



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Committee Bill No. 6207

LCO No. 4905



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) In any municipality where the
2 registrars of voters or the legislative body of such municipality, as
3 applicable, propose that the location of any polling place to be used at
4 such election or primary be moved from the location of such polling
5 place at the immediately preceding election or primary, (1) not later than
6 one hundred twenty days before such election or primary, the registrars
7 of voters or legislative body, as applicable, shall so propose any such
8 move at a regular meeting of such legislative body, (2) not later than one
9 hundred ten days before such election or primary, the legislative body
10 shall conduct a public hearing on such proposed move, and (3) not later
11 than one hundred days before such election or primary, the legislative
12 body shall approve or disapprove such proposed move. In the case of
13 any such proposed move that is approved, the registrars of voters or the
14 legislative body, as applicable, shall designate such new polling place
15 location in accordance with the provisions of applicable law.

16 Sec. 2. Section 9-168 of the general statutes is repealed and the

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

18 [In] Subject to the provisions of section 1 of this act, (1) in any town
19 not divided into voting districts, the place of holding elections may be
20 determined by the legislative body of such town, [In] and (2) in towns
21 divided into voting districts, the place of holding elections shall be
22 determined as provided in section 9-169, as amended by this act, or any
23 special act, whichever applies. Except as provided in section 9-169a,
24 state elections shall be held at the usual place or places of holding
25 elections in the town or the voting districts thereof, as the case may be,
26 unless, [the registrars of voters, in writing, have designated to the clerk
27 of such town,] at least thirty-one days before any such state election, the
28 legislative body of such town designates a different place or places for
29 holding such election in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of
30 this act. Unless otherwise provided by special act, the place of holding
31 city or borough elections shall be determined by the legislative body of
32 such city or borough. Any provision of any charter or special act to the
33 contrary notwithstanding, the place or places of holding an election
34 shall be determined at least thirty-one days prior to such election, and
35 such place or places shall not be changed within the period of thirty-one
36 days prior to such election except that, if the municipal clerk and
37 registrars of voters of a municipality unanimously find that any such
38 polling place within such municipality has been rendered unusable
39 within such period, they shall forthwith designate another polling place
40 to be used in place of the one so rendered unusable and shall give
41 adequate notice that such polling place has been so changed.

42 Sec. 3. Section 9-168a of the general statutes is repealed and the
43 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

44 (a) Any provision of the general statutes to the contrary
45 notwithstanding, in any municipality in which, at any election, or
46 primary, as a result of the assembly, senatorial or congressional district
47 lines in effect, there is a voting district or a part of a voting district which
48 differs geographically from the district lines as constituted in a
49 municipal election year, the [registrars of voters] legislative body of the

50 municipality may, in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this
51 act, either provide a suitable polling place therein or, [may,] in lieu
52 thereof, [with the approval of the legislative body of the municipality,]
53 provide separate voting tabulators in the polling place of another voting
54 district in said municipality for use by such electors. The registrars of
55 voters shall determine which polling place officials are necessary for
56 such separate tabulators and shall provide the procedure to ensure that
57 the electors use the proper voting tabulator, which procedure may
58 include the registrars of voters prescribing and providing receipts.

59 (b) Any provision of the general statutes to the contrary
60 notwithstanding, in any municipality in which, at any election or
61 primary, as a result of the assembly, senatorial or congressional district
62 lines in effect, there is a voting district with less than one thousand five
63 hundred electors who vote for a combination of officers that no other
64 electors of the town vote for, the [registrars of voters] legislative body of
65 the municipality may, in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of
66 this act, either provide a suitable polling place therein or, [may,] in lieu
67 thereof, provide separate voting tabulators in the polling place of
68 another voting district in said municipality for use by such electors. If
69 the [registrars of voters provide] legislative body provides separate
70 voting tabulators in the polling place of another voting district, [they]
71 the registrars of voters shall determine which polling place officials are
72 necessary for the district containing less than one thousand five
73 hundred electors and shall provide the procedure to ensure that the
74 electors use the proper voting tabulators, which procedure may include
75 the registrars of voters prescribing and providing receipts.

76 (c) In any election or primary where electors in more than one voting
77 district vote in the same building and vote for all the same officers, and
78 the law does not require separate returns, the registrars of voters may
79 combine the voting districts and polling places into one voting district
80 and polling place, with or without integrating the voting districts on the
81 check lists used at the election or primary. The registrars of voters shall
82 file a statement of their action with the town clerk before the election or
83 primary and the town clerk shall label the polling place return form to

84 show which districts are combined on such return.

85 Sec. 4. Section 9-168b of the general statutes is repealed and the
86 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

87 When in the written opinion of the registrars of any municipality, the
88 lack of an existing convenient or suitable polling place within the lines
89 of a particular voting district necessitates the designation of a polling
90 place in an adjacent district, such registrars may submit such written
91 opinion to the legislative body of such municipality along with a
92 proposal for the legislative body to designate a convenient and suitable
93 polling place in a voting district adjacent thereto, located as near as
94 possible to the boundaries of the voting district for which designated, in
95 accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this act. A separate
96 location from the existing polling place for such adjacent district shall
97 be designated, except that a separate room within such existing polling
98 place may be designated. Such written opinion of the registrars and
99 designation by the legislative body shall be filed with the municipal
100 clerk not later than ninety days before a regular election, or primary.
101 Within ten days after such filing, the municipal clerk shall cause notice
102 of such filing to be published in the newspaper having the greatest
103 circulation in the town. Such designation shall remain in effect for future
104 elections and primaries, until the registrars file a document with the
105 municipal clerk stating that the designation of such polling place in an
106 adjacent district is no longer necessary.

107 Sec. 5. Section 9-169 of the general statutes is repealed and the
108 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

109 The legislative body of any town, consolidated town and city or
110 consolidated town and borough may divide and, from time to time,
111 redivide such municipality into voting districts. [The] Subject to the
112 provisions of section 1 of this act, the registrars of voters of any
113 municipality taking such action shall provide a suitable polling place in
114 each district but, if the registrars fail to agree as to the location of any
115 polling place or places, the legislative body shall determine the location
116 thereof. Polling places to be used in an election shall be determined at

117 least thirty-one days before such election, and such polling places shall
118 not be changed within said period of thirty-one days except that, if the
119 municipal clerk and registrars of voters of a municipality unanimously
120 find that any such polling place within such municipality has been
121 rendered unusable within such period, they shall forthwith designate
122 another polling place to be used in place of the one so rendered unusable
123 and shall give adequate notice that such polling place has been so
124 changed. The registrars of voters shall keep separate lists of the electors
125 residing in each district and shall appoint for each district a moderator
126 in accordance with the provisions of section 9-229 and such other
127 election officials as are required by law, and shall designate one of the
128 moderators so appointed or any other elector of such town to be the
129 head moderator for the purpose of declaring the results of elections in
130 the whole municipality. The registrars may also designate a deputy
131 head moderator to assist the head moderator in the performance of his
132 duties provided the deputy head moderator and the head moderator
133 shall not be enrolled in the same major party, as defined in subdivision
134 (5) of section 9-372. The selectmen, town clerk, registrars of voters and
135 all other officers of the municipality shall perform the duties required of
136 them by law with respect to elections in each voting district established
137 in accordance with this section. Voting district lines shall not be drawn
138 by a municipality so as to conflict with the lines of congressional
139 districts, senate districts or assembly districts as established by law,
140 except (1) as provided in section 9-169d, and (2) that, as to municipal
141 elections, any part of a split voting district containing less than two
142 hundred electors may be combined with another voting district adjacent
143 thereto from which all and the same officers are elected at such
144 municipal election in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this
145 act. Any change in the boundaries of voting districts made within ninety
146 days prior to any election or primary shall not apply with respect to such
147 election or primary. The provisions of this section shall prevail over any
148 contrary provision of any charter or special act.

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>	9-168
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	9-168a
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	9-168b
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	9-169

Statement of Purpose:

To require a public hearing and a vote of the legislative body prior to any move of polling places from one election to the next.

[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. PAOLILLO, 97th Dist.; SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
 REP. FISHBEIN, 90th Dist.

H.B. 6207