



PA 24-34—HB 5308

Government Administration and Elections Committee

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

SUMMARY: This act allows nursing home patients to apply for an absentee ballot within the six-day period before the polls close at an election, primary, or referendum and to appoint someone who will bring them their ballot and deliver it to the town clerk. State law already allows this for hospital patients.

Under the act, the absentee ballot application must include the (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 act, 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

BACKGROUND

Related Act

PA 24-148, § 5, includes this same provision on absentee ballots for nursing home patients.