



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 6205**

LCO No. 4907



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN ABSENTEE VOTING STATUTES.***

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

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 Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

3 (a) Any elector eligible to vote at a primary or an election and any  
4 person eligible to vote at a referendum may vote by absentee ballot if  
5 such elector or person is unable to appear at such elector's or person's  
6 polling place [during the hours of voting] on the day of such primary,  
7 election or referendum for any of the following reasons: (1) Such  
8 elector's or person's active service with the armed forces of the United  
9 States; (2) such elector's or person's absence from the town of [such  
10 elector's or person's voting residence during all of the hours of voting]  
11 which such elector or person is an inhabitant; (3) [such elector's or  
12 person's illness] sickness; (4) [such elector's or person's] physical  
13 disability; (5) the tenets of such elector's or person's religion forbid  
14 secular activity; [on the day of the primary, election or referendum;] or  
15 (6) the required performance of such elector's or person's duties as a  
16 primary, election or referendum official, including as a town clerk or  
17 registrar of voters or as staff of the clerk or registrar, at a polling place

18 other than such elector's or person's own during all of the hours of  
19 voting at such primary, election or referendum. [; or (7) for the state  
20 election in 2020, the sickness of COVID-19. As used in this section,  
21 "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World  
22 Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any  
23 related mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a  
24 communicable respiratory disease.]

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

28 Sec. 2. Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

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

34 "I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee  
35 balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum  
36 in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I  
37 expect to be unable to appear at my polling place [during the hours of  
38 voting at] on the day of such primary, election or referendum for one or  
39 more of the following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces;  
40 (2) my absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote; [during all  
41 of the hours of voting; (3) my illness] (3) someone's sickness or physical  
42 disability; (4) the tenets of my religion which forbid secular activity; [on  
43 the day of the primary, election or referendum;] or (5) my duties as a  
44 primary, election or referendum official.

45 Date ....

46 .... (Signature)"

47 [(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
48 for the state election in 2020, each inner envelope in which an absentee

49 ballot is returned to the municipal clerk shall have printed on its face a  
50 form containing the following statements:

51 "I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee  
52 balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum  
53 in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I  
54 expect to be unable to appear at my polling place during the hours of  
55 voting at such primary, election or referendum for one or more of the  
56 following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my  
57 absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote during all of the  
58 hours of voting; (3) my illness or physical disability; (4) the tenets of my  
59 religion which forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election  
60 or referendum; (5) my duties as a primary, election or referendum  
61 official; or (6) the sickness of COVID-19.

62 Date ....

63 .... (Signature)"]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-135
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-137

**Statement of Purpose:**

To revise certain absentee voting statutes to more closely align the language thereof with that of related state constitutional provisions.

*[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. BLUMENTHAL, 147th Dist.; REP. CONLEY, 40th Dist.  
REP. WINKLER, 56th Dist.; REP. FELIPE, 130th Dist.  
REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.

H.B. 6205