



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 156**

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6408

*House of Representatives, March 29, 2021*

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

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

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-19h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2022*):

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

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

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

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

62 (c) On and after January 1, 2022, each housing authority shall provide,  
 63 at the time an individual has been accepted for admission to a housing  
 64 authority residential unit, and at the annual recertification of such  
 65 individual's household, an application for admission as an elector to  
 66 each member of such individual's household who is eligible to apply for  
 67 admission as an elector pursuant to section 9-12. A housing authority  
 68 shall assist any individual who requests assistance in completing the  
 69 application form.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2022	9-19h

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a), "housing authorities" was changed to "each housing authority" for clarity.

**HSG**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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

The bill also requires that a housing authority must assist an individual in completing the voter registration application upon request. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6408*****AN ACT REQUIRING HOUSING AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS TO PROSPECTIVE TENANTS.*****SUMMARY**

Starting January 1, 2022, this bill requires that housing authorities provide, to certain individuals, voter registration applications (1) at the time when a household has been accepted for admission to a housing authority residential unit and (2) at the household's annual recertification. Housing authorities must provide the applications to each household member who is eligible to apply for admission as an elector (see BACKGROUND). Under the bill, a housing authority must assist an individual in completing the voter registration application upon request.

The bill also requires that housing authorities make voter registration materials publicly available, just as existing law requires for the departments of Social Services, Labor, and Motor Vehicles, as well as for the State Library and libraries of the state's public higher education institutions. Under the bill, (1) housing authorities must make voter registration information and materials available in their public areas and (2) the secretary of the state must provide housing authorities with the voter registration applications and materials, including nonpartisan literature, and any needed display furniture.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2022

**BACKGROUND*****Admission as an Elector***

By law, an individual is eligible to apply for admission as an elector (i.e., person who is qualified to 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. A 17-year-old who will turn age 18 by the day of the next regular election may apply for admission and, if otherwise qualified, becomes an elector on his or her 18th birthday (CGS § 9-12).

A mentally incompetent individual cannot be admitted as an elector. An individual convicted of a felony and committed to any federal or state prison forfeits his or her electoral rights while incarcerated (CGS § 9-46).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 3 (03/11/2021)