



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Committee Bill No. 713

LCO No. 4406



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF ABSENTEE BALLOT
APPLICATIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (i) to (k), inclusive, of section 9-140 of the
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

4 (i) The municipal clerk shall file [executed] applications that have
5 been completed and signed, as provided in subsection (a) of this section,
6 in alphabetical order according to the applicants' surnames. Such
7 applications shall be preserved as a public record as required by section
8 9-150b, as amended by this act.

9 (j) No person shall pay or give any compensation to another and no
10 person shall accept any compensation solely for (1) distributing
11 absentee ballot applications obtained from a municipal clerk or the
12 Secretary of the State or (2) assisting any person in the execution of an
13 absentee ballot.

14 (k) (1) A person shall register with the town clerk before distributing

15 five or more absentee ballot applications for an election, primary or
16 referendum, not including applications distributed to such person's
17 immediate family. Such requirement shall not apply to a person who is
18 the designee of an applicant.

19 (2) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications shall
20 maintain a list of the names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot
21 applicants who receive such applications, and shall file such list with
22 the town clerk prior to the date of the primary, election or referendum
23 for which the applications were so distributed. Any person who
24 distributes absentee ballot applications and receives an [executed]
25 application that has been completed and signed, as provided in
26 subsection (a) of this section, shall forthwith file the application with the
27 town clerk.

28 Sec. 2. Subsection (h) of section 9-150b of the general statutes is
29 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
30 *1, 2023*):

31 (h) For sixty days after the election, primary or referendum the
32 following shall be preserved by the municipal clerk as a public record
33 open to public inspection: (1) All [executed] completed and signed
34 absentee ballot application forms and all direction by registrar forms, as
35 required by subdivision (i) of section 9-140, as amended by this act; (2)
36 the list and index of applicants for presidential or overseas ballots as
37 required by section 9-158h; (3) the numerical list of absentee voting sets
38 issued as required by subsection (e) of section 9-140; (4) the list of the
39 names of persons whose absentee ballots are received by the municipal
40 clerk, as required by subsection (a) of section 9-140c; (5) all unused
41 absentee ballots; and (6) all envelopes containing ballots received by the
42 municipal clerk after the close of the polls, which shall remain
43 unopened.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	9-140(i) to (k)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	9-150b(h)

Statement of Purpose:

To provide that absentee ballot applications that have been completed and signed are public records subject to public inspection.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

S.B. 713