



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 8934



Offered by:

REP. FOX, 148<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. BLUMENTHAL, 147<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6205

File No. 572

Cal. No. 399

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

16 secular activity; [on the day of the primary, election or referendum;] (6)  
17 the required performance of such elector's or person's duties as a  
18 primary, election or referendum official, including as a town clerk or  
19 registrar of voters or as staff of the clerk or registrar, at a polling place  
20 other than such elector's or person's own during all of the hours of  
21 voting at such primary, election or referendum; or (7) for the state  
22 election in 2020, the sickness of COVID-19. As used in this section,  
23 "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World  
24 Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any  
25 related mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a  
26 communicable respiratory disease.

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

30 Sec. 2. Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

47 Date ....

48 .... (Signature)"

49 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
50 for the state election in 2020, each inner envelope in which an absentee  
51 ballot is returned to the municipal clerk shall have printed on its face a  
52 form containing the following statements:

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

64 Date ....

65 .... (Signature)""

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