



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Committee Bill No. 5320

LCO No. 4908



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESSIBILITY TO VOTING FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH CERTAIN DISABILITIES.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) There is established a task force to
2 conduct a study of accessibility to voting for electors and election day
3 registration applicants with disabilities. Such study shall include, but
4 not be limited to, an examination of nonvisual accessibility for electors
5 and election day registration applicants who are blind or visually
6 impaired.

7 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

9 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

10 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
11 Representatives;

12 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

13 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
14 Representatives;

15 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

16 (7) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee; and

17 (8) The executive director of the State Elections Enforcement
18 Commission, or the executive director's designee.

19 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
20 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
21 of the General Assembly.

22 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
23 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
24 be filled by the appointing authority.

25 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
26 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
27 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
28 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
29 days after the effective date of this section.

30 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
31 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections
32 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

33 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report
34 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
35 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
36 elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
37 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
38 submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

39 Sec. 2. Section 9-240 of the general statutes is repealed and the
40 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

41 (a) The board of selectmen in each town, unless otherwise provided

42 by law, shall provide or may authorize the registrars to provide a
43 suitable room or rooms and voting tabulator booths for holding all
44 elections. The interior of the booths shall be secure from outside
45 observation. [Said board]

46 (b) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
47 the board of selectmen in each town, unless otherwise provided by law,
48 shall provide for each polling place, in accordance with the
49 requirements of section 9-238, one or more voting tabulators in complete
50 working order. [, and]

51 (B) On and after July 1, 2021, at each federal election, as defined in
52 section 9-158a, the board of selectmen in each town, unless otherwise
53 provided by law, shall provide for each polling place, in accordance
54 with the requirements of section 9-238, one or more voting devices
55 equipped for individuals with disabilities that comply with the
56 provisions of the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-25, as amended from
57 time to time, in complete working order, which voting devices shall be
58 approved by the Secretary of the State.

59 (2) The board of selectmen shall preserve and keep [them] each voting
60 tabulator and each voting device described in subdivision (1) of this
61 subsection in repair and have the custody of the voting tabulators, and
62 the care and custody of the furniture and equipment of the polling place,
63 when not in use at an election.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	9-240

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) establish a task force for the study of accessibility to voting for individuals with disabilities, and (2) require at each federal election that each polling place have at least one voting device equipped for individuals with disabilities that complies with federal law.

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

Co-Sponsors: REP. FOX, 148th Dist.; REP. GILCHREST, 18th Dist.
REP. WINKLER, 56th Dist.; REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.

H.B. 5320