



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 7878



Offered by:
SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 138

File No. 440

Cal. No. 271

"AN ACT CONCERNING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS."

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
4 study the feasibility of implementing procedures whereby an absentee
5 ballot applicant uses a single envelope, instead of two, for the return of
6 such applicant's absentee ballot. Such study shall include an
7 examination and identification of each section of the general statutes
8 that would require amending in order to implement such procedures.

9 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

10 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

11 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

12 (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
13 Representatives;

- 14 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 15 (5) One appointed by the House of Representatives chairperson of the
16 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
17 matters relating to elections;
- 18 (6) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing
19 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
20 relating to elections;
- 21 (7) One appointed by the House of Representatives ranking member
22 of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
23 cognizance of matters relating to elections;
- 24 (8) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing
25 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
26 relating to elections;
- 27 (9) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;
- 28 (10) Two appointed by the president of the Registrars of Voters
29 Association of Connecticut, each of whom shall be enrolled in a different
30 political party from the other; and
- 31 (11) One appointed by the president of the Connecticut Town Clerks
32 Association.
- 33 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
34 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a
35 member of the General Assembly.
- 36 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
37 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
38 be filled by the appointing authority.
- 39 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
40 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
41 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule

42 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
43 days after the effective date of this section.

44 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
45 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections
46 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

47 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report
48 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
49 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
50 elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
51 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
52 submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

53 Sec. 502. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
54 group to (1) examine employing risk-limiting audits to determine the
55 accuracy of election results, including (A) the feasibility of
56 implementing such audits, (B) the different methods used in such audits
57 and the practical considerations for implementation of each such
58 method within the existing statutory framework, (C) any potential
59 equipment necessary to implement one or more of such methods, (D)
60 the procedures necessary to implement one or more of such methods,
61 and (E) any changes to such statutory framework necessary to
62 implement one or more of such methods, and (2) within available
63 appropriations, oversee a pilot program in not less than five and not
64 more than ten municipalities of one or more of such methods for the
65 municipal elections held in such municipalities in 2021.

66 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

67 (1) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee, who shall
68 be the chairperson of such working group;

69 (2) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

70 (3) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

71 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of

72 Representatives;

73 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

74 (6) Two appointed by the chairpersons and ranking members of the
75 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
76 matters relating to elections, each of whom shall be enrolled in a
77 different political party from the other;

78 (7) Two appointed by the Secretary of the State, one of whom shall be
79 admitted to the practice of law in this state and have expertise in the
80 election laws of this state, and the other of whom shall be a statistician;

81 (8) Two appointed by the president of the Registrars of Voters
82 Association of Connecticut, each of whom shall be enrolled in a different
83 political party from the other; and

84 (9) The director of the Center for Voting Technology Research at The
85 University of Connecticut, or the director's designee.

86 (c) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision
87 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
88 of the General Assembly.

89 (d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
90 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
91 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

92 (e) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee, as
93 chairperson of the working group, shall schedule the first meeting of
94 such working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after
95 the effective date of this section.

96 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
97 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections
98 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

99 (g) Not later than January 31, 2022, the working group shall submit a

100 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
101 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
102 relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
103 of the general statutes, and to the Secretary of the State. The working
104 group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January
105 31, 2022, whichever is later.

106 Sec. 503. Section 9-374 of the general statutes is repealed and the
107 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

108 No authority of the state or any political subdivision thereof having
109 jurisdiction over the conduct of any primary shall permit the name of a
110 party-endorsed candidate for an office or position to be printed on the
111 official ballot to be used at any such primary unless a copy of the party
112 rules regulating such party and its method of selecting party-endorsed
113 candidates for nomination to such office or for election as town
114 committee members, as the case may be, has been filed in the office of
115 the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before such candidate is
116 selected under such method of endorsement. The selection of delegates
117 to conventions shall not be valid unless at least one copy of the party
118 rules regulating the manner of making such selection has been filed in
119 the office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before such
120 selection is made. A duplicate copy of such rules shall also be filed with
121 the state central committee of such party. A copy of the local party rules,
122 relating to a party in a municipality, shall be filed forthwith by the town
123 chairman or the secretary of the town committee of such party in such
124 municipality with the Secretary of the State. The state party rules shall
125 be filed by the state chairman or the secretary of the state central
126 committee of such party. In the case of a minor party, no authority of
127 the state or any subdivision thereof having jurisdiction over the conduct
128 of any election shall permit the name of a candidate of such party for
129 any office to be printed on the official ballot unless at least one copy of
130 the party rules regulating the manner of nominating a candidate for
131 such office has been filed in the office of the Secretary of the State at least
132 [sixty] one hundred eighty days before the nomination of such
133 candidate. In the case of a minor party, the selection of town committee

134 members and delegates to conventions shall not be valid unless at least
 135 one copy of the party rules regulating the manner of making such
 136 selection has been filed in the office of the Secretary of the State at least
 137 sixty days before such selection is made. A copy of local party rules shall
 138 forthwith be also filed with the town clerk of the municipality to which
 139 they relate. Party rules shall not be effective until sixty days after the
 140 filing of the same with the Secretary of the State. A party in any
 141 municipality for which local party rules with respect to any office or
 142 position have not been filed as provided in this section shall, as to such
 143 office or position, be subject to the provisions of the effective state rules
 144 of such party applicable in municipalities which do not have local party
 145 rules, until such time as local party rules therefor are filed and become
 146 effective as provided in this section. The town chairman of a party in
 147 any municipality for which local party rules have not been adopted and
 148 filed as provided in this section shall forthwith file a statement with the
 149 Secretary of the State to the effect that such party in such municipality
 150 does not have local party rules. The term "party rules" as used in this
 151 section includes any amendment to such party rules. When any
 152 amendment is to be filed as required by this section, complete party
 153 rules incorporating such amendment shall be filed, together with a
 154 separate copy of such amendment."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 502	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 503	<i>from passage</i>	9-374