
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5308

AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS OF NURSING HOMES.

SUMMARY

This bill allows for nursing home patients who apply for an absentee ballot up to six days before the polls close at an election, primary, or referendum to appoint someone who will bring them their ballot. Existing law already allows this for hospital patients.

Under the bill, the absentee ballot application must include the following: (1) name and address of the nursing home where the applicant is a patient; (2) name, address, and category of the designated person ("designee," see below); and (3) designee's authorization to deliver the completed ballot.

As under existing law, the designated person must (1) sign a statement on the application consenting to be the designee and agreeing not to tamper with the ballot and (2) personally submit the application to the town clerk. If the application is delivered within the appropriate timeframe, the clerk must give the designee an absentee ballot to be given to the patient.

Under the bill, the designee must be (1) a person caring for the applicant because of the applicant's illness or physical disability (e.g., a licensed physician or a registered or practical nurse); (2) the applicant's family member; or (3) a police officer, registrar of voters, or deputy or assistant registrar of voters in the municipality where the patient resides (CGS § 9-140b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/22/2024)