



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 365

LCO No. 2028



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE
BALLOTS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-140 of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

4 (a) [Application] (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
5 section, application for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of
6 the municipality in which the applicant is eligible to vote or has applied
7 for such eligibility. Any person who assists another person in the
8 completion of an application shall, in the space provided, sign the
9 application and print or type his name, residence address and telephone
10 number. Such signature shall be made under the penalties of false
11 statement in absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not invalidate
12 the application solely because it does not contain the name of a person
13 who assisted the applicant in the completion of the application. The
14 municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee ballot application

15 any material which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate or
16 referendum question. The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all
17 absentee ballot applications provided under this subsection, including
18 the name and address of each person to whom applications are
19 provided and the number of applications provided to each such person.
20 Each absentee ballot application provided by the municipal clerk shall
21 be consecutively numbered and be stamped or marked with the name
22 of the municipality issuing the application. The application shall be
23 signed by the applicant under the penalties of false statement in
24 absentee balloting on [(1)] (A) the form prescribed by the Secretary of
25 the State pursuant to section 9-139a, [(2)] (B) a form provided by any
26 federal department or agency if applicable pursuant to section 9-153a,
27 or [(3)] (C) any of the special forms of application prescribed pursuant
28 to section 9-150c, 9-153a, 9-153b, 9-153d, 9-153e, 9-153f or 9-158d, if
29 applicable. Any such absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write
30 may cause the application to be completed by an authorized agent who
31 shall, in the spaces provided for the date and signature, write the date
32 and name of the absentee ballot applicant followed by the word "by"
33 and his own signature. If the ballot is to be mailed to the applicant, the
34 applicant shall list the bona fide personal mailing address of the
35 applicant in the appropriate space on the application.

36 [(b)] (2) A municipal clerk may transmit an application to a person
37 under this subsection by facsimile machine or other electronic means, if
38 so requested by the applicant. If a municipal clerk has a facsimile
39 machine or other electronic means, an applicant may return a completed
40 application to the clerk by such a machine or device, provided the
41 applicant shall also mail the original of the completed application to the
42 clerk, either separately or with the absentee ballot that is issued to the
43 applicant. If the clerk does not receive such original application by the
44 close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum, the
45 absentee ballot shall not be counted.

46 (b) On and after July 1, 2020:

47 (1) Application for an absentee ballot may be made to the Secretary

48 of the State through an online system established and maintained by the
49 Secretary for such purpose, provided an applicant's signature is in a
50 database described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and such signature
51 may be imported into such online system.

52 (2) In order for an application for an absentee ballot to be submitted
53 through the online system described in subdivision (1) of this
54 subsection, the applicant's signature shall be obtained from a database
55 described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and the applicant shall, on
56 an online form prescribed by the Secretary, (A) type his or her name, (B)
57 indicate the municipality in which such applicant is eligible to vote or
58 has applied for such eligibility, and (C) mark a box associated with the
59 following statement:

60 "By clicking on the box below, I swear or affirm all of the following
61 under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting:

62 1. I am the person whose name is provided on this form, and I desire
63 to apply for an absentee ballot.

64 2. I am eligible to vote in the municipality provided on this form or
65 have applied for such eligibility.

66 3. I authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles or other Connecticut
67 state agency to transmit to the Connecticut Secretary of the State my
68 signature that is on file with such agency and understand that such
69 signature will be used by the Secretary on this online application for an
70 absentee ballot as if I had signed this form personally."

71 (3) Upon receipt of any submitted application for an absentee ballot
72 through the online system described in subdivision (1) of this
73 subsection, the Secretary shall transmit such application to the clerk of
74 the municipality indicated therein.

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

Section 1	July 1, 2020	9-140(a) and (b)
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Statement of Purpose:

To allow any eligible elector to electronically request an absentee ballot through the Secretary of the State's Internet web site.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]