



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 5651**

LCO No. 4904



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR CERTAIN  
DETAINED INDIVIDUALS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-14a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Any [person] elector in the custody of the state or a municipality  
4 being held at a community correctional center, [or] a correctional  
5 institution [, whose voting rights have not been denied] or a lockup, as  
6 defined in section 7-135, and whose privileges as an elector have not  
7 been forfeited by reason of conviction of any disfranchising crime, shall  
8 be deemed to be absent from the [town or city of which he] municipality  
9 of which such elector is an inhabitant for purposes of voting,  
10 notwithstanding that such center or institution may be situated within  
11 such [town or city] municipality.

12 (b) In the case of any such elector described in subsection (a) of this  
13 section, the administrative head of any such center, institution or lockup  
14 shall distribute to such elector an absentee ballot application if it is  
15 expected that such elector will be unable to appear at the polling place

16 on the day of any election, primary or referendum. Such administrative  
17 head shall assist in returning any such completed application to the  
18 registrars of voters of the municipality of which such elector is an  
19 inhabitant. In carrying out the duties of this subsection, such  
20 administrative head shall comply with the provisions of section 9-140.

21 Sec. 2. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-140b of the general statutes  
22 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
23 *from passage*):

24 (a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or  
25 referendum only if: (1) It is mailed by (A) the ballot applicant, (B) a  
26 designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot (i) because of  
27 illness or physical disability, or (ii) because such person is in the custody  
28 of the state or a municipality, as described in section 9-14a, as amended  
29 by this act, or (C) a member of the immediate family of an applicant who  
30 is a student, so that it is received by the clerk of the municipality in  
31 which the applicant is qualified to vote not later than the close of the  
32 polls; (2) it is returned in person by the applicant [in person] to the clerk  
33 by the day before a regular election, special election or primary or prior  
34 to the opening of the polls on the day of a referendum; (3) it is returned  
35 in person by a designee of (A) an ill or physically disabled ballot  
36 applicant, [in person] or (B) a ballot applicant who is in the custody of  
37 the state or a municipality, as described in section 9-14a, as amended by  
38 this act, to said clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of  
39 the election, primary or referendum; (4) it is returned by a member of  
40 the immediate family of the absentee voter, in person, to said clerk not  
41 later than the close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or  
42 referendum; (5) in the case of a presidential or overseas ballot, it is  
43 mailed or otherwise returned pursuant to the provisions of section 9-  
44 158g; or (6) it is returned with the proper identification as required by  
45 the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time,  
46 if applicable, inserted in the outer envelope so such identification can be  
47 viewed without opening the inner envelope. A person returning an  
48 absentee ballot to the municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or (4)  
49 of this subsection shall present identification and, on the outer envelope

50 of the absentee ballot, sign his name in the presence of the municipal  
51 clerk, and indicate his address, his relationship to the voter or his  
52 position, and the date and time of such return. As used in this section,  
53 "immediate family" means a dependent relative who resides in the  
54 individual's household or any spouse, child or parent of the individual.

55 (b) As used in this section and section 9-150c, "designee" means (1) a  
56 person who is caring for the applicant because of the applicant's illness  
57 or physical disability, including but not limited to, a licensed physician  
58 or a registered or practical nurse, (2) a member of the applicant's family,  
59 who is designated by an absentee ballot applicant and who consents to  
60 such designation, [or] (3) the administrative head of any community  
61 correctional center, correctional institution or lockup at which the  
62 applicant who is in the custody of the state or a municipality, as  
63 described in section 9-14a, as amended by this act, is being held, or (4) if  
64 no such person consents or is available, then a police officer, registrar of  
65 voters, deputy registrar of voters or assistant registrar of voters in the  
66 municipality in which the applicant resides.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-14a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-140b(a) and (b)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow certain individuals detained in correctional facilities to submit absentee ballot applications and be able to cast an absentee ballot if they expect to be unable to appear at the polling place on the day of any election, primary or referendum.

*[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. ROSARIO, 128th Dist.; REP. WINKLER, 56th Dist.  
REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.

H.B. 5651

