



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Proposed Bill No. 820

LCO No. 2456



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE VOTING RIGHTS ACT.

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

1 That title 9 of the general statutes be amended to (1) establish state
2 rights of action against (A) barriers to equal participation in an electoral
3 system, (B) vote dilution, and (C) racial gerrymandering, (2) allow
4 voters and jurisdictions to collaboratively develop remedies to potential
5 violations before resorting to costly litigation, (3) lower the threshold of
6 elements necessary for plaintiffs to prove a claim of vote dilution,
7 including not requiring a demonstration of racial segregation, (4) allow
8 courts that find violations to tailor remedies to effectively address future
9 potential violations, as well as accept and order remedies proposed by
10 plaintiffs rather than permitting defendant jurisdictions to craft their
11 own remedies, (5) require jurisdictions to publish in easily accessible
12 formats any changes to their electoral systems, and (6) prior to making
13 any such changes, require jurisdictions previously found in violation to
14 seek preclearance from the Superior Court for such changes.

Statement of Purpose:

To implement several changes at the state level designed to fill gaps in the federal Voting Rights Act.