



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 350**

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 5004

*House of Representatives, April 3, 2023*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) (1) Any eligible voter may  
2 vote prior to the day of a regular election, primary or referendum held  
3 in conjunction with a regular election or primary, in accordance with the  
4 provisions of this section, during a period of early voting at each such  
5 regular election held on or after July 1, 2023, and at each such primary  
6 held on or after January 1, 2024. Such period of early voting shall (A)  
7 notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2 of the general statutes,  
8 commence on the fifteenth day prior to and conclude on the second day  
9 prior to such regular election or primary, and (B) consist of fourteen total  
10 days, at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of  
11 section 9-174 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

12 (2) Any eligible voter may vote prior to the day of a special election  
13 or referendum not held in conjunction with a regular election or

14 primary, in accordance with the provisions of this section, during a  
15 period of early voting at each such special election or referendum held  
16 on or after January 1, 2024. Such period of early voting shall (A)  
17 notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2 of the general statutes,  
18 commence on the fifth day prior to and conclude on the second day  
19 prior to such special election or referendum, and (B) consist of four total  
20 days, at such times as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of  
21 section 9-174 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

22 (b) (1) The registrars of voters of each municipality shall designate a  
23 location for the conduct of early voting, which location shall be the same  
24 for the duration of the period of early voting except as otherwise  
25 specified in this subdivision, provided (A) the registrars of voters have  
26 access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such  
27 location, and (B) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of  
28 the State not later than one hundred twenty days prior to the day of a  
29 regular election or primary, or not later than twenty days prior to the  
30 day of a special election or referendum not held in conjunction with a  
31 regular election or primary. The written certification under  
32 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall provide (i) the name, street  
33 address and relevant contact information associated with such location,  
34 (ii) the number of election, primary or referendum officials who shall be  
35 appointed by the registrars of voters to serve at such location and the  
36 roles of such officials, and (iii) a description of the design of such  
37 location and a plan for effective conduct of such early voting. The  
38 Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written certification not later  
39 than ninety days prior to the day of a regular election or primary, or not  
40 later than fifteen days prior to the day of a special election or  
41 referendum not held in conjunction with a regular election or primary.  
42 If the Secretary disapproves such certification, the Secretary shall  
43 provide, in writing, the reasons for such disapproval and shall issue an  
44 order for such corrective action as the Secretary deems necessary,  
45 including, but not limited to, the appointment of additional election,  
46 primary or referendum officials or the alteration of such design or plan.  
47 After having received approval of such certification or having complied  
48 with any order for corrective action to the Secretary's satisfaction, as

49 applicable, the registrars of voters shall determine the site of such  
50 location designated for the conduct of early voting at least thirty-one  
51 days prior to a regular election or primary, or at least eleven days prior  
52 to a special election or referendum not held in conjunction with a regular  
53 election or primary. Such location shall not be changed within such  
54 period, except, if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters  
55 unanimously find that such location has been rendered unusable within  
56 such period, such clerk and registrars shall forthwith designate another  
57 location for the conduct of early voting to be used in place of the location  
58 so rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice that such location  
59 has been so changed. The provisions of sections 9-168d and 9-168e of the  
60 general statutes shall apply to such location designated for the conduct  
61 of early voting.

62 (2) In any municipality with a population of at least twenty thousand,  
63 the registrars of voters shall hold a public hearing on whether to  
64 designate any additional location in such municipality for the conduct  
65 of early voting, which hearing shall be held not later than fifteen days  
66 prior to the time for designating any such location set forth in  
67 subdivision (1) of this subsection. The registrars shall properly notice  
68 such public hearing not later than ten days prior to such public hearing  
69 in a newspaper having general circulation in such municipality and on  
70 the Internet web site of the municipality. Not later than three days after  
71 the conclusion of such public hearing, the registrars shall determine  
72 whether to designate any such additional location and shall notify the  
73 Secretary of the State of such determination. If the registrars determine  
74 that any such additional location be designated, the provisions of  
75 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to any such additional  
76 location. If the registrars determine that no additional location be  
77 designated, such registrars shall include in such notification to the  
78 Secretary a detailed explanation for such determination. For the  
79 purposes of this subdivision, "population" means the estimated number  
80 of people according to the most recent version of the State Register and  
81 Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90 of the general statutes.

82 (3) The registrars of voters may delegate to each election, primary or

83 referendum official appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
84 subsection any of the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters.  
85 The registrars of voters shall supervise each such official and train each  
86 such official to be an early voting election, primary or referendum  
87 official.

88 (c) Any voter who wishes to vote during a period of early voting at  
89 an election, primary or referendum, and is eligible to so vote at such  
90 election, primary or referendum, shall (1) appear in person at such times  
91 as provided in subsection (c) of section 9-174 of the general statutes, as  
92 amended by this act, at the location designated by the registrars of  
93 voters for early voting, (2) identify such voter as required by subsection  
94 (a) of section 9-261 of the general statutes, and (3) declare under oath  
95 that such voter has not previously voted in such election, primary or  
96 referendum, as provided in subsection (e) of this section.

97 (d) If the registrars of voters determine that a voter is eligible to vote  
98 in the election, primary or referendum, the registrars of voters shall  
99 check the state-wide centralized voter registration system before  
100 allowing such voter to cast an early voting ballot as provided in  
101 subsection (e) of this section.

102 (1) If the registrars of voters determine that the voter has not already  
103 voted, or if there is no report that the voter has already voted, the  
104 registrars shall allow such voter to vote.

105 (2) If the registrars of voters determine that the voter has already  
106 voted, such voter shall not be allowed to vote and such matter shall be  
107 reviewed by the registrars of voters. After completion of such review, if  
108 a resolution of the matter cannot be made, such matter shall be reported  
109 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, which shall conduct an  
110 investigation of the matter.

111 (e) If the voter is allowed to vote, the registrars of voters shall provide  
112 such voter with an early voting ballot and early voting envelope and  
113 shall make a record of such issuance. The voter shall complete an  
114 affirmation printed upon the back of the early voting envelope and shall

115 declare under oath that the voter has not previously voted in the  
116 election, primary or referendum. The affirmation shall be in the form  
117 substantially as follows and signed by the voter:

118       AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty  
119 of false statement (perjury), that:

120       1. I am the voter appearing in person to vote at an election, primary  
121 or referendum prior to the day of such election, primary or referendum.

122       2. I am eligible to vote in the election, primary or referendum  
123 indicated for today.

124       3. I have identified myself to the satisfaction of the registrars of voters.

125       4. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote  
126 otherwise than by this ballot at this election, primary or referendum.

127       5. I have received an early voting ballot for the purpose of so voting.

128       .... (Signature of voter)

129       (f) The voter shall forthwith mark the early voting ballot in the  
130 presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars  
131 of voters shall not know how the early voting ballot is marked. The voter  
132 shall place the early voting ballot in the early voting ballot envelope  
133 provided and deposit such envelope in a secured early voting ballot  
134 depository receptacle. At the conclusion of each day during the early  
135 voting period, the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle  
136 containing such day's early voting ballots to the municipal clerk, who  
137 shall retain such ballots, if necessary, in the fire-resistive vault or safe  
138 provided for in section 7-27 of the general statutes, until delivery of such  
139 ballots to the registrars of voters on the day of the election, primary or  
140 referendum for the purpose of counting such ballots. A section of the  
141 head moderator's return shall show the number of early voting ballots  
142 received from voters. The registrars of voters shall seal a copy of the vote  
143 tally for early voting ballots in a depository envelope with the early  
144 voting ballots and store such early voting depository envelope with the

145 other election, primary or referendum results materials. The early  
146 voting depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters  
147 for the period of time required to preserve counted ballots for elections,  
148 primaries or referenda.

149 (g) Except as provided in section 2 of this act, the provisions of title 9  
150 of the general statutes and any regulation adopted under said title  
151 concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of  
152 absentee ballots shall apply, as nearly as possible, to the custody, control  
153 and counting of early voting ballots under this section.

154 (h) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any  
155 candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being  
156 submitted at the election, primary or referendum, or loiter or peddle or  
157 offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within  
158 a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry  
159 to any location designated by the registrars of voters for early voting or  
160 in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such  
161 outside entrance to any such location or in any room opening upon any  
162 such corridor, passageway or approach.

163 (i) The provisions of subsections (a) to (h), inclusive, of this section  
164 shall not apply to any primary held for the purpose of choosing town  
165 committee members.

166 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Early voting ballots received  
167 by the municipal clerk prior to the day of an election, primary or  
168 referendum, and same-day election or same-day primary registration  
169 ballots received by the municipal clerk prior to the day of a regular  
170 election or primary, shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the  
171 registrars between six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on the day of the  
172 election, primary or referendum.

173 (b) The ballot counters for such early voting ballots and same-day  
174 election or same-day primary registration ballots shall proceed to the  
175 central counting location or to the respective polling places when  
176 counting is to take place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a of

177 the general statutes at the time, between six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock  
178 a.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum, designated by  
179 the registrars of voters. At the time such ballots are delivered to the  
180 ballot counters pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the ballot  
181 counters shall perform any checking of such ballots and proceed, as  
182 nearly as possible, as provided in section 9-150a of the general statutes.

183 Sec. 3. Section 9-174 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
184 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

185 (a) Notwithstanding [the provisions of any general statute,] any  
186 provision of the general statutes or any special act or municipal charter,  
187 at any regular election, or at any special election held to fill a vacancy in  
188 a state, district or municipal office, the polls on the day of such election  
189 shall remain open for voting from six o'clock a.m. until eight o'clock p.m.  
190 No elector shall be permitted to cast such elector's vote after the hour  
191 prescribed for the closing of the polls in any election unless such elector  
192 is in line at eight o'clock p.m. An election official or a police officer of the  
193 municipality, who is designated by the moderator, shall be placed at the  
194 end of the line at eight o'clock p.m. Such official or officer shall not allow  
195 any electors who were not in such line at eight o'clock p.m. to enter such  
196 line.

197 (b) Notwithstanding [the provisions of any general statute,] any  
198 provision of the general statutes or any special act or municipal charter,  
199 at any regular election, each location designated for [election day] same-  
200 day election or same-day primary registration pursuant to subsection  
201 (c) of section 9-19j, as amended by this act, shall, on election day or  
202 primary day, as those terms are defined in said section, remain open for  
203 [election day] registration and voting from six o'clock a.m. until eight  
204 o'clock p.m. No applicant for [election day] same-day election or same-  
205 day primary registration shall be admitted as an elector or permitted to  
206 cast such applicant's vote after the hour prescribed for the closing of the  
207 location designated for such purposes [in any regular] on election day  
208 or primary day unless such applicant is in line at eight o'clock p.m. An  
209 election or primary official or a police officer of the municipality, who is

210 appointed by the registrars of voters, shall be placed at the end of the  
211 line at eight o'clock p.m. Such official or officer shall not allow any  
212 applicants who were not in such line at eight o'clock p.m. to enter such  
213 line.

214 (c) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any  
215 special act or municipal charter, at any regular election held on or after  
216 July 1, 2023, and at any primary held on or after January 1, 2024, each  
217 location designated for the conduct of early voting pursuant to  
218 subsection (b) of section 1 of this act or for same-day election or same-  
219 day primary registration pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-19j, as  
220 amended by this act, shall, during the early voting period, remain open  
221 from ten o'clock a.m. to six o'clock p.m., except that such location shall  
222 remain open from eight o'clock a.m. to eight o'clock p.m. on the last  
223 Wednesday and Thursday prior to the election or primary.

224 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any  
225 special act or municipal charter, at any special election, and at any  
226 referendum not held in conjunction with a regular election or primary,  
227 held on or after January 1, 2024, each location designated for the conduct  
228 of early voting pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1 of this act shall,  
229 during the early voting period, remain open from ten o'clock a.m. to six  
230 o'clock p.m.

231 (3) No voter shall be permitted to cast such voter's vote after the hour  
232 prescribed for the closing of the location designated for early voting at  
233 such election, primary or referendum unless such voter is in line at such  
234 prescribed hour. An election, primary or referendum official or a police  
235 officer of the municipality, who is appointed by the registrars of voters,  
236 shall be placed at the end of the line at such prescribed hour. Such  
237 official or officer shall not allow any voters who were not in such line at  
238 such prescribed hour to enter such line.

239 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-174a of the general statutes is  
240 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
241 *2023*):



242 (a) For each municipality, the registrars of voters, in consultation with  
243 the municipal clerk, shall create an emergency contingency plan for  
244 elections, primaries and referenda to be held within such municipality,  
245 including the conduct of early voting, as provided in section 1 of this  
246 act, at such regular elections held on or after July 1, 2023, and at such  
247 primaries, special elections and referenda not held in conjunction with  
248 a regular election or primary which are held on or after January 1, 2024.  
249 Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, (1) solutions for ballot or  
250 envelope shortages, and (2) strategies to implement in the event of (A) a  
251 shortage or absence of [poll workers] election, primary or referendum  
252 officials at the polling place or the location designated for early voting,  
253 as applicable, (B) a loss of power, (C) a fire or the sounding of an alarm  
254 within a polling place or a location designated for early voting, (D)  
255 voting machine malfunctions, (E) a weather or other natural disaster, (F)  
256 the need to remove [a poll worker or moderator] an election, primary or  
257 referendum official and to replace such [worker or moderator] official,  
258 and (G) disorder in and around the polling place or the location  
259 designated for early voting.

260 Sec. 5. Section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
261 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

262 (a) As used in [this subsection and subsections (b) to (i), inclusive, of]  
263 this section: [, "election day"]

264 (1) "Election day" means the day on which a regular election, as  
265 defined in section 9-1, as amended by this act, is held;

266 (2) "Primary day" means the day on which a primary, as defined in  
267 section 9-372 or 9-463, as applicable, is held;

268 (3) "Same-day election registration" means admission as an elector  
269 during the period of early voting at a regular election, as provided in  
270 section 1 of this act, or on election day; and

271 (4) "Same-day primary registration" means both admission as an  
272 elector and enrollment in a political party holding a primary during the

273 period of early voting at a primary, as provided in section 1 of this act,  
274 or on primary day.

275 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, a person who (1)  
276 is (A) not an elector, or (B) an elector registered in a municipality who  
277 wishes to change such elector's registration to another municipality  
278 pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this  
279 section, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a)  
280 of section 9-12, may apply for [admission as an elector on election day]  
281 same-day election registration or same-day primary registration  
282 pursuant to the provisions [of subsections (a) to (i), inclusive,] of this  
283 section.

284 (c) (1) The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the  
285 completion and processing of [election day registration applications on  
286 election day] same-day election registrations and same-day primary  
287 registrations, provided (A) the registrars of voters [shall] have access to  
288 the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location,  
289 and (B) such location [shall be] is certified in writing to the Secretary of  
290 the State not later than [thirty-one] forty-five days before election day or  
291 primary day. The written certification under subparagraph (B) of this  
292 subdivision shall (i) include the name, street address and relevant  
293 contact information associated with such location, (ii) list the name and  
294 address of each election official or primary official who shall be  
295 appointed by the registrars of voters to serve at such location, if any, and  
296 (iii) provide a description of the design of such location and a plan for  
297 effective completion and processing of such applications. The Secretary  
298 shall approve or disapprove such written certification not later than  
299 [fifteen] twenty-nine days before election day or primary day and may  
300 require the registrars of voters to appoint one or more additional  
301 election officials or primary officials or alter such design or plan.

302 (2) The registrars of voters may apply to the Secretary of the State not  
303 later than [sixty] seventy-four days before election day or primary day,  
304 in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, to designate any  
305 additional location for the completion and processing of [election day]

306 same-day election or same-day primary registration applications. [on  
307 election day.] The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such  
308 application not later than [forty-five] fifty-nine days before election day  
309 or primary day. If the Secretary approves such application, the registrars  
310 of voters may so designate any such additional location. The provisions  
311 of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to any such additional  
312 location.

313 (3) The registrars of voters may delegate to each election official or  
314 primary official appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection  
315 [if any,] any of the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters.  
316 The registrars of voters shall supervise each such election official or  
317 primary official and train each such [election] official to be [an election  
318 day registration election] a same-day election or same-day primary  
319 registration official.

320 (d) Any person applying [to register on election day] for same-day  
321 election or same-day primary registration under the provisions [of  
322 subsections (a) to (i), inclusive,] of this section shall make application in  
323 accordance with the provisions of section 9-20, provided (1) (A) on  
324 election day or primary day, the applicant shall appear in person not  
325 later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance with subsection (b) of section  
326 9-174, as amended by this act, at the location designated by the registrars  
327 of voters for [election day registration] same-day election or same-day  
328 primary registration, and (B) during the period of early voting prior to  
329 election day or primary day, the applicant shall appear in person at such  
330 times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-174, as  
331 amended by this act, at such location, (2) an applicant who is a student  
332 enrolled at an institution of higher education may submit a current  
333 photo identification card issued by such institution in lieu of the  
334 identification required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall  
335 declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the  
336 election or primary, as provided in subsection (f) of this section. If the  
337 information that the applicant is required to provide under section 9-20  
338 and [subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of] this section does not include  
339 proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall also

340 submit identification that shows the applicant's bona fide residence  
341 address, including, but not limited to, a learner's permit issued under  
342 section 14-36 or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and current  
343 address and that has a due date that is not later than thirty days after  
344 the election or primary or, in the case of a student enrolled at an  
345 institution of higher education, a registration or fee statement from such  
346 institution that has the applicant's name and current address.

347 (e) If the registrars of voters determine that an applicant satisfies the  
348 application requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the  
349 registrars of voters shall check the state-wide centralized voter  
350 registration system before admitting such applicant as an elector or  
351 enrolling such applicant in a political party holding a primary.

352 (1) If the registrars of voters determine that the applicant is not  
353 already an elector, the registrars of voters shall admit the applicant as  
354 an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.  
355 Subject to the provisions of section 9-59, if the registrars of voters  
356 determine that the applicant is not already enrolled in a political party,  
357 the registrars of voters shall enroll the applicant in the political party  
358 holding a primary of such applicant's preference and the privileges of  
359 party enrollment shall attach immediately.

360 (2) If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an  
361 elector in another municipality and such applicant [states that he or she]  
362 wants to change the municipality in which the applicant is an elector,  
363 notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters  
364 of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register shall  
365 immediately notify the registrars of voters in such other municipality  
366 that such elector is changing the municipality in which the applicant is  
367 an elector. The registrars of voters in such other municipality shall notify  
368 the election officials or primary officials in such municipality to remove  
369 such elector from the official voter list and, if applicable, any enrollment  
370 list of such municipality. Such election officials or primary officials shall  
371 cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and, if  
372 applicable, enrollment list and mark "off" next to such elector's name on

373 any such [official voter] list.

374 (A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other  
375 municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall  
376 immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which  
377 such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not  
378 receive [an election day] a same-day election or same-day primary  
379 registration ballot from the registrars of voters of the municipality in  
380 which such elector now seeks to register. For any such elector, the  
381 [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration  
382 process shall cease in the municipality in which such elector now seeks  
383 to register and such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters  
384 in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. After  
385 completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter [can not] cannot  
386 be made, such matter shall be reported to the State Elections  
387 Enforcement Commission which shall conduct an investigation of the  
388 matter.

389 (B) If there is no such report that such applicant already voted in the  
390 other municipality, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which  
391 the applicant seeks to register shall admit the applicant as an elector and  
392 the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately. Subject to the  
393 provisions of section 9-59, the registrars of voters shall also enroll the  
394 applicant in the political party holding a primary of such applicant's  
395 preference and the privileges of party enrollment shall attach  
396 immediately.

397 (f) If the applicant is admitted as an elector, the registrars of voters  
398 shall provide the elector with [an election day] a same-day election or  
399 same-day primary registration ballot and [election day] same-day  
400 election or same-day primary registration envelope and shall make a  
401 record of such issuance. The elector shall complete an affirmation  
402 imprinted upon the back of the same-day election or same-day primary  
403 registration envelope [for an election day registration ballot] and shall  
404 declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the  
405 election or primary. The affirmation shall be in the form substantially as

406 follows and signed by the voter:

407 AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty  
408 of false statement, (perjury) that:

409 1. I am the person admitted here as an elector in the town indicated.

410 2. I am eligible to vote in the election or primary indicated for today  
411 in the town indicated.

412 3. The information on my voter registration card is correct and  
413 complete.

414 4. I reside at the address that I have given to the registrars of voters.

415 5. If previously registered at another location, I have provided such  
416 address to the registrars of voters and hereby request cancellation of  
417 such prior registration.

418 6. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote  
419 otherwise than by this ballot at this election or primary.

420 7. I completed an application for [an election day] a same-day election  
421 registration or same-day primary registration ballot and received [an  
422 election day] a same-day election registration or same-day primary  
423 registration ballot.

424 .... (Signature of voter)

425 (g) The elector shall forthwith mark the [election day] same-day  
426 election or same-day primary registration ballot in the presence of the  
427 registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars of voters shall  
428 not know how the [election day] same-day election or same-day  
429 primary registration ballot is marked. The elector shall place the  
430 [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration ballot  
431 in the [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration  
432 ballot envelope provided, and deposit such envelope in a secured  
433 [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration ballot  
434 depository receptacle. At the conclusion of each day during the early

435 voting period, the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle  
436 containing such day's same-day election or same-day primary  
437 registration ballots to the municipal clerk, who shall retain such ballots,  
438 if necessary, in the fire-resistive vault or safe provided for in section 7-  
439 27, until delivery of such ballots to the registrars of voters on election  
440 day or primary day for the purpose of counting such ballots. On election  
441 day or primary day, at the time designated by the registrars of voters  
442 and noticed to election officials or primary officials, the registrars of  
443 voters shall transport such receptacle containing the [election day]  
444 same-day election or same-day primary registration ballots received on  
445 such election day or primary day to the central location or polling place,  
446 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, where absentee ballots are  
447 counted and such [election day] same-day election or same-day primary  
448 registration ballots shall be counted by the election officials or primary  
449 officials present at such central location or polling place. A section of the  
450 head moderator's return shall show the number of [election day] same-  
451 day election or same-day primary registration ballots received from  
452 electors. The registrars of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for  
453 [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration  
454 ballots in a depository envelope with the [election day] same-day  
455 election or same-day primary registration ballots and store such  
456 [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration  
457 depository envelope with the other election or primary results  
458 materials. The [election day] same-day election or same-day primary  
459 registration depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of  
460 voters for the period of time required to preserve counted ballots for  
461 elections.

462 (h) [The] Except as provided in section 2 of this act, the provisions of  
463 [the general statutes and regulations] title 9 and any regulation adopted  
464 under said title concerning procedures relating to the custody, control  
465 and counting of absentee ballots shall apply, as nearly as possible, to the  
466 custody, control and counting of [election day] same-day election or  
467 same-day primary registration ballots under [subsections (a) to (i),  
468 inclusive, of] this section.

469 (i) After the acceptance of [an election day] a same-day election or  
470 same-day primary registration, the registrars of voters shall forthwith  
471 send a registration confirmation notice to the residential address of each  
472 applicant who [is] was admitted as an elector on election day [under  
473 subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of] or during the period of early voting  
474 prior to election day, or who was enrolled in a political party holding a  
475 primary on primary day or during the period of early voting prior to  
476 primary day, under this section. Such confirmation shall be sent by first  
477 class mail with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not  
478 deliverable at the address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation  
479 notice is returned undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the  
480 necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable,  
481 notwithstanding the May first deadline in section 9-35.

482 (j) No person shall solicit [in] on behalf of or in opposition to [the  
483 candidacy of another or himself or herself or in] any candidate or on  
484 behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the  
485 election, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or  
486 circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any  
487 outside entrance in use as an entry to any location designated by the  
488 registrars of voters for [election day] same-day election or same-day  
489 primary registration balloting or in any corridor, passageway or other  
490 approach leading from any such outside entrance to any such location  
491 or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or  
492 approach.

493 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-225 of the general statutes is  
494 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
495 *2023*):

496 (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the  
497 town clerk or assistant town clerk of each town shall warn the electors  
498 therein to meet on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November  
499 in the even-numbered years, at six o'clock a.m., which warning shall be  
500 given by publication (A) in a newspaper having a general circulation in  
501 such town, or towns in the case of a joint publication under subsection



502 (b) of this section, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous  
503 to [holding] the commencement of the period of early voting at such  
504 election, and (B) on such town's Internet web site, not more than fifteen  
505 nor less than five days previous to [holding] the commencement of the  
506 period of early voting at such election. The clerk in each town shall, in  
507 the warning for such election, give notice of (i) the time and the location  
508 of each polling place in the town, (ii) in towns divided into voting  
509 districts, the time and the location of each polling place in each district,  
510 [and] (iii) the time and the [location] site of each location designated for  
511 [election day] same-day election registration in the town, and (iv) the  
512 time and the site of each location designated for the conduct of early  
513 voting, at which such election will be held. The town clerk shall record  
514 each such warning.

515 (2) For the state election in 2020, and any election held pursuant to  
516 section 9-211, 9-212, 9-215 or 9-218 on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to  
517 November 3, 2021, the warning under subsection (a) of this section shall  
518 be given not more than seven nor less than four days previous to  
519 holding such election.

520 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-226 of the general statutes is  
521 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
522 *2023*):

523 (a) The warning of each municipal election shall specify the objects  
524 for which such election is to be held. Except as provided in subsection  
525 (b) of this section, notice of a town election shall be given by the town  
526 clerk or assistant town clerk, by publishing a warning (1) in a newspaper  
527 published in such town or having a general circulation therein, such  
528 publication to be not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous  
529 to [holding] the commencement of the period of early voting at the  
530 election, and (2) on such town's Internet web site, such publication to be  
531 not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to [holding] the  
532 commencement of the period of early voting at the election. The town  
533 clerk in each town shall, in the warning for such election, give notice of  
534 (A) the time and the location of each polling place in the town, (B) in

535 towns divided into voting districts, the time and the location of each  
536 polling place in each district, [and] (C) the time and the [location] site of  
537 each location designated for [election day] same-day election  
538 registration, and (D) the time and the site of each location designated for  
539 the conduct of early voting, in the town. The town clerk shall record  
540 each such warning. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,  
541 notice of an election of a city or borough shall be given by publishing a  
542 warning (i) in a newspaper published within the limits of such city or  
543 borough or having a general circulation therein, not more than fifteen  
544 nor less than five days previous to [holding] the commencement of the  
545 period of early voting at the election, and (ii) on the Internet web site of  
546 such city or borough, or the town having such city or borough within  
547 such town's limits, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous  
548 to [holding] the commencement of the period of early voting at the  
549 election, which warning shall include notice of (I) the time and the  
550 location of each polling place in such city or borough, (II) in cities and  
551 boroughs divided into voting districts, the time and the location of each  
552 polling place in each district, [and] (III) the time and the [location] site  
553 of each location designated for [election day registration] same-day  
554 election registration in such city or borough, and (IV) the time and the  
555 site of each location designated for the conduct of early voting in such  
556 city or borough.

557 Sec. 8. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 9-255a of the general  
558 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
559 (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

560 (a) The registrars of voters and municipal clerk from each  
561 municipality shall jointly certify, in writing, to the Secretary of the State  
562 the number of ballots for each polling place in the municipality that have  
563 been ordered for each election or primary to be held within such  
564 municipality. Such registrars and clerk shall also so certify the number  
565 of ballots for each location designated for the conduct of early voting in  
566 the municipality that have been ordered for each regular election held  
567 on or after July 1, 2023, and for each primary or special election held on  
568 or after January 1, 2024. Such certification shall be on a form provided

569 by the Secretary that shall have questions, including, but not limited to,  
570 those pertaining to the historical turnout for each such polling place or  
571 location, as applicable, in the municipality for the past four elections or  
572 primaries of similar nature to the election or primary to be held. The  
573 registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall include as part of any such  
574 certification any other relevant factors that may be unique to each such  
575 polling place or location in their municipality. Such certification shall be  
576 provided to the Secretary not later than thirty-one days prior to the  
577 commencement of the period of early voting at an election or twenty-  
578 one days prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at a  
579 primary.

580 (b) If the registrars of voters and municipal clerk of a municipality do  
581 not jointly submit the certification as set forth in subsection (a) of this  
582 section, such registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall order a  
583 number of ballots equal to the total number of registered voters in their  
584 municipality for such election or primary.

585 (c) The registrars of voters and municipal clerk may jointly apply to  
586 the Secretary of the State for a waiver of the requirements of subsections  
587 (a) and (b) of this section. Such waiver request shall be submitted to the  
588 Secretary of the State, in writing, not later than the forty-fifth day before  
589 the commencement of the period of early voting at the election or the  
590 thirtieth day before the commencement of the period of early voting at  
591 the primary to be held and shall demonstrate good cause for such  
592 waiver. Not later than five days after receipt of such waiver request, the  
593 Secretary shall notify, in writing, the municipal clerk requesting a  
594 waiver, of the Secretary's response.

595 Sec. 9. Section 9-373a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
596 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

597 Any person desiring to be a write-in candidate for any state, district  
598 or municipal office to be filled at any regular election shall register his  
599 candidacy with the Secretary of the State on a form prescribed by the  
600 Secretary. The registration shall include the candidate's name and  
601 address, the designation and term of the office sought, a statement of

602 consent to the candidacy, and any other information which the Secretary  
603 deems necessary. In the case of a write-in candidacy for the office of  
604 Governor or Lieutenant Governor, the registration shall include a  
605 candidate for each of those offices, or shall be void. The registration shall  
606 not include a designation of any political party. The registration shall be  
607 filed with the Secretary not more than ninety days prior to the election  
608 at which the office is to be filled and not later than four o'clock p.m. on  
609 the fourteenth day preceding the commencement of the period of early  
610 voting at the election, or the registration shall be void. No person  
611 nominated for an office by a major or minor party or by nominating  
612 petition shall register as a write-in candidate for that office under the  
613 provisions of this section, and any registration of a write-in candidacy  
614 filed by such a person shall be void. Notwithstanding any provision of  
615 this section to the contrary, any person desiring to be a write-in  
616 candidate for the municipal office of town meeting member in any town  
617 having a representative town meeting which has seventy-five or more  
618 members shall register his candidacy with the town clerk of such town  
619 not later than the last business day preceding the commencement of the  
620 period of early voting at such election. A person may register as a write-  
621 in candidate for a district or municipal office if such person's name  
622 appears on the last-completed registry list of the district or municipality  
623 represented by such office, as the case may be. A person may register as  
624 a write-in candidate for a state office if such person's name appears on  
625 the last-completed registry list of the state.

626 Sec. 10. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-224b of the general statutes  
627 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
628 *January 1, 2024*):

629 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, in order to be  
630 a valid write-in candidate in a special election called to fill a vacancy in  
631 a state, district or municipal office, a person shall register with the  
632 Secretary of the State not earlier than ninety days before such election  
633 and not later than the end of the business day on the fourteenth day  
634 preceding the commencement of the period of early voting at such  
635 election.

636 (b) In order to be a valid write-in candidate in a special election called  
637 to fill a vacancy in the municipal office of town meeting member in any  
638 town having a representative town meeting which has seventy-five or  
639 more members, a person shall register with the town clerk of such town  
640 not earlier than ninety days preceding such election and not later than  
641 the last business day preceding the commencement of the period of  
642 early voting at the election.

643 Sec. 11. Section 9-329b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
644 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

645 (a) At any time prior to a primary held before January 1, 2024, and  
646 pursuant to sections 9-423, 9-425 and 9-464, or a special act, or prior to  
647 any regular election held before July 1, 2023, or any special election held  
648 before January 1, 2024, the Superior Court may issue an order removing  
649 a candidate from a ballot where it is shown that [said] such candidate is  
650 improperly on the ballot.

651 (b) At any time prior to the commencement of the period of early  
652 voting at a primary held on or after January 1, 2024, and pursuant to  
653 sections 9-423, 9-425 and 9-464, or a special act, or prior to the  
654 commencement of the period of early voting at any regular election held  
655 on or after July 1, 2023, or at any special election held on or after January  
656 1, 2024, the Superior Court may issue an order removing a candidate  
657 from a ballot where it is shown that such candidate is improperly on the  
658 ballot.

659 Sec. 12. Section 9-460 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
660 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

661 If any party has nominated a candidate for office, or, on and after  
662 November 4, 1981, if a candidate has qualified to appear on any ballot  
663 by nominating petition under a reserved party designation, in  
664 accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and such nominee  
665 thereafter, but prior to forty-six days before the opening of the polls on  
666 the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, dies,  
667 withdraws such nominee's name or for any reason becomes disqualified

668 to hold the office for which such nominee has been nominated (1) such  
669 party or, on and after November 4, 1981, the party designation  
670 committee may make a nomination to fill such vacancy or provide for  
671 the making of such nomination as its rules prescribe, and (2) if another  
672 party that is qualified to nominate a candidate for such office does not  
673 have a nominee for such office, such party may also nominate a  
674 candidate for such office as its rules prescribe. No withdrawal, and no  
675 nomination to replace a candidate who has withdrawn, under this  
676 section shall be valid unless the candidate who has withdrawn has filed  
677 a letter of withdrawal signed by such candidate with the Secretary of the  
678 State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator  
679 or state representative from any district, or with the municipal clerk in  
680 the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state  
681 representative. A copy of such candidate's letter of withdrawal to the  
682 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. No  
683 nomination to fill a vacancy under this section shall be valid unless it is  
684 certified to the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office  
685 or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or  
686 to the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state  
687 senator or state representative, by the organization or committee  
688 making such nomination, at least forty-two days before the opening of  
689 the polls on the day of the election, except as otherwise provided by this  
690 section. If a nominee dies within forty-six days before the election, but  
691 prior to twenty-four hours before the [opening of the polls on the day  
692 of] commencement of the period of early voting at the election for which  
693 such nomination has been made, the vacancy may be filled in the  
694 manner prescribed in this section by two o'clock p.m. of the day before  
695 the [election] first day of such period of early voting with the municipal  
696 clerk or the Secretary of the State, as the case may be. If a nominee dies  
697 within twenty-four hours before the [opening of the polls]  
698 commencement of the period of early voting at the election and prior to  
699 the close of the polls on the day of the election for which such  
700 nomination has been made, such nominee shall not be replaced and the  
701 votes cast for such nominee shall be canvassed and counted, and if such  
702 nominee receives a plurality of the votes cast, a vacancy shall exist in the

703 office for which the nomination was made. The vacancy shall then be  
704 filled in a manner prescribed by law. A copy of such certification to the  
705 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. Such  
706 nomination to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification shall  
707 include a statement setting forth the reason for such vacancy. If at the  
708 time such nomination is certified to the Secretary of the State or to the  
709 municipal clerk, as the case may be, the ballots have already been  
710 printed, the Secretary of the State shall direct the municipal clerk in each  
711 municipality affected to (A) have the ballots reprinted with the  
712 nomination thus made included thereon, (B) cause printed stickers to be  
713 affixed to the ballots so that the name of any candidate who has died,  
714 withdrawn or been disqualified is deleted and the name of any  
715 candidate chosen to fill such vacancy appears in the same position as  
716 that in which the vacated candidacy appeared, or (C) cause blank  
717 stickers to be so affixed if the vacancy is not filled.

718 Sec. 13. Section 9-426 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
719 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

720 If only one candidacy has been filed by a person other than a party-  
721 endorsed candidate for the nomination by a political party to a  
722 particular office and the candidate whose candidacy has been so filed  
723 thereafter, but prior to the [opening of the polls] commencement of the  
724 period of early voting at such primary, dies, withdraws his name from  
725 nomination or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for  
726 which he is a candidate, no primary shall be held for the nomination of  
727 such party to that office and the party-endorsed candidate for such  
728 office shall be deemed to have been lawfully chosen in the same manner  
729 and to the same extent as is provided in sections 9-382 to 9-450,  
730 inclusive, in the case where no candidacy other than a party-endorsed  
731 candidacy has been filed. If candidacies have been filed by only one  
732 group of persons other than party-endorsed candidates for election to a  
733 town committee, and the candidates whose candidacies have been so  
734 filed thereafter, but prior to the [opening of the polls] commencement of  
735 the period of early voting at such primary, die, withdraw their names  
736 from nomination or for any reason become disqualified to hold the

737 positions for which they are candidates, so as to render the number of  
738 candidacies so filed less than twenty-five per cent of the number of town  
739 committee members to be elected by such party either in the  
740 municipality or in the political subdivision, as the case may be, no  
741 primary shall be held for those positions and the party-endorsed  
742 candidates for such positions shall be deemed to have been lawfully  
743 chosen in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided in  
744 sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, in the case where no candidacies other  
745 than party-endorsed candidacies have been filed. If any person on a  
746 slate, prior to the [opening of the polls] commencement of the period of  
747 early voting at such primary, dies, withdraws his name from  
748 nomination or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the position  
749 for which he is a candidate, such partial slate shall appear on the ballot  
750 at the primary and, if such partial slate wins, then the remaining  
751 members may fill the vacancy. If only one such slate other than a slate  
752 of party-endorsed candidates has been filed for election and prior to the  
753 [opening of the polls] commencement of the period of early voting at  
754 such primary each of the persons on such slate dies, withdraws or  
755 becomes disqualified, no primary shall be held for those positions and  
756 the party-endorsed candidates for those positions shall be deemed to  
757 have been lawfully chosen in the same manner and to the same extent  
758 as is provided in sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, in the case where no  
759 candidacies other than party-endorsed candidacies have been filed.

760 Sec. 14. Section 9-428 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
761 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

762 If a party-endorsed candidate for nomination to an office or for  
763 election to the position of town committee member, prior to twenty-four  
764 hours before the [opening of the polls] commencement of the period of  
765 early voting at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the first  
766 of such [primary] period of early voting, withdraws his name from  
767 nomination or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office or  
768 position for which he is a candidate, the state central committee, the  
769 town committee or other authority of the party which endorsed such  
770 candidate may make an endorsement to fill such vacancy or provide for



771 the making of such endorsement, in such manner as is prescribed in the  
772 rules of such party, and certify to the registrar and municipal clerk or to  
773 the Secretary of the State, as the case may be, the name of the person so  
774 endorsed. If such certification is made at least twenty-four hours prior  
775 to the [opening of the polls] commencement of the period of early voting  
776 at the primary, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate  
777 who has died, or at least seven days before the first day of such  
778 [primary] period of early voting, in the case of such an endorsement to  
779 replace a candidate who has withdrawn or become disqualified, such  
780 person so endorsed shall run in the primary as the party-endorsed  
781 candidate, except as provided in sections 9-416 and 9-417. If such  
782 certification of another party-endorsed candidate has been made within  
783 the time specified in this section, and if the ballots have already been  
784 printed and the names of the candidates for such office or position  
785 appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the registrar, as the  
786 case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality holding such  
787 primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the person so  
788 certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an endorsement  
789 to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification has been made  
790 less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours prior to the  
791 [opening of the polls] commencement of the period of early voting at  
792 the primary, such Secretary or registrar shall direct such clerk to have  
793 stickers printed and inserted upon the ballots, having the name of the  
794 person so certified appearing thereon, and the moderator in each polling  
795 place shall cause such stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the  
796 opening of the polls at such primary.

797 Sec. 15. Section 9-429 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
798 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

799 If, prior to the [opening of the polls] commencement of the period of  
800 early voting at a primary for nomination to an office or for election of  
801 town committee members, such a number of candidates have died,  
802 withdrawn their names or become ineligible, and have not been  
803 replaced as permitted in sections 9-426, as amended by this act, and 9-  
804 428, as amended by this act, as to render the total number of candidates

805 for such office or position no greater than the number to be nominated  
806 to such office or elected to such positions, the primary shall not be held,  
807 and each of the party-endorsed and other candidates shall be deemed to  
808 have been lawfully nominated to such office or elected to such positions.

809 Sec. 16. Subsection (b) of section 9-55 of the general statutes is  
810 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
811 *1, 2024*):

812 (b) If a political party authorizes unaffiliated electors to vote in a  
813 primary, under section 9-431, and a notice of primary is published, the  
814 registrars shall cause a list of all unaffiliated electors eligible to vote in  
815 the primary to be printed before the commencement of the period of  
816 early voting at such primary. If unaffiliated electors are authorized to  
817 vote in only one party's primary and are authorized to vote for all offices  
818 to be contested at the primary, the registrars may print the list of  
819 unaffiliated electors in combination with such party's enrollment list,  
820 indicating party affiliation where applicable.

821 Sec. 17. Section 9-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
822 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

823 The Secretary of the State shall provide to the clerk of the  
824 municipality in which such election is to be held a list of the candidates  
825 of each party for such office by the thirty-fourth day before the  
826 commencement of the period of early voting at such special election.

827 Sec. 18. Subsection (b) of section 9-4a of the general statutes is  
828 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
829 *2023*):

830 (b) The voter guide shall contain:

831 (1) The date of the state election and the hours the polls will be open,  
832 and the dates of the period of early voting at such state election and the  
833 hours the locations designated for the conduct of early voting will be  
834 open;

835 (2) The name, party affiliation and contact information of each  
836 candidate who is nominated or qualifies as a petitioning candidate for  
837 election to the office of President of the United States, Vice-President of  
838 the United States, senator in Congress, representative in Congress,  
839 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer,  
840 State Comptroller, Secretary of the State, state senator or state  
841 representative at the state election. As used in this section, "contact  
842 information" means any or all of the following information received by  
843 the Secretary of the State in the course of the secretary's elections duties  
844 or by the Federal Election Commission: A candidate's campaign mailing  
845 address, telephone number, facsimile number, electronic mail address  
846 and web site. The voter guide may provide contact information for a  
847 candidate for the office of President of the United States, Vice-President  
848 of the United States, senator in Congress or representative in Congress  
849 by an electronic link to such information on the Federal Election  
850 Commission's web site;

851 (3) The following three maps produced pursuant to the most recent  
852 decennial reapportionment of General Assembly and Connecticut  
853 congressional districts: One map showing the boundaries of state  
854 senatorial districts, one map showing the boundaries of state house of  
855 representatives districts and one map showing the boundaries of state  
856 congressional districts;

857 (4) A description of each office to be filled at the state election;

858 (5) An absentee ballot application in printable format;

859 (6) Instructions regarding voting by absentee ballot;

860 (7) Information on the procedure for registering to vote;

861 (8) A voter registration application in printable format;

862 (9) The full text of each proposed constitutional amendment that will  
863 appear on the ballot at the state election;

864 (10) The explanatory text as to the content and purpose of each such

865 proposed constitutional amendment, which is prepared by the Office of  
866 Legislative Research pursuant to section 2-30a; and

867 (11) The text of the Voter's Bill of Rights set forth in section 9-236b.

868 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the State  
869 shall develop and conduct a state-wide public awareness campaign to  
870 educate the public regarding the availability of early voting at elections,  
871 primaries and referenda and provide information to the public  
872 concerning such early voting, including, but not limited to, the number  
873 of days of early voting prior to an election, primary or referendum, the  
874 hours for early voting during such days and the procedures for casting  
875 a ballot at locations designated for the conduct of early voting.

876 (b) The Secretary of the State shall develop an early voting procedure  
877 manual, which shall include, but need not be limited to, a model plan  
878 for the designation and staffing of locations for the conduct of early  
879 voting, and shall revise such procedure manual as necessary in  
880 accordance with changes in the law relating to the conduct of early  
881 voting. The Secretary shall distribute such procedure manual, and any  
882 revision to such procedure manual, to each registrar of voters and  
883 municipal clerk and shall publish such procedure manual, and any such  
884 revision, on the Internet web site of the office of the Secretary of the  
885 State.

886 Sec. 20. Section 9-235e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
887 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

888 Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary of the  
889 State, or the Secretary's designee, shall be allowed access to each polling  
890 place or location designated for the conduct of early voting within the  
891 state during any municipal, state or federal election, primary or  
892 recanvass for the purpose of reviewing [each] any such polling place or  
893 location and any such recanvass for compliance with state and federal  
894 law. If the Secretary is a candidate on the ballot for any election or  
895 primary at a polling place or location designated for the conduct of early  
896 voting, only the Secretary's designee may access such polling place or

897 location pursuant to the provisions of this section.

898 Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 9-6c of the general statutes is  
899 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
900 *2023*):

901 (a) Two or more municipalities may jointly perform any function that  
902 each municipality is required to perform individually under this title,  
903 except conduct early voting pursuant to section 1 of this act, by entering  
904 into an agreement pursuant to this section. Any such agreement shall be  
905 negotiated and shall contain all provisions upon which each  
906 participating municipality agrees. Any such agreement shall establish a  
907 process for amendment of, termination of and withdrawal from such  
908 agreement. Any proposed agreement shall be submitted to the  
909 legislative body of each participating municipality for a vote to ratify or  
910 reject such agreement. The legislative body of each participating  
911 municipality shall provide an opportunity for public comment prior to  
912 any such vote. For purposes of this section, providing an opportunity  
913 for public comment does not require a legislative body to conduct a  
914 public hearing.

915 Sec. 22. Subsection (c) of section 9-50b of the general statutes is  
916 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
917 *2023*):

918 (c) Not later than sixty days after each election or primary, the  
919 registrars of voters shall update the state-wide centralized voter  
920 registration system and indicate whether the eligible voters on the  
921 official registry list for such election or primary voted and, if so, if they  
922 voted in person on the day of such election or primary, in person during  
923 the period of early voting at such election or primary or by absentee  
924 ballot.

925 Sec. 23. Subsection (y) of section 9-1 of the general statutes is repealed  
926 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

927 (y) "The last session for admission of electors prior to an election"

928 means the day which is the [seventh] eighteenth day prior to an election.

929 Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 9-17 of the general statutes are  
930 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
931 *2023*):

932 (a) For the purposes of this section, "primary day" means the day that  
933 a primary for state, district and municipal offices is being held in  
934 accordance with section 9-423, and "election day" means the day of each  
935 regular election. (1) The registrars of voters of each town shall hold  
936 sessions to examine the qualifications of electors and admit those found  
937 qualified on the dates and at the times set forth in this section. Such  
938 sessions shall be held on the following days during the hours indicated,  
939 except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection:

T1	Day	Hours
T2	[Fourteenth] <u>Eighteenth</u> day	
T3	before primary day .....	any two hours between
T4		5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
T5	[Seventh] <u>Eighteenth</u> day	
T6	before election day .....	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

940 The session of the registrars of voters on the [seventh] eighteenth day  
941 before election day shall be the last session for admission of electors  
942 prior to an election, as defined in subsection (y) of section 9-1, as  
943 amended by this act. (2) No town having a population of less than  
944 twenty-five thousand persons shall be required to hold sessions for  
945 admission of electors on the [fourteenth] eighteenth day before primary  
946 day.

947 Sec. 25. Subsection (f) of section 9-19k of the general statutes is  
948 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
949 *2023*):

950 (f) If an applicant registers to vote pursuant to the provisions of this  
951 section after the [seventh] eighteenth day before an election or after the  
952 [fifth] eighteenth day before a primary, the privileges of an elector shall

953 not attach until the day after such election or primary, as the case may  
954 be. In such event, the registrars of voters may contact such applicant,  
955 either by telephone or mail, in order to inform such applicant of the  
956 effect of such late received application and any applicable deadline for  
957 applying for admission in person.

958 Sec. 26. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 9-23g of the general statutes  
959 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
960 *1, 2023*):

961 (c) Forthwith upon receipt of a registration application in the office of  
962 the registrars of voters, the registrar shall mark such date on the  
963 application and review the application to determine whether the  
964 applicant has properly completed it and is legally qualified to register.  
965 Forthwith upon completing his review, the registrar shall (1) indicate on  
966 the application whether the application has been accepted or rejected,  
967 (2) mail a notice to the applicant, (3) indicate on the application the date  
968 on which such notice is mailed, and (4) provide a copy of such notice to  
969 the other registrar. If the registrar determines that the applicant has not  
970 properly completed the application or is not legally qualified to register,  
971 the notice shall indicate that the application has been rejected and shall  
972 state any reason for rejection. If the registrar determines that the  
973 applicant has properly completed the application and is legally  
974 qualified to register, the notice shall indicate that the application has  
975 been accepted. A notice of acceptance or a notice of rejection shall be  
976 sent (A) not later than four days after receipt of an application during  
977 the period beginning on the forty-ninth day before an election and  
978 ending on the twenty-first day before such election, (B) on the day of  
979 receipt of an application if it is received (i) during the period beginning  
980 on the [twentieth] thirty-first day before such election and ending on the  
981 [seventh] eighteenth day before such election, (ii) during the period  
982 beginning on the [sixth] seventeenth day before an election and ending  
983 on election day if the application has been received by the [seventh]  
984 eighteenth day before an election by the Commissioner of Motor  
985 Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, (iii) during the period  
986 beginning on the [twenty-first] thirty-fourth day before a primary and

987 ending on the [fifth] eighteenth day before a primary, or (iv) during the  
988 period beginning on the [fourth] seventeenth day before a primary and  
989 ending at twelve o'clock noon on the last weekday before a primary, if  
990 the application has been postmarked by the [fifth] eighteenth day before  
991 the primary and is received in the office of the registrars of voters during  
992 such period or if the application is received by the [fifth] eighteenth day  
993 before a primary by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a voter  
994 registration agency, and (C) within ten days of receipt of an application  
995 at any other time. A notice of acceptance shall be sent by first-class mail  
996 with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable  
997 at the address shown on the envelope. A notice of acceptance shall  
998 indicate the effective date of the applicant's registration and enrollment,  
999 the date of the next regularly scheduled election or primary in which the  
1000 applicant shall be eligible to vote and the applicant's precinct and  
1001 polling place. If a notice of acceptance of an application is returned  
1002 undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in  
1003 accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, notwithstanding the May first  
1004 deadline in section 9-35. An applicant for admission as an elector  
1005 pursuant to this section and section 9-23h may only be admitted as an  
1006 elector by a registrar of voters of the town of his residence. Not later  
1007 than December thirty-first, annually, the Secretary of the State shall  
1008 establish an official calendar of all deadlines set forth in this subsection  
1009 for regularly scheduled elections and primaries to be held in the  
1010 following calendar year.

1011 (d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the privileges  
1012 of an elector for any applicant for admission under this section and  
1013 section 9-23h shall attach immediately upon approval by the registrar,  
1014 and the registrars shall enter the name of the elector on the registry list.

1015 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, if a mailed  
1016 application is postmarked, or if a delivered application is received in the  
1017 office of the registrars of voters, after the [seventh] eighteenth day before  
1018 an election or after the [fifth] eighteenth day before a primary, the  
1019 privileges of an elector shall not attach until the day after such election  
1020 or primary, as the case may be. In such event, the registrars of voters



1021 may contact such applicant, either by telephone or mail, in order to  
1022 inform such applicant of the effect of such late received mail-in  
1023 application and any applicable deadline for applying for admission in  
1024 person.

1025 (3) If an application is received after the [seventh] eighteenth day  
1026 before an election or after the [fifth] eighteenth day before a primary by  
1027 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency,  
1028 the privileges of an elector shall not attach until the day after the election  
1029 or primary, as the case may be, or on the day the registrar approves it,  
1030 whichever is later.

1031 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant  
1032 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present to  
1033 the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received through  
1034 the mail or an application receipt that was previously provided to the  
1035 applicant pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h,  
1036 subsection (b) of this section or section 9-23n. If an applicant presents  
1037 said notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original  
1038 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the  
1039 registrar, or assistant registrar upon notice to and approval by the  
1040 registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official check  
1041 list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if otherwise  
1042 eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the polling  
1043 place a preprinted form of identification pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
1044 of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261.

1045 Sec. 27. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 9-192a of the  
1046 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1047 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1048 (3) Once certified, pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, each  
1049 registrar shall participate each year in not less than eight hours of  
1050 training, not including any training described under subdivision (2) of  
1051 subsection (d) of this section, in order to maintain such certification.  
1052 Such training shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the State and  
1053 shall be conducted by said Secretary or a third party approved by said

1054 Secretary to conduct such training. On and after July 1, 2023, such  
1055 training shall include procedures for the conduct of early voting at  
1056 elections, primaries and referenda. Any registrar who fails to satisfy  
1057 such annual training requirement shall be directed by the Secretary of  
1058 the State to take remedial measures prescribed by said Secretary.

1059 Sec. 28. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the general statutes is  
1060 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1061 *2023*):

1062 (a) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any election or primary and  
1063 not later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the  
1064 Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, for any federal or  
1065 state election or primary, or by the town clerk for any municipal election  
1066 or primary, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit or, for  
1067 an election or primary held on or after January 1, 2016, an electronic  
1068 audit authorized under section 9-320g of the votes recorded in not less  
1069 than five per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or  
1070 municipality, whichever is applicable. For the purposes of this section,  
1071 any central location used in a municipality for the counting of absentee  
1072 ballots, early voting ballots or same-day election or same-day primary  
1073 registration ballots shall be deemed a voting district. Such manual or  
1074 electronic audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public  
1075 observation. Any election official who participates in the administration  
1076 and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated  
1077 by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such  
1078 municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

1079 Sec. 29. Subsection (a) of section 9-229 of the general statutes is  
1080 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1081 *2023*):

1082 (a) The registrars of voters in the several towns and, in towns where  
1083 there are different registrars for different voting districts, the registrars  
1084 of voters in such districts shall appoint the moderators of regular and  
1085 special state and municipal elections in their respective towns or  
1086 districts. For the purpose of providing a reserve group of persons who

1087 may serve as moderators, the registrars shall designate alternate  
1088 moderators from among those persons chosen as official checkers, or  
1089 tabulator tenders, in the following minimum numbers: In towns with  
1090 one or more but not exceeding three voting districts, one alternate  
1091 moderator; in towns with four or more but not exceeding eight voting  
1092 districts, two alternate moderators; in towns with more than eight  
1093 voting districts, a number of alternate moderators equal to one-fourth  
1094 of the number of voting districts rounded off to the nearest multiple of  
1095 four. In case the registrars fail to agree in the choice of a moderator or  
1096 alternate moderator, the choice shall be determined between such  
1097 registrars by lot. In the case of a primary, the registrar, as defined in  
1098 section 9-372, shall so appoint such moderators and alternate  
1099 moderators. Moderators and alternate moderators shall be appointed at  
1100 least twenty days before the commencement of the period of early  
1101 voting at such election or primary. The registrars shall submit a list of  
1102 the names of such moderators and alternate moderators to the  
1103 municipal clerk, which list shall be made available for public inspection  
1104 by such clerk. Each person appointed to serve as moderator or alternate  
1105 moderator shall be certified by the Secretary of the State in accordance  
1106 with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, except as provided  
1107 in subsection (d) of this section or section 9-436.

1108 Sec. 30. Section 9-256 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1109 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1110 The registrars of voters of each municipality shall, not less than ten  
1111 days prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at an  
1112 election, file with the Secretary of the State a sample ballot identical with  
1113 those to be provided for each polling place under section 9-255. The  
1114 Secretary of the State shall examine the sample ballot required to be filed  
1115 under this section, and if such sample ballot contains an error, the  
1116 Secretary of the State shall order the registrars of voters to reprint a  
1117 corrected sample ballot or to take other such action as the Secretary may  
1118 deem appropriate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2023	9-174
Sec. 4	July 1, 2023	9-174a(a)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2023	9-19j
Sec. 6	July 1, 2023	9-225(a)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2023	9-226(a)
Sec. 8	July 1, 2023	9-255a(a) to (c)
Sec. 9	July 1, 2023	9-373a
Sec. 10	January 1, 2024	9-224b(a) and (b)
Sec. 11	from passage	9-329b
Sec. 12	July 1, 2023	9-460
Sec. 13	January 1, 2024	9-426
Sec. 14	January 1, 2024	9-428
Sec. 15	January 1, 2024	9-429
Sec. 16	January 1, 2024	9-55(b)
Sec. 17	January 1, 2024	9-217
Sec. 18	July 1, 2023	9-4a(b)
Sec. 19	from passage	New section
Sec. 20	July 1, 2023	9-235e
Sec. 21	July 1, 2023	9-6c(a)
Sec. 22	July 1, 2023	9-50b(c)
Sec. 23	July 1, 2023	9-1(y)
Sec. 24	July 1, 2023	9-17(a)
Sec. 25	July 1, 2023	9-19k(f)
Sec. 26	July 1, 2023	9-23g(c) and (d)
Sec. 27	July 1, 2023	9-192a(a)(3)
Sec. 28	July 1, 2023	9-320f(a)
Sec. 29	July 1, 2023	9-229(a)
Sec. 30	July 1, 2023	9-256

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a)(1)(B), "subdivision (1) of" was added for accuracy; in Section 1(a)(2), "and at each such" was changed to "or" for conciseness, and "subdivision (2) of" was added in Subpara. (B) for accuracy; in Section 1(b)(1), "ninety days before the day of such regular election" was changed to "ninety days prior to the day of a regular election" for consistency, and Subpara. (B)(ii) was rewritten for internal consistency

and clarity; in Section 1(c), "subsection (f)" was changed to "subsection (e)" for accuracy; in Section 2, Subsec. (a) was rewritten, and "or referendum" was added in Subsec. (b), for internal consistency; in Section 3, references to "same-day election or same-day primary registration" were added in Subsecs. (b) and (c)(1) for internal consistency; in Sections 3(c)(2) and 4(a), "not held in conjunction with a regular election" was changed to "not held in conjunction with a regular election or primary" for internal consistency; in Section 5(a)(3), "an election" was changed to "a regular election" for internal consistency; in Section 5(c)(1), "forty-nine" and "thirty-three" were changed to "forty-five" and "twenty-nine", respectively, for internal consistency, and Subpara. (B)(ii) was rewritten for internal consistency and clarity; in Section 5(c)(2), "seventy-eight" and "sixty-three" were changed to "seventy-four" and "fifty-nine", respectively, for internal consistency; in Section 5(e)(2), "or primary officials" was added for consistency; in Section 7(a)(2)(D)(ii)(III), "in such city or borough" was added for consistency; in Section 11(a), "election" was changed to "regular election" for internal consistency; in Section 20, references to "location designated for the conduct of early voting" were added for consistency; in Section 21, "pursuant to section 1 of this act" was added for accuracy; in Section 24(a), references to "fourteenth" were changed to "eighteenth" for internal consistency; and in Section 28, "same-day registration" was changed to "same-day election or same-day primary registration" for consistency.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$	FY 26\$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	Between \$1.8-2.3 million	Between \$0.8-1.3 million	Between \$0.7-1.2 million

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
All Municipalities	STATE MANDATE <sup>1</sup> - Cost	About \$900,000	About \$2,600,000	About \$900,000

**Explanation**

The bill would result in significant labor cost for both municipalities, as well as the state. Additionally, to implement the bill as described the state would need to acquire additional technology such as CVRS software updates and to install new lines in any secondary location for early voting. It is anticipated that roughly

40<sup>2</sup> additional sites would be opened across the state generally in

<sup>1</sup> State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

<sup>2</sup> This calculation assumes that no town less than 45,000 will have a second location, half of all locations between 45,001-75,000; all locations between 75,001-100,000 will have two locations; all locations between 101,001-125,000 will have three locations; and any greater than 125,001 will have four. Each town may not meet this criterion, but we estimate this will roughly be the number of additional polling locations.

proportion to the population of the town. The costs would also be borne by the state in addition to the cost for the public information campaign specifically for early voting and registrar's training materials. The bill places the onus of all labor costs on the municipalities individually, so the state's share of the costs mostly take effect in FY 24 as one-time expenses of roughly \$1,000,000<sup>3</sup> in year one and are reduced from year two onward. The largest differential in the range is the cost of the public information campaign for early voting. The Secretary of State's Office has indicated there would be about a \$500,000 range in costs depending upon implementation decisions.

Municipal costs would see the largest periodic fluctuation with the cost of municipal elections<sup>4</sup> being significantly less expensive than those of primary and general state elections. This leaves the weight heavily on even FYs for municipalities. The net cost per municipality will also not be evenly distributed depending heavily on the number of polling places each town chooses to utilize. The initial polling place is assumed to be a central location with existing CVRS access and staffed by existing registrar and town staff. If a municipality were to only use this location, they could expect a rough increase on odd fiscal years of \$11,200<sup>5</sup> and on even years of \$5,600 when no state general and primary elections are held.

Any municipal increasing beyond one location would require additional staff at that location with poll workers instead of overtime, which would drastically increasing the estimated total cost for that municipality. Any town planning three additional poll locations (the

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<sup>3</sup> Specific cost information for this section has come from data provided by the Secretary of State's Office in the form of estimates from existing vendors to provide the services rendered.

<sup>4</sup> Municipal elections as a figure were estimated based on the % of towns expected to hold schoolboard elections in CT in 2023 and extrapolated with the remainder from that point in future years. Municipal elections are presumed to have only one EV polling place per town for each town. This estimate does not include municipal primaries.

<sup>5</sup> The staffing for this location being existing employees mitigates cost for towns and leaves the differential to overtime hours varying depending on the number of EV hours and whether that day falls on a weekend. This estimate assumes an average overtime hour is valued at \$29.12 per hour.

maximum number in the estimate) would see an odd fiscal year price increase of around \$90,000. This is largely due to the increased labor cost of poll workers and the need to fully staff early voting locations that may be potentially added because of the bill. Costs will vary on a town-by-town basis.

The bill varies from SB-1057 in that it includes a 14 day early voting period for general and primary elections instead of 10; and it includes early voting for town referendums<sup>6</sup> not held in conjunction with general and primary elections. The difference between costs for all three early voting bills relates to the length of early voting and the elections covered on the municipal side. There is no distinction in state costs. HB-5004 is identical in legislation and cost to SB-1064.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, participation, and number of polling places utilized across the state.

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<sup>6</sup> There is no clear data on the number and likelihood of town referendums to include each year. We have estimated that for each year there may be as many as three referendums and included that cost on the labor cost component for municipalities. Each town referendum assuming one voting place would cost roughly \$3,000 with a four-day EV window



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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5004*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a framework for early, in-person voting for (1) all general elections and referenda held in conjunction with a general election held on or after July 1, 2023, and (2) primaries, special elections, and generally all other referenda held on or after January 1, 2024. Specifically, it requires a 14-day early voting period for general elections, primaries, and referenda held in conjunction with them and a four-day early voting period for special elections and referenda not held in conjunction with a general election or primary (“independent referenda”).

Under the bill, every municipality must establish one early voting location and may establish additional locations. The bill also sets various requirements and procedures for early voting including voter eligibility, ballot custody, staffing and training, and materials.

The bill replaces the current election day registration (EDR) option with same-day registration (SDR), which covers the entire early voting period and the election. Additionally, the bill authorizes SDR for primaries and allows a voter who is not already registered to vote with any political party to register with a party and immediately vote in that party’s primary.

To accommodate the early voting period, the bill generally modifies several election-related deadlines by either (1) moving the deadline 14 days earlier or (2) moving the deadline to the required number of days before the early voting period begins instead of before the election begins. The bill also establishes specific deadlines for special elections.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except that provisions (1) that modify deadlines for (a) registering write-in candidates, (b) automatic nomination of certain candidates, (c) replacing town committee candidates, (d) canceling a primary due to candidate vacancy, (e) printing unaffiliated voter lists, and (f) giving the clerk party candidate lists for special elections for vacancies are effective on January 1, 2024, and (2) on a statewide early voting awareness campaign, the early voting procedure manual, and modifying a deadline for removing a candidate by judicial order are effective upon passage.

### **COVERED ELECTIONS (§ 1)**

The bill requires implementation of early voting for (1) general elections and referenda held in conjunction with them held on or after July 1, 2023, and (2) primaries, special elections, referenda conducted in conjunction with these elections, and independent referenda held on or after January 1, 2024. The bill exempts primaries for town committee members from these requirements.

### **EARLY VOTING PERIOD (§§ 1 & 3)**

For general elections, primaries, and referenda held in conjunction with these elections, the early voting period must be 14 days long, beginning 15 days before the election and ending two days prior. Early voting locations must be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., including weekends, except that on the last Wednesday and Thursday before the election, the locations must be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For special elections and independent referenda, the bill adopts a four-day early voting period and establishes alternative timelines for these elections. Specifically, the early voting period must begin five days before the election and end two days prior. Early voting locations must be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for these elections.

Each day, a location official or a municipal police officer, appointed by the registrar, must be placed at the end of the line at the designated closing time. The official or officer must prevent any voter from getting in line to cast a ballot after the designated closing time.

### **EARLY VOTING PREPARATION**

**Staffing and Training (§ 1)**

Under the bill, the registrars may delegate any responsibility to an official designated in the municipality's early voting certification to the secretary (see below). The registrars must supervise and train these officials.

**Ballot Designation (§ 8)**

The bill requires registrars and clerks to certify the number of ballots designated as early voting ballots for each early voting location. It also moves the deadline for certifying all ballots (both early voting and election day ballots) to 31 days before the early voting period (21 days for a primary) instead of the same number of days before the election or primary itself. Similarly, the bill moves up the deadline to request a waiver from this provision to 45 days before the early voting period (30 days for a primary) instead of the same number of days before the election or primary itself. The bill also requires registrars and clerks to certify the number of ballots designated as early voting ballots in special elections, but it does not set separate deadlines specific to special elections.

**VOTER REGISTRATION****General Voter Registration (§§ 23-26)**

The bill moves up the regular voter registration deadline to 18 days before an election or primary (rather than the seventh day before the election and the fifth day before the primary). It also makes several conforming changes including moving up several related deadlines. For example, the bill correspondingly shifts the time frames during which registrars must send notice of an application's acceptance or rejection on the day it is received, as shown in the table below.

**Table: Periods When Registrars Must Send Notice of Acceptance or Rejection on the Day an Application Is Received**

	<i>Under Current Law</i>	<i>Under the Bill</i>
Regular Applications	From 20 days to seven days before an election	From 31 days to 18 days before an election
	From 21 days to five days before a primary	From 34 days to 18 days before a primary
Applications first received by the Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner or voter registration agency	For applications received by seven days before an election, from six days before an election to election day	For applications received by 18 days before an election, from 17 days before an election to election day
	For applications postmarked or received five days before a primary, from four days before a primary to noon the last weekday before a primary	For applications postmarked or received 18 days before a primary, from 17 days before a primary to noon the last weekday before a primary

**Same-Day Registration (§ 5)**

Under current law, electors may register to vote on election day through EDR during regular state and municipal elections. Under EDR, a person may register to vote and cast a ballot on election day if he or she meets the eligibility requirements for voting in Connecticut and is (1) not already an elector or (2) registered in one municipality but wants to change his or her registration because he or she currently resides in another municipality (CGS § 9-19j).

The bill expands this opportunity to the entire early voting period by establishing two types of SDR and generally applying the existing EDR provisions to SDR: (1) same-day election registration (i.e., voter registration during the early voting period for a general or special election or on election day) and (2) same-day primary registration (i.e., voter registration and enrollment in a political party during a primary's early voting period or on a primary day).

Additionally, the bill allows a voter to enroll in a political party through same-day primary registration if the voter is not currently enrolled in any party and is not subject to a three-month waiting period due to recently removing his or herself from a political party enrollment list (CGS § 9-59). Enrollment during same-day primary registration becomes effective immediately for voting in that primary.

The bill also makes conforming changes.

### ***Deadlines for Same-Day Registration (§ 5)***

To accommodate the increased window of SDR, the bill moves up several deadlines by 10 days to include the early voting period for regular elections and primaries. This applies to deadlines for the following actions:

1. certifying the location for SDR (changed from 31 days to 45 days before the election),
2. the Secretary of the State's (SOTS) response to a certification request (changed from 15 days to 29 days before the election),
3. certifying additional locations for SDR (changed from 60 days to 74 days before the election), and
4. SOTS response to a certification request for additional locations (changed from 45 days to 59 days before the election).

### **EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

#### ***Main Location (§ 1)***

The bill requires that the registrars of voters of each municipality certify one location within the town to serve as an early voting location. The location must (1) be used for the entire early voting period, (2) have access to the centralized voter registration system (CVRS), (3) be certified by SOTS, (4) be accessible to voters with physical disabilities, and (5) have parking spaces for handicapped and elderly persons.

A municipality's certification must include:

1. the location's name, address, and contact information;
2. the number of officials appointed to serve and their roles;
3. the location's design; and
4. a plan to conduct early voting effectively.

A municipality must certify its chosen location to SOTS no later than 120 days before a general election or primary. The secretary must approve or deny certification no later than 90 days before a general election or primary. If SOTS denies the certification, she must give the municipality a written reason for the disapproval and an order for corrective action.

Once a municipality has received SOTS approval or complied with any corrective action to the secretary's satisfaction, the registrars must make a final determination on the main early voting location no later than 31 days before a general election or primary. After this determination, the location may not be changed unless all registrars and the municipal clerk unanimously agree that the location is unusable. If such a decision is made, the registrars and clerk must designate a new location and provide adequate notice.

The bill implements a separate timeline for special elections and independent referenda. For these, the certification of the main early voting location must be submitted no later than 20 days prior and the secretary must respond no later than 15 days before the election. The location must be finalized 11 days before the election.

#### ***Additional Locations (§ 1)***

Under the bill, a municipality with a population of at least 20,000 must hold a public hearing on increasing the number of early voting locations at least 15 days before designating them. At least 10 days' notice must be given through a newspaper with general circulation in the town and on the municipality's website. For this requirement, "population" means the estimated number of people according to the most recent version of the State Register and Manual.

Within three days after the hearing, the municipality's registrars must notify SOTS about their determination on any additional locations. If the registrars decide not to designate additional locations, they must include a detailed explanation for their determination. Adoption of additional locations is subject to the same requirements as the main location.

**SOTS Access (§ 20)**

Current law requires that the secretary, or her designee, have access to each polling place during elections to review for consistency with state and federal law. The bill extends this provision to any early voting location.

**ELECTION WARNING (§§ 6-7)**

The bill moves up the warning for state and municipal elections to five to 15 days before the early voting period starts, rather than before election day. Additionally, the warning must announce the times and locations designated for early voting.

**CASTING AN EARLY VOTE*****Voter Eligibility (§ 1)***

Under the bill, an elector must do the following to vote early:

1. appear in person at an early voting location within the designated times,
2. comply with election day identification requirements by either (a) showing adequate identification or (b) signing an affidavit attesting to his or her identity, and
3. swear an oath that he or she has not previously voted in the election.

If a voter has established his or her eligibility, the registrars must check the CVRS to see if the elector has already voted. If not, the voter must be given an early voting ballot and envelope and the registrar must record the issuance.

If the voter has already voted in the election, his or her request to vote must be denied and the registrars must review the matter. If the registrars cannot resolve the matter, they must report the incident to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, which must investigate.

**Casting a Ballot (§ 1)**

Under the bill, if a voter is eligible, they must mark the ballot in the registrars' presence, but not in a way that reveals how the ballot was marked. After completing the ballot, the voter must (1) secure it within an early voting envelope, (2) sign an affirmation printed on the back of the envelope, and (3) deposit the envelope into a secured early voting ballot depository receptacle.

The signed affirmation attests that the voter:

1. is an elector appearing in person to vote early;
2. is eligible to vote in the election, primary, or referendum;
3. has sufficiently identified themselves to the registrars;
4. has not otherwise voted in the election and will not otherwise do so; and
5. received an early voting ballot.

**BALLOT CHAIN OF CUSTODY (§§ 1-2 & 5)**

Under the bill, when each day ends, the registrars must transport the receptacles for SDR and early voting ballots to the municipal clerk for storage, if necessary, in a fire-resistive vault or safe. The clerk must keep the ballots until they are delivered to the registrars on election day. A section of the head moderator's return must show the number of early voting and SDR ballots received, separately.

The registrars of voters must also seal a copy of the vote tally for early voting ballots and a copy of the vote tally for SDR ballots in a depository envelope with their respective ballots and store them with the other election, primary, or referendum results materials. The depository envelopes must be preserved for the same amount of time as required by law to keep counted ballots.

Ballot counters must proceed to the location where the early voting and SDR ballots will be counted, as designated by the registrars,



between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on election day. The bill requires the municipal clerk to deliver all early voting and SDR ballots received before election day to the registrars within the same timeframe. Once the clerks deliver the ballots, the bill requires that the ballot counters process these ballots as nearly as possible in the same way as required under existing law for absentee ballots.

Except as otherwise required by the bill, SDR and early voting ballots are subject to all procedures relating to absentee ballot custody, control, and counting under existing elections law, as nearly as possible.

**ELECTION DEADLINES (§§ 9-17 & 29-30)**

Current law sets several election-related deadlines in preparation for election day. The bill sets these deadlines in relation to the early voting period instead of the election, generally making them earlier. The table below summarizes deadlines that are subject to this change.

**Table: Certain Election-Related Deadlines Affected by the Bill**

<b>Bill Section</b>	<b>Applicable Statutes</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
§ 9	CGS § 9-373a	Registration as a write-in candidate for a regular election	14 days prior
		Registration as a write-in candidate for town meeting member in certain towns at a regular election	Last business day prior
§ 10	CGS § 9-224b	Registration as a write-in candidate for a special election	14 days prior
		Registration as a write-in candidate for town meeting member in certain towns at a special election	Last business day prior
§ 11	CGS § 9-329b	Removal of a candidate by judicial order	Before the period/election day begins
§ 12	CGS § 9-460	Replacement of a vacant candidacy	2:00 pm the day prior
		Period during which a candidate's death may result in the candidate being replaced	24 hours prior
§ 13	CGS § 9-426	Automatic nomination of party-endorsed candidate, group, or slate for a primary if the only other candidate, group, or slate	Before the period/election day begins

<b>Bill Section</b>	<b>Applicable Statutes</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
		of candidates in that primary die, withdraw, or are disqualified	
		Partial slate appearing on the ballot when a slate member dies, withdraws, or is disqualified	Before the period/election day begins
§ 14	CGS § 9-428	Replacement of candidacy for town committee members	Various
§ 15	CGS § 9-429	Cancellation of a primary when due to candidate death, withdrawal, or disqualification	Before the period/election day begins
§ 16	CGS § 9-55	Printing a list of unaffiliated voters if these voters become authorized to vote in a political party's primary	Before the period/election day begins
§ 17	CGS § 9-217	Giving the municipal clerk a list of candidates for each party by the office for special elections for vacancies	34 days prior
§ 29	CGS § 9-229	Appointing moderators and alternate moderators	20 days prior
§ 30	CGS § 9-256	Filing a sample ballot with the secretary	At least 10 days prior

## **EARLY VOTING MATERIALS**

### ***Emergency Contingency Plan (§ 4)***

Under existing law, registrars must consult with the town clerk and create an emergency contingency plan for elections, primaries, and referenda in the municipality. The bill adds a requirement that the plan consider early voting and related logistics including (1) solutions for envelope shortages, (2) strategies to address staffing shortages for early voting, (3) a fire or alarm within an early voting location, and (4) disorder in or around an early voting location.

### ***Secretary Materials and Duties (§§ 18-19 & 27)***

The bill requires the secretary to:

1. include early voting days and times for state elections in the voter guide published by her office;
2. conduct a state-wide public awareness campaign on early voting availability at regular elections, primaries, and referenda

including the dates, hours, and voting procedures; and

3. update the existing annual registrar training by July 1, 2023, to include early voting procedures.

The secretary must also develop and distribute an early voting procedure manual including a model plan for designating and staffing locations. The manual must be (1) revised as needed to reflect changes in state law and (2) distributed through the SOTS website as well as to all registrars of voters and town clerks.

### **UPDATING CVRS (§ 22)**

Current law requires registrars of voters, when updating the CVRS after an election or primary, to indicate whether someone voted in-person or by absentee ballot. The bill also requires them to indicate whether an in-person elector voted on election day or during the early voting period.

### **POST-ELECTION AUDITS AND RECANVASS PROCEDURES (§ 28)**

The bill subjects early voting and SDR central counting locations to existing post-election audit requirements. These requirements generally establish a process to select locations to participate in a manual or electronic audit that compares vote totals to results reported by voting tabulators.

### **PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

#### ***Solicitation and Related Activities (§ 1)***

Similar to existing requirements for polling locations, the bill prohibits anyone from soliciting, peddling, loitering, or offering certain materials within 75 feet of an entrance to an early voting location, an indoor path leading to the location, or any room along the path.

#### ***Joint Municipal Agreements (§ 21)***

Existing law generally allows two or more municipalities to jointly perform election-related functions. The bill prohibits municipalities from entering into joint agreements to conduct early voting.

**BACKGROUND**

***Related Bills***

sSB 1064, favorably reported to the Government Administration and Elections Committee, is identical to this bill.

sSB 1057, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, is nearly identical to this bill, but (1) authorizes a 10-day early voting period rather than 14-day period and (2) does not require early voting for referenda.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13    Nay 6    (03/15/2023)