



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 5872**

LCO No. 4939



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT EXPANDING AUTOMATIC APPLICATION FOR VOTER  
REGISTRATION TO CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES.***

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

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 Section 9-23n of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

3 (a) As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means (1)  
4 public assistance offices, (2) all offices in the state that provide  
5 state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to  
6 persons with disabilities, (3) libraries that are open to the public, [and]  
7 (4) the Department of Social Services, (5) the Labor Department, (6) the  
8 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, (7) the  
9 Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, and (8) such other appropriate  
10 offices or agencies as the Secretary of the State shall designate in  
11 accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31,  
12 as amended from time to time, based on periodic assessments of offices  
13 or agencies capable of effectuating the purposes of subdivision (1) of  
14 subsection (b) of this section.

15 (b) [Voter registration agencies shall] (1) Except as provided in

16 subdivision (2) of this subsection, each voter registration agency shall  
17 (A) distribute mail voter registration application forms, [(2)] (B) assist  
18 applicants for [such] assistance or services provided by the agency in  
19 completing voter registration application forms, except for applicants  
20 who refuse [such] assistance in completing such forms, [(3)] (C) accept  
21 completed voter registration application forms and provide each  
22 applicant with an application receipt, on which the agency shall record  
23 the date that the agency received the application, using an official date  
24 stamp bearing the name of the agency, and [(4)] (D) immediately  
25 transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of the town of  
26 voting residence of the applicants. The agency shall provide such receipt  
27 whether the application was submitted in person, [or] by mail or  
28 through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this  
29 subsection. If a registration application is accepted within five days  
30 before the last day for registration to vote in a regular election, the  
31 application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of  
32 voting residence of the applicant not later than five days after the date  
33 of acceptance. [The] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this  
34 subsection, the voter registration agency shall indicate on the completed  
35 mail voter registration application form, without indicating the identity  
36 of the voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such  
37 agency, to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an  
38 election if it is received by the registration agency by the last day for  
39 registration to vote in an election. If a state-funded program primarily  
40 engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities provides  
41 services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency  
42 shall provide such voter registration services at the person's home. The  
43 procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g that are not  
44 inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L.  
45 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made  
46 under this section. Officials and employees of such voter registration  
47 agencies are not admitting officials, as defined in section 9-17a, and may  
48 not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of  
49 persons convicted of a felony.

50 (2) (A) On and after January 1, 2022, each voter registration agency

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

63 (B) (i) Unless otherwise provided in this subparagraph, if the voter  
64 registration agency determines that a person applying for assistance or  
65 services provided by the agency meets each eligibility requirement for  
66 admission as an elector, the agency shall forthwith transmit an  
67 application for such person's admission as an elector to the registrars of  
68 voters of such person's residence through an electronic system pursuant  
69 to this subdivision, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1)  
70 of this subsection, except that no such application shall be transmitted if  
71 such person declines to apply for such admission.

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

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

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

92 Sec. 2. Section 9-23o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
93 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2022*):

94 A voter registration agency, as defined in section 9-23n, as amended  
95 by this act, shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of  
96 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, and (1) shall distribute  
97 with each application for [service or] assistance or services provided by  
98 the agency, and with each recertification, renewal or change of address  
99 form relating to such [service or] assistance or services a mail voter  
100 registration application form approved by the Secretary of the State, and  
101 (2) on and after January 1, 2022, during each application for such  
102 assistance or services and each recertification, renewal or change of  
103 address relating to such assistance or services, shall use an electronic  
104 system described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 9-23n, as  
105 amended by this act, and in accordance with said subdivision to  
106 effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of said subsection regarding  
107 application for admission of an elector, unless the applicant declines to  
108 register to vote pursuant to the provisions of the National Voter  
109 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.  
110 Such declination shall be in writing, except in the case of an application  
111 for service or assistance provided by a library, or a recertification,  
112 renewal or change of address form relating to such library service or  
113 assistance. Such voter registration agency shall provide each applicant  
114 to register to vote the same degree of assistance with regard to the  
115 completion of the registration application form as is provided by the  
116 agency with regard to the completion of its own forms, unless the  
117 applicant refuses such assistance.

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

120 Each public institution of higher education shall (1) distribute mail  
121 voter registration application forms, [and (2)] as well as assist applicants  
122 who request assistance in completing such voter registration application  
123 forms, and (2) on and after January 1, 2022, use an electronic system  
124 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 9-23n, as  
125 amended by this act, and in accordance with said subdivision to  
126 effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of said subsection regarding  
127 application for admission of an elector, as well as assist applicants who  
128 request assistance in so applying through such electronic system.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	9-23n
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	9-23o
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	9-23p

***Statement of Purpose:***

To (1) establish automatic application for voter registration at certain state agencies that currently make available voter registration information, and (2) create a presumption that any removal from a party enrollment list through such automatic application for voter registration was unintentional.

*[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. THOMAS, 143rd Dist.; REP. MORRIN BELLO, 28th Dist.  
REP. QUINN, 82nd Dist.; REP. BERGER-GIRVALO, 111th Dist.  
REP. CHAFEE, 33rd Dist.; REP. KAVROS DEGRAW, 17th Dist.  
REP. FARRAR, 20th Dist.; REP. GOUPIL, 35th Dist.  
REP. WELANDER, 114th Dist.; REP. LEEPER, 132nd Dist.  
REP. PARKER, 101st Dist.; REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.

H.B. 5872

