



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1190

January Session, 2023



**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 Section 9-229b of the general statutes is repealed and the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
9 governments or member towns of regional councils of governments
10 that may seek the assistance of such regional election advisor. A
11 regional election advisor shall consult and coordinate with the
12 Secretary of the State to provide such assistance in preparations for
13 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit
14 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f.

15 (b) [Not later than March first of the year of each regular election,
16 each regional council of governments shall contract with an individual,
17 in accordance with section 4-124p, to serve as the regional election
18 monitor for such planning region. The] Any regional election [monitor]

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

34 (c) Not later than March first of the year of each regular election,
35 each regional council of governments that has appointed a regional
36 election advisor shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with
37 the Secretary of the State concerning the assistance to be provided by
38 such regional election [monitor under contract pursuant to subsection
39 (b) of this section. The regional council of governments] advisor, and
40 shall confirm within such memorandum of understanding that (1) each
41 requirement described in subsection (b) of this section is satisfied and
42 [the contract between the regional council of governments and] the
43 individual who shall serve as regional election [monitor specifies]
44 advisor has been informed, in writing, of the minimum expectations of
45 performance [under such contract, (2) such regional election monitor is
46 subject to the control and direction of the Secretary of the State, (3)] for
47 the position, and (2) revocation by the Secretary [of the State] of such
48 regional election [monitor's] advisor's certification constitutes breach
49 of such [contract and results in immediate termination of such
50 contract, and (4) such regional election monitor is retained, absent
51 termination of such contract by the council, until at least thirty days
52 after such regular election] memorandum of understanding, which

53 may result in termination of such memorandum of understanding if
54 the regional council of governments is not able to appoint a
55 replacement regional election advisor within thirty days after such
56 revocation.

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

69 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 4-66k of the general statutes is
70 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
71 *1, 2023*):

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

84 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 9-229 of the general statutes is

85 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
86 *1, 2023*):

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

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

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

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

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

150 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to

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

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

168 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
169 one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Advisory
170 Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and one of whom is an
171 information technology professional and has expertise in election
172 technology;

173 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
174 of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Advisory Commission
175 on Intergovernmental Relations and one of whom is admitted to the
176 practice of law in this state and has expertise in election
177 administration;

178 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
179 Representatives, who is a representative of the Connecticut Conference
180 of Municipalities;

181 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a

182 representative of the Connecticut Association of Councils of
183 Governments;

184 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
185 Representatives, who is a representative of the Registrars of Voters
186 Association of Connecticut;

187 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
188 representative of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns;

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

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

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

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

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

205 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
206 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
207 government administration and elections shall serve as administrative
208 staff of the task force. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and
209 Management shall provide additional support to the task force as
210 necessary.

211 (f) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
212 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees
213 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
214 government administration and elections and planning and
215 development, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
216 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
217 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 Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 4(b), "primary and election" was changed to "primary [and] or an election" in Subdiv. (1) for clarity, and "regional instructional sessions" was changed to "[regional] instructional sessions" in Subdiv. (3) for internal consistency.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*