elections-related litigation be brought in the Superior Court for the Hartford judicial district, rather than in any other state Superior Court. The requirement applies to the following cases:

1. an elector or candidate claiming aggrievement by an election official's ruling or a mistake in the vote count in connection with
 - (a) an election for a state constitutional office, probate judge, or

municipal office or (b) a primary (see below);

2. any such candidate claiming aggrievement by a violation of laws on fraud or other prohibited acts, including those related to absentee ballots; and
3. a candidate for state constitutional office claiming aggrievement by a violation of the laws on the Citizens' Election Program.

The bill's provisions on primaries apply to those held for offices voted on at state elections (including presidential preference primaries) or municipal elections, as well as those held pursuant to a Special Act.

§§ 8-11 — CORRECTING CERTAIN CERTIFICATES

The bill gives candidates the ability to correct endorsement certificates and certificates of candidacies for nomination, under certain circumstances. Specifically, if a timely-filed certificate contains an error or omission that would invalidate it, the candidate or an individual authorized to act on his or her behalf may correct the issue by appearing in person at the secretary of the state's office, with certain exceptions. The bill prohibits candidates from correcting certificates that are not timely filed or properly attested, or signed, as may be required by law.

Under the bill, the candidate or authorized individual must appear at the secretary's office and correct the certificate by amending it. If the candidate or individual does not correct the certificate, it is deemed invalid and the party is deemed to have neither made nor certified the endorsement or candidacy for nomination, whichever applies.

The bill (1) authorizes the secretary of the state to amend certificates in order to correct errors or omissions she deems harmless and (2) requires her to maintain a record of any amendment she makes. The bill specifies that it does not require the secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify errors or omissions.

Deadlines

Table 1 shows the deadlines for filing and correcting certificates under existing law and the bill, respectively.

Table 1: Deadlines for Filing and Correcting Certificates

<i>Candidates for</i>	<i>Certificate</i>	<i>Filing Deadline Under Existing Law</i>	<i>Correction Deadline Under the Bill</i>
Major party candidates for state, district, or municipal offices voted on at a state election	Endorsement certificate	14 days after close of the convention, town committee meeting, or caucus, as applicable	19 days after the close of the convention, town committee meeting, or caucus, as applicable
Major party candidates for state or district offices	Certificates of candidacy for nomination	14 days after close of the convention	19 days after the close of the convention, town committee meeting, or caucus, as applicable
Minor party candidates for state, district, or municipal offices voted on at a state election	Certificates of nomination	62 days before the election	57 days before the election

§ 12 — EDR

Location Certification

The bill requires that registrars of voters certify, in writing, EDR locations to the secretary of the state at least 31 days before the election. The certification must:

1. include the name, street address, and relevant contact information for the EDR location;
2. list the name and address of any election official appointed to serve there;
3. provide a description of the location's design; and
4. provide a plan to effectively complete and process EDR applications.

After reviewing the certification, the secretary of the state may require the registrars of voters to (1) appoint additional election officials or (2) alter the design or plan.

Cross-Check Elimination

The bill eliminates the requirement that, before admitting EDR applicants as electors, registrars of voters (1) check the CVRS and (2) administer the cross-check procedure. Instead, it requires registrars to admit applicants whom they determine satisfy the requirements for admission as electors; electoral privileges attach immediately.

Under existing law and the bill, a person is generally eligible to register and vote 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 as an elector. EDR applicants must declare under oath that they have not previously voted in the election.

Currently, under the cross-check procedure, if registrars determine that an applicant is registered in another municipality but he or she wants to change his or her registration location, they must immediately notify the registrars in the municipality where the applicant is currently registered and request that they remove the elector's name from their official registry list. If the applicant has already voted in the other municipality, the registrars of that municipality must immediately notify the registrars of the municipality where the elector wants to register. The registrars must deny the applicant a ballot, cease the registration process, and review the matter. If the matter cannot be resolved on review, the registrars must report it to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for investigation.

§ 13 — REDISTRICTING

The bill requires the secretary of the state, upon the adoption of a redistricting plan following the decennial U.S. Census, to request any statistical and voting district information she deems necessary to ensure the plan's effective implementation. The secretary must request

the information from the authority adopting or determining the plan, which under the state constitution, is the General Assembly, reapportionment commission, or Connecticut Supreme Court (see BACKGROUND).

Under the bill, the secretary must notify the registrars of voters in any municipality that errs in implementing the plan, and require that they take measures to correct the error. The registrars of voters must immediately correct the error and certify in writing to the secretary when the error has been corrected.

BACKGROUND

Redistricting Authority

The Connecticut Constitution establishes the state's redistricting process. Generally, the process requires a bipartisan legislative committee to prepare the redistricting plan and the General Assembly to approve it. If the General Assembly does not timely approve the plan, a reapportionment commission, consisting of legislators and one state elector, is formed to do the job. The Connecticut Supreme Court has the authority to compel the commission to complete its task or the court can draw the district boundaries itself, if the commission fails to do so (Conn. Const. Art. III., § 6).

Related Bills

HB 6059, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, also requires that registrars of voters certify EDR locations to the secretary of the state at least 31 days before the election.

sHB 7160, 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.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 0 (04/01/2019)