



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 407

February Session, 2024

House Bill No. 5308

House of Representatives, April 10, 2024

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 bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-150c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 An applicant who applies for an absentee ballot because of
4 unforeseen illness or physical disability occurring within six days
5 immediately preceding the close of the polls at an election, primary or
6 referendum or because the applicant is a patient in a hospital or nursing
7 home, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, within such six-day
8 period, may appoint a designee, as defined in subsection (b) of section
9 9-140b, to deliver the ballot to [him] the applicant, by stating on the
10 application, in a space provided for that purpose, (1) the date of
11 occurrence of the illness or disability or the name and address of the
12 hospital or nursing home in which the applicant is a patient within such
13 six-day period, (2) the name, address and category under [said]

14 subsection [,] (b) of section 9-140b of the person so designated, and (3)
 15 the delivery which the person is designated to perform, provided the
 16 person so designated shall also sign a statement on the application to
 17 the effect that [he] such person consents to the designation and will
 18 perform the delivery without tampering with the ballot in any way. If
 19 the application designates a person to deliver the ballot to the applicant,
 20 [that] such person shall personally submit the application to the
 21 municipal clerk. If such application is personally submitted to the clerk,
 22 [in person,] within six days immediately preceding the close of the polls
 23 at an election, [or] primary or referendum, by a person designated on
 24 the application to deliver the absentee ballot to the applicant as
 25 provided in this section and in subsection (b) of [said] section 9-140b,
 26 and if [the] such application is dated within such [time] six-day period,
 27 the clerk shall give [that] such person the absentee voting set.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-150c

GAE *Joint Favorable*

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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

This bill extends existing provisions for designee supported voter assistance to patients in nursing homes within six days prior to an election, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

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)