STATE OF CONNECTICUT

General Assembly   *Amendment*

January Session, 2021   LCO No. **9200**

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Offered by:
SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. **5**   File No. 570   Cal. No. 338

(As Amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A")

"AN ACT CONCERNING INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING, SAFE AND SECURE IN-PERSON VOTING, VOTER REGISTRATION AND CERTAIN OTHER CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION."

1   Strike section 20 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu
2   thereof:

3   "Sec. 20. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-140 of the general statutes
4   are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
5   *1, 2021*):

6   (a) **[**Application**]** (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
7   section, application for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of
8   the municipality in which the applicant is eligible to vote or has applied
9   for such eligibility. Any person who assists another person in the
10   completion of an application shall, in the space provided, sign the
11   application and print or type his name, residence address and telephone
12   number. Such signature shall be made under the penalties of false

13   statement in absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not invalidate
14   the application solely because it does not contain the name of a person
15   who assisted the applicant in the completion of the application. The
16   municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee ballot application
17   any material which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate or
18   referendum question. The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all
19   absentee ballot applications provided under this subsection, including
20   the name and address of each person to whom applications are
21   provided and the number of applications provided to each such person.
22   Each absentee ballot application provided by the municipal clerk shall
23   be consecutively numbered and be stamped or marked with the name
24   of the municipality issuing the application. The application shall be
25   signed by the applicant under the penalties of false statement in
26   absentee balloting on **[**(1)**]** (A) the form prescribed by the Secretary of
27   the State pursuant to section 9-139a, **[**(2)**]** (B) a form provided by any
28   federal department or agency if applicable pursuant to section 9-153a,
29   or **[**(3)**]** (C) any of the special forms of application prescribed pursuant
30   to section 9-150c, 9-153a, 9-153b, 9-153d, 9-153e, 9-153f or 9-158d, if
31   applicable. Any such absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write
32   may cause the application to be completed by an authorized agent who
33   shall, in the spaces provided for the date and signature, write the date
34   and name of the absentee ballot applicant followed by the word "by"
35   and his own signature. If the ballot is to be mailed to the applicant, the
36   applicant shall list the bona fide personal mailing address of the
37   applicant in the appropriate space on the application.

38   **[**(b)**]** (2) A municipal clerk may transmit an application to a person
39   under this subsection by facsimile machine or other electronic means, if
40   so requested by the applicant. If a municipal clerk has a facsimile
41   machine or other electronic means, an applicant may return a completed
42   application to the clerk by such a machine or device, provided the
43   applicant shall also mail the original of the completed application to the
44   clerk, either separately or with the absentee ballot that is issued to the
45   applicant. If the clerk does not receive such original application by the
46   close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum, the

47   absentee ballot shall not be counted.

48   (b) On and after July 1, 2021:

49   (1) Application for an absentee ballot may also be made to the
50   Secretary of the State through an online system established and
51   maintained by the Secretary for such purpose if an applicant's signature
52   is in a database described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k, such
53   signature is capable of being imported into such online system and such
54   online system is capable of generating such an application that contains
55   a prominently displayed barcoded voter identification number that can
56   interface with and be verified against the state-wide centralized voter
57   registration system described in section 9-50b.

58   (2) In order for an application for an absentee ballot to be submitted
59   through the online system described in subdivision (1) of this
60   subsection, the applicant's signature shall be obtained from a database
61   described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and the applicant shall, on
62   an online form prescribed by the Secretary, (A) type his or her name, (B)
63   indicate the municipality in which such applicant is eligible to vote or
64   has applied for such eligibility, and (C) mark a box associated with the
65   following statement:

66   "By clicking on the box below, I swear or affirm all of the following
67   under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting:

68   1. I am the person whose name is provided on this form, and I desire
69   to apply for an absentee ballot.

70   2. I am eligible to vote in the municipality provided on this form or
71   have applied for such eligibility.

72   3. I authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles or other Connecticut
73   state agency to transmit to the Connecticut Secretary of the State my
74   signature that is on file with such agency and understand that such
75   signature will be used by the Secretary on this online application for an
76   absentee ballot as if I had signed this form personally."

77   (3) Not later than twenty-four hours after receipt of any submitted

78 application for an absentee ballot through the online system described

79 in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Secretary shall transmit such

80 application to the clerk of the municipality indicated in such

81 application."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 20	*July 1, 2021*	9-140(a) and (b)