



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

***Raised Bill No. 5262***

LCO No. 1809



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

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

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-135 of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes  
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

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

16 clerk or registrar of voters or as staff of the clerk or registrar, at a polling  
17 place other than such elector's or person's own during all of the hours  
18 of voting at such primary, election or referendum. [; or (7) for the state  
19 election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum held on or  
20 after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, the sickness of  
21 COVID-19. As used in this section, "COVID-19" means the respiratory  
22 disease designated by the World Health Organization on February 11,  
23 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any related mutation thereof recognized  
24 by said organization as a communicable respiratory disease.]

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

28 Sec. 2. Section 9-137 of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is  
29 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
30 *passage*):

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

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

46 Date ....

47 .... (Signature)"

48 [(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
49 for the state election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum  
50 held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, each inner  
51 envelope in which an absentee ballot is returned to the municipal clerk  
52 shall have printed on its face a 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 such primary, election or referendum for one or more of the  
58 following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my  
59 absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote during all of the  
60 hours of voting; (3) my illness or physical disability; (4) the tenets of my  
61 religion which forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election  
62 or referendum; (5) my duties as a primary, election or referendum  
63 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

**Statement of Purpose:**

To revise certain absentee voting eligibility statutes to more closely align the language thereof with that of the related state constitutional provision.

*[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.]*