



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1190

LCO No. 5187



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ELECTION ADVISORS AND A
TASK FORCE ON ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IN MUNICIPALITIES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-229b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) [There shall be a regional election monitor within each planning
4 region, as defined in section 4-124i] Any regional council of
5 governments organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-
6 124p, inclusive, may appoint a regional election advisor, who shall
7 represent, consult with and act on behalf of such regional council of
8 governments and any combination of regional councils of governments
9 or member towns of regional councils of governments that may seek the
10 assistance of such regional election advisor. A regional election advisor
11 shall consult and coordinate with the Secretary of the State to provide
12 such assistance in preparations for and operations of any election,
13 primary or recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f.

14 (b) [Not later than March first of the year of each regular election,

15 each regional council of governments shall contract with an individual,
16 in accordance with section 4-124p, to serve as the regional election
17 monitor for such planning region. The] Any regional election [monitor]
18 advisor appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall (1) be
19 an elector of this state, (2) perform the duties of the position in a
20 nonpartisan manner, (3) have prior field experience in the conduct of
21 elections, and (4) be certified by the Secretary of the State in accordance
22 with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 9-229, as amended by
23 this act, or as soon after [execution of such contract] such appointment
24 as practicable. [The regional election monitor shall not be considered a
25 state employee and shall, in accordance with such contract, be
26 compensated for the performance of any duty agreed upon by the
27 parties and reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
28 performance of such duties. The regional council of governments shall,
29 in accordance with such contract, provide the regional election monitor
30 with any space, supplies, equipment and services necessary to properly
31 carry out the duties of the position. The regional council of governments
32 may terminate such contract for any reason.]

33 (c) Not later than March first of the year of each regular election, each
34 regional council of governments that has appointed a regional election
35 advisor shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the
36 Secretary of the State concerning the assistance to be provided by such
37 regional election [monitor under contract pursuant to subsection (b) of
38 this section. The regional council of governments] advisor, and shall
39 confirm within such memorandum of understanding that (1) each
40 requirement described in subsection (b) of this section is satisfied and
41 [the contract between the regional council of governments and] the
42 individual who shall serve as regional election [monitor specifies]
43 advisor has been informed, in writing, of the minimum expectations of
44 performance [under such contract, (2) such regional election monitor is
45 subject to the control and direction of the Secretary of the State, (3)] for
46 the position, and (2) revocation by the Secretary [of the State] of such
47 regional election [monitor's] advisor's certification constitutes breach of
48 such [contract and results in immediate termination of such contract,

49 and (4) such regional election monitor is retained, absent termination of
50 such contract by the council, until at least thirty days after such regular
51 election] memorandum of understanding, which may result in
52 termination of such memorandum of understanding if the regional
53 council of governments is not able to appoint a replacement regional
54 election advisor within thirty days after such revocation.

55 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) For the fiscal year ending June 30,
56 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, each regional council of
57 governments that has appointed a regional election advisor and entered
58 into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of the State
59 concerning the assistance to be provided by such regional election
60 advisor, in accordance with the provisions of section 9-229b of the
61 general statutes, as amended by this act, shall, within available
62 appropriations, receive a grant of not less than twenty-five thousand
63 dollars from the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. Each
64 such regional council of governments shall use such grant funds
65 exclusively to support such regional election advisor in carrying out the
66 purposes of said section.

67 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 4-66k of the general statutes is
68 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
69 *2023*):

70 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "regional
71 planning incentive account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
72 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys
73 required by law to be deposited in the account. Except as provided in
74 subsection (e) of this section, moneys in the account shall be expended
75 by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the
76 purposes of first providing funding to regional planning organizations
77 in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this
78 section, next to providing grants for the support of regional election
79 advisors pursuant to section 2 of this act and then to providing grants
80 under the regional performance incentive program established
81 pursuant to section 4-124s.

82 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 9-229 of the general statutes is
83 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
84 *2023*):

85 (b) (1) The Secretary of the State shall: (A) Request registrars of voters
86 to volunteer to serve as instructors for moderators and alternate
87 moderators; (B) select registrars from among such volunteers to serve as
88 such instructors; (C) establish a curriculum for instructional sessions for
89 moderators and alternate moderators; (D) establish the number of such
90 instructional sessions to be held, provided at least one such instructional
91 session shall be held in each congressional district in each calendar year;
92 and (E) train the instructors for such sessions. The curriculum for such
93 instructional sessions shall include, [without limitation] but need not be
94 limited to, procedures for counting and recording absentee ballots,
95 ["hands on"] hands-on training in the use of voting tabulators, and the
96 duties of a moderator in the conduct of a primary and election. The
97 Secretary may employ assistants on a temporary basis within existing
98 budgetary resources for the purpose of implementing the provisions of
99 this section. Such assistants shall not be subject to the provisions of
100 chapter 67. The instructors shall conduct instructional sessions for
101 moderators and alternate moderators in accordance with their training
102 by the Secretary [of the State] and the curriculum for such sessions.

103 (2) The Secretary of the State shall also: (A) Coordinate with each
104 regional election [monitor under contract] advisor appointed pursuant
105 to section 9-229b, as amended by this act, and the regional council of
106 governments that appointed such regional election advisor, to hold
107 [regional] instructional sessions for moderators and alternate
108 moderators within the planning region served by such regional council
109 of governments, in accordance with the curriculum established under
110 subdivision (1) of this subsection; and (B) [establish the number of such
111 regional instructional sessions to be held, provided at least one such
112 regional instructional session shall be held within each planning region
113 at the facilities of the regional council of governments prior to each
114 regular election; and (C)] train and certify each regional election
115 [monitor] advisor for purposes of performing the duties of the position.

116 The Secretary shall certify as a regional election [monitor] advisor each
 117 individual who successfully completes training under subparagraph
 118 [(C)] (B) of this subdivision, except the Secretary shall not so certify any
 119 individual who has, in a court of competent jurisdiction, been convicted
 120 of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to [, in a court of competent
 121 jurisdiction,] any (i) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny,
 122 embezzlement or bribery, or (ii) criminal offense under this title. Any
 123 such initial certification granted under this subdivision shall expire two
 124 years after the date of [its] such granting. Prior to expiration of the initial
 125 or any subsequent certification, a regional election [monitor] advisor
 126 may undergo an abridged recertification process prescribed by the
 127 Secretary, and upon successful completion thereof, such certification
 128 shall be renewed for two years after the date of such completion. Only
 129 certification in accordance with this subdivision shall satisfy the
 130 requirement of subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 9-229b, as
 131 amended by this act, and the Secretary may revoke any such
 132 certification, with or without cause, at any time.

133 (3) The duties of each regional election [monitor] advisor shall
 134 include, but not be limited to: (A) Holding the regional instructional
 135 sessions described in subdivision (2) of this subsection; (B)
 136 communicating with registrars of voters to assist, to the extent
 137 permitted under law, in preparations for and operations of any election,
 138 primary or recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f;
 139 and (C) transmitting any order issued by the Secretary of the State,
 140 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-3.

141 (4) Any elector may attend one or more of the sessions held under
 142 subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection. Each instructor or regional
 143 election [monitor] advisor, as the case may be, shall provide the
 144 Secretary of the State with the name and address of each person who
 145 completes any such session.

146 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
 147 study means of ensuring that election administration in each
 148 municipality is fully staffed by personnel properly trained in all tasks

149 necessary for effective election administration. Such study shall include,
150 but not be limited to, (1) an examination of functions, activities or
151 services related to election administration, which are currently
152 performed by individual municipalities, that may be performed more
153 efficiently on a shared or regional basis; (2) an examination of functions,
154 activities or services related to election administration, which are
155 currently performed by municipal election officials, that may be
156 performed in a more efficient, higher quality, more cost-effective or
157 more responsive manner by regional councils of governments; (3) a
158 review of training available to municipal election officials; and (4) an
159 analysis of and recommendations for any other initiative, which shall be
160 offered to municipalities on a voluntary basis, that may facilitate
161 effective election administration in a more efficient, higher quality, more
162 cost-effective or more responsive manner.

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

164 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
165 who shall be representatives of the Connecticut Advisory Commission
166 on Intergovernmental Relations;

167 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
168 shall be representatives of the Connecticut Advisory Commission on
169 Intergovernmental Relations;

170 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
171 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut
172 Conference of Municipalities;

173 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
174 a representative of the Connecticut Association of Councils of
175 Governments;

176 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
177 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Registrars of
178 Voters Association of Connecticut;

179 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
180 a representative of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns;

181 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
182 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
183 relating to government administration and elections, or their designees;

184 (8) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
185 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
186 relating to planning and development, or their designees; and

187 (9) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee.

188 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
189 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
190 be filled by the appointing authority.

191 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
192 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
193 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
194 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
195 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

196 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
197 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government
198 administration and elections shall serve as administrative staff of the
199 task force. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
200 provide additional support to the task force as necessary.

201 (f) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
202 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees
203 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
204 government administration and election and planning and
205 development, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
206 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
207 submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-229b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	4-66k(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-229(b)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) rename "regional election monitors" as "regional election advisors", (2) provide that a regional council of governments, or a combination of regional councils of governments and individual municipalities, may appoint regional election advisors for assistance with the performance of election administration duties, (3) provide for an annual grant to regional councils of governments that appoint a regional election advisor, and (4) establish a task force to study means of ensuring election administration in municipalities is fully staffed by properly trained election officials.

[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.]