



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 570

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

Senate, April 22, 2021

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 substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING, SAFE AND SECURE IN-PERSON VOTING, VOTER REGISTRATION AND CERTAIN OTHER CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-19h of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (b) (1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,
5 and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
6 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles [, not later than January 1, 1994,] shall
7 include an application for the admission of an elector with each
8 application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a
9 motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under
10 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form
11 provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such

12 application form for the admission of an elector [(1)] (A) shall be subject
13 to the approval of the Secretary of the State, [(2)] (B) shall not include
14 any provisions for the witnessing of the application, and [(3)] (C) shall
15 contain a statement that [(A)] (i) specifies each eligibility requirement,
16 [(B)] (ii) contains an attestation that the applicant meets each such
17 requirement, and [(C)] (iii) requires the signature of the applicant under
18 penalty of perjury. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept
19 any such completed application for admission which is submitted in
20 person, [or] by mail [. The] or through an electronic system pursuant to
21 subdivision (2) of this subsection. Except as provided in said
22 subdivision, the applicant shall state on such form, under penalty of
23 perjury, the applicant's name, bona fide residence address, date of birth,
24 whether the applicant is a United States citizen, party enrollment, if any,
25 prior voting address, if registered previously, and that the applicant's
26 privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction of a
27 felony. No Social Security number on any such application form for the
28 admission of an elector filed prior to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed
29 to the public or to any governmental agency. The commissioner shall
30 indicate on each such form the date of receipt of such application to
31 ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it
32 is received by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles by the last day for
33 registration to vote in an election. The commissioner shall provide the
34 applicant with an application receipt, on a form approved by the
35 Secretary of the State and on which the commissioner shall record the
36 date that the commissioner received the application, using an official
37 date stamp bearing the words "Department of Motor Vehicles". The
38 commissioner shall provide such receipt whether the application was
39 submitted in person, [or] by mail or through an electronic system
40 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. The commissioner shall
41 forthwith transmit the application to the registrars of voters of the
42 applicant's town of residence. If a registration application is accepted
43 within five days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular
44 election, the application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters
45 of the town of voting residence of the applicant not later than five days
46 after the date of acceptance. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f)

47 and (g) of section 9-23g which are not inconsistent with the National
48 Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to
49 time, shall apply to applications made under this section. The
50 commissioner is not an admitting official and may not restore, under the
51 provisions of section 9-46a, as amended by this act, electoral privileges
52 of persons convicted of a felony.

53 (2) (A) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide an
54 electronic system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to
55 effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding
56 application for admission of an elector, except that the condition that an
57 applicant state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may be
58 waived for any such eligibility requirement verified independently by
59 said commissioner through a federally approved identity verification
60 program or other evidence acceptable to said commissioner. Such
61 electronic system may provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an
62 applicant's signature on file with said commissioner. The use of any
63 such electronic system shall comply with the National Voter
64 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

65 (B) (i) Unless otherwise provided in this subparagraph, if the
66 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles determines that a person applying for
67 a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license
68 renewal or an identity card meets each eligibility requirement for
69 admission as an elector, said commissioner shall forthwith transmit an
70 application for such person's admission as an elector to the registrars of
71 voters of the town of residence of such person through an electronic
72 system pursuant to this subdivision, in accordance with the provisions
73 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, except that no such application
74 shall be transmitted if such person declines to apply for such admission.

75 (ii) If said commissioner determines that a person applying for a
76 motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license
77 renewal or an identity card is not a United States citizen, said
78 commissioner shall not provide such person an opportunity to apply for
79 admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this

80 subdivision and shall not transmit any application for such admission
81 on behalf of such person.

82 (iii) If said commissioner cannot determine whether a person
83 applying for a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle
84 operator's license renewal or an identity card is a United States citizen,
85 such person shall attest to his or her United States citizenship as a
86 precondition of said commissioner processing such person's application
87 for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this
88 subdivision.

89 (C) In the case of an individual already admitted as an elector and
90 who is also enrolled in a party, if use of such electronic system results in
91 such elector being removed from the enrollment list of such party
92 because such elector did not affirmatively confirm an intent to continue
93 enrollment in such party, such removal shall be presumed unintentional
94 and such elector shall be restored to such list upon such elector's
95 notification of such removal to the registrar of voters of the town of
96 residence of such elector.

97 Sec. 2. Section 9-19i of the general statutes is repealed and the
98 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

99 (a) Any change of address form submitted by a person in accordance
100 with law for purposes of a motor vehicle operator's license shall serve
101 as notification of change of address for voter registration for the person
102 unless the person states on the form that the change of address is not for
103 voter registration purposes. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
104 forthwith transmit such change of address information to the registrars
105 of voters of the town of the former address of the person. If the name of
106 the person appears on the registry list of the town, and if the new
107 address is also within such town, the registrars shall enter the name of
108 such elector on the registry list at the place where he then resides. If the
109 name of the person appears on the registry list of the town and if the
110 new address is outside such town, the registrars shall remove the name
111 of such elector from the registry list and send the elector the notice,
112 information and application required by subsection (c) of section 9-35,

113 [.] except that if said commissioner is using an electronic system
114 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of the State may
115 prescribe alternative procedures for sending such notice and
116 information and may waive the requirement to send such application.

117 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide an electronic
118 system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to effectuate
119 the purposes of subsection (a) of this section regarding notifications of
120 change of address for voter registration. Such electronic system may
121 provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an applicant's signature
122 on file with said commissioner. The use of any such electronic system
123 shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-
124 31, as amended from time to time.

125 Sec. 3. Section 9-23n of the general statutes is repealed and the
126 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2022*):

127 (a) As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means (1)
128 public assistance offices, (2) all offices in the state that provide
129 state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to
130 persons with disabilities, (3) libraries that are open to the public, and (4)
131 such other appropriate offices as the Secretary of the State shall
132 designate in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of
133 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

134 (b) [Voter registration agencies shall] (1) Except as provided in
135 subdivision (2) of this subsection, each voter registration agency shall
136 (A) distribute mail voter registration application forms, [(2)] (B) assist
137 applicants for [such] assistance or services provided by the agency in
138 completing voter registration application forms, except for applicants
139 who refuse [such] assistance [, (3)] in completing such forms, (C) accept
140 completed voter registration application forms and provide each
141 applicant with an application receipt, on which the agency shall record
142 the date that the agency received the application, using an official date
143 stamp bearing the name of the agency, and [(4)] (D) immediately
144 transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of the town of
145 voting residence of the applicants. The agency shall provide such receipt

146 whether the application was submitted in person, [or] by mail or
147 through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
148 subsection. If a registration application is accepted within five days
149 before the last day for registration to vote in a regular election, the
150 application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of
151 voting residence of the applicant not later than five days after the date
152 of acceptance. [The] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this
153 subsection, the voter registration agency shall indicate on the completed
154 mail voter registration application form, without indicating the identity
155 of the voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such
156 agency, to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an
157 election if it is received by the registration agency by the last day for
158 registration to vote in an election. If a state-funded program primarily
159 engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities provides
160 services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency
161 shall provide such voter registration services at the person's home. The
162 procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g that are not
163 inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L.
164 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made
165 under this section. Officials and employees of such voter registration
166 agencies are not admitting officials, as defined in section 9-17a, and may
167 not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of
168 persons convicted of a felony.

169 (2) (A) Each voter registration agency shall provide an electronic
170 system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to effectuate
171 the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding application
172 for admission of an elector, except that the condition that an applicant
173 state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may be waived
174 for any such eligibility requirement verified independently by the
175 agency through a federally approved identity verification program or
176 other evidence acceptable to the agency. Such electronic system may
177 provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an applicant's signature
178 on file with the voter registration agency. The use of any such electronic
179 system shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,
180 P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

181 (B) (i) Unless otherwise provided in this subparagraph, if the voter
182 registration agency determines that a person applying for assistance or
183 services provided by the agency meets each eligibility requirement for
184 admission as an elector, the agency shall forthwith transmit an
185 application for such person's admission as an elector to the registrars of
186 voters of the town of residence of such person through an electronic
187 system pursuant to this subdivision, in accordance with the provisions
188 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, except that no such application
189 shall be transmitted if such person declines to apply for such admission.

190 (ii) If the voter registration agency determines that a person applying
191 for assistance or services provided by the agency is not a United States
192 citizen, the agency shall not provide such person an opportunity to
193 apply for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant
194 to this subdivision and shall not transmit any application for such
195 admission on behalf of such person.

196 (iii) If the voter registration agency cannot determine whether a
197 person applying for assistance or services provided by the agency is a
198 United States citizen, such person shall attest to his or her United States
199 citizenship as a precondition of the agency processing such person's
200 application for admission as an elector through an electronic system
201 pursuant to this subdivision.

202 (C) In the case of an individual already admitted as an elector and
203 who is also enrolled in a party, if use of such electronic system results in
204 such elector being removed from the enrollment list of such party
205 because such elector did not affirmatively confirm an intent to continue
206 enrollment in such party, such removal shall be presumed unintentional
207 and such elector shall be restored to such list upon such elector's
208 notification of such removal to the registrar of voters of the town of
209 residence of such elector.

210 Sec. 4. Section 9-23o of the general statutes is repealed and the
211 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2022*):

212 A voter registration agency, as defined in section 9-23n, as amended

213 by this act, shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of
214 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, and (1) shall distribute
215 with each application for [service or] assistance or services provided by
216 the agency, and with each recertification, renewal or change of address
217 form relating to such [service or] assistance or services, a mail voter
218 registration application form approved by the Secretary of the State, and
219 (2) during each application for such assistance or services and each
220 recertification, renewal or change of address relating to such assistance
221 or services, shall use an electronic system described in subdivision (2) of
222 subsection (b) of section 9-23n, as amended by this act, in accordance
223 with said subdivision to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of
224 said subsection regarding application for admission of an elector, unless
225 the applicant declines to register to vote pursuant to the provisions of
226 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended
227 from time to time. Such declination shall be in writing, except in the case
228 of an application for service or assistance provided by a library, or a
229 recertification, renewal or change of address form relating to such
230 library service or assistance. Such voter registration agency shall
231 provide each applicant to register to vote the same degree of assistance
232 with regard to the completion of the registration application form as is
233 provided by the agency with regard to the completion of its own forms,
234 unless the applicant refuses such assistance.

235 Sec. 5. Section 9-23p of the general statutes is repealed and the
236 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2022*):

237 Each public institution of higher education shall (1) distribute mail
238 voter registration application forms, and [(2)] assist applicants who
239 request assistance in completing such voter registration application
240 forms, and (2) use an electronic system described in subdivision (2) of
241 subsection (b) of section 9-23n, as amended by this act, in accordance
242 with said subdivision to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of
243 said subsection regarding application for admission of an elector, and
244 assist applicants who request assistance in so applying through such
245 electronic system.

246 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the State
247 shall develop and implement a system or systems through which the
248 Secretary may permit any person to submit an electronic signature for
249 the purpose of signing any form or application to be filed pursuant to
250 chapters 141 to 154, inclusive, of the general statutes. The Secretary may
251 include in, or exclude from, such system any such form or application.
252 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any such form or
253 application on which any such electronic signature appears shall be
254 deemed to have been signed in the original.

255 (b) A state agency, upon the request of the Secretary of the State, shall
256 provide any information to the Secretary that the Secretary deems
257 necessary to maintain the system or systems described in subsection (a)
258 of this section. The Secretary shall not use the information obtained from
259 any state agency except for the purpose of allowing any person to sign
260 any form or application to be filed pursuant to chapters 141 to 154,
261 inclusive, of the general statutes.

262 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 9-17 of the general statutes is repealed
263 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

264 (c) In addition to the sessions held pursuant to subsections (a) and (b)
265 of this section, the registrars of voters in each town shall: [hold]

266 (1) Hold one session each year, between the first of January and the
267 last day of the school year, at each public high school in such town, for
268 the admission of persons who are eligible for admission under
269 subsection (a) or (b) of section 9-12, as amended by this act, provided, in
270 the case of a public high school in a regional school district, such session
271 shall be held on a rotating basis by the registrars of voters for each town
272 which is a member of the regional school district. The registrars of voters
273 need not give notice of this session by publication in a newspaper; [.]
274 and

275 (2) Distribute each year, on the fourth Tuesday of September, at each
276 public high school in such town, information regarding eligibility for
277 admission under subsection (a) or (b) of section 9-12, as amended by this

278 act, and procedures for applying for such admission. The registrars of
279 voters and the principal of any such public high school shall determine
280 the best means of distributing such information at such public high
281 school.

282 Sec. 8. Section 1-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the following
283 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

284 In each year the first day of January (known as New Year's Day), the
285 fifteenth day of January of each year prior to 1986, and commencing on
286 the twentieth day of January in 1986, the first Monday occurring on or
287 after January fifteenth (known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day), [the
288 twelfth day of February (known as Lincoln Day),] the third Monday in
289 February (known as [Washington's Birthday] Presidents' Day), the last
290 Monday in May (known as Memorial Day or Decoration Day), the
291 fourth day of July (known as Independence Day), the first Monday in
292 September (known as Labor Day), the second Monday in October
293 (known as Columbus Day), the Tuesday after the first Monday in
294 November (known as Election Day), the eleventh day of November
295 (known as Veterans' Day) and the twenty-fifth day of December (known
296 as Christmas) and any day appointed or recommended by the Governor
297 of this state or the President of the United States as a day of
298 thanksgiving, fasting or religious observance, shall each be a legal
299 holiday, except that whenever any of such days which are not
300 designated to occur on Monday, occurs upon a Sunday, the Monday
301 next following such day shall be a legal holiday and whenever any of
302 such days occurs upon a Saturday, the Friday immediately preceding
303 such day shall be a legal holiday. When any such holiday, except
304 holidays in January and December, occurs on a school day, each local
305 and regional board of education may close the public schools under its
306 jurisdiction for such day or hold a session of the public schools on such
307 day, provided, if a session is held, the board shall require each school to
308 hold a suitable nonsectarian educational program in observance of such
309 holiday. If a holiday in January or December occurs on a school day,
310 there shall be no session of the public schools on such day.

311 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each employer shall grant to (1)
312 each employee in the case of a state election, or (2) each employee who
313 is an elector in the case of any special election for United States senator,
314 representative in Congress, state senator or state representative, two
315 hours paid time off from such employee's regularly scheduled work on
316 the day of any such election, for the purpose of voting at such election
317 during the hours of voting specified in section 9-174 of the general
318 statutes, if the employee requests such time off not less than two
319 working days prior to such election.

320 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 9-12 of the general statutes is
321 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
322 *passage*):

323 (a) Each citizen of the United States who has attained the age of
324 eighteen years, and who is a bona fide resident of the town to which the
325 citizen applies for admission as an elector shall, on approval by the
326 registrars of voters or town clerk of the town of residence of such citizen,
327 as prescribed by law, be an elector, except as provided in subsection (b)
328 of this section. For purposes of this section, a person shall be deemed to
329 have attained the age of eighteen years on the day of the person's
330 eighteenth birthday and a person shall be deemed to be a bona fide
331 resident of the town to which the citizen applies for admission as an
332 elector if such person's dwelling unit is located within the geographic
333 boundaries of such town. [No mentally incompetent person shall be
334 admitted as an elector.]

335 Sec. 11. Section 9-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the
336 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

337 (a) (1) Each person who applies for admission as an elector in person
338 to an admitting official shall, upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of
339 the State and signed by the applicant, state under penalties of perjury,
340 his name, bona fide residence by street and number, date of birth,
341 whether he is a United States citizen, whether his privileges as an elector
342 are forfeited by reason of conviction of crime, and whether he has
343 previously been admitted as an elector in any town in this or any other

344 state. Each such applicant shall present his birth certificate, drivers'
345 license or Social Security card to the admitting official for inspection at
346 the time of application. Notwithstanding the provisions of any special
347 act or charter to the contrary, the application form shall also, in a manner
348 prescribed by the Secretary of the State, provide for application for
349 enrollment in any political party, including, on any such form printed
350 on or after January 1, 2006, a list of the names of the major parties, as
351 defined in section 9-372, as options for the applicant. The form shall
352 indicate that such enrollment is not mandatory.

353 (2) A person with a developmental disability, as determined by a
354 licensed physician who specializes in primary care, who applies for
355 admission as an elector in person to an admitting official may be assisted
356 in satisfying the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection by
357 such person's legal representative. At the time of application, such
358 applicant or such legal representative shall present to the admitting
359 official documentation from such licensed physician of such
360 determination. As used in this section, "legal representative" has the
361 same meaning as provided in section 17a-488.

362 (b) The applicant's statement shall be delivered to the registrars
363 immediately and shall be kept by the registrars as a public record in a
364 safe depository, except that no Social Security number obtained by the
365 registrars prior to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to
366 any governmental agency. Any such statement of an elector whose
367 name has been removed from the registry list for a period of at least five
368 years may be placed on microfilm, destroyed or otherwise disposed of
369 by such registrars, in the manner provided in section 7-109. Upon the
370 request of any elector, or if the applicant does not present a birth
371 certificate, drivers' license or Social Security card as required by
372 subsection (a) of this section, at the time an application is made in person
373 to an admitting official or prior to the approval of such an application,
374 any admitting official shall require the applicant to prove his identity,
375 place of birth, age and bona fide residence by the testimony under oath
376 of at least one elector or by the presentation of proof satisfactory to such
377 admitting official. Each person found qualified shall thereupon be

378 admitted as an elector, except as provided in sections 9-12, 9-19e, 9-19g
379 and 9-30. The registrars may request an elector whose date of birth is
380 missing from their records to voluntarily furnish his date of birth. Any
381 admitting official may administer oaths in any matter coming before
382 him under section 9-12, 9-17, 9-19b, subsection (a) of section 9-19c,
383 section 9-19e, 9-19g, 9-23, 9-23a, 9-25, 9-31a, 9-31b, 9-31l, 9-40a or this
384 section. Said admitting official shall prohibit any activity which
385 interferes with the orderly process of admission of electors.

386 (c) The application for admission as an elector shall include a
387 statement that (1) specifies each eligibility requirement, (2) contains an
388 attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, and (3)
389 requires the signature of the applicant, or of such applicant's legal
390 representative in the case of an applicant with a developmental
391 disability, under penalty of perjury. Each registrar of voters and town
392 clerk shall maintain a copy of such statement in braille, large print and
393 audio form. The Department of Aging and Disability Services shall
394 produce a videotape presenting such statement in voice and sign
395 language and provide the videotape to the Secretary of the State who
396 shall make copies of the videotape and provide a copy to the registrars
397 of voters of any municipality, upon request and at a cost equal to the
398 cost of making the copy. If a person applies for admission as an elector
399 in person to an admitting official, such admitting official shall, upon the
400 request of the applicant, administer the elector's oath.

401 Sec. 12. Section 9-261 of the general statutes is repealed and the
402 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

403 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has
404 entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street
405 address, if any, and the elector's name to the official checker or checkers
406 in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials
407 present to hear the same. Each elector who registered to vote by mail for
408 the first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the
409 elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r,
410 shall present to the official checker or checkers, before the elector votes,

411 either a current and valid photo identification that shows the elector's
412 name and address or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
413 government check, paycheck or other government document that shows
414 the name and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1) present
415 to the official checker or checkers the elector's Social Security card or any
416 other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector's name
417 and either the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a
418 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's
419 residential address and date of birth, print the elector's name and sign a
420 statement under penalty of false statement that the elector is the elector
421 whose name appears on the official checklist. Such form shall clearly
422 state the penalty of false statement. A separate form shall be used for
423 each elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of identification
424 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the official checker or checkers
425 shall check the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually
426 on paper or electronically. If the elector completes the form under
427 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the registrar of voters or the assistant
428 registrar of voters, as the case may be, shall examine the information on
429 such form and either instruct the official checker or checkers to check
430 the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually on paper or
431 electronically, or notify the elector that the form is incomplete or
432 inaccurate.

433 (b) In the event that an elector is present at the polling place but is
434 unable to gain access to the polling place due to a temporary incapacity,
435 the elector may request that the ballot be brought to him or her. The
436 registrars of voters or the assistant registrars of voters, as the case may
437 be, shall take such ballot, along with a privacy sleeve to such elector.
438 The elector shall show identification, in accordance with the provisions
439 of this section. The elector shall forthwith mark the ballot in the presence
440 of the election officials in such manner that the election officials shall not
441 know how the ballot is marked. The elector shall place the ballot in the
442 privacy sleeve. The election officials shall mark the elector's name on the
443 official voter list, manually on paper or electronically, as having voted
444 in person and deliver such ballot and privacy sleeve to the voting
445 tabulator where such ballot shall be placed into the tabulator, by the

446 election official, for counting. The moderator shall record such activity
447 in the moderator's diary.

448 (c) In each polling place in which two or more parties are holding
449 primaries in which unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote, pursuant
450 to section 9-431, an unaffiliated elector shall also announce to the
451 separate table of the official checker or checkers for unaffiliated electors
452 the party in whose primary the elector chooses to vote and the official
453 checker or checkers shall note such party when checking such elector's
454 name on the checklist of unaffiliated electors, manually on paper or
455 electronically, provided such choice shall not alter the elector's
456 unaffiliated status.

457 (d) In each polling place in which two or more parties are holding
458 primaries in which unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote or in
459 which one party is holding a primary in which unaffiliated electors are
460 authorized to vote for some but not all offices to be contested at the
461 primary, the official checker or checkers shall give to each elector
462 checked manually on paper or electronically, a receipt provided by the
463 registrars of voters, in a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State,
464 specifying either (1) the party with which the elector is enrolled, if any,
465 or (2) in the case of an unaffiliated elector, the party in whose primary
466 the elector has so chosen to vote, and whether the elector is authorized
467 to vote for only a partial ballot.

468 (e) If not challenged by anyone lawfully present in the polling place,
469 the elector shall be permitted to pass to the separated area to receive the
470 ballot. The elector shall give any receipt the elector has received to a
471 ballot clerk who shall give the elector a ballot to vote only in the primary
472 of the party specified by the receipt. The elector shall be permitted into
473 the voting booth area, and shall then register his or her vote in secret,
474 except as provided in subsection (f) of this section. Having voted, the
475 elector shall immediately exit the voting booth area and deposit the
476 ballot in the voting tabulator and leave the room. No elector shall remain
477 within the voting booth longer than the time necessary to complete the
478 ballot, and, if the elector refuses to leave such booth after completing the

479 ballot, the elector shall at once be removed by the election officials upon
480 order of the moderator. Not more than one elector at a time shall be
481 permitted to be within the enclosed space which the elector occupies
482 while the elector completes his or her ballot, [provided] except that an
483 elector may be accompanied within such enclosed space by (1) one or
484 more children who are fifteen years of age or younger and supervised
485 by the elector, if the elector is the parent or legal guardian of such
486 children, or (2) such elector's legal representative in the case of an elector
487 with a developmental disability, as described in section 9-20, as
488 amended by this act, pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. If any
489 elector, after entering the voting booth area, asks for further instruction
490 concerning the manner of voting, the election officials shall give such
491 instructions or directions to the elector; but no election official
492 instructing or assisting an elector, except as provided in section 9-264,
493 shall look at the ballot in such a way as to see the elector's markings or
494 in any manner seek to influence any such elector in the casting of the
495 elector's vote.

496 (f) In the case of an elector with a developmental disability, as
497 described in section 9-20, as amended by this act, the legal
498 representative of such elector may assist such elector in performing any
499 action under this section if such legal representative submits to the
500 registrar of voters or assistant registrar of voters, as the case may be,
501 information sufficient to prove such a relationship with such elector.

502 Sec. 13. Section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed and the
503 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

504 (a) As used in this subsection and subsections (b) to [(i)] (j), inclusive,
505 of this section, "election day" means the day on which a regular election,
506 as defined in section 9-1, is held.

507 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, a person who (1)
508 is (A) not an elector, or (B) an elector registered in a municipality who
509 wishes to change such elector's registration to another municipality
510 pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this
511 section, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a)

512 of section 9-12, as amended by this act, may apply for admission as an
513 elector on election day pursuant to the provisions of subsections (a) to
514 [(i)] (j), inclusive, of this section.

515 (c) (1) The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the
516 completion and processing of election day registration applications on
517 election day, provided (A) the registrars of voters shall have access to
518 the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location,
519 and (B) such location shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the
520 State not later than thirty-one days before election day. The written
521 certification under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall (i) include
522 the name, street address and relevant contact information associated
523 with such location, (ii) list the name and address of each election official
524 appointed to serve at such location, if any, and (iii) provide a description
525 of the design of such location and a plan for effective completion and
526 processing of such applications. The Secretary shall approve or
527 disapprove such written certification not later than fifteen days before
528 election day and may require the registrars of voters to appoint one or
529 more additional election officials or alter such design or plan.

530 (2) The registrars of voters may apply to the Secretary of the State not
531 later than sixty days before election day, in a form and manner
532 prescribed by the Secretary, to designate any additional location for the
533 completion and processing of election day registration applications on
534 election day. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such
535 application not later than forty-five days before election day. If the
536 Secretary approves such application, the registrars of voters may so
537 designate any such additional location. The provisions of subdivision
538 (1) of this subsection shall apply to any such additional location.

539 (3) The registrars of voters may delegate to each election official
540 appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, if any, any of
541 the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of
542 voters shall supervise each such election official and train each such
543 election official to be an election day registration election official.

544 (d) Any person applying to register on election day under the

545 provisions of subsections (a) to [(i)] (j), inclusive, of this section shall
546 make application in accordance with the provisions of section 9-20,
547 provided (1) on election day, the applicant shall appear in person not
548 later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance with subsection (b) of section
549 9-174, at the location designated by the registrars of voters for election
550 day registration, (2) an applicant who is a student enrolled at an
551 institution of higher education may submit a current photo
552 identification card issued by such institution in lieu of the identification
553 required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under oath
554 that the applicant has not previously voted in the election. If the
555 information that the applicant is required to provide under section 9-20
556 and subsections (a) to [(i)] (j), inclusive, of this section does not include
557 proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall also
558 submit identification that shows the applicant's bona fide residence
559 address, including, but not limited to, a learner's permit issued under
560 section 14-36 or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and current
561 address and that has a due date that is not later than thirty days after
562 the election or, in the case of a student enrolled at an institution of higher
563 education, a registration or fee statement from such institution that has
564 the applicant's name and current address.

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

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

572 (2) If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an
573 elector in another municipality and such applicant states that he or she
574 wants to change the municipality in which the applicant is an elector,
575 notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters
576 of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register shall
577 immediately notify the registrars of voters in such other municipality

578 that such elector is changing the municipality in which the applicant is
579 an elector. The registrars of voters in such other municipality shall notify
580 the election officials in such municipality to remove such elector from
581 the official voter list of such municipality. Such election officials shall
582 cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and mark "off"
583 next to such elector's name on such official voter list.

584 (A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other
585 municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall
586 immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which
587 such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not
588 receive an election day registration ballot from the registrars of voters
589 of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. For any
590 such elector, the election day registration process shall cease in the
591 municipality in which such elector now seeks to register and such
592 matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters in the municipality
593 in which such elector now seeks to register. After completion of such
594 review, if a resolution of the matter [can not] cannot be made, such
595 matter shall be reported to the State Elections Enforcement Commission
596 which shall conduct an investigation of the matter.

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

601 (f) If the applicant is admitted as an elector, the registrars of voters
602 shall provide the elector with an election day registration ballot and
603 election day registration envelope and shall make a record of such
604 issuance. The elector shall complete an affirmation imprinted upon the
605 back of the envelope for an election day registration ballot and shall
606 declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the
607 election. The affirmation shall be in the form substantially as follows and
608 signed by the voter:

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

- 611 1. I am the person admitted here as an elector in the town indicated.
- 612 2. I am eligible to vote in the election indicated for today in the town
613 indicated.
- 614 3. The information on my voter registration card is correct and
615 complete.
- 616 4. I reside at the address that I have given to the registrars of voters.
- 617 5. If previously registered at another location, I have provided such
618 address to the registrars of voters and hereby request cancellation of
619 such prior registration.
- 620 6. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote
621 otherwise than by this ballot at this election.
- 622 7. I completed an application for an election day registration ballot
623 and received an election day registration ballot.

624 (Signature of voter)

625 (g) The elector shall forthwith mark the election day registration
626 ballot in the presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that
627 the registrars of voters shall not know how the election day registration
628 ballot is marked. The elector shall place the election day registration
629 ballot in the election day registration ballot envelope provided, and
630 deposit such envelope in a secured election day registration ballot
631 depository receptacle. At the time designated by the registrars of voters
632 and noticed to election officials, the registrars of voters shall transport
633 such receptacle containing the election day registration ballots to the
634 central location or polling place, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-
635 147a, as amended by this act, where absentee ballots are counted and
636 such election day registration ballots shall be counted by the election
637 officials present at such central location or polling place. A section of the
638 head moderator's return shall show the number of election day
639 registration ballots received from electors. The registrars of voters shall
640 seal a copy of the vote tally for election day registration ballots in a

641 depository envelope with the election day registration ballots and store
642 such election day registration depository envelope with the other
643 election results materials. The election day registration depository
644 envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the period of
645 time required to preserve counted ballots for elections.

646 (h) The provisions of the general statutes and regulations concerning
647 procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of absentee
648 ballots shall apply as nearly as possible, to the custody, control and
649 counting of election day registration ballots under subsections (a) to [(i)]
650 (j), inclusive, of this section.

651 (i) After the acceptance of an election day registration, the registrars
652 of voters shall forthwith send a registration confirmation notice to the
653 residential address of each applicant who is admitted as an elector on
654 election day under subsections (a) to [(i)] (j), inclusive, of this section.
655 Such confirmation shall be sent by first class mail with instructions on
656 the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the address shown
657 on the envelope. If a confirmation notice is returned undelivered, the
658 registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in accordance with
659 section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable, notwithstanding the May first
660 deadline in section 9-35.

661 (j) In the case of an elector with a developmental disability, as
662 described in section 9-12, as amended by this act, the legal
663 representative of such elector may assist such elector in performing any
664 action under this section if such legal representative submits to the
665 registrar of voters or an election official appointed by such registrar
666 under this section, as the case may be, information sufficient to prove
667 such a relationship with such elector.

668 [(j)] (k) No person shall (1) solicit [in] on behalf of or in opposition to
669 the candidacy of another or himself or herself or [in] on behalf of or in
670 opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or
671 peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another
672 person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in
673 use as an entry to any location designated by the registrars of voters for

674 election day registration balloting or in any corridor, passageway or
675 other approach leading from any such outside entrance to any such
676 location or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway
677 or approach, or (2) possess a firearm within a radius of two hundred feet
678 of any such outside entrance or in any such corridor, passageway or
679 other approach or in any such room, except in the case of a firearm
680 located in a residence or parked motor vehicle situated within such
681 radius or in the case of a uniformed on-duty police officer.

682 Sec. 14. Section 9-45 of the general statutes is repealed and the
683 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

684 (a) The Commissioner of Correction shall, on or before the fifteenth
685 day of each month, transmit to the Secretary of the State a list of all
686 persons who, during the preceding calendar month, have been (1)
687 convicted in the Superior Court of a felony and committed to the
688 custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a
689 correctional institution or facility, or [a community residence] (2)
690 returned to confinement in a correctional institution or facility from
691 parole or special parole, release pursuant to section 18-100, 18-100c, 18-
692 100e, 18-100h or 18-100i or furlough pursuant to section 18-101a. Such
693 lists shall include the names, birth dates and addresses of such persons,
694 with the dates of their conviction and the crimes of which such persons
695 have been convicted, or the dates of the violation of their parole, special
696 parole, release or furlough and the nature of such violation, as
697 applicable. The Secretary of the State shall transmit such lists to the
698 registrars of the towns in which such [convicted] persons who have been
699 convicted or returned to confinement, as applicable, resided at the time
700 of their conviction or violation of parole, special parole, release or
701 furlough and to the registrars of any towns where the [secretary]
702 Secretary believes such persons may be electors. The registrars of such
703 towns shall compare the same with the list of electors upon their registry
704 lists and, after written notice mailed by certified mail to each of the
705 persons named at the last-known place of address of such person, shall
706 erase such names from the registry lists in their respective towns or
707 voting districts.

708 (b) Any person who procures such person or another to be registered
709 after having been disfranchised by reason of conviction of crime and
710 committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for
711 confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community
712 residence, and any person who votes at any election after having
713 forfeited such privileges by reason of conviction of crime and
714 confinement, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars and
715 imprisoned not more than one year.

716 Sec. 15. Section 9-46 of the general statutes is repealed and the
717 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

718 (a) A person shall forfeit such person's right to become an elector and
719 such person's privileges as an elector upon conviction of a felony and
720 (1) committal to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for
721 confinement in a correctional institution or facility, [or] but not a
722 community residence, (2) committal to confinement in a federal
723 correctional institution or facility, or (3) committal to the custody of the
724 chief correctional official of any other state or a county of any other state
725 for confinement in a correctional institution or facility, [or] but not a
726 community residence, in such state or county.

727 (b) If a person has forfeited such person's privileges as an elector
728 under subsection (a) of this section, has regained such privileges under
729 section 9-46a, as amended by this act, and is subsequently returned to
730 confinement in a correctional institution or facility, but not a community
731 residence, from parole or special parole, release pursuant to section 18-
732 100, 18-100c, 18-100e, 18-100h or 18-100i or furlough pursuant to section
733 18-101a, such person shall again forfeit such privileges.

734 [(b)] (c) No person who has forfeited and not regained such person's
735 privileges as an elector [,] as provided in section 9-46a, as amended by
736 this act, or who has regained such privileges and again forfeited such
737 privileges as provided in subsection (b) of this section, may be a
738 candidate for or hold public office.

739 Sec. 16. Section 9-46a of the general statutes is repealed and the

740 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

741 (a) (1) A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed
742 to confinement in a [federal or other state] correctional institution or
743 facility [or community residence] of the federal government or of
744 another state shall have such person's electoral privileges restored
745 [upon the payment of all fines in conjunction with the conviction and]
746 once such person has been [discharged] released from confinement. [,
747 and, if applicable, parole.]

748 (2) A person who has been convicted of a felony and is committed to
749 confinement in a community residence of the federal government or of
750 another state shall have such person's electoral privileges restored if
751 such person had previously forfeited such electoral privileges.

752 (b) (1) Upon the release from confinement in a correctional institution
753 or facility [or a community residence] of a person who has been
754 convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of the Commissioner
755 of Correction, [and, if applicable, the discharge of such person from
756 parole, (1)] (A) the person shall have the right to become an elector, [(2)]
757 (B) the Commissioner of Correction shall give the person a document
758 certifying that the person has been released from such confinement,
759 [and, if applicable, has been discharged from parole, (3)] (C) if the
760 person was an elector at the time of such felony conviction and, after
761 such release, [and any such discharge,] is residing in the same
762 municipality in which the person resided at the time of such felony
763 conviction, the person's electoral privileges shall be restored, and [(4)]
764 (D) if the person was an elector at the time of such felony conviction and,
765 after such release, [and any such discharge,] is residing in a different
766 municipality or if the person was not an elector at the time of such felony
767 conviction, the person's electoral privileges shall be restored or granted
768 upon submitting to an admitting official satisfactory proof of the
769 person's qualifications to be admitted as an elector. The provisions of
770 [subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection] subparagraphs (A)
771 to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision shall not apply to any person
772 convicted of a felony for a violation of any provision of this title until

773 such person has been discharged from any parole or probation for such
774 felony.

775 (2) A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to
776 the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and is confined in a
777 community residence shall have such person's electoral privileges
778 restored if such person had previously forfeited such electoral
779 privileges.

780 (c) The registrars of voters of the municipality in which a person is
781 admitted as an elector pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section,
782 within thirty days after the date on which such person is admitted, shall
783 notify the registrars of voters of the municipality wherein such person
784 resided at the time of such person's conviction that such person's
785 electoral rights have been so restored.

786 (d) The Commissioner of Correction shall establish procedures to
787 inform those persons who have been convicted of a felony and
788 committed to the custody of said commissioner for confinement in a
789 correctional institution or facility or a community residence, and are
790 eligible to have their electoral privileges restored or granted pursuant to
791 subsection (b) of this section, of the right and procedures to have such
792 privileges restored. The [Office of Adult Probation] Commissioner of
793 Correction shall, within available appropriations, inform such persons
794 who are on [probation on January 1, 2002] parole or special parole, or
795 confined in a community residence, of their right to become electors and
796 procedures to have their electoral privileges restored, which shall be in
797 accordance with subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

798 (e) The Commissioner of Correction shall, on or before the fifteenth
799 day of each month, transmit to the Secretary of the State a list of all
800 persons convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of said
801 commissioner who, during the preceding calendar month, have (1) been
802 released from confinement in a correctional institution or facility, or (2)
803 begun confinement in a community residence. [and, if applicable,
804 discharged from parole.] Such lists shall include the names, birth dates
805 and addresses of such persons, with the dates of their convictions and

806 the crimes of which such persons have been convicted. The Secretary [of
807 the State] shall transmit such lists to the registrars of the municipalities
808 in which such convicted persons resided at the time of their convictions
809 and to the registrars of any municipalities where the [secretary]
810 Secretary believes such persons may be electors.

811 Sec. 17. Section 9-236 of the general statutes is repealed and the
812 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

813 (a) On the day of any primary, referendum or election, no person
814 shall (1) solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another
815 or himself or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being
816 submitted at the election or referendum, or loiter or peddle or offer any
817 advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius
818 of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any
819 polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading
820 from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room
821 opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach, or (2)
822 possess a firearm within a radius of two hundred feet of any such
823 outside entrance or in any such corridor, passageway or other approach
824 or in any such room, except in the case of a firearm located in a residence
825 or parked motor vehicle situated within such radius or in the case of a
826 uniformed on-duty police officer. Nothing contained in this section shall
827 be construed to prohibit [(1)] (A) parent-teacher associations or parent-
828 teacher organizations from holding bake sales or other fund-raising
829 activities on the day of any primary, referendum or election in any
830 school used as a polling place, provided such sales or activities shall not
831 be held in the room in which the election booths are located, [(2)] (B) the
832 registrars of voters from directing the officials at a primary, referendum
833 or election to distribute, within the restricted area, adhesive labels on
834 which are imprinted the words "I Voted Today", or [(3)] (C) the
835 registrars of voters in a primary, election or referendum from jointly
836 permitting nonpartisan activities to be conducted in a room other than
837 the room in which the election booths are located. The registrars may
838 jointly impose such conditions and limitations on such nonpartisan
839 activity as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly process of voting.

840 The moderator shall evict any person who in any way interferes with
841 the orderly process of voting.

842 (b) (1) The selectmen shall provide suitable markers to indicate the
843 seventy-five-foot [distance] and two-hundred-foot distances from such
844 entrance. Such markers shall consist of a board resting on an iron rod,
845 which board shall be not less than twelve inches square and painted a
846 bright color and shall bear, [the] respectively:

847 (A) The figures and letters "75 feet" and the following words: "On the
848 day of any primary, referendum or election no person shall solicit [in]
849 on behalf of or in opposition to another or himself or peddle or offer any
850 ballot, advertising matter or circular to another person or loiter within a
851 radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to
852 any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach
853 leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any
854 room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach."; and

855 (B) The figures and letters "200 feet" and the following words: "On the
856 day of any primary, referendum or election no person shall possess a
857 firearm within a radius of two hundred feet of any outside entrance in
858 use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or
859 other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling
860 place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or
861 approach. This restriction shall not apply in the case of a firearm located
862 in a residence or parked motor vehicle situated within such radius of
863 two hundred feet or in the case of a uniformed on-duty police officer."

864 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A) of
865 subdivision (1) of this subsection, the selectmen may provide the
866 markers required by the provisions of this subsection in effect prior to
867 October 1, 1983, in lieu of the markers required by said subparagraph,
868 except that in the case of a referendum which is not held in conjunction
869 with an election or a primary, the selectmen shall provide the markers
870 required by [subdivision (1) of this subsection] said subparagraph.

871 (3) The moderator and the moderator's assistants shall meet at least

872 twenty minutes before the opening of a primary, referendum or an
873 election in the voting district, and shall cause to be placed by a police
874 officer or constable, or such other primary or election official as they
875 select, a suitable number of distance markers. Such moderator or any
876 police officer or constable shall prohibit loitering and peddling of tickets
877 within that distance.

878 (c) No person shall be allowed within any polling place for any
879 purpose other than casting his or her vote, except (1) those permitted or
880 exempt under this section or section 9-236a, (2) primary officials under
881 section 9-436, (3) election officials under section 9-258, including (A) a
882 municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same
883 office, performing his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of
884 voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing
885 his or her official duties, or (4) party checkers under section 9-235.
886 Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to enter, remain
887 within and leave any polling place or restricted area surrounding any
888 polling place to observe the election, provided any such representative
889 who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be
890 evicted by the moderator. A number of students in grades four to
891 twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in any one polling
892 place, may enter any polling place between twelve o'clock noon and
893 three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the activities taking place
894 in the polling place, provided there is proper parental or teacher
895 supervision present, and provided further, any such student who in any
896 way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the
897 moderator. An elector may be accompanied into any polling place by
898 one or more children who are fifteen years of age or younger and
899 supervised by the elector if the elector is the parent or legal guardian of
900 such children.

901 (d) Any person who violates any provision of this section or, while
902 the polls are open for voting, removes or injures any such distance
903 marker, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

904 Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 9-225 of the general statutes is

905 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
906 *passage*):

907 (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
908 town clerk or assistant town clerk of each town shall warn the electors
909 therein to meet on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November
910 in the even-numbered years, at six o'clock a.m., which warning shall be
911 given by publication (A) in a newspaper having a general circulation in
912 such town, or towns in the case of a joint publication under subsection
913 (b) of this section, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous
914 to holding such election, and (B) on such town's Internet web site, not
915 more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to holding such
916 election. The clerk in each town shall, in the warning for such election,
917 give notice of (i) the time and the location of [the] each polling place in
918 the town, [and] (ii) in towns divided into voting districts, [of] the time
919 and the location of [the] each polling place in each district, and (iii) the
920 time and the location of each location designated for election day
921 registration in the town, at which such election will be held. The town
922 clerk shall record each such warning.

923 (2) For the state election in 2020, the warning under subsection (a) of
924 this section shall be given not more than seven nor less than four days
925 previous to holding such election.

926 Sec. 19. Section 9-226 of the general statutes is repealed and the
927 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

928 The warning of each municipal election shall specify the objects for
929 which such election is to be held. Notice of a town election shall be given
930 by the town clerk or assistant town clerk, by publishing a warning (1) in
931 a newspaper published in such town or having a general circulation
932 therein, such publication to be not more than fifteen [,] nor less than five
933 days previous to holding the election, and (2) on such town's Internet
934 web site, such publication to be not more than fifteen nor less than five
935 days previous to holding the election. The town clerk in each town shall,
936 in the warning for such election, give notice of (A) the time and the
937 location of [the] each polling place in the town, [and,] (B) in towns

938 divided into voting districts, [of] the time and the location of [the] each
939 polling place in each district, and (C) the time and the location of each
940 location designated for election day registration in the town. The town
941 clerk shall record each such warning. Notice of an election of a city or
942 borough shall be given by publishing a warning (i) in a newspaper
943 published within the limits of such city or borough [,] or having a
944 general circulation therein, not more than fifteen nor less than five days
945 previous to holding the election, and (ii) on the Internet web site of such
946 city or borough, or the town having such city or borough within such
947 town's limits, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to
948 holding the election, which warning shall include notice of (I) the time
949 and the location of [the] each polling place in such city or borough,
950 [and,] (II) in cities and boroughs divided into voting districts, [of] the
951 time and the location of [the] each polling place in each district, and (III)
952 the time and the location of each location designated for election day
953 registration in such city or borough.

954 Sec. 20. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-140 of the general statutes
955 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
956 *1, 2021*):

957 (a) [Application] (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
958 section, application for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of
959 the municipality in which the applicant is eligible to vote or has applied
960 for such eligibility. Any person who assists another person in the
961 completion of an application shall, in the space provided, sign the
962 application and print or type his name, residence address and telephone
963 number. Such signature shall be made under the penalties of false
964 statement in absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not invalidate
965 the application solely because it does not contain the name of a person
966 who assisted the applicant in the completion of the application. The
967 municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee ballot application
968 any material which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate or
969 referendum question. The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all
970 absentee ballot applications provided under this subsection, including
971 the name and address of each person to whom applications are

972 provided and the number of applications provided to each such person.
973 Each absentee ballot application provided by the municipal clerk shall
974 be consecutively numbered and be stamped or marked with the name
975 of the municipality issuing the application. The application shall be
976 signed by the applicant under the penalties of false statement in
977 absentee balloting on [(1)] (A) the form prescribed by the Secretary of
978 the State pursuant to section 9-139a, [(2)] (B) a form provided by any
979 federal department or agency if applicable pursuant to section 9-153a,
980 or [(3)] (C) any of the special forms of application prescribed pursuant
981 to section 9-150c, 9-153a, 9-153b, 9-153d, 9-153e, 9-153f or 9-158d, if
982 applicable. Any such absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write
983 may cause the application to be completed by an authorized agent who
984 shall, in the spaces provided for the date and signature, write the date
985 and name of the absentee ballot applicant followed by the word "by"
986 and his own signature. If the ballot is to be mailed to the applicant, the
987 applicant shall list the bona fide personal mailing address of the
988 applicant in the appropriate space on the application.

989 [(b)] (2) A municipal clerk may transmit an application to a person
990 under this subsection by facsimile machine or other electronic means, if
991 so requested by the applicant. If a municipal clerk has a facsimile
992 machine or other electronic means, an applicant may return a completed
993 application to the clerk by such a machine or device, provided the
994 applicant shall also mail the original of the completed application to the
995 clerk, either separately or with the absentee ballot that is issued to the
996 applicant. If the clerk does not receive such original application by the
997 close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum, the
998 absentee ballot shall not be counted.

999 (b) On and after July 1, 2021:

1000 (1) (A) Application for an absentee ballot may also be made to the
1001 Secretary of the State through a telephonic system established and
1002 maintained by the Secretary for such purpose if an applicant's signature
1003 is in a database described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and such
1004 signature may be imported into such online system.

1005 (B) In order for an application for an absentee ballot to be submitted
1006 through the telephonic system described in subparagraph (A) of this
1007 subdivision, the applicant's signature shall be obtained from a database
1008 described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and the applicant shall, in
1009 speaking with a respondent from the office of the Secretary of the State,
1010 (i) provide his or her name, (ii) indicate the municipality in which such
1011 applicant is eligible to vote or has applied for such eligibility, and (iii)
1012 swear or affirm under penalties of false statement in absentee balloting
1013 that:

1014 (I) Such person is the person whose name was so provided and
1015 desires to apply for an absentee ballot;

1016 (II) Such person is eligible to vote in the municipality so indicated or
1017 has applied for such eligibility; and

1018 (III) Such person authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles or
1019 other state agency to transmit to the Secretary such person's signature
1020 that is on file with such agency and understands that such signature will
1021 be used by the Secretary through this telephonic application for an
1022 absentee ballot as if such person had signed this form personally.

1023 (2) (A) Application for an absentee ballot may also be made to the
1024 Secretary of the State through an online system established and
1025 maintained by the Secretary for such purpose if an applicant's signature
1026 is in a database described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and such
1027 signature may be imported into such online system.

1028 (B) In order for an application for an absentee ballot to be submitted
1029 through the online system described in subparagraph (A) of this
1030 subdivision, the applicant's signature shall be obtained from a database
1031 described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and the applicant shall, on
1032 an online form prescribed by the Secretary, (i) type his or her name, (ii)
1033 indicate the municipality in which such applicant is eligible to vote or
1034 has applied for such eligibility, and (iii) mark a box associated with the
1035 following statement:

1036 "By clicking on the box below, I swear or affirm all of the following
1037 under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting:

1038 1. I am the person whose name is provided on this form, and I desire
1039 to apply for an absentee ballot.

1040 2. I am eligible to vote in the municipality provided on this form or
1041 have applied for such eligibility.

1042 3. I authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles or other Connecticut
1043 state agency to transmit to the Connecticut Secretary of the State my
1044 signature that is on file with such agency and understand that such
1045 signature will be used by the Secretary on this online application for an
1046 absentee ballot as if I had signed this form personally."

1047 (3) Not later than twenty-four hours after receipt of any submitted
1048 application for an absentee ballot through the telephonic or online
1049 system described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, the
1050 Secretary shall transmit such application to the clerk of the municipality
1051 indicated in such application.

1052 Sec. 21. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 9-140b of the
1053 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1054 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1055 (a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or
1056 referendum only if: (1) It is mailed by (A) the ballot applicant, (B) a
1057 designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot because of
1058 illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the immediate family
1059 of an applicant who is a student, so that it is received by the clerk of the
1060 municipality in which the applicant is qualified to vote not later than the
1061 close of the polls; (2) it is returned by the applicant in person to the clerk
1062 by the day before a regular election, special election or primary or prior
1063 to the opening of the polls on the day of a referendum; (3) it is returned
1064 by a designee of an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant, in person,
1065 to said clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election,
1066 primary or referendum; (4) it is returned by a member of the immediate

1067 family of the absentee voter, in person, to said clerk not later than the
1068 close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum; (5)
1069 in the case of a presidential or overseas ballot, it is mailed or otherwise
1070 returned pursuant to the provisions of section 9-158g; or (6) it is returned
1071 with the proper identification as required by the Help America Vote Act,
1072 P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time, if applicable, inserted in the
1073 outer envelope so such identification can be viewed without opening
1074 the inner envelope. A person returning an absentee ballot to the
1075 municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or (4) of this subsection shall
1076 present identification and, on the outer envelope of the absentee ballot,
1077 sign his name in the presence of the municipal clerk, and indicate his
1078 address, his relationship to the voter or his position, and the date and
1079 time of such return. As used in this section, "immediate family" means
1080 a dependent relative who resides in the individual's household or any
1081 spouse, child, [or] parent or sibling of the individual.

1082 (b) As used in this section and section 9-150c, "designee" means (1) a
1083 person who is caring for the applicant because of the applicant's illness
1084 or physical disability, including but not limited to, a licensed physician
1085 or a registered or practical nurse, (2) a member of the applicant's family,
1086 who is designated by an absentee ballot applicant and who consents to
1087 such designation, or (3) [if no such person consents or is available, then]
1088 a police officer, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters or assistant
1089 registrar of voters in the municipality in which the applicant resides.

1090 (c) (1) For purposes of this section, "mailed" means (A) sent by the
1091 United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or
1092 messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the
1093 State, or (B) [for the state election in 2020,] deposited in a secure drop
1094 box designated by the municipal clerk for such purpose, in accordance
1095 with instructions prescribed by the Secretary.

1096 (2) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B) of
1097 subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the twenty-ninth day
1098 before [the state election in 2020] each election and on each weekday
1099 thereafter until the close of the polls at such election, the municipal clerk

1100 shall (A) retrieve from the secure drop box described in said
1101 subparagraph each such ballot deposited in such drop box, and (B) if the
1102 drop box is located outside a building other than the building where the
1103 clerk's office is located, arrange for the clerk or the clerk's designee to be
1104 escorted by a police officer during such retrieval.

1105 Sec. 22. Section 9-140c of the general statutes is repealed and the
1106 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1107 (a) The municipal clerk shall retain the envelopes containing absentee
1108 ballots received by him under section 9-140b, as amended by this act,
1109 and shall not open such envelopes. The municipal clerk shall endorse
1110 over his signature, upon each outer envelope as he receives it, the date
1111 and precise time of its receipt. The clerk shall make an affidavit attesting
1112 to the accuracy of all such endorsements, and at the close of the polls
1113 shall deliver such affidavit to the head moderator, who shall endorse the
1114 time of its receipt and return it to the clerk after all counting is complete.
1115 The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for one hundred eighty days in
1116 accordance with the requirements of section 9-150b. The clerk shall keep
1117 a list of the names of the applicants who return absentee ballots to the
1118 clerk under section 9-140b, as amended by this act. The list shall be
1119 preserved as a public record as required by section 9-150b.

1120 (b) (1) [(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this
1121 subdivision, beginning not earlier than the seventh] Beginning on the
1122 fourteenth day before the election, primary or referendum and on any
1123 weekday thereafter, all absentee ballots received by the municipal clerk
1124 at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of such day may be sorted into voting
1125 districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in this
1126 [subparagraph] subsection. On any such day, beginning as soon as the
1127 ballots have been sorted, the registrars of voters, without opening the
1128 outer envelopes, may check the names of the applicants returning
1129 ballots on the official checklist to be used at the election, primary or
1130 referendum by indicating "absentee" or "A" preceding each such name
1131 and, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in
1132 the primary of either of two parties, the designation of the party in

1133 which the applicants are voting preceding each such name. [Unless
1134 absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places,
1135 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the] The registrars shall also
1136 place such indication on a duplicate checklist to be retained by the
1137 municipal clerk until the municipal clerk delivers such duplicate
1138 checklist to the registrars, in accordance with subsection (e) of this
1139 section, for the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to
1140 subsection (i) of this section.

1141 [(B) For the state election in 2020, beginning on the fourteenth day
1142 before the election and on any weekday thereafter, all absentee ballots
1143 received by the municipal clerk at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of such
1144 day may be sorted into voting districts by the municipal clerk and
1145 checked as provided in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.]

1146 (2) All absentee ballots received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of
1147 the last day before the election, primary or referendum which is not a
1148 Sunday or legal holiday, shall be sorted into voting districts by the
1149 municipal clerk and checked as provided in [subparagraph (A) of]
1150 subdivision (1) of this subsection not later than such last day.

1151 (c) If the name of the applicant returning the ballot is not on the
1152 official checklist for any polling place in such municipality, the
1153 registrars shall endorse on the face of such outer envelope the word
1154 "rejected", followed by a statement of the reasons for rejection, and the
1155 outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot counted.

1156 (d) After such checking has been completed on any such day, the
1157 municipal clerk shall seal the unopened ballots in a package and retain
1158 them in a safe place.

1159 [(e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, ballots
1160 received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. on the last day before the
1161 election, primary or referendum shall be delivered by the municipal
1162 clerk to the registrars between ten o'clock a.m. and twelve o'clock noon
1163 on the day of the election or primary and at twelve o'clock noon on the
1164 day of a referendum. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the

1165 respective polling places, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a,
1166 the municipal clerk shall also deliver to the registrars at this time the
1167 duplicate checklist provided for in subsection (b) of this section, for the
1168 use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this
1169 section.

1170 (2) (A) For the state election in 2020:]

1171 [(i)] ~~(e) (1) (A)~~ Ballots received, sorted and checked prior to five
1172 o'clock p.m. on the [(I)] ~~(i)~~ fourth day before the election may be
1173 delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at five o'clock p.m. on
1174 such fourth day, [(II)] ~~(ii)~~ third day before the election may be so
1175 delivered at five o'clock p.m. on such third day, and [(III)] ~~(iii)~~ second
1176 day before the election may be so delivered at five o'clock p.m. on such
1177 second day;

1178 [(ii)] ~~(B)~~ Ballots received [not later than] at or prior to eleven o'clock
1179 a.m. on the last day before the election shall be sorted and checked not
1180 later than such last day and shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to
1181 the registrars at six o'clock a.m. on the day of the election. [; and]

1182 [(iii)] ~~(C)~~ Each time ballots are delivered pursuant to [this]
1183 subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, the municipal clerk shall
1184 also deliver to the registrars at such time a copy of the duplicate
1185 checklist provided for in subsection (b) of this section, current as of the
1186 time of such delivery, for the use of the absentee ballot counters
1187 pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

1188 [(B)] ~~(2)~~ The municipal clerk may deliver the ballots at times later than
1189 those provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, [or subparagraph
1190 (A) of this subdivision, as applicable,] provided any such time is
1191 mutually agreed upon by the municipal clerk and registrars and is not
1192 later than eight o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or
1193 referendum.

1194 (f) Absentee ballots timely received by the clerk after eleven o'clock
1195 a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or referendum shall be

1196 sorted into voting districts by the clerk and retained by the clerk
1197 separately until delivered to the registrars of voters for checking.

1198 (g) Any or all of such ballots received after eleven o'clock a.m. of such
1199 last day before an election, primary or referendum and before six o'clock
1200 p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall, upon
1201 request of the registrars, be delivered to the registrars by the municipal
1202 clerk at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or
1203 referendum for checking, or at a later time mutually agreed upon by the
1204 clerk and registrars, provided such time is not later than eight o'clock
1205 p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.

1206 (h) Absentee ballots received after six o'clock p.m. on the day of the
1207 election, primary or referendum and any ballots received prior to six
1208 o'clock p.m. of such day which were not delivered earlier shall be
1209 delivered to the registrars at the close of the polls for checking. Although
1210 absentee ballots shall be checked by the registrars of voters at various
1211 times throughout the election, primary or referendum day, absentee
1212 ballots may be counted at one single time during such day.

1213 (i) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the absentee
1214 ballot counters, upon receipt of the ballots delivered by the municipal
1215 clerk to the registrars at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election,
1216 primary or referendum and at the close of the polls pursuant to
1217 subsections (g) and (h) of this section, shall check the names of the
1218 applicants returning ballots on the duplicate checklist in the same
1219 manner as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

1220 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
1221 the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m.
1222 on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall be called in to
1223 the appropriate polling places where they shall be checked by the
1224 checkers on the official checklists, and they shall also be checked by the
1225 absentee ballot counters on the duplicate checklist required under
1226 subsection (b) of this section.

1227 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place

1228 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the names of applicants
1229 whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the
1230 election, primary or referendum shall be checked by the absentee ballot
1231 counters and checkers at such polling place on the official checklist used
1232 at such polling place.

1233 (3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
1234 the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at the close of the
1235 polls shall be checked by the absentee ballot counters on the official
1236 checklists used at the polling places and such official checklists, bearing
1237 the certifications required by section 9-307, shall be delivered by the
1238 registrars or assistant registrars to the central counting moderator for
1239 that purpose.

1240 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place
1241 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the official checklist used at
1242 such polling place shall remain in such polling place for checking by the
1243 absentee ballot counters at such polling place.

1244 (4) If the name of an applicant returning a ballot has been checked on
1245 the official checklist as having voted in person the absentee ballot
1246 counters shall, in checking the ballots, endorse on the face of the outer
1247 envelope the word "rejected" followed by a statement of the reason for
1248 rejection, and the outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot
1249 counted.

1250 (5) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
1251 when central counting is completed and the result is announced, the
1252 central counting moderator shall deliver the duplicate checklist, the
1253 official checklists and the returns required by section 9-150b to the head
1254 moderator.

1255 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place
1256 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, and such counting is
1257 completed and the result for such polling place is announced, the
1258 moderator for such polling place shall deliver the official checklist used
1259 at such polling place and the return required by section 9-150b to the

1260 head moderator.

1261 (j) Each time absentee ballots are delivered by the clerk to the
1262 registrars pursuant to this section, the clerk and registrars shall execute
1263 an affidavit of delivery and receipt stating the number of ballots
1264 delivered. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for the period prescribed
1265 in section 9-150b.

1266 (k) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
1267 absentee ballot counters shall count, in the manner provided in section
1268 9-150a, each group of absentee ballots upon receipt from the registrars.

1269 (2) [For the state election in 2020, whenever] Whenever absentee
1270 ballots are to be processed before the day of the election, pursuant to
1271 subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-147a, as amended by this
1272 act, the absentee ballot counters shall process, in the manner provided
1273 in section 9-150e, as amended by this act, each group of absentee ballots
1274 upon receipt from the registrars.

1275 (l) The municipal clerk shall retain all outer envelopes containing
1276 absentee ballots received by him after the close of the polls, unopened,
1277 for the period prescribed in section 9-150b.

1278 Sec. 23. Section 9-140e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1279 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1280 (a) Any elector who is permanently physically disabled or suffering
1281 from a long-term illness and who files an application for an absentee
1282 ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that
1283 such elector is permanently physically disabled or suffering from a long-
1284 term illness and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated
1285 polling location, shall be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status
1286 and shall receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary or
1287 referendum conducted in such elector's municipality for which such
1288 elector is eligible to vote. Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status
1289 shall remain in effect until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official
1290 registry list of the municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee

1291 ballot status pursuant to the provisions of this section, or (3) requests
1292 that he or she no longer receive such permanent absentee ballot status.

1293 (b) The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each such
1294 elector with permanent absentee ballot status in January of each year,
1295 on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, for the purpose of
1296 determining if such elector continues to reside at the address indicated
1297 on the elector's permanent absentee ballot application. If [(1)] such
1298 written notice is returned as undeliverable, [or (2) not later than thirty
1299 days after such notice is sent to the elector, the elector fails to return such
1300 notice to the registrars of voters, as directed on the form,] the elector in
1301 question shall be removed from permanent absentee ballot status. If
1302 such elector indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides at
1303 such address and the elector's new address is within the same
1304 municipality, the registrars of voters shall change the elector's address
1305 pursuant to section 9-35 and such elector shall retain permanent
1306 absentee ballot status. If the elector indicates on such notice that the
1307 elector no longer resides in the municipality, the registrars of voters
1308 shall remove such individual from the registry list of the municipality
1309 and send such individual an application for voter registration. Failure
1310 to return such written notice shall not result in the removal of an elector
1311 from the official registry list of the municipality or from permanent
1312 absentee ballot status.

1313 Sec. 24. Section 9-147a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1314 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1315 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) or (c) of this section, at any
1316 election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots shall, within
1317 existing resources, be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a
1318 at a central location designated by the registrars of voters in writing to
1319 the municipal clerk at least twenty days before the election, primary or
1320 referendum, which location shall be published in the warning for the
1321 election, primary or referendum. Except as provided in subsection (b) of
1322 this section, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to
1323 vote in the primary of either of two parties, all absentee ballots shall be

1324 separated, counted, tallied and placed in depository envelopes by
1325 voting district. Any member of the public may observe the counting of
1326 absentee ballots at such central location.

1327 (b) At any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots may
1328 be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a in the respective
1329 polling places if the registrars of voters agree that such absentee ballots
1330 should be so counted. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under
1331 section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, absentee
1332 ballots may be counted in the respective polling places if the parties
1333 agree that such absentee ballots should be so counted. Any election
1334 official serving in a polling place may observe the counting of absentee
1335 ballots at such polling place.

1336 (c) (1) [For the state election in 2020, absentee] Absentee ballots may
1337 be processed before the day of [the] any election, primary or referendum
1338 in the manner provided in section 9-150e, as amended by this act. Any
1339 such processing shall take place at a central location designated by the
1340 registrars of voters in writing to the municipal clerk at least ten days
1341 before the election, which location shall be published in the warning for
1342 the election.

1343 (2) If absentee ballots are to be processed pursuant to subdivision (1)
1344 of this subsection, the registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall
1345 jointly certify such fact in writing to the Secretary of the State at least ten
1346 days before the election. Such written certification shall (A) include the
1347 name, street address and relevant contact information associated with
1348 the designated central location, and (B) list the name and address of each
1349 absentee ballot counter appointed pursuant to section 9-147c. The
1350 Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written certification not later
1351 than two days after receipt of such certification and may require the
1352 appointment of one or more additional absentee ballot counters.

1353 (3) In the case of absentee ballots delivered to the registrars on the
1354 day of the election, nothing in this subsection shall preclude the
1355 counting of such absentee ballots in the respective polling places
1356 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

1357 Sec. 25. Section 9-150e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1358 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1359 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-150a, [for the state
1360 election in 2020,] in any municipality in which absentee ballots are
1361 processed pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-147a,
1362 as amended by this act:

1363 (a) (1) Not earlier than five o'clock p.m. on the fourth day before the
1364 election, primary or referendum, the absentee ballot counters shall
1365 proceed to the central counting location at the times designated by the
1366 registrars of voters;

1367 (2) At the time each group of ballots is delivered pursuant to
1368 [subdivision (2) of] subsection (e) of section 9-140c, as amended by this
1369 act, the counters shall proceed as hereinafter provided;

1370 (3) Except with respect to ballots marked "Rejected" pursuant to
1371 section 9-140c, as amended by this act, or other applicable law, the
1372 counters shall then remove the inner envelopes from the outer
1373 envelopes, shall note the total number of absentee ballots received and
1374 shall report such total to the moderator. The counters shall similarly
1375 note and separately so report the total numbers of presidential ballots
1376 and overseas ballots received pursuant to sections 9-158a to 9-158m,
1377 inclusive;

1378 (4) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as
1379 required by section 9-140a, such inner envelope shall not be opened or
1380 the ballot removed therefrom at that time, and such inner envelope shall
1381 be replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be marked
1382 "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the counters;
1383 and

1384 (5) Not earlier than the day of the election, and after the duties under
1385 subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection have been
1386 performed, absentee ballots shall be counted in the manner provided in
1387 subsections (e) to (m), inclusive, of section 9-150a.

1388 (b) In accordance with instructions [which shall be] prescribed by the
1389 Secretary of the State, [not later than ten days before the election,] each
1390 group of ballots delivered pursuant to subdivision [(2)] (1) of subsection
1391 (e) of section 9-140c, as amended by this act, shall be kept secure (1)
1392 throughout the performance of the duties under subdivisions (1) to (4),
1393 inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section, and (2) after such performance
1394 until such time on the day of the election that absentee ballots are
1395 counted in the manner provided in subsections (e) to (m), inclusive, of
1396 section 9-150a. The requirements of this subsection shall be in addition
1397 to all other applicable requirements under this title regarding the
1398 security of absentee ballots and any related materials.

1399 Sec. 26. Section 9-159o of the general statutes is repealed and the
1400 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1401 [(a)] Any elector who has returned an absentee ballot to the municipal
1402 clerk and who finds such elector is able to vote in person shall proceed
1403 before [ten o'clock a.m. on] five o'clock p.m. on the fourth day before
1404 election, primary or referendum day to the municipal clerk's office and
1405 request that such elector's ballot be withdrawn. The municipal clerk
1406 shall remove the ballot from the sealed package and shall mark the
1407 serially-numbered outer envelope, which shall remain unopened,
1408 "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection. The elector shall also
1409 endorse the envelope. The rejected ballot shall then be returned to the
1410 sealed package until delivered on election, primary or referendum day
1411 to the registrars of voters in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended
1412 by this act. The municipal clerk shall then give the elector a signed
1413 statement directed to the moderator of the voting district in which the
1414 elector resides stating that the elector has withdrawn such elector's
1415 absentee ballot and may vote in person. Upon delivery of the statement
1416 by the elector to the moderator, the moderator shall cause the absentee
1417 indication next to the name of the elector to be stricken from the official
1418 checklist and the elector may then have such elector's name checked and
1419 vote in person. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the
1420 respective polling places pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a,
1421 the municipal clerk shall also cause the absentee indication next to the

1422 name of the elector to be stricken from the duplicate checklist to be used
1423 by the absentee ballot counters.

1424 [(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
1425 for the state election in 2020, any elector who has returned an absentee
1426 ballot to the municipal clerk and who finds such elector is able to vote
1427 in person shall proceed before five o'clock p.m. on the fourth day before
1428 the election to the municipal clerk's office and request that such elector's
1429 ballot be withdrawn.]

1430 Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Whenever voter registration
1431 information maintained under title 9 of the general statutes by the
1432 Secretary of the State or any registrar of voters is provided pursuant to
1433 any provision of the general statutes, disclosure of a voter's date of birth
1434 shall be limited to only the year of birth, unless such voter registration
1435 information is requested and used for a governmental purpose, as
1436 determined by the Secretary, in which case the voter's complete date of
1437 birth shall be provided. As used in this section, a governmental purpose
1438 shall include, but not be limited to, jury administration.

1439 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any motor
1440 vehicle operator's license number, identity card number, Social Security
1441 number and any other unique identifier used for the purpose of
1442 generating a voter registration record, or added to such record for
1443 compliance with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act, P.L.
1444 107-252, as amended from time to time, shall be confidential and shall
1445 not be disclosed to any person.

1446 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, if a voter
1447 submits to the Secretary of the State a signed statement that
1448 nondisclosure of such voter's name from the official registry list is
1449 necessary for the safety of such voter or the voter's family, the name and
1450 address of such voter on his or her voter registration record shall be
1451 confidential and shall not be disclosed, except that an election, primary
1452 or referendum official may view such information on the official registry
1453 list when such list is used by any such official at a polling place on the
1454 day of an election, primary or referendum.

1455 Sec. 28. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) In the case of a municipality, or
1456 a voting district within a municipality, in which, as reported in the
1457 decennial census of the United States, (1) the number of United States
1458 citizens of voting age in a single language minority group (A) is more
1459 than seven thousand five hundred, (B) makes up more than three per
1460 cent of all voting age citizens in such municipality or voting district, or
1461 (C) if on an Indian reservation, makes up more than three per cent of all
1462 reservation residents, or (2) the illiteracy rate of a single language
1463 minority group is higher than the national illiteracy rate, such
1464 municipality at any election, primary or referendum held within such
1465 municipality or voting district shall make available ballots in the
1466 language of each such language minority group to be used in such
1467 municipality or voting district at such election, primary or referendum.
1468 As used in this section, "language minority group" means American
1469 Indians, Asian Americans, Alaskan Natives or Spanish-heritage
1470 citizens.

1471 Sec. 29. Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1472 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1473 (a) Any elector eligible to vote at a primary or an election and any
1474 person eligible to vote at a referendum may vote by absentee ballot if
1475 such elector or person is unable to appear at such elector's or person's
1476 polling place [during the hours of voting] on the day of such primary,
1477 election or referendum for any of the following reasons: (1) Such
1478 elector's or person's active service with the armed forces of the United
1479 States; (2) such elector's or person's absence from the town of [such
1480 elector's or person's voting residence during all of the hours of voting]
1481 which such elector or person is an inhabitant; (3) [such elector's or
1482 person's illness] sickness; (4) [such elector's or person's] physical
1483 disability; (5) the tenets of such elector's or person's religion forbid
1484 secular activity; [on the day of the primary, election or referendum;] or
1485 (6) the required performance of such elector's or person's duties as a
1486 primary, election or referendum official, including as a town clerk or
1487 registrar of voters or as staff of the clerk or registrar, at a polling place
1488 other than such elector's or person's own during all of the hours of

1489 voting at such primary, election or referendum. [; or (7) for the state
1490 election in 2020, the sickness of COVID-19. As used in this section,
1491 "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World
1492 Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any
1493 related mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a
1494 communicable respiratory disease.]

1495 (b) No person shall misrepresent the eligibility requirements for
1496 voting by absentee ballot prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, to
1497 any elector or prospective absentee ballot applicant.

1498 Sec. 30. Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1499 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1500 [(a)] Each absentee ballot shall be returned to the municipal clerk,
1501 inserted in an inner envelope which shall be capable of being sealed and
1502 which shall have printed on its face a form containing the following
1503 statements:

1504 "I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee
1505 balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum
1506 in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I
1507 expect to be unable to appear at my polling place [during the hours of
1508 voting at] on the day of such primary, election or referendum for one or
1509 more of the following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces;
1510 (2) my absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote; [during all
1511 of the hours of voting; (3) my illness] (3) sickness or physical disability;
1512 (4) the tenets of my religion which forbid secular activity; [on the day of
1513 the primary, election or referendum;] or (5) my duties as a primary,
1514 election or referendum official.

1515 Date

1516 (Signature)"

1517 [(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
1518 for the state election in 2020, each inner envelope in which an absentee
1519 ballot is returned to the municipal clerk shall have printed on its face a

1520 form containing the following statements:

1521 "I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee
1522 balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum
1523 in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I
1524 expect to be unable to appear at my polling place during the hours of
1525 voting at such primary, election or referendum for one or more of the
1526 following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my
1527 absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote during all of the
1528 hours of voting; (3) my illness or physical disability; (4) the tenets of my
1529 religion which forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election
1530 or referendum; (5) my duties as a primary, election or referendum
1531 official; or (6) the sickness of COVID-19.

1532 Date

1533 (Signature)"]

1534 Sec. 31. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1535 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1536 Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be a United States
1537 citizen [,] and at least eighteen years of age, [and a resident of a town in
1538 this state] and shall not be on parole for conviction of a felony. Any
1539 individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating petition may
1540 serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating petition.

1541 Sec. 32. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the
1542 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1543 Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or the
1544 Secretary of the State and filed with the Secretary of the State under the
1545 provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall
1546 contain a statement as to the residency [in this state] and eligibility of
1547 the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed
1548 under [penalties] penalty of false statement, by the person who
1549 circulated the same. Such statement shall set forth (1) [such] the
1550 circulator's residence address, including the town [in this state] in which

1551 [such] the circulator is a resident, (2) if the circulator is not a resident in
1552 this state, that the circulator agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of the
1553 state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation
1554 of a petition pursuant to this subpart, (3) the circulator's date of birth
1555 and that the circulator is at least eighteen years of age, [(3)] (4) that the
1556 circulator is a United States citizen and not on parole for conviction of a
1557 felony, and [(4)] (5) that each person whose name appears on such page
1558 signed the same in person in the presence of [such] the circulator and
1559 that either the circulator knows each such signer or that the signer
1560 satisfactorily identified himself or herself to the circulator. Any false
1561 statement committed with respect to such statement shall be deemed to
1562 have been committed in the town in which the petition was circulated.

1563 Sec. 33. Subsection (a) of section 9-453k of the general statutes is
1564 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1565 *passage*):

1566 (a) The town clerk or Secretary of the State shall not accept any page
1567 of a nominating petition unless the circulator thereof has signed before
1568 [him] the clerk, the Secretary or an appropriate person as provided in
1569 section 1-29, the statement as to the residency [in this state] and
1570 eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures
1571 thereon required by section 9-453j, as amended by this act.

1572 Sec. 34. Subsection (a) of section 9-453o of the general statutes is
1573 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1574 *passage*):

1575 (a) The Secretary of the State may not count for purposes of
1576 determining compliance with the number of signatures required by
1577 section 9-453d the signatures certified by the town clerk on any petition
1578 page filed under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or 9-216 if: (1) The
1579 name of the candidate, [his] the candidate's address or the party
1580 designation, if any, has been omitted from the face of the petition; (2) the
1581 page does not contain a statement by the circulator as to the residency
1582 [in this state] and eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity
1583 of the signatures thereon as required by section 9-453j, as amended by

1584 this act, or upon which such statement of the circulator is incomplete in
1585 any respect; or (3) the page does not contain the certifications required
1586 by sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, by the town clerk of the town in
1587 which the signers reside. The town clerk shall cure any omission on his
1588 or her part by signing any such page at the office of the Secretary of the
1589 State and making the necessary amendment or by filing a separate
1590 statement in this regard, which amendment shall be dated.

1591 Sec. 35. Subsection (d) of section 9-404b of the general statutes is
1592 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1593 *passage*):

1594 (d) [Each] Any person qualified to vote under the laws of any state or
1595 territory of the United States may be a circulator of a primary petition
1596 page [shall be] if such person (1) is an enrolled party member of a
1597 municipality in this state, [Each] or (2) agrees to submit to the
1598 jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising out of or
1599 related to the circulation of a primary petition. For any circulator
1600 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, each petition page shall
1601 contain a statement signed by the registrar of voters of the municipality
1602 in which the circulator is an enrolled party member attesting that the
1603 circulator is an enrolled party member in the municipality. For any
1604 circulator described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each petition
1605 page shall contain a statement signed by such circulator that he or she
1606 agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or
1607 controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of a primary
1608 petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the registrar of
1609 voters of the municipality in which such page was circulated. Unless
1610 such a statement by the registrar [of voters] appears on each page so
1611 submitted, the Secretary shall reject the page. Each separate page of the
1612 petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures
1613 on the page and the number of such signatures, and shall be signed
1614 under the [penalties] penalty of false statement by the person who
1615 circulated the page, setting forth the circulator's address and the town
1616 in which the circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that
1617 each person whose name appears on the page signed the petition in

1618 person in the presence of the circulator, that the circulator either knows
1619 each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself or
1620 herself to the circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported,
1621 offices sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to the
1622 obtaining of the signatures. Each separate page of the petition shall also
1623 be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in section
1624 1-29. The Secretary shall reject any page of a petition filed with the
1625 Secretary which does not contain such a statement by the circulator as
1626 to the authenticity of the signatures on the page, or upon which the
1627 statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or which does
1628 not contain the certification required under this section by the registrar
1629 of the town in which the circulator is an enrolled party member. Any
1630 individual proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may serve
1631 as a circulator of the pages of the petition, provided the individual's
1632 service as circulator does not violate any provision of this section.

1633 Sec. 36. Subsection (c) of section 9-410 of the general statutes is
1634 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1635 *passage*):

1636 (c) [Each] Any person qualified to vote under the laws of any state or
1637 territory of the United States may be a circulator of a primary petition
1638 page [shall be] if such person (1) is an enrolled party member of a
1639 municipality in this state, [who is entitled to vote. Each] or (2) agrees to
1640 submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising
1641 out of or related to the circulation of a primary petition. For any
1642 circulator described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, each petition
1643 page shall contain a statement signed by the registrar of voters of the
1644 municipality in which such circulator is an enrolled party member
1645 attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in such
1646 municipality. For any circulator described in subdivision (2) of this
1647 subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by such
1648 circulator that he or she agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state
1649 in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of
1650 a primary petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the
1651 registrar of voters of the municipality in which such page was

1652 circulated. Unless such a statement by the registrar appears on each
1653 page so submitted, the registrar shall reject such page. No candidate for
1654 the nomination of a party for a municipal office or the position of town
1655 committee member shall circulate any petition for another candidate or
1656 another group of candidates contained in one primary petition for the
1657 nomination of such party for the same office or position, and any
1658 petition page circulated in violation of this provision shall be rejected by
1659 the registrar. No person shall circulate petitions for more than the
1660 maximum number of candidates to be nominated by a party for the
1661 same office or position, and any petition page circulated in violation of
1662 this provision shall be rejected by the registrar. Each separate sheet of
1663 such petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the
1664 signatures thereon and the number of such signatures, and shall be
1665 signed under the penalties of false statement by the person who
1666 circulated the same, setting forth such circulator's address and the town
1667 in which such circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that
1668 each person whose name appears on such sheet signed the same in
1669 person in the presence of such circulator, that the circulator either knows
1670 each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified the signer to
1671 the circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported, offices or
1672 positions sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to
1673 the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate sheet of such petition shall
1674 also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in
1675 section 1-29. Any sheet of a petition filed with the registrar which does
1676 not contain such a statement by the circulator as to the authenticity of
1677 the signatures thereon, or upon which the statement of the circulator is
1678 incomplete in any respect, or which does not contain the certification
1679 hereinbefore required by the registrar of the town in which the
1680 circulator is an enrolled party member, shall be rejected by the registrar.
1681 Any individual proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may
1682 serve as a circulator of the pages of such petition, provided such
1683 individual's service as circulator does not violate any provision of this
1684 section.

1685 Sec. 37. Section 9-450 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1686 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1687 (a) Nominations by major parties for any state, district or municipal
1688 office to be filled under the provisions of any law relating to elections to
1689 fill vacancies, unless otherwise provided therein, shall be made in
1690 accordance with the provisions of sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, as
1691 amended by this act.

1692 (b) (1) ~~[(A)]~~ In the case of nominations for representatives in Congress
1693 and judges of probate in probate districts composed of two or more
1694 towns, provided for in sections 9-212, as amended by this act, and 9-218,
1695 as amended by this act, the delegates to the convention for the last state
1696 election shall be the delegates for the purpose of selecting a candidate to
1697 fill such vacancy. If a vacancy occurs in the delegation from any town,
1698 political subdivision or district, such vacancy may be filled by the town
1699 committee of the town in which the delegate resided. Endorsements by
1700 political party conventions pursuant to this subsection may be made
1701 and certified at any time after the resignation or death creating such
1702 vacancy and not later than the fiftieth day before the day of the election.
1703 No such endorsement shall be effective until the presiding officer or
1704 secretary of any district convention has certified the endorsement to the
1705 Secretary of the State.

1706 ~~[(B)]~~ (2) If such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-
1707 fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or
1708 municipal election in November of any year, no primary shall be held
1709 for the nomination of any political party and the party-endorsed
1710 candidate so selected shall be deemed, for the purposes of this chapter,
1711 the person certified by the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-
1712 444 as the nominee of such party.

1713 ~~[(C)]~~ (3) Except as provided in [subparagraph (B) of this] subdivision
1714 (2) of this subsection, if a candidacy for nomination is filed by or on
1715 behalf of any person other than a party-endorsed candidate not later
1716 than [fourteen days] the day after the party endorsement and in
1717 conformity with the provisions of section 9-400, as amended by this act,
1718 a primary shall be held in each municipality of the district and each part
1719 of a municipality which is a component part of the district, to determine

1720 the nominee of such party for such office, except as provided in section
1721 9-416a. Such primary shall be held on the day that the writs of election
1722 issued by the Governor, pursuant to section 9-212, as amended by this
1723 act, ordered the election to be held, and new writs of election shall be
1724 issued by the Governor in accordance with section 9-212, as amended
1725 by this act.

1726 [(D)] (4) Unless the provisions of [subparagraph (B) of this]
1727 subdivision (2) of this subsection apply, petition forms for candidacies
1728 for nomination by a political party pursuant to this subdivision shall be
1729 available from the Secretary of the State beginning on the day following
1730 the issuance of writs of election by the Governor pursuant to section 9-
1731 212, as amended by this act, except when a primary has already been
1732 held, and the provisions of section 9-404a shall otherwise apply to such
1733 petitions.

1734 [(E)] (5) The registry lists used pursuant to this subsection shall be the
1735 last-completed lists, as provided in sections 9-172a and 9-172b.

1736 [(2)] (c) In the case of judges of probate in probate districts composed
1737 of a single town, the day named for the election shall be not earlier than
1738 the one hundred fifteenth day following the day on which the writ of
1739 election is issued, and the times specified in sections 9-391, 9-405 and 9-
1740 423 shall be applicable.

1741 [(3) (A)] (d) (1) In the case of nominations for senators in Congress
1742 provided for in section 9-211, as amended by this act, the delegates to
1743 the convention for the last state election shall be the delegates for the
1744 purpose of selecting a candidate to fill such vacancy. If a vacancy occurs
1745 in the delegation from any town or political subdivision, such vacancy
1746 may be filled by the town committee of the town in which the delegate
1747 resided. Endorsements by political party conventions pursuant to this
1748 subsection may be made and certified at any time after the resignation
1749 or death creating such vacancy and not later than the fifty-sixth day
1750 before the day of the primary. No such endorsement shall be effective
1751 until the presiding officer or secretary of any state convention has
1752 certified the endorsement to the Secretary of the State.

1753 [(B)] (2) If such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-
1754 fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or
1755 municipal election in November of any year, no primary shall be held
1756 for the nomination of any political party and the party-endorsed
1757 candidate so selected shall be deemed, for the purposes of this chapter,
1758 the person certified by the Secretary of the State, pursuant to section 9-
1759 444, as the nominee of such party. In such an event, endorsements by
1760 political party conventions shall be made not later than sixty days prior
1761 to the election.

1762 [(C)] (3) Except as provided in [subparagraph (B) of this] subdivision
1763 (2) of this subsection, if a candidacy for nomination is filed by or on
1764 behalf of any person other than a party-endorsed candidate not later
1765 than [fourteen days] the day after the party endorsement and in
1766 conformity with the provisions of section 9-400, as amended by this act,
1767 a primary shall be held on the fifty-sixth day prior to the day of the
1768 election in each municipality to determine the nominee of such party for
1769 such office, except as provided in section 9-416a.

1770 [(D)] (4) Unless the provisions of [subparagraph (B) of this]
1771 subdivision (2) of this subsection apply, petition forms for candidacies
1772 for nomination by a political party pursuant to this subdivision shall be
1773 available from the Secretary of the State beginning on the day following
1774 the issuance of writs of election by the Governor, pursuant to section 9-
1775 211, as amended by this act, except when a primary has already been
1776 held and the provisions of section 9-404a shall otherwise apply to such
1777 petitions.

1778 [(E)] (5) The registry lists used pursuant to this subsection shall be the
1779 last-completed lists, as provided in sections 9-172a and 9-172b.

1780 [(4)] (e) The times specified in sections 9-391, 9-405 and 9-423 shall be
1781 applicable to any special town election held to fill a vacancy in any town
1782 office under subsection (b) of section 9-164. Except as provided under
1783 subsection (c) of section 9-164, any election held to fill a vacancy in any
1784 municipal office under the provisions of any special act shall be held not
1785 earlier than the one hundred twenty-seventh day following the day

1786 upon which warning of such election is issued, and the times specified
1787 in sections 9-391, 9-405 and 9-423 shall be applicable.

1788 Sec. 38. Subsection (a) of section 9-212 of the general statutes is
1789 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1790 *passage*):

1791 (a) In case of a vacancy in the office of representative in Congress
1792 from any district, the Governor, except as otherwise provided by law,
1793 shall not more than ten days after the occurrence of such vacancy issue
1794 writs of election directed to the town clerks or assistant town clerks, in
1795 such district, ordering an election to be held on the sixtieth day after the
1796 issue of such writs on a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, to fill such
1797 vacancy, provided (1) if such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred
1798 twenty-fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state
1799 or municipal election in November of any year, the Governor shall so
1800 issue such writs on the sixtieth day before the day of such regular
1801 election, ordering an election to be held on the day of such regular
1802 election, (2) if such a vacancy occurs after the sixty-third day before the
1803 day of a regular state election but before the regular state election, the
1804 Governor shall not issue such writs and no election shall be held under
1805 this section, unless the position vacated is that of member-elect, in which
1806 case the Governor shall issue such writs and an election shall be held as
1807 provided in this section, and (3) if a primary for such office occurs
1808 pursuant to [subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1)] subdivision (3) of
1809 subsection (b) of section 9-450, as amended by this act, the Governor
1810 shall, within ten days following the filing of a candidacy for nomination
1811 by a person other than the party-endorsed candidate, issue new writs of
1812 election, in place of those first issued pursuant to this section.

1813 Sec. 39. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the general statutes is
1814 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1815 *passage*):

1816 (a) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any election or primary and
1817 not later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the
1818 Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, for any federal or

1819 state election or primary, or by the town clerk for any municipal election
1820 or primary, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit or, for
1821 an election or primary held on or after January 1, 2016, an electronic
1822 audit authorized under section 9-320g of the votes recorded in not less
1823 than five per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or
1824 municipality, whichever is applicable. For the purposes of this section,
1825 any central location used in a municipality for the counting of absentee
1826 ballots shall be deemed a voting district. Such manual or electronic audit
1827 shall be noticed in advance and be open to public observation. Any
1828 election official who participates in the administration and conduct of
1829 an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated by the
1830 municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such
1831 municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

1832 Sec. 40. Section 9-159q of the general statutes is repealed and the
1833 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1834 (a) As used in this section:

1835 (1) "Institution" means a veterans' health care facility, residential care
1836 home, health care facility for the handicapped, nursing home, rest home,
1837 mental health facility, alcohol or drug treatment facility, an infirmary
1838 operated by an educational institution for the care of its students, faculty
1839 and employees or an assisted living facility; and

1840 (2) "Designee" means an elector of the same town and political party
1841 as the appointing registrar of voters, which elector is not an employee
1842 of the institution at which supervised voting is conducted.

1843 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, [to the
1844 contrary,] if less than twenty of the patients in any institution in the state
1845 are electors, absentee ballots voted by such electors shall, upon request
1846 of either registrar of voters in the town of such electors' voting residence
1847 or the administrator of such institution, be voted under the supervision
1848 of such registrars of voters or their designees in accordance with the
1849 provisions of this section. The registrars of voters of a town other than
1850 the town in which an institution is located may refuse a request by the

1851 administrator of such institution when, in their written opinion, the
1852 registrars agree that such request is unnecessary, in which case this
1853 section shall not apply. Such registrars shall inform the administrator
1854 and the town clerk of the electors' town of voting residence of their
1855 refusal.

1856 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, such request
1857 shall be made in writing and filed with the town clerk and registrars of
1858 voters of the town of such electors' voting residence, not more than
1859 forty-five days prior to an election or thirty-four days prior to a primary
1860 and not later than the seventh day prior to an election or primary. The
1861 request shall specify the name and location of the institution and the
1862 date and time when the registrars of voters or their designees shall
1863 supervise the casting of absentee ballots at the institution. The request
1864 shall also specify one or more alternate dates and times when
1865 supervised voting may occur. No request shall specify a date or an
1866 alternate date for supervised voting which is later than the last business
1867 day before the election or primary.

1868 (d) The town clerk shall not mail or otherwise deliver an absentee
1869 ballot to an applicant who is a patient in any institution if a request for
1870 supervision of absentee balloting at that institution has been filed with
1871 the clerk during the period set forth in subsection (c) of this section. The
1872 clerk shall instead deliver such ballot or ballots to the registrars of voters
1873 or their designees who will supervise the voting of such ballots in
1874 accordance with this section.

1875 (e) Except in the case of a written refusal as provided in subsection
1876 (b) of this section, upon receipt of a request for supervision of absentee
1877 balloting during the period set forth in subsection (c) of this section, the
1878 registrar or registrars of voters who received the request shall inform
1879 the registrar or administrator who made the request and the town clerk
1880 as to the date and time when such supervision shall occur, which shall
1881 be the date and time contained in the request or the alternate date and
1882 time contained in the request. If the registrar or registrars fail to select
1883 either date, the supervision shall take place on the date and time

1884 contained in the request. If a request for supervision of absentee
1885 balloting at an institution is filed during the period set forth in
1886 subsection (c) of this section and the town clerk receives an application
1887 for an absentee ballot from a patient in the institution after the date
1888 when supervised balloting occurred, either registrar of voters may
1889 request, in writing, to the appropriate town clerk and registrars of voters
1890 that the supervision of the voting of absentee ballots at such institution
1891 in accordance with this section be repeated, and in such case the
1892 registrars or their designees shall supervise absentee balloting at such
1893 institution on the date and at the time specified in the subsequent
1894 request, which shall be not later than the last business day before the
1895 election or primary.

1896 (f) On the date when the supervision of absentee balloting at any
1897 institution is to occur, the town clerk shall deliver to the registrars or
1898 their designees the absentee ballots and envelopes for all applicants who
1899 are electors of such clerk's town and patients at such institution. The
1900 ballot and envelopes shall be prepared for delivery to the applicant as
1901 provided in sections 9-137 to 9-140a, inclusive. The registrars or their
1902 designees shall furnish the town clerk a written receipt for such ballots.

1903 (g) The registrars or their designees, as the case may be, shall jointly
1904 deliver the ballots to the respective applicants at the institution and shall
1905 jointly supervise the voting of such ballots. The ballots shall be returned
1906 to the registrars or their designees by the electors in the envelopes
1907 provided and in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-137, 9-139
1908 and 9-140a. If any elector asks for assistance in voting his ballot, two
1909 registrars or their designees of different political parties or, for a
1910 primary, their designees of different candidates, shall render such
1911 assistance as they deem necessary and appropriate to enable such
1912 elector to vote his ballot. The registrars or their designees may reject a
1913 ballot when (1) the elector declines to vote a ballot, or (2) the registrars
1914 or their designees are unable to determine how the elector who has
1915 requested their assistance desires to vote the ballot. When the registrars
1916 or their designees reject a ballot, they shall mark the serially-numbered
1917 outer envelope "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection. Nothing in

1918 this section shall limit the right of an elector to vote his ballot in secret.

1919 (h) After all ballots have been voted or marked "rejected" in
1920 accordance with subsection (g) of this section, the registrars or their
1921 designees shall jointly deliver or mail them in the envelopes, which shall
1922 be sealed, to the appropriate town clerk, who shall retain them until
1923 delivered in accordance with section 9-140c.

1924 (i) When an institution is located in a town having a primary, the
1925 registrar in that town of the party holding the primary shall appoint for
1926 each such institution, one designee of the party-endorsed candidates
1927 and one designee of the contestants from the lists, if any, submitted by
1928 the party-endorsed candidates and contestants. Such registrar shall
1929 notify all party-endorsed candidates and all contestants of their right to
1930 submit a list of potential designees under this section. Each party-
1931 endorsed candidate and each contestant may submit to such registrar in
1932 writing a list of names of potential designees, provided any such list
1933 shall be submitted not later than ten days before the primary. If no such
1934 lists are submitted within said period, such registrar shall appoint one
1935 designee of the party-endorsed candidates and one designee of the
1936 contestants. Each designee appointed pursuant to this section shall be
1937 sworn to the faithful performance of his duties, and the registrar shall
1938 file a certificate of each designation with his town clerk.

1939 (j) Any registrar of voters who has filed a request that the absentee
1940 balloting at an institution be supervised and any registrar required to
1941 conduct a supervision of voting under this section, who neglects to
1942 perform any of the duties required of him by this section so as to cause
1943 any elector to lose his vote shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. Any
1944 registrar from the same town as a registrar who has filed such a request
1945 may waive his right to participate in the supervision of absentee
1946 balloting.

1947 (k) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, [to the contrary,] if
1948 the spouse or a child of a registrar of voters or a dependent relative
1949 residing in the registrar's household is a candidate in the election or
1950 primary for which supervised absentee voting is to occur, such registrar

1951 shall not supervise such absentee voting but may designate the deputy
1952 registrar of voters or an assistant registrar of voters, appointed by the
1953 registrar pursuant to section 9-192, to supervise the absentee voting in
1954 his place.

1955 (l) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, [if a town
1956 clerk receives twenty or more absentee ballot applications from the same
1957 street address in a town, including, but not limited to, an apartment
1958 building or complex, absentee ballots voted by the electors submitting
1959 such applications may, at the discretion of the registrars of voters of such
1960 town, be voted under the supervision of such registrars of voters or their
1961 designees in accordance with the same procedures set forth in this
1962 section for supervised absentee voting at institutions.] the Secretary of
1963 the State may suspend the supervision of absentee balloting under this
1964 section and section 9-159r, provided the Secretary (1) suspends such
1965 supervision of absentee balloting in recognition of a declaration by the
1966 Governor of a civil preparedness emergency, pursuant to section 28-9,
1967 or a public health emergency, pursuant to section 19a-131, and (2)
1968 submits a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing
1969 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1970 relating to elections advising of such suspension and specifying
1971 alternative actions to be taken to provide opportunities for absentee
1972 voting by electors described in this section and section 9-159r.

1973 Sec. 41. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) In the case of an elector unable
1974 to appear at such elector's polling place because of a visual impairment,
1975 the Secretary of the State shall electronically provide to such elector an
1976 absentee ballot in a format capable of being read by a computer-related
1977 device and printed. Each such ballot signed by such elector, returned to
1978 the municipal clerk in accordance with section 9-140b of the general
1979 statutes, as amended by this act, and that otherwise satisfies all
1980 requirements for returned absentee ballots shall be counted.

1981 Sec. 42. Subsection (a) of section 9-164 of the general statutes is
1982 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
1983 *1, 2023*):

1984 (a) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, there shall be
1985 held in each municipality, biennially, a municipal election [on the first
1986 Monday of May or the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, of
1987 the odd-numbered years, whichever date the legislative body of such
1988 municipality determines, provided, if no action is taken by the
1989 legislative body to so designate the date of such election, such election
1990 shall be held] on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the
1991 odd-numbered years. In any municipality where the term of any elected
1992 official would expire prior to the next regular election held under the
1993 provisions of this section, the term of such official shall be extended to
1994 the date of such election.

1995 Sec. 43. Section 9-164a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1996 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1997 Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, in any municipality
1998 in which the date of the municipal election has been, or will be, changed
1999 to the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the odd-
2000 numbered years under section 9-164, as amended by this act, and in
2001 which the terms of office of one or more elected municipal officers had
2002 not, or will have not, expired at the time of the holding of the first
2003 municipal election in accordance with such changed date under said
2004 section, the legislative body of such municipality shall, prior to [July 25,
2005 1969] January 1, 2023, provide for a reasonable method of transition for
2006 such offices which may include reasonable extension of such terms and
2007 provision for interim terms. Except as provided in sections 9-164b, as
2008 amended by this act, 9-164d to 9-164f, inclusive, as amended by this act,
2009 9-187 and 9-187a, as amended by this act, in the absence of such action
2010 by such legislative body, the terms of any such officers which do not
2011 terminate within three months after such first or a subsequent municipal
2012 election held under said section 9-164 shall be extended to the municipal
2013 election next held after the expiration of such terms, or to such date,
2014 within seventy days after such election, on which the terms of municipal
2015 officers generally begin in such municipality, at which election
2016 successors shall be elected for the terms provided for by law or for such
2017 other transitional terms as are necessary to provide the rotation required

2018 by law. The clerk of the municipality, in preparing the list provided for
2019 under section 9-254, shall set forth such terms or transitional terms
2020 therein.

2021 Sec. 44. Section 9-164b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2022 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2023 As to any board or commission with a rotating membership, some of
2024 the members of which, prior to the change to a uniform municipal
2025 election date to the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the
2026 odd-numbered years under section 9-164, as amended by this act, were
2027 elected for terms beginning approximately one year after the date of
2028 their election, the legislative body may provide for such conforming
2029 changes in the beginning date of the terms of office as are designed to
2030 continue the rotation with regard to such office as it existed prior to such
2031 change, and in the absence of such action by such legislative body, the
2032 beginning date of the terms of such office shall be so changed by the
2033 clerk of the municipality in preparing the list provided for under section
2034 9-254. With respect to any board or commission with a rotating
2035 membership established under sections 8-1, 8-4a, 8-5 and 8-19, the
2036 authority empowered to prescribe the term of office of the members of
2037 such board or commission, if it is authorized under said sections to
2038 provide for an odd-numbered year term, may further provide for
2039 deferred terms by prescribing which terms are to begin approximately
2040 one year from the date on which the terms of municipal officers
2041 generally begin in such municipality.

2042 Sec. 45. Section 9-187a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2043 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):

2044 (a) (1) Except as provided in sections 9-164a, as amended by this act,
2045 9-164b, as amended by this act, 9-164d to 9-164f, inclusive, as amended
2046 by this act, and subdivision (2) of this subsection, (A) the term of each
2047 [elected] municipal official elected at a municipal election, other than
2048 town clerk and treasurer, shall begin [within seventy days after the
2049 municipal election at which such official is elected, on the day within
2050 such period prescribed by special act or charter provision, or, in the

2051 absence of such special act or charter provision, on the day within such
2052 period as is prescribed by action of the legislative body of such
2053 municipality, provided (1) in each municipality which holds its
2054 municipal election on the first Monday of May in the odd-numbered
2055 years, in the absence of such special act or charter provision, or action of
2056 the legislative body, such terms shall begin on the first day of July
2057 following the municipal election at which such official is elected, and (2)
2058 in each municipality which holds its municipal election on the Tuesday
2059 after the first Monday of November in the odd-numbered years, with
2060 the exception of the term of the town clerk, in the absence of such special
2061 act, or charter provision, or action of the legislative body, such term shall
2062 begin on the second Tuesday next] (i) December first next following the
2063 day of [the municipal election at which such official is elected] such
2064 municipal election, or (ii) such other day as may be prescribed by special
2065 act for a municipal election held on the Tuesday after the first Monday
2066 of November of the odd-numbered years, and [(3) in each municipality
2067 which holds its municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday
2068 in November in the odd-numbered years,] (B) the term of the town clerk
2069 [shall be two years from] or the treasurer, as applicable, elected at a
2070 municipal election shall begin on the first Monday of January next
2071 [succeeding his election, unless otherwise provided by charter or special
2072 act] following the day of such municipal election. Whenever the
2073 beginning date of the terms of elected municipal officials is so
2074 determined or changed, within the limits hereinabove specified, the
2075 authority providing therefor may provide for the conforming
2076 diminution or extension of terms of incumbents.

2077 (2) The legislative body of a municipality may provide for a deferred
2078 beginning date, not to exceed one year from the applicable date set forth
2079 in subdivision (1) of this subsection, of the term of any office to be
2080 elected at a municipal election.

2081 (b) In the case of a special election to fill a vacancy in an elected
2082 municipal office, which special election is combined with a regular
2083 election pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-164, the person elected
2084 to fill such vacancy shall begin to serve the unexpired portion of his or

2085 her predecessor's term on the applicable date provided in subsection (a)
2086 of this section.

2087 Sec. 46. Section 9-189a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2088 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):

2089 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 9-189 and 9-190a, any
2090 town or municipality may, by charter or ordinance, provide that the
2091 treasurer or the town clerk of [said] such town or municipality, or the
2092 registrars of voters of [said] such town, or any of such officers, shall, at
2093 the next [succeeding] following regular election for such office and
2094 thereafter, be elected for a term of four years. In such event, such four-
2095 year term shall begin on the first Monday of January [succeeding] next
2096 following an election for treasurer or town clerk, [except as provided in
2097 section 9-187a, and from] and on the Wednesday following the first
2098 Monday of January succeeding an election for registrars of voters. [,
2099 provided, if any such town or municipality holds its town or municipal
2100 election on the first Monday of May of the odd-numbered years, the
2101 term of such treasurer or town clerk shall begin on the first day of July
2102 following the election, except as provided in section 9-187a.]

2103 Sec. 47. Subsection (a) of section 9-32 of the general statutes is
2104 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
2105 *1, 2023*):

2106 (a) In each municipality the registrars, between January first and May
2107 first, annually, shall cause either (1) a complete house to house canvass
2108 to be made in person of each residence on each street, avenue or road
2109 within such municipality, (2) a complete canvass to be made by mail of
2110 each residence located on each street, avenue or road within such
2111 municipality, provided, upon agreement of both registrars, the National
2112 Change of Address System of the United States Postal Service may be
2113 used instead of such mailing, (3) a complete canvass to be made by
2114 telephone of each residence located on each street, avenue or road
2115 within such municipality, or (4) a complete canvass of each residence
2116 within such municipality by any combination of such methods, for the
2117 purpose of ascertaining the name of any elector formerly residing on

2118 such street, avenue or road who has removed therefrom. [; provided in
 2119 the odd-numbered years, no canvass need be conducted by the
 2120 registrars in a town which holds its regular municipal election on the
 2121 first Monday of May in odd-numbered years.] The Secretary of the State
 2122 shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54
 2123 setting forth the procedure to be followed in conducting any such
 2124 canvass by either mail or telephone.

2125 Sec. 48. Section 9-164e of the general statutes is repealed and the
 2126 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):

2127 Before any action is taken under sections 9-164a, as amended by this
 2128 act, 9-164b to 9-164f, inclusive, as amended by this act, 9-187 and 9-187a,
 2129 as amended by this act, such proposed action shall be submitted by the
 2130 legislative body to the municipal attorney of the municipality taking
 2131 such action for approval as to conforming to law.

2132 Sec. 49. Section 9-164f of the general statutes is repealed and the
 2133 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):

2134 Nothing in sections 9-164a, [to] as amended by this act, 9-164b, as
 2135 amended by this act, 9-164d, 9-164e, as amended by this act, [inclusive,]
 2136 9-187 and 9-187a, as amended by this act, shall affect the election of
 2137 registrars of voters.

2138 Sec. 50. Section 9-164c of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 2139 *January 1, 2023*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-19h(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-19i
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	9-23n
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	9-23o
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	9-23p
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-17(c)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	1-4

Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-12(a)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-20
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	9-261
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	9-19j
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	9-45
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	9-46
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	9-46a
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	9-236
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	9-225(a)
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	9-226
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	9-140(a) and (b)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	9-140b(a) to (c)
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	9-140c
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	9-140e
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	9-147a
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	9-150e
Sec. 26	<i>from passage</i>	9-159o
Sec. 27	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 28	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-135
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-137
Sec. 31	<i>from passage</i>	9-453e
Sec. 32	<i>from passage</i>	9-453j
Sec. 33	<i>from passage</i>	9-453k(a)
Sec. 34	<i>from passage</i>	9-453o(a)
Sec. 35	<i>from passage</i>	9-404b(d)
Sec. 36	<i>from passage</i>	9-410(c)
Sec. 37	<i>from passage</i>	9-450
Sec. 38	<i>from passage</i>	9-212(a)
Sec. 39	<i>from passage</i>	9-320f(a)
Sec. 40	<i>from passage</i>	9-159q
Sec. 41	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 42	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-164(a)
Sec. 43	<i>from passage</i>	9-164a
Sec. 44	<i>from passage</i>	9-164b
Sec. 45	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-187a
Sec. 46	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-189a
Sec. 47	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-32(a)
Sec. 48	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-164e
Sec. 49	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-164f

Sec. 50

January 1, 2023

Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Sections 1(b)(2)(B)(i) and 3(b)(2)(B)(i), "such person's residence" was changed to "the town of residence of such person" for accuracy and consistency; in Sections 1(b)(2)(C) and 3(b)(2)(C), "in which such elector resides" was changed to "of residence of such elector" for consistency; Section 4(1), "services a mail" was changed to "services, a mail" for clarity; in Section 7(c)(2), "as well as" was changed to "and" for consistency; in Section 9, "provided such employee shall request" was changed to "if the employee requests" for accuracy; in Section 11(a)(2), the first sentence was rephrased for conciseness; in Sections 12(f) and 13(j), "provided such legal representative shall submit" was changed to "if such legal representative submits" for accuracy; in Section 13(k), "in behalf of" was changed to "[in] on behalf of" for consistency; in Section 14(a), "violation or parole" was changed to "violation of parole" for accuracy; in Section 17(b)(1)(A), "in behalf of" was changed to "[in] on behalf of" for consistency; in Section 17(b)(1)(B), "or parked motor vehicle" was inserted for accuracy; in Section 17(b)(2), references to "subdivision (1) of this subsection" were changed to references to "subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this section" for accuracy, and "in lieu of the markers required by said subparagraph" was added for clarity; in Section 19(1), "fifteen, nor less" was changed to "fifteen [,] nor less" for consistency; in Section 19(2), "fifteen, nor less" was changed to "fifteen nor less" for consistency; in Section 25, "subsection [(c)] (b)" was changed to "subsection (c)" for accuracy; and in Section 39(a), "applicable, except that, for" was changed to "applicable. For" for clarity.

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 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	Significant	Significant

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

This bill makes numerous changes to election and voting laws that will result in costs to the state and municipalities.

Sections 1 - 5 require DMV, voter registration agencies, and public higher education institutions to use a Secretary of the State-approved electronic system to automatically transmit voter registration applications for qualified applicants to registrars of voters unless the applicants decline to apply for admission. The cost¹ for this electronic system will depend on the technology selected and the RFP process.

Section 6 requires the Secretary of the State to develop and implement one or more systems through which she may allow individuals to submit an electronic signature to sign elections-related forms and applications, other than those for campaign finance purposes.

^{1,2} On April 16, 2021, The Office of the Secretary of the State was allocated \$4 million on bond funds from the IT Capital Investment program for various election technology upgrades.

The cost² for this electronic signature system will depend on the technology selected and the RFP process.

Section 8 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. The Secretary of the State would incur costs, estimated at up to \$35,000, for overtime pay for certain employees to work on Election day if it is a legal state holiday. In addition, certain municipalities may incur overtime costs for staff and police to work on Election Day.

Sections 14 - 16 make various changes affecting elections, including the forfeiture and restoration of electoral privileges for certain individuals convicted of a felony, voter registration, and polling place challengers. Under current law, an individual imprisoned for a felony regains the right to vote and accompanying electoral privileges after paying all fines and completing any required prison and parole time. The bill will result in an indeterminate revenue loss from reduced collection of criminal fines and penalties.

Section 20 allows people to apply to the Secretary of the State for an absentee ballot using either a telephonic system or an online system, both of which the secretary must establish and maintain for that purpose. In both cases, an applicant's signature must be obtained from a state or federal agency's database, or another state's voter registration database, and imported into the telephonic or online system. This will result in significant costs estimated at more than \$1 million.

Sections 21, 22 & 24 -26 make permanent certain changes affecting absentee voting procedures that were implemented for the 2020 state election as a result of COVID-19. It permits absentee ballots to be deposited into a secure drop box for elections. As drop boxes were ordered for absentee ballots for the 2020 primary election, no additional costs are anticipated as a result of this provision. Additionally, this section requires municipal clerks to retrieve absentee ballots deposited

to such drop boxes beginning twenty-nine days before the election and each weekday thereafter until the polls close. If said drop box is located outside of a building other than where the clerk's office is located, the clerk, or their designee, must be escorted by a police officer. Minimal costs may be incurred if town staff and local police departments cannot handle this provision with current staffing levels. The other absentee ballot voting procedure provisions are not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on the state or municipalities.

Section 28 requires municipalities and voting districts to make ballots available in a language minority group's language for primaries, elections, and referenda under certain circumstances. This provision is anticipated to result in a cost of \$30,000 to the Secretary of the State.

Sections 42 - 44 & 46 - 50 require each municipality to hold its biennial municipal election in November of odd-numbered years unless its legislative body votes by a two-thirds majority to hold the election in May of odd numbered years. After January 1, 2022, the bill authorizes any municipality holding its biennial municipal election in May to instead hold the election in November through a majority vote of its legislative body. This provision has no fiscal impact as it shifts election costs from May to November in odd-numbered years.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 5****AN ACT CONCERNING INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING, SAFE AND SECURE IN-PERSON VOTING, VOTER REGISTRATION AND CERTAIN OTHER CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

§§ 1-5 — ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRANSMITTING VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Requires DMV, voter registration agencies, and public higher education institutions to use a secretary of the state-approved and NVRA-compliant electronic system to automatically transmit voter registration applications for qualified applicants to registrars of voters unless an applicant declines to apply for admission

§ 6 — E-SIGNATURE SYSTEM

Requires the secretary of the state to implement an e-signature system for most elections-related forms and applications

§ 7 — DISTRIBUTING VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION AT HIGH SCHOOLS

Requires registrars of voters to annually distribute voter registration information at public high schools

§ 8 — ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY

Designates Election Day as a legal state holiday, removes the designation of Lincoln's Birthday as a legal state holiday, and renames Washington's Birthday as Presidents' Day

§ 9 — TIME OFF TO VOTE

Requires employers to give an employee two hours of paid time off for state elections and certain special elections if he or she requests it in advance

§§ 10-13 — VOTERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Eliminates the prohibition on mentally incompetent people being admitted as electors; allows people with developmental disabilities to have a legal representative assist them with registering to vote and voting

§§ 13 & 17 — POSSESSING A FIREARM NEAR A POLLING PLACE OR EDR LOCATION

Prohibits anyone from possessing a firearm within a 200-foot radius of a polling place or EDR location; requires local officials to follow the same procedures for securing the 200-foot radius around a polling place as existing law requires for the 75-foot radius around a polling place

§§ 14-16 — VOTING RIGHTS FOR INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF A FELONY

Eliminates the forfeiture of convicted felons' electoral privileges (i.e., voting rights) if they are committed to confinement in an in-state or out-of-state community residence; restores these privileges to convicted felons who are on parole or special parole or who are confined in a community residence

§§ 18 & 19 — ELECTION NOTICES

Requires town clerks to post notices for state and municipal elections on the town website

§ 20 — ONLINE OR TELEPHONIC SYSTEM FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS

Allows people to apply to the secretary of the state for an absentee ballot using a telephonic or online system, both of which the secretary must establish and maintain

§ 21 — ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN BY SIBLINGS AND DESIGNEES

Expands who is eligible to return absentee ballots on behalf of a voter as an immediate family member or designee

§§ 21-22 & 24-26 — CHANGES IMPLEMENTED FOR THE 2020 STATE ELECTION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

Makes permanent certain changes affecting absentee voting procedures that were implemented for the 2020 state election as a result of COVID-19

§ 23 — PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS

Makes electors suffering from a long-term illness eligible for permanent absentee ballot status, among other things

§ 27 — VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Generally limits disclosure of certain voter registration information

§ 28 — BALLOTS FOR LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS

Requires municipalities and voting districts to make ballots available in a language minority group's language under certain circumstances

§§ 29-30 — EXPANDED ABSENTEE VOTING AUTHORIZATION

Expands two of the six statutory reasons for which qualified voters may vote by absentee ballot

§§ 31-36 — PETITION CIRCULATORS

Eliminates the prohibition on out-of-state residents circulating primary and nominating petitions

§§ 37 & 38 — DEADLINE TO CHALLENGE CERTAIN CANDIDATES

Moves up the deadline by which a challenger must file a candidacy for nomination against the party-endorsed candidate in a special election for (1) judge of probate in a multi-town district or (2) a member of Congress

§ 39 — POST-ELECTION AUDITS

Subjects centrally-counted absentee ballots to post-election audits

§ 40 — SUPERVISED ABSENTEE VOTING

Authorizes the secretary of the state to suspend supervised absentee voting or mandatory supervised absentee voting in recognition of a public health or civil preparedness emergency

§ 41 — ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ELECTORS WITH A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Requires the secretary of the state to provide electors who are unable to appear at their polling place because of a visual impairment with an electronic absentee ballot

§§ 42-44 & 46-50 — MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATE

Requires each municipality to hold its biennial municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years; extends existing provisions on transitioning and deferring terms of office to, and establishes new provisions for, municipalities that change their election date

§ 45 — START DATE FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE TERMS

Generally requires that municipal officials' terms begin on December 1 following a municipal election

BACKGROUND

§§ 1-5 — ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRANSMITTING VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Requires DMV, voter registration agencies, and public higher education institutions to use a secretary of the state-approved and NVRA-compliant electronic system to automatically transmit voter registration applications for qualified applicants to registrars of voters unless an applicant declines to apply for admission

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

The bill requires DMV, voter registration agencies, and public higher education institutions to use a secretary of the state-approved electronic system to automatically transmit voter registration applications for qualified applicants to registrars of voters unless the applicants decline to apply for admission. The system must also comply with the National

Voter Registration Act (NVRA) (see BACKGROUND). (In practice, DMV must already do this under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the agencies (see BACKGROUND).)

The bill also makes several technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except that the changes affecting voter registration agencies and public higher education institutions are effective January 1, 2022.

Eligibility Verification

By law, voter registration forms include a statement that specifies each eligibility requirement and an attestation that the applicant meets each requirement (CGS § 9-20). The bill allows DMV, voter registration agencies, and public higher education institutions to waive attestation for any requirement for which they can verify an applicant's eligibility independently through a federally approved identity verification program or through other acceptable evidence. The electronic system may provide for transmittal of applicants' signatures on file with DMV, a voter registration agency, or public higher education institution, as applicable, to the secretary of the state.

The bill prohibits DMV, voter registration agencies, and public higher education institutions from processing voter registration applications using the electronic system if they determine that an individual applying for a credential, service, or assistance is not a U.S. citizen. If they cannot determine whether the individual is a U.S. citizen, then the applicant must attest to his or her citizenship prior to DMV, a voter registration agency, or a public higher institution may process the voter registration application through the electronic system.

Transmittal

Under the bill, if DMV determines that an applicant for a motor vehicle driver's license or renewal, or for an identity card (i.e., "DMV credential"), meets each eligibility requirement for admission as an elector, then the commissioner must use an electronic system to immediately transmit a voter registration application for that individual

unless he or she declines to apply for admission. Similarly, if a voter registration agency or public higher education institution determines that an applicant for assistance or services meets each eligibility requirement for admission as an elector, then the agency or institution must use an electronic system to immediately transmit a voter registration application for that individual unless he or she declines to apply for admission. In all cases, the application must be transmitted to the registrar of voters in the municipality where the individual resides.

Party Enrollment

Under the bill, if the system removes an elector from a political party's enrollment list because he or she did not affirmatively confirm an intent to continue enrollment, the removal must be presumed unintentional. In that case, the bill requires that the elector be restored to the party's enrollment list after the appropriate registrars of voters is notified.

Address Changes

The bill additionally requires DMV to use a secretary of the state-approved electronic system to notify registrars of voters of address changes for voter registration purposes. Under the bill, the electronic system (1) may provide for the transmittal of an applicant's signature, on file with DMV, to the secretary of the state and (2) must comply with NVRA requirements.

If DMV uses such a system, the secretary of the state may (1) prescribe alternative procedures for sending required information to electors who are removed from the registry list because they have moved out of town and (2) waive the requirement that registrars send the mail-in voter registration form to these electors.

§ 6 — E-SIGNATURE SYSTEM

Requires the secretary of the state to implement an e-signature system for most elections-related forms and applications

The bill requires the secretary of the state to develop and implement one or more systems through which she may allow individuals to submit an electronic signature to sign elections-related forms and

applications, other than those for campaign finance purposes. It gives the secretary the discretion to determine the forms or applications included in the system. Under the bill, any form or application with such an electronic signature appearing on it is deemed to have the original signature.

The bill requires a state agency to provide any information to the secretary, upon her request, that she deems necessary to maintain the system or systems. The bill prohibits the secretary from using the information obtained from any state agency except for purposes of the elections-related e-signature system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 7 — DISTRIBUTING VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION AT HIGH SCHOOLS

Requires registrars of voters to annually distribute voter registration information at public high schools

By law, registrars of voters must hold a voter registration session between January 1 and the last day of school in each public high school in the municipality. In regional school districts, registrars of each member municipality hold the sessions on a rotating basis.

The bill requires registrars of voters to annually distribute information, on the fourth Tuesday in September, at each public high school about the qualifications and procedures for registering to vote. Under the bill, registrars and the principal of any public high school must determine the best distribution method. (Presumably, in regional school districts, registrars would distribute information on a rotating basis.)

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 8 — ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY

Designates Election Day as a legal state holiday, removes the designation of Lincoln's Birthday as a legal state holiday, and renames Washington's Birthday as Presidents' Day

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 (1) removes the designation of Lincoln's Birthday, which is February 12 of each year, as a legal state holiday and (2) renames Washington's Birthday, which is the third Monday in February of each year, as Presidents' Day.

By law, full-time, permanent state employees receive paid time off for legal holidays (CGS § 5-254). (As the bill changes one date, but not the number of legal state holidays, it presumably would not be considered a change in working conditions requiring negotiation with public employee collective bargaining units.) Legal state holidays are also bank and credit union holidays, during which time bank and credit union transactions are generally suspended (CGS § 36a-23). Private employers are not required to provide employees with a day off (paid or unpaid) on legal holidays and therefore can require their employees to work on these days.

In practice, the decision to close public schools on Election Day (many of which are used as polling places) is made by each public school district. By law, 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

§ 9 — TIME OFF TO VOTE

Requires employers to give an employee two hours of paid time off for state elections and certain special elections if he or she requests it in advance

The bill requires employers to give an employee two hours of paid time off from his or her regularly-scheduled work on the day of a regular state election to vote, if the employee requests it in advance. In the case of a special election for a U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, state senator, or state representative, the requirement applies only to employees who are already electors.

In both cases, the time off must occur during regular voting hours (i.e., from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.), and the employee must make the request at least two working days before the election. (The bill does not specify what happens if employers deny time-off requests.)

By law, Connecticut conducts Election Day Registration (EDR) during regular, but not special, elections (see BACKGROUND). Therefore, under the bill, it appears that employees who are not yet electors may take time off to register to vote through EDR for a regular state election, if qualified, and then vote.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — EDR

Connecticut conducts EDR during regular state and municipal elections. Under EDR, a person may register to vote and cast a ballot on election day if he or she meets the eligibility requirements for voting in Connecticut and is (1) not already an elector or (2) registered in one municipality but wants to change his or her registration because he or she currently resides in another municipality (CGS § 9-19j).

§§ 10-13 — VOTERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Eliminates the prohibition on mentally incompetent people being admitted as electors; allows people with developmental disabilities to have a legal representative assist them with registering to vote and voting

The bill makes changes affecting the voting rights of people with developmental disabilities. Principally, it (1) eliminates the prohibition on mentally incompetent people being admitted as electors and (2) allows people with developmental disabilities to have a legal representative assist them with registering to vote and with voting.

Under the bill, “legal representative” means a court-appointed fiduciary, including a guardian or conservator, or a person with power of attorney authorized to act on a person’s behalf.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Registering to Vote (§ 11)

The bill allows a person with a developmental disability, as determined by a licensed primary care physician, to have a legal representative assist them with registering to vote in person (i.e., apply for electoral admission). When such a person applies, the applicant or his or her legal representative must give the admitting official documentation from a licensed physician indicating that the physician has determined that the applicant has a developmental disability.

By law, a person who registers to vote in person must, among other things, (1) state his or her name, bona fide address, birthdate, and whether he or she is a U.S. citizen; (2) present a birth certificate, drivers' license, or Social Security card; and (3) sign a statement on the application attesting that he or she meets each eligibility requirement. The statement and signed application must be delivered under penalty of perjury, which by law is a class D felony punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both (CGS § 53a-156).

Under the bill, a legal representative may assist a person with a developmental disability with the above voter registration procedures. In addition, a legal representative may sign the voter registration application statement for the applicant.

Voting (§§ 12 & 13)

The bill allows a legal representative to accompany a voter with a developmental disability into the polling place on the day of a primary, election, or referendum. The representative may assist the voter with performing any action authorized by law, including with voting and with registering to vote at an EDR location. The legal representative must present to the registrar of voters or other election official proof of his or her relationship with the voter.

§§ 13 & 17 — POSSESSING A FIREARM NEAR A POLLING PLACE OR EDR LOCATION

Prohibits anyone from possessing a firearm within a 200-foot radius of a polling place or EDR location; requires local officials to follow the same procedures for securing the 200-foot radius around a polling place as existing law requires for the 75-foot radius around a polling place

Existing law generally prohibits anyone from soliciting support for or opposition to a candidate or a ballot question within a 75-foot radius of the outside entrance to a polling place, in a hallway or other approach leading from the entrance, or in a room opening upon any such hallway or approach (the “75-foot rule”). The bill additionally prohibits anyone from possessing a firearm within a 200-foot radius of a polling place (the “200-foot rule”).

Similarly, existing law prohibits anyone from soliciting support for or opposition to a candidate or a ballot question within a 75-foot radius of the outside entrance to an EDR location, in a hallway or other approach leading from the entrance, or in a room opening upon any such hallway or approach. The bill additionally prohibits anyone from possessing a firearm within a 200-foot radius of an EDR location.

The bill exempts from these prohibitions a uniformed, on-duty police officer or a firearm located in a residence or parked car within that radius.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Procedures

For polling places, the bill requires local officials to follow the same procedures for the 200-foot rule as existing law requires for the 75-foot rule. Principally, this means that the (1) selectmen must provide suitable markers indicating the 200-foot radius and (2) moderator and moderator’s assistants must meet at least 20 minutes before the polls open to have a police officer, or primary or election officials they select, place the distance markers.

The markers that the selectmen provide must consist of a board that is at least one foot by one foot, painted a bright color, and bears the following words:

“On the day of any primary, referendum or election no person

shall possess a firearm within a radius of two hundred feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach. This restriction shall not apply in the case of a firearm located in a residence or parked motor vehicle situated within such radius of two hundred feet or in the case of a uniformed on-duty police officer.”

Penalty

The bill imposes the same penalty on violators of the 200-foot rule as existing law imposes on violators of the 75-foot rule for polling places. Specifically, violators are guilty of a class C misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to three months in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

§§ 14-16 — VOTING RIGHTS FOR INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF A FELONY

Eliminates the forfeiture of convicted felons' electoral privileges (i.e., voting rights) if they are committed to confinement in an in-state or out-of-state community residence; restores these privileges to convicted felons who are on parole or special parole or who are confined in a community residence

The bill makes several changes concerning the forfeiture and restoration of electoral privileges for certain individuals convicted of a felony.

It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

Forfeiture of Electoral Privileges (§ 15)

Under current law, an individual forfeits his or her right to be an elector, and all accompanying electoral privileges (i.e., the right to vote, run for public office, and hold an office), upon conviction of a felony and commitment to any state or federal prison (CGS § 9-46). Effective July 1, 2021, the bill eliminates a requirement that such individuals forfeit their electoral privileges if they are committed to Department of Correction (DOC) custody (or a state or county correction department outside of Connecticut) for confinement in a community residence (e.g.,

halfway house, group home, or mental health facility).

The bill also specifies that if an individual regains his or her electoral privileges after forfeiture, he or she must again forfeit them upon returning to confinement in a correctional institution or facility from the following:

1. parole or special parole;
2. release to (a) an educational program or work, (b) a community residence, (c) a zero-tolerance drug supervision program, (d) home confinement for certain motor vehicle and drug offenses, or (e) a community-based nursing home for palliative and end-of-life care; or
3. specified furloughs granted at the commissioner's discretion (e.g., to permit attendance at a relative's funeral or to obtain medical services not otherwise available).

Notice to Secretary of the State and Registrars of Voters (§ 14)

Effective July 1, 2021, the bill makes conforming changes to monthly reports that the (1) DOC commissioner must send to the secretary of the state and (2) secretary must transmit to registrars of voters. Under current law, the commissioner must send the secretary a list by the 15th of each month of all individuals convicted of a felony and committed to DOC custody in the previous calendar month for confinement in a correctional institution, facility, or community residence. The secretary must then send the list to the registrars of voters in towns where (1) these individuals resided at the time of their conviction or (2) she believes they may be electors.

The bill (1) eliminates the requirement that the DOC commissioner's report include a list of these individuals committed for confinement in a community residence and (2) additionally requires that it include a list of individuals returned to confinement in a correctional institution or facility for violating the terms of their parole, special parole, release, or furlough (see above). It must also include the date and nature of these

violations. The bill makes conforming changes to the information the secretary must provide registrars of voters by similarly requiring her to notify registrars in towns where (1) individuals returned to confinement resided at the time of their parole, special parole, release, or furlough violation (as applicable) or (2) she believes they may be electors.

Under existing law, after sending a written notice by certified mail to the individual's last known address, the registrars must remove his or her name from the registry list (CGS § 9-45).

Restoration of Electoral Privileges (§ 16)

Under current law, an individual imprisoned for a felony regains the right to vote and accompanying electoral privileges after paying all fines and completing any required prison and parole time.

Effective July 1, 2021, the bill allows convicted felons to regain their electoral privileges upon release from confinement in a correctional institution or facility. It eliminates current law's requirements that such individuals also, as applicable, (1) be released from a community residence, (2) be discharged from parole, and (3) pay all felony conviction-related fines. The bill specifies that any convicted felon who forfeited his or her electoral privileges and is confined in a community residence must have his or her electoral privileges restored.

Under the bill, the DOC commissioner must, within available appropriations, inform people who are on parole, special parole, or confined in a community residence of their right to become electors and the process for having their privileges restored.

The bill also makes conforming changes to a monthly report that the DOC commissioner must send to the secretary of the state. Under current law, the commissioner must send the secretary a list by the 15th of each month of all individuals convicted of a felony who were released in the previous calendar month from a correctional institution or facility or a community residence and, if applicable, discharged from parole.

The bill eliminates current law's requirement that the list include community residence releases and parole discharges and instead requires that it include individuals who have begun confinement in a community residence. By law, unchanged by the bill, the secretary must send this list to the registrars in the towns where (1) the individuals lived at the time of their conviction or (2) she believes they may be electors.

§§ 18 & 19 — ELECTION NOTICES

Requires town clerks to post notices for state and municipal elections on the town website

The bill requires town clerks to post notices of state and municipal elections on their municipal website, in addition to placing them in a town or general circulation newspaper as required under existing law. Just as the law requires for newspaper notices, the online notices must appear not more than 15 days, nor less than 5 days, before an election. The bill also requires that the notices include the time and location for each EDR location, as well as each polling place as under existing law.

By law, state and municipal election notices must indicate whether voters will consider a constitutional amendment or local referendum question at the election (CGS § 9-369).

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 20 — ONLINE OR TELEPHONIC SYSTEM FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS

Allows people to apply to the secretary of the state for an absentee ballot using a telephonic or online system, both of which the secretary must establish and maintain

The bill allows people to apply to the secretary of the state for an absentee ballot using either a telephonic system or an online system, both of which the secretary must establish and maintain for that purpose. In both cases, an applicant's signature must be obtained from a state or federal agency's database, or another state's voter registration database, and imported into the telephonic or online system.

By law, unchanged by the bill, people may also apply for an absentee

ballot with the town clerk in the municipality where they are eligible to vote or have applied to register to vote.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

Procedure

Under the bill, an applicant using the telephonic system must speak with a representative from the Office of the Secretary of the State to provide his or her name and indicate the municipality in which he or she is eligible to vote or has applied to vote. Similarly, an applicant using the online system must, on a secretary-prescribed form, type his or her name and indicate the municipality in which he or she is eligible to vote or has applied to register to vote. No later than 24 hours after receiving an application through the telephonic or online system, the secretary must transmit it to the applicable town clerk.

Required Affirmation

All applicants, whether using the telephonic or online system, must swear or affirm the following under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting:

1. I am the person whose name is provided, and I desire to apply for an absentee ballot.
2. I am eligible to vote in the municipality indicated or have applied for such eligibility.
3. I authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles or other Connecticut state agency to transmit to the Connecticut Secretary of the State my signature that is on file with such agency and understand that such signature will be used by the Secretary for an absentee ballot as if I had signed this form personally.

By law, making a false statement in absentee balloting is a class D felony, punishable by up to 5 years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both (CGS § 9-359a).

§ 21 — ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN BY SIBLINGS AND DESIGNEES

Expands who is eligible to return absentee ballots on behalf of a voter as an immediate family member or designee

The bill expands who is eligible to return absentee ballots on behalf of absentee voters. First, the bill authorizes the siblings of absentee voters to return absentee ballots on their behalf, in person to the town clerk, by expanding the definition of “immediate family member” for this purpose. Similarly, it authorizes the siblings of absentee voters who are students to mail absentee ballots on their behalf. Existing law also applies this eligibility to the following immediate family members: a dependent relative living with the voter or a spouse, child, or parent.

The bill also expands who is eligible to be a “designee” for purposes of mailing or returning in person to the town clerk an absentee ballot on behalf of a person with an illness or physical disability. Under the bill, a designee includes a police officer, registrar of voters, or deputy or assistant registrar under any circumstance, not just when another designee is unavailable or does not consent. Under existing law, “designee” also means (1) a person who cares for the applicant because of an illness or physical disability (e.g., physician or nurse) or (2) a designated family member who consents to the designation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 21-22 & 24-26 — CHANGES IMPLEMENTED FOR THE 2020 STATE ELECTION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

Makes permanent certain changes affecting absentee voting procedures that were implemented for the 2020 state election as a result of COVID-19

The bill makes permanent certain changes affecting absentee voting procedures that were implemented for the 2020 state election as a result of COVID-19. Generally, for a state or municipal election, primary, or referendum (see BACKGROUND) the bill does the following:

1. requires town clerks to designate secure drop boxes and allows voters to deposit absentee ballots in them;
2. allows town clerks to deliver sorted and checked absentee ballots

to registrars of voters before election day to begin certain pre-counting procedures;

3. authorizes municipalities to conduct pre-counting procedures, so long as they do not open the inner-envelope or count the absentee ballot before the day of the election, primary, or referendum; and
4. moves up the deadline by which an elector who has returned a completed absentee ballot but later finds he or she is able to vote in person must go to the town clerk's office to request that the ballot be withdrawn.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Drop Boxes (§ 21)

By law, voters may return completed absentee ballots via mail (e.g., the U.S. Postal Service) or in person at the town clerk's office. Under the bill, for a state or municipal election, primary, or referendum, they may also deposit them in secure drop boxes designated by their town clerk for that purpose. Town clerks must designate the drop boxes following instructions that the secretary of the state prescribes.

Beginning 29 days before a primary, election, or referendum, and each weekday thereafter until the polls close, town clerks must retrieve absentee ballots from the secure drop boxes. (Presumably, for primaries and referenda, the requirement applies only after town clerks begin issuing absentee ballot sets (see BACKGROUND).) A police officer must escort the town clerk in retrieving absentee ballots from any drop box located outside of a building other than the clerk's office building.

Sorting and Checking Absentee Ballots (§ 22)

As discussed below, the bill moves up the timeframe for town clerks to conduct absentee ballot sorting and checking procedures so that registrars of voters may begin certain pre-counting procedures before an election, primary, or referendum.

By law, town clerks must sort any absentee ballots received by the day before an election, primary, or referendum into voting districts. The bill authorizes clerks to begin sorting ballots 14 days, rather than seven days, beforehand.

For ballots received by 11:00 a.m. on the day before an election, primary, or referendum, the law requires registrars of voters to check the names of applicants returning absentee ballots on the official registry list with "A" or "Absentee." Under the bill, registrars must also mark "A" or "Absentee" on the duplicate list when ballots are counted in their respective polling places, not only when they are counted in a central location.

By law, this sorting and checking must be completed by the day before the election, primary, or referendum, and the clerk must deliver the sorted and checked ballots to the registrars on the day of the election, primary, or referendum. Under current law, the clerk must deliver the ballots between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. The bill instead requires that the town clerk deliver these ballots at 6:00 a.m., unless a later time is mutually agreed upon, but not later than 8:00 p.m.

However, the bill also allows town clerks to deliver sorted and checked ballots to the registrars before the day of an election, primary, or referendum to begin certain pre-counting procedures (see below). Specifically, it allows any ballots received, sorted, and checked by 5:00 p.m. on the fourth day before the election, primary, or referendum to be delivered to the registrars at that time. It similarly allows ballots received, sorted, and checked by 5:00 p.m. on the third and second days before the election, primary, or referendum to be delivered to the registrars at those times. In each case, the bill allows the clerk to deliver the ballots at a later time that he or she mutually agrees upon with the registrars.

By law and under the bill, the (1) clerk must include with the ballots an up-to-date copy of the duplicate checklist and (2) clerk and registrars must execute an affidavit of delivery and receipt stating the number of ballots delivered.

Requirements for Opting in to Pre-Counting (§ 24)

Under the bill, any municipality opting to conduct pre-counting procedures for an election, primary, or referendum must do so at a central location. The registrars of voters must designate the location in writing to their respective town clerks at least 10 days before the election, primary, or referendum, and the location must be published in the warning for the election, primary, or referendum (see below).

If a municipality opts to use the pre-counting procedures, the bill requires the registrars of voters and town clerk to jointly certify this decision to the secretary of the state in writing at least 10 days before the election, primary, or referendum. The certification must include the (1) name, street address, and relevant contact information for the designated central location and (2) name and address of each absentee ballot counter.

The secretary must approve or disapprove the certification within two days after receiving it. The bill also allows her to require the municipality to appoint one or more additional absentee ballot counters.

By law, municipalities must count absentee ballots at a central location unless the registrars of voters agree to count them in each polling place. The bill specifies that any ballots delivered to the registrars on the day of an election, primary, or referendum (i.e., those not delivered for pre-counting procedures) may still be counted in the polling places.

Authorized Pre-Counting Procedures (§ 25)

By law, absentee ballot sets consist of an outer envelope, which contains information about the elector (e.g., name and address), and an inner envelope, which contains the elector's marked ballot and a statement signed by the elector under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting. (By law, making a false statement in absentee balloting is a class D felony.)

The law sets out numerous steps for counting absentee ballots, which are generally completed by absentee ballot counters or moderators. It

requires that each step be completed beginning on election day.

For municipalities that opt to use pre-counting procedures, the bill authorizes them to complete the following steps, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on the fourth day before an election, primary, or referendum:

1. remove the inner envelopes from the outer envelopes;
2. report to the moderator separately the total number of absentee ballots received; and
3. reject ballots for which the inner envelope statement is improperly executed.

Under the bill, once the above steps are completed, the absentee ballots must then be counted beginning on the election, primary, or referendum day in accordance with existing law.

Securing the Absentee Ballots Until Election Day (§ 25)

The bill requires that absentee ballots be secured throughout any pre-counting process. Specifically, the ballots must be secured according to (1) instructions from the secretary of the state and (2) existing statutory requirements on securing absentee ballots and related materials.

Deadline for Withdrawing a Submitted Absentee Ballot (§ 26)

By law, electors who submit an absentee ballot must go to the town clerk's office and request to withdraw it if they later find they can vote in person. The bill moves up this deadline from 10:00 a.m. on the election, primary, or referendum day to 5:00 p.m. on the fourth day before it, which is the same time that municipalities may begin pre-counting procedures.

Background — Application of Election Procedures to Primaries and Referenda

By law, unless otherwise provided, procedures for regular elections apply to primaries as nearly as possible (CGS § 9-381a). Similarly, absentee ballot procedures for elections (e.g., issuing and returning the ballots and declaring the count) also apply to referenda as nearly as

possible (CGS § 9-369c(f)).

Background — Issuing Absentee Ballot Sets

By law, town clerks begin issuing absentee voting sets 31 days before an election and 21 days before a primary; or, if that day falls on a weekend or holiday, on the next preceding business day. Generally, clerks begin issuing the sets 19 days before a referendum or when an elector applies for an absentee ballot, whichever is later. However, when a referendum is held with fewer than three weeks' notice, clerks must make the sets available no later than four business days after the question is finalized (CGS §§ 9-140(f) and 9-369c(a) & (e)).

§ 23 — PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS

Makes electors suffering from a long-term illness eligible for permanent absentee ballot status, among other things

The bill makes electors suffering from a long-term illness eligible for permanent absentee ballot status, in addition to those with a permanent physical disability as under existing law. The bill removes the requirement that registrars remove electors from permanent status who do not return the annual address confirmation notice sent to them within 30 days. It retains the requirement that registrars remove electors from permanent status for whom the notice is returned as undeliverable.

By law, electors with permanent absentee ballot status receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary, and referendum in which they are eligible to vote. Registrars of voters send an annual address confirmation notice to determine if those with the status continue to reside at the address on their permanent absentee ballot application.

The bill also makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 27 — VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Generally limits disclosure of certain voter registration information

The bill limits disclosure of a voter's date of birth maintained under

state election law to year of birth unless the information is requested and used for a governmental purpose, as determined by the secretary of the state. In that case, the complete birth date must be provided. The bill specifies that “a governmental purpose” must at least include jury administration. (The bill does not specify a process for making this determination.)

The bill makes a voter’s name and address confidential and prohibits their disclosure from the voter registry list if the voter submits a signed statement to the secretary of the state indicating that nondisclosure is necessary for the safety of the voter or his or her family. Under the bill, primary, election, or referendum officials may view the voter’s information on the official registry list at the polling place during any primary, election, or referendum. (The bill does not establish procedures for submitting the signed statements or protecting the voter’s information. It is also unclear whether such a voter’s information could be provided for a governmental purpose.)

The bill conforms the law to current practice by making confidential unique identifiers that generate voter registration records or are added to these records pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act, as well as by prohibiting their disclosure (see BACKGROUND). Under the bill, “unique identifiers” include motor vehicle license numbers, identity card numbers, and Social Security numbers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Unique Identifiers

The Freedom of Information Commission has consistently declined to order disclosure of Social Security numbers, employee identification numbers, and drivers’ license numbers (see for example Docket #FIC 2014-032 and Docket #FIC 2014-438).

§ 28 — BALLOTS FOR LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS

Requires municipalities and voting districts to make ballots available in a language minority group’s language under certain circumstances

The bill requires municipalities and voting districts to make ballots

available in a language minority group's language for primaries, elections, and referenda under certain circumstances. Specifically, a municipality or voting district must make ballots available in a language minority group's language when, as reported in the (presumably last) decennial U.S. Census:

1. the number of voting age U.S. citizens in a single language minority group (a) is more than 7,500; (b) makes up more than 3% of all voting age citizens in the municipality or voting district; or (c) if on an Indian reservation, makes up more than 3% of all reservation residents or
2. the illiteracy rate of a single language minority group is higher than the national illiteracy rate. (The bill does not specify how or when these rates are determined.)

Federal law already requires states and their political subdivisions to make ballots available in a language minority group's language (see BACKGROUND). However, the bill establishes lower thresholds for doing so and, thus, likely subjects more municipalities or voting districts to the requirement.

Under the bill, as under federal law, "language minority group" means American Indians, Asian Americans, Alaskan Natives, or Spanish-heritage citizens.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Language Minority Group Requirements under the Voting Rights Act

Generally, the federal Voting Rights Act (§ 203) requires that a political subdivision provide language assistance to voters under the following conditions:

1. there is a language minority group in the jurisdiction that has more than (a) 10,000 voting-age U.S. citizens or (b) 5% of all voting-age citizens in the jurisdiction and

2. these citizens do not speak English well enough to participate in the electoral process and have a lower literacy rate than the national average for voting-age citizens.

Political subdivisions may also be covered through a separate determination for Indian reservations.

The U.S. Census Bureau periodically determines which jurisdictions are subject to these requirements. According to its most recent determination (made on December 5, 2016), the following Connecticut municipalities have the indicated language minority group for purposes of the federal law:

1. Bridgeport (Hispanic),
2. East Hartford (Hispanic),
3. Hartford (Hispanic),
4. Kent (American Indian – all other American Indian Tribes),
5. Meriden (Hispanic),
6. New Britain (Hispanic),
7. New Haven (Hispanic),
8. New London (Hispanic),
9. Waterbury (Hispanic), and
10. Windham (Hispanic).

§§ 29-30 — EXPANDED ABSENTEE VOTING AUTHORIZATION

Expands two of the six statutory reasons for which qualified voters may vote by absentee ballot

The bill expands two of the six statutory reasons for which qualified voters (i.e., electors and people eligible to vote) may vote by absentee ballot (see BACKGROUND). Under the bill, qualified voters may vote by absentee if, during the specified time, they are unable to appear at their polling place because of (1) sickness generally, rather than because

of their illness, or (2) physical disability generally, rather than because of their physical disability.

Additionally, the bill generally authorizes qualified voters to vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear at their polling place on the day of the primary, election, or referendum, rather than during the hours of voting as under current law. It also specifies that qualified voters may vote by absentee ballot if they are absent from the municipality where they are an inhabitant, rather than the municipality of their voting residence.

The bill requires that absentee ballots be updated to reflect the above changes. Specifically, the statement printed on the face of absentee ballots' inner envelope must show the revised reasons for which electors may vote absentee. By law, absentee voters must sign the statement under penalties of false statement in absentee balloting, which is a class D felony punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both (CGS § 9-359a).

Lastly, the bill makes technical changes, including removing provisions concerning absentee voting in the 2020 state election.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Background — Permitted Reasons for Voting by Absentee Ballot under the Constitution

The state constitution authorizes the General Assembly to pass a law allowing eligible voters to cast their votes by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear at a polling place on election day because of (1) absence from their city or town, (2) sickness or physical disability, or (3) the tenets of their religion prohibiting secular activity (Art. VI, § 7). The General Assembly exercised this authority and passed laws codified at CGS § 9-135.

§§ 31-36 — PETITION CIRCULATORS

Eliminates the prohibition on out-of-state residents circulating primary and nominating petitions

The bill eliminates the prohibition on out-of-state residents

circulating (1) primary petitions on behalf of major party candidates seeking congressional, statewide, legislative, or municipal office in a primary, or president in a presidential preference primary, or (2) nominating petitions on behalf of petitioning party candidates seeking congressional, statewide, legislative, or municipal office at a regular or special election (see BACKGROUND).

The bill subjects out-of-state circulators to the same general eligibility requirements as those that the law sets for in-state circulators (i.e., that they be U.S. citizens, age 18 or older, and not on parole for a felony conviction). However, unlike state residents, out-of-state residents need not belong to the political party holding the primary to circulate primary petitions.

By law, each petition page contains a statement that circulators must sign, under penalty of false statement, on their residency, petition circulation eligibility, and signature authenticity. Under the bill, this statement must also require out-of-state residents to agree to submit to Connecticut's jurisdiction in any case or controversy relating to petition circulation. Existing law, unchanged by the bill, requires registrars of voters, the town clerk, secretary of state, or other appropriate person (e.g., notary public), as applicable, to certify that circulators have signed the petition statement (CGS §§ 9-404b(d) & 9-453k(b)).

By law, false statement is a class A misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both (CGS § 53a-157b).

The bill also makes several technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Libertarian Party of Connecticut v. Merrill

In January 2016, a federal judge granted the Libertarian Party's motion for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order against the residency requirement. The party claimed that the requirement (1) imposed an unconstitutional burden on political speech because it was not narrowly tailored to accomplish a compelling state

interest and (2) reduced the size of the circulator pool by prohibiting the use of less expensive and more effective out-of-state circulators.

In applying strict scrutiny, the court rejected the state's argument that the residency requirement was narrowly tailored to minimize voter fraud and ensure that circulators were present for pre- and post-election hearings. It also held that (1) the Libertarian Party, in demonstrating the requirement would cause speech suppression, was substantially likely to succeed on the merits and (2) a preliminary injunction would be in the public interest (*Libertarian Party of Conn. v. Merrill*, No. 3:15-CV-1851 (JCH) (D. Conn. Jan. 26, 2016)).

§§ 37 & 38 — DEADLINE TO CHALLENGE CERTAIN CANDIDATES

Moves up the deadline by which a challenger must file a candidacy for nomination against the party-endorsed candidate in a special election for (1) judge of probate in a multi-town district or (2) a member of Congress

The law establishes procedures that major political parties must follow when nominating candidates to run in a special election (i.e., an election to fill a vacancy) (see BACKGROUND). For vacancies in the offices of judge of probate in a multi-town district and U.S. representative and U.S. senator, it generally allows the party's endorsed candidate to be challenged in a primary unless the vacancy occurs between the 125th day and 63rd day before a regular November state or municipal election (in which case the endorsed candidate becomes the nominee).

Under current law, a person who seeks a primary against an endorsed candidate for these offices must file a candidacy for nomination with the secretary of the state within 14 days after the party's endorsement. The bill moves up this filing deadline to the day after the endorsement and makes conforming changes. As under existing law, a person may file a candidacy for nomination to these offices if he or she (1) receives at least 15% of the convention delegates on any roll-call vote taken on the endorsement or (2) submits a petition with a specified number of signatures from enrolled party members (i.e., 2% of statewide members for U.S. senator; 2% of district members for U.S. representative; and 5% of district members for judge of probate)

(CGS § 9-400).

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Major Parties

By law, a “major party” is one whose (1) candidate for governor received, under the party’s designation, at least 20% of the votes cast for governor in the preceding gubernatorial election or (2) enrolled membership comprises at least 20% of the total number of enrolled members of all political parties in the state (as of the most recent gubernatorial election) (CGS § 9-372(5)).

§ 39 — POST-ELECTION AUDITS

Subjects centrally-counted absentee ballots to post-election audits

The law requires registrars of voters to audit at least 5% of the state’s voting districts after a federal, state, or municipal regular election or primary. The secretary of the state selects the voting districts to be audited in a random drawing that is open to the public.

The bill subjects centrally-counted absentee ballots to post-election audits by designating central-count locations as voting districts for this purpose. Currently, centrally-counted absentee ballots are excluded from post-election audits because they are not counted in a voting district.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 40 — SUPERVISED ABSENTEE VOTING

Authorizes the secretary of the state to suspend supervised absentee voting or mandatory supervised absentee voting in recognition of a public health or civil preparedness emergency

The bill authorizes the secretary of the state to suspend supervised absentee voting that happens upon request, or mandatory supervised absentee voting (see BACKGROUND), so long as she does so in recognition of a public health or civil preparedness emergency declared by the governor. It requires the secretary to submit a report to the

Government Administration and Elections Committee advising of the suspension and specifying alternative actions that will be taken to provide absentee voting opportunities for the affected electors.

It also eliminates registrars' current discretionary authority to conduct supervised absentee voting sessions in locations where the town clerk receives at least 20 absentee ballot applications from the same street address in town, such as an apartment building.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Background — Supervised Absentee Voting

Under supervised absentee voting, registrars of voters or their designees supervise absentee voting at certain "institutions" (e.g., nursing homes and other residential care and mental health facilities). During these voting sessions, registrars or their designees deliver absentee ballots to the institution and jointly supervise voters while they fill out the ballots. Voters have the right to complete their ballots in secret, but registrars observe the process and are available to assist upon request.

Registrars must conduct a session in an institution in which at least 20 patients are registered voters (including patients who are registered in a municipality other than the one where the institution is located). For institutions with fewer than 20 residents, registrars generally conduct a session upon request by the institution's administrator or a registrar of voters of the town in which the residents are electors (CGS §§ 9-159q & 9-159r).

§ 41 — ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ELECTORS WITH A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Requires the secretary of the state to provide electors who are unable to appear at their polling place because of a visual impairment with an electronic absentee ballot

The bill requires the secretary of the state to electronically provide an absentee ballot to an elector who is unable to appear at his or her polling place because of a visual impairment. The absentee ballot must be in a

format capable of being read by a computer-related device and printed. It also requires that the ballot, if signed by the elector, be counted if it otherwise satisfies all the requirements for returned absentee ballots (e.g., returned no later than the close of the polls).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 42-44 & 46-50 — MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATE

Requires each municipality to hold its biennial municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years; extends existing provisions on transitioning and deferring terms of office to, and establishes new provisions for, municipalities that change their election date

The bill requires each municipality to hold its biennial municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years. It therefore eliminates municipalities' option to hold their biennial municipal election on the first Monday in May of odd-numbered years. It also repeals provisions in current law that allow municipalities to change the date of their biennial municipal election by vote of their legislative body approved at a referendum or by charter.

The bill extends, to municipalities whose election date changes to November, existing law's provisions on transitioning and deferring terms of office.

Lastly, the bill makes several technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2023, except that most provisions on transitioning and deferring terms of office are effective upon passage.

Transitioning and Deferring Terms of Office Due to Election Date Change

The bill extends, to municipalities that change their election date, existing law's provisions on transitioning and deferring terms of office. Table 1 below summarizes these provisions.

Table 1: Provisions Triggered by Change in Municipal Election Date

Bill §	Triggered Requirement or Authorization
42	The terms of any elected officials that are set to expire before the next regular election because of an election date change must be extended to the date of

	that election.
43	For municipal elected officials whose terms will not have expired by the first municipal election after an election date change, the legislative body must, by January 1, 2023, provide for a reasonable transition method, such as term extensions or interim terms.
44 & 48	For boards or commissions with a rotating membership and some members elected before the date change to terms beginning approximately one year after that election, the legislative body may defer the terms in order to continue the rotation. (For certain bodies, such as zoning boards of appeals, this may be done by ordinance.) In the absence of an action by the legislative body, the town clerk must so change the terms when preparing the list of municipal offices to be filled at the next municipal election. (By law, clerks must submit this list to the secretary of the state.) In this case, the town attorney must approve the deferred terms.

Background — Municipalities and Boroughs Holding May Municipal Elections

According to the Office of the Secretary of the State, the following five municipalities hold biennial municipal elections on the first Monday in May in odd-numbered years: Andover, Bethany, Union, Woodbridge, and the City of Groton. The remaining municipalities (including the Town of Groton) hold their elections in November.

In addition, the following eight boroughs hold biennial municipal elections on the first Monday in May in odd-numbered years:

1. Bantam (Litchfield)
2. Danielson (Killingly)
3. Fenwick (Old Saybrook)
4. Jewett City (Griswold)
5. Litchfield
6. Newtown
7. Stonington
8. Woodmont (Milford)

§ 45 — START DATE FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE TERMS

Generally requires that municipal officials' terms begin on December 1 following a municipal election

Current law generally requires that elected municipal officials' terms begin on a date prescribed by special act, charter provision, or the legislative body, so long as the date is within 70 days after the election. If no date is prescribed, then the term begins on (1) July 1 following a May municipal election or (2) the second Tuesday following a November municipal election. (Current law provides exceptions for treasurers elected to four-year terms and town clerks.)

The bill instead requires that the terms of all municipal offices elected at a municipal election (other than town clerk and treasurer) begin December 1 following the election or another day if prescribed by special act. It allows the municipality's legislative body to delay any of these terms' start date by up to one year.

Current law requires that elected town clerks' terms begin on the first Monday in January following the election unless otherwise provided by charter or special act. The bill eliminates current law's exception for charters and special acts, therefore requiring that all elected clerks' terms begin on the first Monday in January (unless delayed by the legislative body as described above). It similarly requires that the terms of all elected treasurers begin on this date (unless delayed). Under current law, this requirement applies only to treasurers elected to four-year terms.

The bill also specifies that, for special elections to fill municipal office vacancies that are held in conjunction with regular elections, the person elected to fill the unexpired portion of a term must begin his or her service on the applicable date provided under the bill (e.g., generally December 1).

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

Related Constitutional Amendment

sHJ 58 (File 96), favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, proposes a constitutional amendment to remove the constitution's current restrictions on absentee voting.

Related Bills

SB 353 (File 442), favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, (1) requires each municipality to hold its biennial municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years, unless its legislative body votes by a two-thirds majority to hold the election on the first Monday in May of odd-numbered years, and (2) and has provisions on transitioning terms of office.

SB 901 (File 114), favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, extends to June 30, 2021, certain changes affecting absentee voting eligibility and procedures implemented for the 2020 state election as a result of COVID-19.

sHB 6205, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, contains the same provisions concerning the statutory reasons that qualified electors may vote by absentee ballot.

HB 6464 (File 46), favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, extends to May 31, 2021, certain changes affecting absentee voting eligibility and procedures implemented for the 2020 state election as a result of COVID-19.

sHB 6578, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, contains the same provisions on (1) the forfeiture and restoration of electoral privileges for certain individuals convicted of a felony and (2) DMV, voter registration agencies, and public higher education institutions using an electronic system to automatically transmit voter registration applications.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 6 (04/05/2021)