



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

***Raised Bill No. 1017***

LCO No. 3542



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 9-140b of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2021*):

4 (c) (1) For purposes of this section, "mailed" means (A) sent by the  
5 United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or  
6 messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the  
7 State, or (B) [for the state election in 2020,] deposited in a secure drop  
8 box designated by the municipal clerk for such purpose, in accordance  
9 with instructions prescribed by the Secretary.

10 (2) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B) of  
11 subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the twenty-ninth day  
12 before [the state election in 2020] an election, the nineteenth day before  
13 a primary or the tenth day before a referendum, as applicable, and on  
14 each weekday thereafter until the close of the polls, the municipal clerk

15 shall [(A)] retrieve from the secure drop box described in said  
16 subparagraph each such ballot deposited in such drop box. [, and (B) if  
17 the drop box is located outside a building other than the building where  
18 the clerk's office is located, arrange for the clerk or the clerk's designee  
19 to be escorted by a police officer during such retrieval.]Sec. 2. Section 9-  
20 453e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
21 in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

22       Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be a United States  
23 citizen [,] and at least eighteen years of age, [and a resident of a town in  
24 this state] and shall not be on parole for conviction of a felony. Any  
25 individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating petition may  
26 serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating petition.

27       Sec. 3. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

29       Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or the  
30 Secretary of the State and filed with the Secretary of the State under the  
31 provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall  
32 contain a statement as to the residency [in this state] and eligibility of  
33 the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed  
34 under [penalties] penalty of false statement, by the person who  
35 circulated the same. Such statement shall set forth (1) [such] the  
36 circulator's residence address, including the town [in this state] in which  
37 [such] the circulator is a resident, (2) if the circulator is not a resident in  
38 this state, that the circulator agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of the  
39 state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation  
40 of a petition pursuant to this subpart, (3) the circulator's date of birth  
41 and that the circulator is at least eighteen years of age, [(3)] (4) that the  
42 circulator is a United States citizen and not on parole for conviction of a  
43 felony, and [(4)] (5) that each person whose name appears on such page  
44 signed the same in person in the presence of [such] the circulator and  
45 that either the circulator knows each such signer or that the signer  
46 satisfactorily identified himself or herself to the circulator. Any false  
47 statement committed with respect to such statement shall be deemed to

48 have been committed in the town in which the petition was circulated.

49 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-453k of the general statutes is  
50 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
51 *passage*):

52 (a) The town clerk or Secretary of the State shall not accept any page  
53 of a nominating petition unless the circulator thereof has signed before  
54 [him] the clerk, the Secretary or an appropriate person as provided in  
55 section 1-29, the statement as to the residency [in this state] and  
56 eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures  
57 thereon required by section 9-453j, as amended by this act.

58 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 9-453o of the general statutes is  
59 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
60 *passage*):

61 (a) The Secretary of the State may not count for purposes of  
62 determining compliance with the number of signatures required by  
63 section 9-453d the signatures certified by the town clerk on any petition  
64 page filed under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or 9-216 if: (1) The  
65 name of the candidate, [his] the candidate's address or the party  
66 designation, if any, has been omitted from the face of the petition; (2) the  
67 page does not contain a statement by the circulator as to the residency  
68 [in this state] and eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity  
69 of the signatures thereon as required by section 9-453j, as amended by  
70 this act, or upon which such statement of the circulator is incomplete in  
71 any respect; or (3) the page does not contain the certifications required  
72 by sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, by the town clerk of the town in  
73 which the signers reside. The town clerk shall cure any omission on his  
74 or her part by signing any such page at the office of the Secretary of the  
75 State and making the necessary amendment or by filing a separate  
76 statement in this regard, which amendment shall be dated.

77 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 9-404b of the general statutes is  
78 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
79 *passage*):

80 (d) [Each] Any person qualified to vote under the laws of any state or  
81 territory of the United States may be a circulator of a primary petition  
82 page [shall be] if such person (1) is an enrolled party member of a  
83 municipality in this state, [ Each] or (2) agrees to submit to the  
84 jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising out of or  
85 related to the circulation of a primary petition. For any circulator  
86 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, each petition page shall  
87 contain a statement signed by the registrar of voters of the municipality  
88 in which the circulator is an enrolled party member attesting that the  
89 circulator is an enrolled party member in the municipality. For any  
90 circulator described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each petition  
91 page shall contain a statement signed by such circulator that he or she  
92 agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or  
93 controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of a primary  
94 petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the registrar of  
95 voters of the municipality in which such page was circulated. Unless  
96 such a statement by the registrar [of voters] appears on each page so  
97 submitted, the Secretary shall reject the page. Each separate page of the  
98 petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures  
99 on the page and the number of such signatures, and shall be signed  
100 under the [penalties] penalty of false statement by the person who  
101 circulated the page, setting forth the circulator's address and the town  
102 in which the circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that  
103 each person whose name appears on the page signed the petition in  
104 person in the presence of the circulator, that the circulator either knows  
105 each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself or  
106 herself to the circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported,  
107 offices sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to the  
108 obtaining of the signatures. Each separate page of the petition shall also  
109 be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in section  
110 1-29. The Secretary shall reject any page of a petition filed with the  
111 Secretary which does not contain such a statement by the circulator as  
112 to the authenticity of the signatures on the page, or upon which the  
113 statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or which does  
114 not contain the certification required under this section by the registrar

115 of the town in which the circulator is an enrolled party member. Any  
116 individual proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may serve  
117 as a circulator of the pages of the petition, provided the individual's  
118 service as circulator does not violate any provision of this section.

119 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 9-410 of the general statutes is  
120 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
121 *passage*):

122 (c) [Each] Any person qualified to vote under the laws of any state or  
123 territory of the United States may be a circulator of a primary petition  
124 page [shall be] if such person (1) is an enrolled party member of a  
125 municipality in this state, [who is entitled to vote. Each] or (2) agrees to  
126 submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising  
127 out of or related to the circulation of a primary petition. For any  
128 circulator described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, each petition  
129 page shall contain a statement signed by the registrar of voters of the  
130 municipality in which such circulator is an enrolled party member  
131 attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in such  
132 municipality. For any circulator described in subdivision (2) of this  
133 subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by such  
134 circulator that he or she agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state  
135 in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of  
136 a primary petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the  
137 registrar of voters of the municipality in which such page was  
138 circulated. Unless such a statement by the registrar appears on each  
139 page so submitted, the registrar shall reject such page. No candidate for  
140 the nomination of a party for a municipal office or the position of town  
141 committee member shall circulate any petition for another candidate or  
142 another group of candidates contained in one primary petition for the  
143 nomination of such party for the same office or position, and any  
144 petition page circulated in violation of this provision shall be rejected by  
145 the registrar. No person shall circulate petitions for more than the  
146 maximum number of candidates to be nominated by a party for the  
147 same office or position, and any petition page circulated in violation of  
148 this provision shall be rejected by the registrar. Each separate sheet of

149 such petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the  
150 signatures thereon and the number of such signatures, and shall be  
151 signed under the penalties of false statement by the person who  
152 circulated the same, setting forth such circulator's address and the town  
153 in which such circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that  
154 each person whose name appears on such sheet signed the same in  
155 person in the presence of such circulator, that the circulator either knows  
156 each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified the signer to  
157 the circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported, offices or  
158 positions sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to  
159 the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate sheet of such petition shall  
160 also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in  
161 section 1-29. Any sheet of a petition filed with the registrar which does  
162 not contain such a statement by the circulator as to the authenticity of  
163 the signatures thereon, or upon which the statement of the circulator is  
164 incomplete in any respect, or which does not contain the certification  
165 hereinbefore required by the registrar of the town in which the  
166 circulator is an enrolled party member, shall be rejected by the registrar.  
167 Any individual proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may  
168 serve as a circulator of the pages of such petition, provided such  
169 individual's service as circulator does not violate any provision of this  
170 section.

171       Sec. 8. Section 9-450 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
172 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

173       (a) Nominations by major parties for any state, district or municipal  
174 office to be filled under the provisions of any law relating to elections to  
175 fill vacancies, unless otherwise provided therein, shall be made in  
176 accordance with the provisions of sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive.

177       (b) (1) [(A)] In the case of nominations for representatives in Congress  
178 and judges of probate in probate districts composed of two or more  
179 towns, provided for in sections 9-212, as amended by this act, and 9-218,  
180 as amended by this act, the delegates to the convention for the last state  
181 election shall be the delegates for the purpose of selecting a candidate to

182 fill such vacancy. If a vacancy occurs in the delegation from any town,  
183 political subdivision or district, such vacancy may be filled by the town  
184 committee of the town in which the delegate resided. Endorsements by  
185 political party conventions pursuant to this subsection may be made  
186 and certified at any time after the resignation or death creating such  
187 vacancy and not later than the fiftieth day before the day of the election.  
188 No such endorsement shall be effective until the presiding officer or  
189 secretary of any district convention has certified the endorsement to the  
190 Secretary of the State.

191 [(B)] (2) If such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-  
192 fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or  
193 municipal election in November of any year, no primary shall be held  
194 for the nomination of any political party and the party-endorsed  
195 candidate so selected shall be deemed, for the purposes of this chapter,  
196 the person certified by the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-  
197 444 as the nominee of such party.

198 [(C)] (3) Except as provided in [subparagraph (B) of this] subdivision  
199 (2) of this subsection, if a candidacy for nomination is filed by or on  
200 behalf of any person other than a party-endorsed candidate not later  
201 than [fourteen days] the day after the party endorsement and in  
202 conformity with the provisions of section 9-400, as amended by this act,  
203 a primary shall be held in each municipality of the district and each part  
204 of a municipality which is a component part of the district, to determine  
205 the nominee of such party for such office, except as provided in section  
206 9-416a. Such primary shall be held on the day that the writs of election  
207 issued by the Governor, pursuant to section 9-212, as amended by this  
208 act, ordered the election to be held, and new writs of election shall be  
209 issued by the Governor in accordance with section 9-212, as amended  
210 by this act.

211 [(D)] (4) Unless the provisions of [subparagraph (B) of this]  
212 subdivision (2) of this subsection apply, petition forms for candidacies  
213 for nomination by a political party pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
214 available from the Secretary of the State beginning on the day following

215 the issuance of writs of election by the Governor pursuant to section 9-  
216 212, as amended by this act, except when a primary has already been  
217 held, and the provisions of section 9-404a shall otherwise apply to such  
218 petitions.

219 [(E)] (5) The registry lists used pursuant to this subsection shall be the  
220 last-completed lists, as provided in sections 9-172a and 9-172b.

221 [(2)] (c) In the case of judges of probate in probate districts composed  
222 of a single town, the day named for the election shall be not earlier than  
223 the one hundred fifteenth day following the day on which the writ of  
224 election is issued, and the times specified in sections 9-391, 9-405 and 9-  
225 423 shall be applicable.

226 [(3) (A)] (d) (1) In the case of nominations for senators in Congress  
227 provided for in section 9-211, as amended by this act, the delegates to  
228 the convention for the last state election shall be the delegates for the  
229 purpose of selecting a candidate to fill such vacancy. If a vacancy occurs  
230 in the delegation from any town or political subdivision, such vacancy  
231 may be filled by the town committee of the town in which the delegate  
232 resided. Endorsements by political party conventions pursuant to this  
233 subsection may be made and certified at any time after the resignation  
234 or death creating such vacancy and not later than the fifty-sixth day  
235 before the day of the primary. No such endorsement shall be effective  
236 until the presiding officer or secretary of any state convention has  
237 certified the endorsement to the Secretary of the State.

238 [(B)] (2) If such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-  
239 fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or  
240 municipal election in November of any year, no primary shall be held  
241 for the nomination of any political party and the party-endorsed  
242 candidate so selected shall be deemed, for the purposes of this chapter,  
243 the person certified by the Secretary of the State, pursuant to section 9-  
244 444, as the nominee of such party. In such an event, endorsements by  
245 political party conventions shall be made not later than sixty days prior  
246 to the election.



247        [(C)] (3) Except as provided in [subparagraph (B) of this] subdivision  
248        (2) of this subsection, if a candidacy for nomination is filed by or on  
249        behalf of any person other than a party-endorsed candidate not later  
250        than [fourteen days] the day after the party endorsement and in  
251        conformity with the provisions of section 9-400, as amended by this act,  
252        a primary shall be held on the fifty-sixth day prior to the day of the  
253        election in each municipality to determine the nominee of such party for  
254        such office, except as provided in section 9-416a.

255        [(D)] (4) Unless the provisions of [subparagraph (B) of this]  
256        subdivision (2) of this subsection apply, petition forms for candidacies  
257        for nomination by a political party pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
258        available from the Secretary of the State beginning on the day following  
259        the issuance of writs of election by the Governor, pursuant to section 9-  
260        211, as amended by this act, except when a primary has already been  
261        held and the provisions of section 9-404a shall otherwise apply to such  
262        petitions.

263        [(E)] (5) The registry lists used pursuant to this subsection shall be the  
264        last-completed lists, as provided in sections 9-172a and 9-172b.

265        [(4)] (e) The times specified in sections 9-391, 9-405 and 9-423 shall be  
266        applicable to any special town election held to fill a vacancy in any town  
267        office under subsection (b) of section 9-164. Except as provided under  
268        subsection (c) of section 9-164, any election held to fill a vacancy in any  
269        municipal office under the provisions of any special act shall be held not  
270        earlier than the one hundred twenty-seventh day following the day  
271        upon which warning of such election is issued, and the times specified  
272        in sections 9-391, 9-405 and 9-423 shall be applicable.

273        Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 9-212 of the general statutes is  
274        repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
275        *passage*):

276        (a) In case of a vacancy in the office of representative in Congress  
277        from any district, the Governor, except as otherwise provided by law,  
278        shall not more than ten days after the occurrence of such vacancy issue

279 writs of election directed to the town clerks or assistant town clerks, in  
 280 such district, ordering an election to be held on the sixtieth day after the  
 281 issue of such writs on a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, to fill such  
 282 vacancy, provided (1) if such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred  
 283 twenty-fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state  
 284 or municipal election in November of any year, the Governor shall so  
 285 issue such writs on the sixtieth day before the day of such regular  
 286 election, ordering an election to be held on the day of such regular  
 287 election, (2) if such a vacancy occurs after the sixty-third day before the  
 288 day of a regular state election but before the regular state election, the  
 289 Governor shall not issue such writs and no election shall be held under  
 290 this section, unless the position vacated is that of member-elect, in which  
 291 case the Governor shall issue such writs and an election shall be held as  
 292 provided in this section, and (3) if a primary for such office occurs  
 293 pursuant to [subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1)] subdivision (3) of  
 294 subsection (b) of section 9-450, as amended by this act, the Governor  
 295 shall, within ten days following the filing of a candidacy for nomination  
 296 by a person other than the party-endorsed candidate, issue new writs of  
 297 election, in place of those first issued pursuant to this section.

298       Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the State  
 299 shall develop and implement a system or systems through which the  
 300 Secretary may permit any person to submit an electronic signature for  
 301 the purpose of signing any form or application to be filed pursuant to  
 302 chapters 141 to 154, inclusive, of the general statutes. The Secretary may  
 303 include in, or exclude from, such system any such form or application.  
 304 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any such form or  
 305 application on which any such electronic signature appears shall be  
 306 deemed to have been signed in the original.

307       (b) A state agency, upon the request of the Secretary of the State, shall  
 308 provide any information to the Secretary that the Secretary deems  
 309 necessary to maintain the system or systems described in subsection (a)  
 310 of this section. The Secretary shall not use the information obtained from  
 311 any state agency except for the purpose of allowing any person to sign  
 312 any form or application to be filed pursuant to chapters 141 to 154,

313 inclusive, of the general statutes.

314 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the general statutes is  
315 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
316 *passage*):

317 (a) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any election or primary and  
318 not later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the  
319 Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, for any federal or  
320 state election or primary, or by the town clerk for any municipal election  
321 or primary, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit or, for  
322 an election or primary held on or after January 1, 2016, an electronic  
323 audit authorized under section 9-320g of the votes recorded in not less  
324 than five per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or  
325 municipality, whichever is applicable, except that, for the purposes of  
326 this section, any central location used in a municipality for the counting  
327 of absentee ballots shall be deemed a voting district. Such manual or  
328 electronic audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public  
329 observation. Any election official who participates in the administration  
330 and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated  
331 by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such  
332 municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

333 Sec. 12. Section 9-159q of the general statutes is repealed and the  
334 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

335 (a) As used in this section:

336 (1) "Institution" means a veterans' health care facility, residential care  
337 home, health care facility for the handicapped, nursing home, rest home,  
338 mental health facility, alcohol or drug treatment facility, an infirmary  
339 operated by an educational institution for the care of its students, faculty  
340 and employees or an assisted living facility; and

341 (2) "Designee" means an elector of the same town and political party  
342 as the appointing registrar of voters, which elector is not an employee  
343 of the institution at which supervised voting is conducted.

344 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, [to the  
345 contrary,] if less than twenty of the patients in any institution in the state  
346 are electors, absentee ballots voted by such electors shall, upon request  
347 of either registrar of voters in the town of such electors' voting residence  
348 or the administrator of such institution, be voted under the supervision  
349 of such registrars of voters or their designees in accordance with the  
350 provisions of this section. The registrars of voters of a town other than  
351 the town in which an institution is located may refuse a request by the  
352 administrator of such institution when, in their written opinion, the  
353 registrars agree that such request is unnecessary, in which case this  
354 section shall not apply. Such registrars shall inform the administrator  
355 and the town clerk of the electors' town of voting residence of their  
356 refusal.

357 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, such request  
358 shall be made in writing and filed with the town clerk and registrars of  
359 voters of the town of such electors' voting residence, not more than  
360 forty-five days prior to an election or thirty-four days prior to a primary  
361 and not later than the seventh day prior to an election or primary. The  
362 request shall specify the name and location of the institution and the  
363 date and time when the registrars of voters or their designees shall  
364 supervise the casting of absentee ballots at the institution. The request  
365 shall also specify one or more alternate dates and times when  
366 supervised voting may occur. No request shall specify a date or an  
367 alternate date for supervised voting which is later than the last business  
368 day before the election or primary.

369 (d) The town clerk shall not mail or otherwise deliver an absentee  
370 ballot to an applicant who is a patient in any institution if a request for  
371 supervision of absentee balloting at that institution has been filed with  
372 the clerk during the period set forth in subsection (c) of this section. The  
373 clerk shall instead deliver such ballot or ballots to the registrars of voters  
374 or their designees who will supervise the voting of such ballots in  
375 accordance with this section.

376 (e) Except in the case of a written refusal as provided in subsection

377 (b) of this section, upon receipt of a request for supervision of absentee  
378 balloting during the period set forth in subsection (c) of this section, the  
379 registrar or registrars of voters who received the request shall inform  
380 the registrar or administrator who made the request and the town clerk  
381 as to the date and time when such supervision shall occur, which shall  
382 be the date and time contained in the request or the alternate date and  
383 time contained in the request. If the registrar or registrars fail to select  
384 either date, the supervision shall take place on the date and time  
385 contained in the request. If a request for supervision of absentee  
386 balloting at an institution is filed during the period set forth in  
387 subsection (c) of this section and the town clerk receives an application  
388 for an absentee ballot from a patient in the institution after the date  
389 when supervised balloting occurred, either registrar of voters may  
390 request, in writing, to the appropriate town clerk and registrars of voters  
391 that the supervision of the voting of absentee ballots at such institution  
392 in accordance with this section be repeated, and in such case the  
393 registrars or their designees shall supervise absentee balloting at such  
394 institution on the date and at the time specified in the subsequent  
395 request, which shall be not later than the last business day before the  
396 election or primary.

397 (f) On the date when the supervision of absentee balloting at any  
398 institution is to occur, the town clerk shall deliver to the registrars or  
399 their designees the absentee ballots and envelopes for all applicants who  
400 are electors of such clerk's town and patients at such institution. The  
401 ballot and envelopes shall be prepared for delivery to the applicant as  
402 provided in sections 9-137 to 9-140a, inclusive. The registrars or their  
403 designees shall furnish the town clerk a written receipt for such ballots.

404 (g) The registrars or their designees, as the case may be, shall jointly  
405 deliver the ballots to the respective applicants at the institution and shall  
406 jointly supervise the voting of such ballots. The ballots shall be returned  
407 to the registrars or their designees by the electors in the envelopes  
408 provided and in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-137, 9-139  
409 and 9-140a. If any elector asks for assistance in voting his ballot, two  
410 registrars or their designees of different political parties or, for a

411 primary, their designees of different candidates, shall render such  
412 assistance as they deem necessary and appropriate to enable such  
413 elector to vote his ballot. The registrars or their designees may reject a  
414 ballot when (1) the elector declines to vote a ballot, or (2) the registrars  
415 or their designees are unable to determine how the elector who has  
416 requested their assistance desires to vote the ballot. When the registrars  
417 or their designees reject a ballot, they shall mark the serially-numbered  
418 outer envelope "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection. Nothing in  
419 this section shall limit the right of an elector to vote his ballot in secret.

420 (h) After all ballots have been voted or marked "rejected" in  
421 accordance with subsection (g) of this section, the registrars or their  
422 designees shall jointly deliver or mail them in the envelopes, which shall  
423 be sealed, to the appropriate town clerk, who shall retain them until  
424 delivered in accordance with section 9-140c.

425 (i) When an institution is located in a town having a primary, the  
426 registrar in that town of the party holding the primary shall appoint for  
427 each such institution, one designee of the party-endorsed candidates  
428 and one designee of the contestants from the lists, if any, submitted by  
429 the party-endorsed candidates and contestants. Such registrar shall  
430 notify all party-endorsed candidates and all contestants of their right to  
431 submit a list of potential designees under this section. Each party-  
432 endorsed candidate and each contestant may submit to such registrar in  
433 writing a list of names of potential designees, provided any such list  
434 shall be submitted not later than ten days before the primary. If no such  
435 lists are submitted within said period, such registrar shall appoint one  
436 designee of the party-endorsed candidates and one designee of the  
437 contestants. Each designee appointed pursuant to this section shall be  
438 sworn to the faithful performance of his duties, and the registrar shall  
439 file a certificate of each designation with his town clerk.

440 (j) Any registrar of voters who has filed a request that the absentee  
441 balloting at an institution be supervised and any registrar required to  
442 conduct a supervision of voting under this section, who neglects to  
443 perform any of the duties required of him by this section so as to cause

444 any elector to lose his vote shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. Any  
445 registrar from the same town as a registrar who has filed such a request  
446 may waive his right to participate in the supervision of absentee  
447 balloting.

448 (k) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, [to the contrary,] if  
449 the spouse or a child of a registrar of voters or a dependent relative  
450 residing in the registrar's household is a candidate in the election or  
451 primary for which supervised absentee voting is to occur, such registrar  
452 shall not supervise such absentee voting but may designate the deputy  
453 registrar of voters or an assistant registrar of voters, appointed by the  
454 registrar pursuant to section 9-192, to supervise the absentee voting in  
455 his place.

456 (l) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, [if a town  
457 clerk receives twenty or more absentee ballot applications from the same  
458 street address in a town, including, but not limited to, an apartment  
459 building or complex, absentee ballots voted by the electors submitting  
460 such applications may, at the discretion of the registrars of voters of such  
461 town, be voted under the supervision of such registrars of voters or their  
462 designees in accordance with the same procedures set forth in this  
463 section for supervised absentee voting at institutions.] the Secretary of  
464 the State may suspend the supervision of absentee balloting under this  
465 section and section 9-159r, provided the Secretary (1) suspends such  
466 supervision of absentee balloting in recognition of a declaration by the  
467 Governor of a civil preparedness emergency, pursuant to section 28-9,  
468 or a public health emergency, pursuant to section 19a-131, and (2)  
469 submits a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing  
470 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
471 relating to elections advising of such suspension and specifying  
472 alternative actions to be taken to provide opportunities for absentee  
473 voting by electors described in this section and section 9-159r.

474 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section, "plan of  
475 districting" means the plan adopted or determined pursuant to Article  
476 XXVI or Article XXX, as applicable, of the Amendments to the

477 Constitution of Connecticut. Upon the completion by the registrars of  
478 voters in each municipality of the implementation of the plan of  
479 districting, the Secretary of the State shall review such implementation  
480 to ensure that such plan has been properly implemented and  
481 interpreted. In the case of any error in the implementation of such plan  
482 in a municipality, the Secretary shall notify the registrars of voters of  
483 such municipality of such error and require that such registrars of voters  
484 undertake measures to correct such error. Such registrars of voters shall  
485 immediately correct such error and certify in writing to the Secretary  
486 when such error has been corrected.

487       Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) In the case of an elector unable  
488 to appear at such elector's polling place because of a visual impairment,  
489 the Secretary of the State shall electronically provide to such elector an  
490 absentee ballot in a format capable of being read by a computer-related  
491 device and printed. Each such ballot signed by such elector, returned to  
492 the municipal clerk in accordance with section 9-140b of the general  
493 statutes, as amended by this act, and that otherwise satisfies all  
494 requirements for returned absentee ballots shall be counted.

495       Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 9-164 of the general statutes is  
496 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
497 *1, 2023*):

498       (a) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, there shall be  
499 held in each municipality, biennially, a municipal election [on the first  
500 Monday of May or the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, of  
501 the odd-numbered years, whichever date the legislative body of such  
502 municipality determines, provided, if no action is taken by the  
503 legislative body to so designate the date of such election, such election  
504 shall be held] on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the  
505 odd-numbered years. In any municipality where the term of any elected  
506 official would expire prior to the next regular election held under the  
507 provisions of this section, the term of such official shall be extended to  
508 the date of such election.



509       Sec. 16. Section 9-164a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
510 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

511       Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, in any municipality  
512 in which the date of the municipal election has been, or will be, changed  
513 to the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the odd-  
514 numbered years under section 9-164, as amended by this act, and in  
515 which the terms of office of one or more elected municipal officers had  
516 not, or will have not, expired at the time of the holding of the first  
517 municipal election in accordance with such changed date under said  
518 section, the legislative body of such municipality shall, prior to [July 25,  
519 1969] January 1, 2023, provide for a reasonable method of transition for  
520 such offices which may include reasonable extension of such terms and  
521 provision for interim terms. Except as provided in sections 9-164b, as  
522 amended by this act, 9-164d to 9-164f, inclusive, as amended by this act,  
523 9-187 and 9-187a, as amended by this act, in the absence of such action  
524 by such legislative body, the terms of any such officers which do not  
525 terminate within three months after such first or a subsequent municipal  
526 election held under said section 9-164 shall be extended to the municipal  
527 election next held after the expiration of such terms, or to such date,  
528 within seventy days after such election, on which the terms of municipal  
529 officers generally begin in such municipality, at which election  
530 successors shall be elected for the terms provided for by law or for such  
531 other transitional terms as are necessary to provide the rotation required  
532 by law. The clerk of the municipality, in preparing the list provided for  
533 under section 9-254, shall set forth such terms or transitional terms  
534 therein.

535       Sec. 17. Section 9-164b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
536 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

537       As to any board or commission with a rotating membership, some of  
538 the members of which, prior to the change to a uniform municipal  
539 election date to the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the  
540 odd-numbered years under section 9-164, as amended by this act, were  
541 elected for terms beginning approximately one year after the date of

542 their election, the legislative body may provide for such conforming  
543 changes in the beginning date of the terms of office as are designed to  
544 continue the rotation with regard to such office as it existed prior to such  
545 change, and in the absence of such action by such legislative body, the  
546 beginning date of the terms of such office shall be so changed by the  
547 clerk of the municipality in preparing the list provided for under section  
548 9-254. With respect to any board or commission with a rotating  
549 membership established under sections 8-1, 8-4a, 8-5 and 8-19, the  
550 authority empowered to prescribe the term of office of the members of  
551 such board or commission, if it is authorized under said sections to  
552 provide for an odd-numbered year term, may further provide for  
553 deferred terms by prescribing which terms are to begin approximately  
554 one year from the date on which the terms of municipal officers  
555 generally begin in such municipality.

556       Sec. 18. Section 9-187a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
557 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):

558       (a) (1) Except as provided in sections 9-164a, as amended by this act,  
559 9-164b, as amended by this act, 9-164d to 9-164f, inclusive, as amended  
560 by this act, and subdivision (2) of this subsection, (A) the term of each  
561 [elected] municipal official elected at a municipal election, other than  
562 town clerk and treasurer, shall begin [within seventy days after the  
563 municipal election at which such official is elected, on the day within  
564 such period prescribed by special act or charter provision, or, in the  
565 absence of such special act or charter provision, on the day within such  
566 period as is prescribed by action of the legislative body of such  
567 municipality, provided (1) in each municipality which holds its  
568 municipal election on the first Monday of May in the odd-numbered  
569 years, in the absence of such special act or charter provision, or action of  
570 the legislative body, such terms shall begin on the first day of July  
571 following the municipal election at which such official is elected, and (2)  
572 in each municipality which holds its municipal election on the Tuesday  
573 after the first Monday of November in the odd-numbered years, with  
574 the exception of the term of the town clerk, in the absence of such special  
575 act, or charter provision, or action of the legislative body, such term shall

576 begin on the second Tuesday next] (i) December first next following the  
577 day of [the municipal election at which such official is elected,] such  
578 municipal election, or (ii) such other day as may be prescribed by special  
579 act for a municipal election held on the Tuesday after the first Monday  
580 of November of the odd-numbered years, and [(3) in each municipality  
581 which holds its municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday  
582 in November in the odd-numbered years,] (B) the term of the town clerk  
583 [shall be two years from] or the treasurer, as applicable, elected at a  
584 municipal election shall begin on the first Monday of January next  
585 [succeeding his election, unless otherwise provided by charter or special  
586 act] following the day of such municipal election. Whenever the  
587 beginning date of the terms of elected municipal officials is so  
588 determined or changed, within the limits hereinabove specified, the  
589 authority providing therefor may provide for the conforming  
590 diminution or extension of terms of incumbents.

591 (2) The legislative body of a municipality may provide for a deferred  
592 beginning date, not to exceed one year from the applicable date set forth  
593 in subdivision (1) of this subsection, of the term of any office to be  
594 elected at a municipal election.

595 (b) In the case of a special election to fill a vacancy in an elected  
596 municipal office, which special election is combined with a regular  
597 election pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-164, the person elected  
598 to fill such vacancy shall begin to serve the unexpired portion of his or  
599 her predecessor's term on the applicable date provided in subsection (a)  
600 of this section.

601 Sec. 19. Section 9-189a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
602 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):

603 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 9-189 and 9-190a, any  
604 town or municipality may, by charter or ordinance, provide that the  
605 treasurer or the town clerk of [said] such town or municipality, or the  
606 registrars of voters of [said] such town, or any of such officers, shall, at  
607 the next [succeeding] following regular election for such office and

608 thereafter, be elected for a term of four years. In such event, such four-  
609 year term shall begin on the first Monday of January [succeeding] next  
610 following an election for treasurer or town clerk, [except as provided in  
611 section 9-187a, and from] and on the Wednesday following the first  
612 Monday of January succeeding an election for registrars of voters. [,  
613 provided, if any such town or municipality holds its town or municipal  
614 election on the first Monday of May of the odd-numbered years, the  
615 term of such treasurer or town clerk shall begin on the first day of July  
616 following the election, except as provided in section 9-187a.]

617       Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 9-32 of the general statutes is  
618 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
619 *1, 2023*):

620       (a) In each municipality the registrars, between January first and May  
621 first, annually, shall cause either (1) a complete house to house canvass  
622 to be made in person of each residence on each street, avenue or road  
623 within such municipality, (2) a complete canvass to be made by mail of  
624 each residence located on each street, avenue or road within such  
625 municipality, provided, upon agreement of both registrars, the National  
626 Change of Address System of the United States Postal Service may be  
627 used instead of such mailing, (3) a complete canvass to be made by  
628 telephone of each residence located on each street, avenue or road  
629 within such municipality, or (4) a complete canvass of each residence  
630 within such municipality by any combination of such methods, for the  
631 purpose of ascertaining the name of any elector formerly residing on  
632 such street, avenue or road who has removed therefrom. [; provided in  
633 the odd-numbered years, no canvass need be conducted by the  
634 registrars in a town which holds its regular municipal election on the  
635 first Monday of May in odd-numbered years.] The Secretary of the State  
636 shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54  
637 setting forth the procedure to be followed in conducting any such  
638 canvass by either mail or telephone.

639       Sec. 21. Section 9-164e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
640 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):

641 Before any action is taken under sections 9-164a, as amended by this  
642 act, 9-164b to 9-164f, inclusive, as amended by this act, 9-187 and 9-187a,  
643 as amended by this act, such proposed action shall be submitted by the  
644 legislative body to the municipal attorney of the municipality taking  
645 such action for approval as to conforming to law.

646 Sec. 22. Section 9-164f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
647 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):

648 Nothing in sections 9-164a, [to] as amended by this act, 9-164b, as  
649 amended by this act, 9-164d, 9-164e, as amended by this act, [inclusive,]  
650 9-187 and 9-187a, as amended by this act, shall affect the election of  
651 registrars of voters.

652 Sec. 23. Subsection (b) of section 9-211 of the general statutes is  
653 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
654 *passage*):

655 (b) The Governor shall cause writs of election issued pursuant to  
656 subsection (a) of this section to be (1) conveyed to a state marshal, who  
657 shall forthwith transmit an attested copy thereof to such clerks or  
658 assistant clerks, or (2) delivered electronically to such clerks or assistant  
659 clerks. Such clerks or assistant clerks, on receiving such writs, shall warn  
660 elections to be held on the day appointed therein in the same manner as  
661 state elections are warned, which elections shall be organized and  
662 conducted as are state elections, and the vote shall be declared, certified,  
663 directed, deposited, returned and transmitted in the same manner as at  
664 a state election.

665 Sec. 24. Subsection (b) of section 9-212 of the general statutes is  
666 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
667 *passage*):

668 (b) The Governor shall cause writs of election issued pursuant to  
669 subsection (a) of this section to be (1) conveyed to a state marshal, who  
670 shall forthwith transmit an attested copy thereof to such clerks or  
671 assistant clerks, or (2) delivered electronically to such clerks or assistant

672 clerks. Such clerks or assistant clerks, on receiving such writs, shall warn  
673 elections to be held on the day appointed therein in the same manner as  
674 state elections are warned, which elections shall be organized and  
675 conducted as are state elections, and the vote shall be declared, certified,  
676 directed, deposited, returned and transmitted in the same manner as at  
677 a state election.

678 Sec. 25. Subsection (b) of section 9-215 of the general statutes is  
679 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
680 *passage*):

681 (b) When any such vacancy occurs, except as provided in this section,  
682 the Governor shall, within ten days after its occurrence, issue writs of  
683 election, directed to the town clerks or assistant town clerks in the  
684 several towns in the district in which the vacancy exists, ordering an  
685 election to be held therein on the forty-sixth day after the issue of such  
686 writs to fill such vacancy, and cause them to be (1) conveyed to such  
687 town clerks or assistant town clerks, [ No such election shall be held on  
688 a Saturday or Sunday] or (2) delivered electronically or by any other  
689 means the Governor deems necessary to ensure such writs are received  
690 by such town clerks or assistant town clerks on the day such writs are  
691 issued, provided no such election shall be held on a Saturday or Sunday.  
692 If such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-fifth day and  
693 the forty-ninth day before the day of a regular state or municipal  
694 election in November of any year, the Governor shall so issue such writs  
695 on the forty-sixth day before the day of such regular election, ordering  
696 an election to be held on the day of such regular election. If such a  
697 vacancy occurs after the forty-ninth day before the day of a regular state  
698 election but before the Wednesday following the first Monday of  
699 January of the next-succeeding year, the Governor shall not issue such  
700 writs and no election shall be held under this section, unless the position  
701 vacated is that of member-elect, in which case the Governor shall issue  
702 such writs and an election shall be held as provided in this section.

703 Sec. 26. Section 9-218 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
704 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

705       When there is no election of probate judge in any district by reason  
 706 of two or more having an equal and the highest number of votes, or  
 707 when a new probate district is created and no provision made for the  
 708 election of a judge thereof, or whenever it is shown to the Governor that  
 709 a vacancy is about to exist in said office by reason of the resignation of  
 710 the incumbent to take effect at a future time or by reason of  
 711 constitutional limitation, or when there is a vacancy in said office, the  
 712 Governor may issue writs of election directed to the town clerk or clerks  
 713 or assistant town clerk or clerks within such district [,] ordering an  
 714 election to be held on a day named therein, other than a Saturday or  
 715 Sunday, to fill such vacancy or impending vacancy, and (1) transmit the  
 716 same to a state marshal [. Such state marshal] who shall forthwith  
 717 transmit them to such clerk or clerks, [who] or (2) deliver electronically  
 718 the same to such clerk or clerks. Such clerk or clerks, on receiving the  
 719 same, shall warn elections to be held on the day appointed in such writs,  
 720 in the same manner as state elections are warned. Such elections shall  
 721 be organized and conducted, and the vote shall be declared and returns  
 722 made, certified, directed, deposited and transmitted, in the same  
 723 manner as at a state election. The Secretary of the State, Treasurer and  
 724 Comptroller shall, within thirty days after any such election, count and  
 725 declare the votes so returned, and notice shall be given to the person  
 726 declared elected, in the same manner as is provided in the election of  
 727 probate judges at state elections. The Secretary of the State shall enter  
 728 the returns in tabular form in books kept by [him] the Secretary for that  
 729 purpose and present a copy of the same, with the name of, and the total  
 730 number of votes received by, each of the candidates for said office, to  
 731 the Governor within ten days thereafter. The Probate Court  
 732 Administrator shall cite a probate judge to act as a judge in the district  
 733 during any vacancy in said office in accordance with section 45a-120.

734       Sec. 27. Section 9-164c of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
 735 *January 1, 2023*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	9-140b(c)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-453e
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-453j
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-453k(a)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-453o(a)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-404b(d)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-410(c)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-450
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-212(a)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-320f(a)
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	9-159q
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-164(a)
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	9-164a
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	9-164b
Sec. 18	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-187a
Sec. 19	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-189a
Sec. 20	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-32(a)
Sec. 21	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-164e
Sec. 22	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	9-164f
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	9-211(b)
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	9-212(b)
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	9-215(b)
Sec. 26	<i>from passage</i>	9-218
Sec. 27	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) make permanent the use of absentee ballot drop boxes initially used during the 2020 election cycle, (2) bring certain state laws relating to the circulation of nominating and primary petitions into compliance with federal case law, (3) in the case of nominations for judges of probate and members of Congress, reduce the time by which a person other than a party-endorsed candidate can file a candidacy for nomination in order for a primary to be held, (4) require the Secretary of the State to develop a system through which election-related forms can be signed electronically, (5) include absentee ballot central counting locations in post-election audits of voting districts, (6) allow the Secretary to suspend supervised absentee voting during certain emergencies, (7) require the Secretary to review local election officials' implementation



of redistricting plans, (8) require the Secretary to provide accessible absentee ballots to certain visually impaired electors, (9) require all municipal elections to be held in November, and (10) allow the Governor to issue writs of election electronically.

*[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.]*