



**Substitute House Bill No. 5498**

**Public Act No. 24-148**

**AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION SECURITY AND TRANSPARENCY, THE COUNTING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS, ABSENTEE VOTING FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS OF NURSING HOMES, SECURITY OF CERTAIN ELECTION WORKERS, STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION COMPLAINTS, BALLOTS MADE AVAILABLE IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH AND VARIOUS OTHER REVISIONS RELATED TO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.**

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

Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 9-140b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) (1) For purposes of this section, "mailed" means (A) sent by the United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the State, or (B) deposited in a secure drop box designated by the municipal clerk for such purpose, in accordance with instructions prescribed by the Secretary.

(2) (A) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-140, and on each weekday thereafter until the close of the polls at the

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election, primary or referendum, including at the close of the polls at such election, primary or referendum, the municipal clerk shall retrieve from the secure drop box described in said subparagraph each such ballot deposited in such drop box.

(B) On and after July 1, 2025, each municipality shall provide a video recording device for each secure drop box described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection within such municipality, which device's recordings shall capture the location of such drop box and evidence the date and time of each such recording beginning on the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-140, and until the last retrieval of absentee ballots from such drop box at the close of the polls at the election or primary. Each such recording shall, as soon as practicable, be made publicly available from the date of recording, but in no case later than five days after such last retrieval. Each such recording shall be retained by the municipality for a period of twelve months and may be destroyed at the end of such period, except that the State Elections Enforcement Commission or a court of competent jurisdiction may order that such period be extended until the conclusion of any investigation related to such recording.

(3) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning the use of secure drop boxes for the deposit of absentee ballots, including, but not limited to, the placement and positioning of any such drop box and the video recording of any such drop box and retention of any such recording.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 9-140c of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) (1) The municipal clerk shall retain the envelopes containing absentee ballots received by him under section 9-140b, as amended by this act, and shall not open such envelopes. The municipal clerk shall

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endorse over his signature, upon each outer envelope as he receives it, (A) the date and precise time of its receipt, and (B) the method of its receipt, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection. The clerk shall make an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of all such endorsements, and at the close of the polls shall deliver such affidavit to the head moderator, who shall endorse the time of its receipt and return it to the clerk after all counting is complete. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for one hundred eighty days in accordance with the requirements of section 9-150b. The clerk shall keep a list of the names of the applicants who return absentee ballots to the clerk under section 9-140b, as amended by this act. The list shall be preserved as a public record as required by section 9-150b.

(2) The municipal clerk shall record on the outer envelope of each absentee ballot returned under section 9-140b, as amended by this act, whether such ballot was (A) sent by the United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or messenger service, (B) deposited in a secure drop box, in which case the location of such drop box shall also be so recorded, (C) returned in person by an elector, or (D) returned in person by the designee or immediate family member of an elector. As soon as reasonably practicable after the close of the polls at an election or primary, the municipal clerk shall submit to the Secretary of the State a report detailing the total count of all absentee ballots returned for such election or primary, broken down by each method described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision.

Sec. 3. Section 9-153b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) If any absentee ballot applicant applies for an additional absentee ballot, [he] such applicant shall note on [his] the application the reason for [his] applying for an additional absentee ballot and [he] shall return the absentee voting set formerly issued to [him] such applicant before another set is issued, [to him, provided, if he] provided, if such applicant

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is unable to return [the set formerly issued to him, his] such formerly issued set, such application for an additional ballot shall be accompanied by a statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting in which [he] such applicant shall [set forth] note the reason for [his] such applicant's inability to return [the set] such formerly issued [to him. If he] set. If such applicant fails to file such a statement, no additional set shall be issued to [him] such applicant. An application for an additional absentee ballot shall only be made by an absentee ballot applicant. Any additional absentee voting set issued under this subsection shall only be either provided in person to the applicant or mailed directly to the applicant at the bona fide mailing address designated by such applicant.

(b) [Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section for members of the armed forces] For all absentee voting sets or portions thereof returned under subsection (a) of this section, the municipal clerk shall mark the serially-numbered outer envelope "rejected" and note the reasons [therefor] for rejection on all absentee ballots and envelopes so returned [to him] and shall seal all such [unopened ballots] absentee voting sets or portions thereof in a package and retain them in a safe place until delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act. The municipal clerk shall keep a list of the names of each absentee ballot applicant who has applied for more than one absentee ballot, as provided in section 9-140, as amended by this act, together with the serial number appearing on the outer envelope of each absentee voting set issued to each such applicant, [including the latest one issued.

(c) When an absentee ballot applicant has applied for more than one absentee ballot, only the latest absentee ballot issued to him by the municipal clerk as determined by the serial number appearing on the outer envelope may be counted and all absentee ballots and envelopes formerly issued to that applicant shall be marked rejected as provided in subsection (b) of this section and not counted.

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(d) Subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section shall not apply to members of the armed forces, and if] (c) If more than one absentee ballot is received from any elector, [who is a member of the armed forces,] the ballot of such elector [bearing the latest postmark] last received by the municipal clerk shall be counted if no absentee ballot of such elector has already been counted. [, provided that] For all absentee ballots of such elector that are not counted, the municipal clerk shall mark [all] the serially-numbered outer envelopes [bearing earlier postmarks] "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection and shall deliver such ballots in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act.

Sec. 4. Section 9-153c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) If a municipal clerk has omitted the name of a candidate, party or office designation, inserted an incorrect or misspelled name of a candidate, party or office designation, provided an absentee ballot applicant with a ballot which is not the correct ballot for his voting district, or incorrectly imprinted or failed to imprint the designation of a state or local question on an absentee ballot in the appropriate space, and if any such omission or error is likely to mislead any voter, he shall, as soon as he becomes aware of such omission or error, promptly mail to each applicant to whom such an absentee ballot has been issued, a correct absentee ballot, envelopes for its return and instructions, a statement explaining the error or omission including the correct name or question and a copy of this section. The municipal clerk shall inform the Secretary of the State when he proceeds under this subsection.

(b) Any additional absentee voting sets issued to applicants under this section shall be issued in consecutive ascending numerical order based upon the serial number appearing on the outer envelope for return of ballots to the municipal clerk, and the clerk shall keep a record of such numbers by making a notation on, or attaching a memorandum to, the applicant's original application for an absentee ballot.

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(c) The municipal clerk shall keep a list containing the name, address and voting district of each absentee ballot applicant who has been issued more than one absentee ballot under this section and the serial number appearing on the outer envelope of each absentee voting set so issued. The list shall be kept with the list required under section 9-140, as amended by this act.

(d) If more than one ballot is received from an applicant who has been sent a correct ballot under subsection (a) of this section, the ballot [bearing the latest serial number] last received by the municipal clerk shall be counted [,] if no ballot of such applicant has already been counted. [The] For all ballots of such applicant that are not counted, the municipal clerk shall inscribe the word "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection on the outer envelope [of each of such applicant's other ballots not so counted] and shall seal them, unopened, in a package and retain them in a safe place until delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act.

Sec. 5. Section 9-150c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

Sec. 6. Section 9-364 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

Any person who, with intent to disenfranchise any elector, influences or attempts to influence by force or threat, bribery or corrupt, fraudulent or deliberately deceitful means any elector to stay away from any election or otherwise refrain from voting, whether such voting is by mail, by deposit in a secure drop box or in person at a polling place or designated early voting or same-day election registration location, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

Sec. 7. Section 9-364a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) As used in this section, "election worker" means any municipal clerk, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters, election official described in section 9-258, primary official described in section 9-436 or recanvass official described in section 9-311, and "personal identifying information" has the same meaning as provided in section 53a-129a.

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(b) Any person who influences or attempts to influence by force or threat the vote, or by force, threat, bribery or corrupt means, the speech, of any other person [in] at a primary, caucus, referendum, convention or election; [or] any person who influences or attempts to influence by force, threat or harassment any election worker in the performance of any duty under the provisions of this title related to election administration at a primary, referendum, election or recanvass; any person who wilfully and fraudulently suppresses or destroys any vote or ballot properly given or cast, whether so given or cast by mail, by deposit in a secure drop box or in person at a polling place or designated early voting or same-day election registration location, or, in counting such votes or ballots, wilfully miscounts or misrepresents the number thereof; and any presiding or other officer of a primary, caucus or convention who wilfully announces the result of a ballot or vote of such primary, caucus or convention, untruly and wrongfully, shall be guilty of a class C felony.

(c) Any person who, with intent to harass, terrorize or alarm any election worker, or to improperly influence any election worker in the performance of any duty under this title related to election administration at a primary, referendum, election or recanvass, publicly discloses the personal identifying information of such election worker shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

(d) Any election worker described in subsection (b) or (c) of this section, as applicable, shall have a civil cause of action against the person who, with respect to such election worker, violated said subsection.

Sec. 8. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-139a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

(a) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish the following



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materials to municipal clerks: The absentee ballot facsimile, the application for absentee ballot authorized for use at each election or primary, the inner envelope, the outer envelope provided for the return of the ballot to the municipal clerk, the instructions for the use of the absentee ballot and the envelope for mailing of such forms by the clerk to the absentee ballot applicant.

(b) The application for absentee ballot shall be in the form of a statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting. Each application shall contain (1) spaces for the signature under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting of any person who assists the applicant in the completion of an application together with the information required in section 9-140, as amended by this act, [and] (2) spaces for the signature and the printed or typed name of the applicant, and (3) a clear and conspicuous notation of the year for which such application's use is authorized.

Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 9-140 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, application for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of the municipality in which the applicant is eligible to vote or has applied for such eligibility. Any person who assists another person in the completion of an application shall, in the space provided, sign the application and print or type his name, residence address and telephone number. Such signature shall be made under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not invalidate the application solely because it does not contain the name of a person who assisted the applicant in the completion of the application. The municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee ballot application any material which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate or referendum question. The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all

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absentee ballot applications provided under this subsection, including the name and address of each person to whom applications are provided and the number of applications provided to each such person. Each absentee ballot application provided by the municipal clerk shall be consecutively numbered and be stamped or marked with the name of the municipality issuing the application. The application shall be signed by the applicant under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting on (A) the form prescribed by the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-139a, as amended by this act, (B) a form provided by any federal department or agency if applicable pursuant to section 9-153a, or (C) any of the special forms of application prescribed pursuant to section 9-150c, as amended by this act, 9-153a, 9-153b, as amended by this act, 9-153d, 9-153e, 9-153f or 9-158d, if applicable. Any such absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write may cause the application to be completed by an authorized agent who shall, in the spaces provided for the date and signature, write the date and name of the absentee ballot applicant followed by the word "by" and his own signature. If the ballot is to be mailed to the applicant, the applicant shall list the bona fide personal mailing address of the applicant in the appropriate space on the application.

(2) A municipal clerk may transmit an application to a person under this subsection by facsimile machine or other electronic means, if so requested by the applicant. If a municipal clerk has a facsimile machine or other electronic means, an applicant may return a completed application to the clerk by such a machine or device, provided the applicant shall also mail the original of the completed application to the clerk, either separately or with the absentee ballot that is issued to the applicant. If the clerk does not receive such original application by the close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum, the absentee ballot shall not be counted.

(3) No municipal clerk shall provide, for an election, primary or

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referendum, five or more absentee ballot applications to any person earlier than ninety days prior to the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-140, for such election, primary or referendum.

(4) No municipal clerk shall provide or accept for return, and no person shall distribute or otherwise use, any absentee ballot application in a given year unless such application contains the notation described in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 9-139a, as amended by this act, authorizing such application's use in such year.

Sec. 10. Section 9-50c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Secretary of the State may enter into an agreement to share information or data with any other state in order to maintain the state-wide centralized voter registration system established pursuant to section 9-50b, as amended by this act. If an agency of this state, another state or the federal government provides the Secretary with information or data to be used to maintain such system, the Secretary shall not use such information or data for any purpose except to maintain such system and shall ensure that such information or data is held confidential, [if such information or data, while in the possession of such other agency or state or federal government, as applicable, was required to be held confidential,] except as provided for in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Secretary of the State may provide such information or data to a nonpartisan third-party vendor for the purpose of maintaining the state-wide centralized voter registration system established pursuant to section 9-50b, as amended by this act, provided such vendor's activities are performed under the supervision of the Secretary and such vendor has entered into an agreement to protect the confidentiality of such information or data.

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Sec. 11. Section 9-50b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) As used in this section, "state-wide centralized voter registration system" means a computerized system designed and maintained by the Secretary of the State which includes: (1) Voter registration information prescribed by the Secretary, (2) information contained in applications for admission as electors described in section 9-20, (3) information needed to compile registry lists and enrollment lists under sections 9-35 and 9-54, (4) information required by section 9-50a, and (5) other information for use in complying with the provisions of this title.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2003, each registrar of voters shall transmit to the office of the Secretary of the State all elector information required by the office to complete the state-wide centralized voter registration system. Each registrar shall transmit such information in a format prescribed by the Secretary. Not later than September 1, 2003, each registrar of voters shall participate in the state-wide centralized voter registration system in the manner prescribed by the Secretary. On and after July 1, 2024, each town clerk shall utilize the state-wide centralized voter registration system whenever carrying out any provision of this title.

(c) Not later than sixty days after each election or primary, the registrars of voters shall update the state-wide centralized voter registration system and indicate whether the eligible voters on the official registry list for such election or primary voted and, if so, if they voted in person on the day of such election or primary, in person during the period of early voting at such election or primary or by absentee ballot.

Sec. 12. Subsection (h) of section 9-163aa of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

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thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(h) (1) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election or primary, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any building that contains any location designated by the registrars of voters for early voting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to any such location or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no person shall be allowed within any location designated by the registrars of voters for early voting for any purpose other than casting such person's vote, except (A) primary officials under section 9-436, (B) election officials under section 9-258, including (i) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (ii) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing such official's duties, and (C) unofficial checkers under section 9-235.

[(2)] (3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party employee or volunteer, may be within [such] the seventy-five-foot radius [of seventy-five feet] described in subdivision (1) of this subsection (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such person's official duties or to the conduct of government business within such radius, (B) only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or conduct such business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in any conduct described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 13. Subsection (j) of section 9-19j of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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(j) (1) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any building that contains any location designated by the registrars of voters for same-day election registration balloting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to any such location or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no person shall be allowed within any location designated by the registrars of voters for same-day election registration balloting for any purpose other than casting such person's vote, except (A) primary officials under section 9-436, (B) election officials under section 9-258, including (i) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (ii) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing such official's duties, and (C) unofficial checkers under section 9-235.

[(2)] (3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party employee or volunteer, may be within [such] the seventy-five-foot radius [of seventy-five feet] described in subdivision (1) of this subsection (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such person's official duties or to the conduct of government business within such radius, (B) only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or conduct such business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in any conduct described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 14. Subsection (c) of section 9-236 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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(c) No person shall be allowed within any polling place for any purpose other than casting his or her vote, except (1) those permitted or exempt under this section or section 9-236a, (2) primary officials under section 9-436, (3) election officials under section 9-258, including (A) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, performing his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing his or her official duties, or (4) [party] unofficial checkers under section 9-235. Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to enter, remain within and leave any polling place or restricted area surrounding any polling place to observe the election, provided any such representative who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. A number of students in grades four to twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in any one polling place, may enter any polling place between twelve o'clock noon and three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the activities taking place in the polling place, provided there is proper parental or teacher supervision present, and provided further, any such student who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. An elector may be accompanied into any polling place by one or more children who are fifteen years of age or younger and supervised by the elector if the elector is the parent or legal guardian of such children.

Sec. 15. Section 9-147a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, at any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots shall, within existing resources, be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a at a central location designated by the registrars of voters in writing to the municipal clerk at least twenty days before the election, primary or

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referendum, which location shall be published in the warning for the election, primary or referendum. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, all absentee ballots shall be separated, counted, tallied and placed in depository envelopes by voting district. Any member of the public may observe the counting of absentee ballots at such central location, provided no candidate for election or nomination shall be allowed to participate in such counting, except (1) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (2) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing such official's duties.

(b) At any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots may be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a in the respective polling places if the registrars of voters agree that such absentee ballots should be so counted. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, absentee ballots may be counted in the respective polling places if the parties agree that such absentee ballots should be so counted. Any election official serving in a polling place may observe the counting of absentee ballots at such polling place, provided no candidate for election or nomination shall be allowed within such polling place during the hours of voting for any purpose other than casting such candidate's vote and no such candidate shall be allowed to participate in such counting, except (1) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (2) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing such official's duties.

Sec. 16. Section 9-140e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any elector who is permanently physically disabled or suffering from a long-term illness and who files an application for an absentee ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that



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such elector is permanently physically disabled or suffering from a long-term illness and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated polling location, shall be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status and shall receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary or referendum conducted in such elector's municipality for which such elector is eligible to vote. Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status shall remain in effect until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official registry list of the municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee ballot status pursuant to the provisions of this section, or (3) requests that he or she no longer receive such permanent absentee ballot status.

(b) The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each such elector with permanent absentee ballot status in January of each year, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, for the purpose of determining if such elector continues to reside at the address indicated on the elector's permanent absentee ballot application. If [(1)] such written notice is returned as undeliverable, [or (2) not later than sixty days after such notice is sent to the elector, the elector fails to return such notice to the registrars of voters, as directed on the form,] the elector in question shall be removed from permanent absentee ballot status. If such elector indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides at such address and the elector's new address is within the same municipality, the registrars of voters shall change the elector's address pursuant to section 9-35 and such elector shall retain permanent absentee ballot status. If the elector indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides in the municipality, the registrars of voters shall remove such individual from the registry list of the municipality and send such individual an application for voter registration. Failure to return such written notice shall not result in the removal of an elector from the official registry list of the municipality or from permanent absentee ballot status.

Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the 2024 supplement to the

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general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) (1) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any federal or state election or primary and not later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, [for any federal or state election or primary, or] and (2) not earlier than the fifth day after any municipal election or primary and not later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the town clerk, [for any municipal election or primary,] the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit, or [, for an election or primary held on or after January 1, 2016,] an electronic audit authorized under section 9-320g, of the votes recorded in not less than five per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or municipality, whichever is applicable. For the purposes of this section, any central location used in a municipality for the counting of absentee ballots, early voting ballots or same-day election registration ballots shall be deemed a voting district. Such manual or electronic audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public observation. Any election official who participates in the administration and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

Sec. 18. Section 9-460 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

If any party has nominated a candidate for office, or, on and after November 4, 1981, if a candidate has qualified to appear on any ballot by nominating petition under a reserved party designation, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and such nominee thereafter, but prior to forty-six days before the opening of the polls on the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, dies, withdraws such nominee's name or for any reason becomes disqualified

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to hold the office for which such nominee has been nominated, (1) such party or, on and after November 4, 1981, the party designation committee may make a nomination to fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such nomination as its rules prescribe, and (2) if another party that is qualified to nominate a candidate for such office does not have a nominee for such office, such party may also nominate a candidate for such office as its rules prescribe. No withdrawal, and no nomination to replace a candidate who has withdrawn, under this section shall be valid unless the candidate who has withdrawn has filed a letter of withdrawal signed by such candidate with the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or with the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state representative. A copy of such candidate's letter of withdrawal to the municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. No nomination to fill a vacancy under this section shall be valid unless it is certified to the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or to the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state representative, by the organization or committee making such nomination, at least forty-two days before the opening of the polls on the day of the election, except as otherwise provided by this section. If a nominee dies within forty-six days before the election, but prior to twenty-four hours before the commencement of the period of early voting at the election for which such nomination has been made, the vacancy may be filled in the manner prescribed in this section by two o'clock p.m. of the day before the first day of such period of early voting with the municipal clerk or the Secretary of the State, as the case may be. If a nominee dies within twenty-four hours before the commencement of the period of early voting at the election and prior to the close of the polls on the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, such nominee shall not be replaced and the votes cast for such nominee shall be canvassed and counted, and if such

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nominee receives a plurality of the votes cast, a vacancy shall exist in the office for which the nomination was made. The vacancy shall then be filled in a manner prescribed by law. A copy of such certification to the municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. Such nomination to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification shall include a statement setting forth the reason for such vacancy. If at the time such nomination is certified to the Secretary of the State or to the municipal clerk, as the case may be, the ballots have already been printed, the Secretary of the State shall direct the municipal clerk in each municipality affected to (A) have the ballots reprinted with the nomination thus made included thereon, (B) cause printed stickers to be affixed to the ballots so that the name of any candidate who has died [, withdrawn or been disqualified] is deleted and the name of any candidate chosen to fill such vacancy appears in the same position as that in which the vacated candidacy appeared, or (C) [cause blank stickers to be so affixed] if the vacancy is not filled, cause the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) At the top of each ballot shall be printed the name of the party holding the primary, and each ballot shall contain the names of all candidates to be voted upon at such primary, except the names of justices of the peace. The vertical columns shall be headed by the designation of the office or position and instructions as to the number for which an elector may vote for such office or position, in the same manner as a ballot used in a regular election. The name of each candidate for town committee or municipal office, except for the municipal offices of state senator and state representative, shall appear on the ballot as authorized by each candidate. The name of each

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candidate for state or district office or for the municipal offices of state senator or state representative shall appear on the ballot as it appears on the certificate or statement of consent filed under section 9-388, 9-391, 9-400 or 9-409. On the first horizontal line, below the designation of the office or position in each column, shall be placed the name of the party-endorsed candidate for such office or position, such name to be marked with an asterisk; provided, where more than one person may be voted for for any office or position, the names of the party-endorsed candidates shall be arranged in alphabetical order from left to right under the appropriate office or position designation and shall continue, if necessary, from left to right on the next lower line or lines. In the case of no party endorsement there shall be inserted the designation "no party endorsement" at the head of the vertical column, immediately beneath the designation of the office or position. On the horizontal lines below the line for party-endorsed candidates shall be placed, in the appropriate columns, the names of all other candidates as [hereinafter] provided in this section.

Sec. 20. Subsection (g) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(g) The name of each candidate shall appear on the ballot in such position as is [hereinbefore] required in this section, and such position shall be determined as of the final time for filing candidacies specified in section 9-400 or 9-405. Vacancies in candidacies thereafter occurring shall not cause the position of any candidate's name on the ballot to be changed to another position. The name of any candidate whose candidacy has been vacated shall not appear on the ballot. If such a vacancy results in the cancellation of a primary for any office, the office column or columns where the names of the candidates and the title of the office would have appeared if the primary for that office had not been cancelled shall be left blank. If a vacancy occurs in a party-

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endorsed candidacy and a person is chosen in accordance with section 9-426 or 9-428, as amended by this act, to fill the resulting vacancy in candidacy, the name of the person so chosen shall appear in the same position as that in which the name of the vacating candidate appeared. The municipal clerk shall have the ballot prepared so that the name of any candidate who has vacated such candidate's candidacy is deleted and so that the name of any candidate chosen to fill a vacancy in candidacy appears in the same position as that in which the vacated candidacy appeared. The municipal clerk may use [blank or] printed stickers [, as the case may be,] in preparing the ballots if the ballots were printed before [the occurrence of the vacancy in candidacy or] the selection of a candidate to fill a vacancy in candidacy. If a vacancy in candidacy is not filled, the municipal clerk shall cause the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible. The order of the offices and positions shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

Sec. 21. Section 9-428 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) If a party-endorsed candidate for election to the position of town committee member, prior to twenty-four hours before the opening of the polls at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the day of such primary, withdraws his name from nomination or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the position for which he is a candidate, the state central committee, the town committee or other authority of the party which endorsed such candidate may make an endorsement to fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such endorsement, in such manner as is prescribed in the rules of such party, and certify to the registrar and municipal clerk or to the Secretary of the State, as the case may be, the name of the person so endorsed. If such certification is made at least twenty-four hours prior to the opening of the polls at the

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primary, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, or at least seven days before the day of such primary, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has withdrawn or become disqualified, such person so endorsed shall run in the primary as the party-endorsed candidate, except as provided in sections 9-416 and 9-417. If such certification of another party-endorsed candidate has been made within the time specified in this section, and if the ballots have already been printed and the names of the candidates for such position appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the registrar, as the case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality holding such primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the person so certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification has been made less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours prior to the opening of the polls at the primary, such Secretary or registrar shall direct such clerk to have stickers printed and inserted upon the ballots, having the name of the person so certified appearing thereon, and the moderator in each polling place shall cause such stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the opening of the polls at such primary. If no such certification has been made, such clerk shall cause the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

(b) If a party-endorsed candidate for nomination to an office, prior to twenty-four hours before the commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the first day of such period of early voting, withdraws his name from nomination or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for which he is a candidate, the state central committee, the town committee or other authority of the party which endorsed such candidate may make an endorsement to fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such endorsement, in such manner as is prescribed in the rules of such party, and certify to the registrar and municipal clerk or to the Secretary of the

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State, as the case may be, the name of the person so endorsed. If such certification is made at least twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, or at least seven days before the first day of such period of early voting, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has withdrawn or become disqualified, such person so endorsed shall run in the primary as the party-endorsed candidate, except as provided in sections 9-416 and 9-417. If such certification of another party-endorsed candidate has been made within the time specified in this section, and if the ballots have already been printed and the names of the candidates for such office appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the registrar, as the case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality holding such primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the person so certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification has been made less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, such Secretary or registrar shall direct such clerk to have stickers printed and inserted upon the ballots, having the name of the person so certified appearing thereon, and the moderator in each polling place shall cause such stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the opening of the polls at such primary. If no such certification has been made, such clerk shall cause the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

Sec. 22. Subsection (d) of section 9-135b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(d) If a vacancy in candidacy occurs after the ballots have been printed, the clerk may either reprint the ballots or cause [blank or] printed stickers [, as the case may be,] to be affixed to them so that the



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name of any candidate who has vacated his candidacy is deleted and the name of any candidate chosen to fill the vacancy as provided in section 9-428, as amended by this act, or section 9-460, as amended by this act, appears in the same position as that in which the vacated candidacy appeared except as provided in section 9-426 or 9-453s. If no candidate is chosen to fill such vacancy as so provided, the clerk shall cause the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

Sec. 23. Section 9-472 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

If, after determination of the order of candidates on the ballot, a candidate dies, his name shall not appear on such ballot; provided that the position of each remaining candidate on the ballot shall not be altered by the deletion of such name. The secretary may authorize [the use of] town clerks to use blank stickers on the ballot, [by town clerks] or otherwise cause the name of such deceased candidate to be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible, in order to comply with the provisions of this section.

Sec. 24. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 9-7a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(g) (1) In the case of a written complaint filed with the commission pursuant to section 9-7b, commission staff shall conduct and complete a preliminary examination of such complaint by the fourteenth day following its receipt, at which time such staff shall, at its discretion, (A) dismiss the complaint for failure to allege any substantial violation of state election law supported by evidence, (B) engage the respondent in discussions in an effort to speedily resolve any matter pertaining to a de minimis violation, or (C) investigate and docket the complaint for a determination by the commission that probable cause or no probable

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cause exists for any such violation. If commission staff dismisses a complaint pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, such staff shall provide a brief written statement concisely setting forth the reasons for such dismissal. If commission staff engages a respondent pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision but is unable to speedily resolve any such matter described in said subparagraph by the forty-fifth day following receipt of the complaint, such staff shall docket such complaint for a determination by the commission that probable cause or no probable cause exists for any violation of state election law. If the commission does not, by the sixtieth day following receipt of the complaint, either issue a decision or render its determination that probable cause or no probable cause exists for any violation of state election laws, the complainant or respondent may apply to the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford for an order to show cause why the commission has not acted upon the complaint and to provide evidence that the commission has unreasonably delayed action. For any complaint received on or after January 1, 2018, if the commission does not, by one year following receipt of such complaint, issue a decision thereon, the commission shall dismiss such complaint, provided the length of time of any delay caused by (i) the commission or commission staff granting any extension or continuance to a respondent prior to the issuance of any such decision, (ii) any subpoena issued in connection with such complaint, (iii) any litigation in state or federal court related to such complaint, or (iv) any investigation by, or consultation of the commission or commission staff with, the Chief State's Attorney, the Attorney General, the United States Department of Justice or the United States Attorney for Connecticut related to such complaint, shall be added to such one year. For any complaint received on or after July 1, 2024, if the commission does not, by the ninetieth day following the commission's determination that probable cause exists for any violation of state election laws, issue a decision on such complaint, the commission shall refer such complaint to the Chief State's Attorney pursuant to subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b for further

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enforcement action. Not later than twelve months after the referral to the Chief State's Attorney of any complaint under this subdivision, or not later than the expiration of the period of time prescribed by section 54-193 for the violation of state election laws alleged in any such complaint, whichever occurs first, the Chief State's Attorney shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections and the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, detailing the status of any enforcement action related to such referred complaint.

Sec. 25. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 9-163aa of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) (1) The registrars of voters of each municipality shall designate a location for the conduct of early voting, which location shall be the same for the duration of the period of early voting except as otherwise specified in this subdivision, provided (A) the registrars of voters have access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location, and (B) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of the State not later than [one hundred twenty] ~~sixty~~ days prior to the day of [a regular election or a primary, other than a presidential preference primary, or not later than twenty days prior to the day of a special election or a presidential preference] an election or a primary. The written certification under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall provide (i) the name, street address and relevant contact information associated with such location, (ii) the number of election or primary officials to be appointed by the registrars of voters to serve at such location and the roles of such officials, and (iii) a description of the design of such location and a plan for effective conduct of such early voting. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written certification not later than [ninety] ~~forty-five~~ days prior to the day of [a regular election or a primary, other than a presidential preference

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primary, or not later than fifteen days prior to the day of a special election or a presidential preference] an election or a primary. If the Secretary disapproves such certification, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, the reasons for such disapproval and shall issue an order for such corrective action as the Secretary deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the appointment of additional election or primary officials or the alteration of such design or plan. After having received approval of such certification or having complied with any order for corrective action to the Secretary's satisfaction, as applicable, the registrars of voters shall determine the site of such location designated for the conduct of early voting at least thirty-one days prior to [a regular election or a primary, other than a presidential preference primary, or at least eleven days prior to a special election or a presidential preference] an election or a primary. Such location shall not be changed within such period, except, if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters unanimously find that such location has been rendered unusable within such period, such clerk and registrars shall forthwith designate another location for the conduct of early voting to be used in place of the location so rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice that such location has been so changed. The provisions of sections 9-168d and 9-168e shall apply to such location designated for the conduct of early voting.

Sec. 26. Subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 9-163aa of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(4) (A) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on which early voting is conducted, a moderator and such other election or primary officials to serve at each location designated for such conduct. The moderator so appointed shall perform any duty required, and may exercise any power authorized, under this title related to the conduct of early voting at such location. On any such day and solely for purposes related to the conduct of early voting, the registrars of voters of a

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municipality may, upon agreement, appoint one of the registrars from such municipality as moderator in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The registrars of voters may delegate to each other election or primary official so appointed any of the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall supervise each such official and train each such official to be an early voting election or primary official.

(B) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality appoint, pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, one of the registrars of such municipality as moderator to serve at a location designated for the conduct of early voting, such registrars of voters shall jointly submit to the Secretary of the State (i) a certification that the registrars of voters of such municipality are in agreement as to such appointment, and (ii) a written plan detailing alternative coverage of the duties normally carried out by the registrar so appointed to ensure that such registrar abstains, on each day in which such registrar serves as moderator, from any such duties that conflict with those of the moderator.

Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 9-21a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

(a) The Secretary of the State, at [such times as the Secretary determines, may] least annually, shall cause a search to be made of computerized voter registration records to identify electors who may be registered in more than one town or registered more than once in the same town. The Secretary [may] shall compile, from such search, a list of possible duplicate registrations in any town or towns and shall transmit such list to the registrars of voters of the appropriate town or towns.

Sec. 28. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-19k of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is

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substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The Secretary of the State shall establish and maintain a system for online voter registration. Such system shall also permit a registered elector to apply for changes to such elector's registration. An applicant may register to vote through this system, provided the applicant's (1) registration information is verifiable in the manner described in subsection (b) of this section, and (2) signature is in a database described in said subsection (b) and such signature may be imported into such system for online voter registration.

(b) A state agency, upon the request of the Secretary of the State, shall provide any information to the Secretary that the Secretary deems necessary to maintain the system for online voter registration. The Secretary may cross reference the information input into the system by applicants with data or information contained in any state agency's database or a database administered by the federal government, or any voter registration database of another state, in order to verify the information submitted by applicants, except that the Secretary shall, notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-20a, cross reference such input information with the list compiled by the Jury Administrator pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-222a and made available to the Secretary pursuant to section 29 of this act in order to attempt to verify such submitted information. The Secretary shall not use the information obtained from any such database except to verify information submitted by the applicant, provided the applicant's signature, if part of data contained in the state agency's database, shall be included as part of the applicant's information contained in the system for online voter registration.

Sec. 29. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than thirty days after the Jury Administrator compiles the list of all qualified jurors in the state pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-222a of the general statutes, the Jury Administrator shall make such list available to the Secretary of the

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State for the purpose of verifying the information contained in the system for online voter registration established and maintained pursuant to section 9-19k of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

Sec. 30. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Secretary of the State shall review the process by which languages other than English are translated for purposes of appearing on the ballot in municipalities where federal or state law requires such ballots to be made available in any such language. Not later than January 15, 2025, the Secretary shall submit a report on the Secretary's recommendations concerning such process, including recommendations for preventing mistranslations on such ballots, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 31. Section 1-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) No public agency may disclose, under the Freedom of Information Act, from its personnel, medical or similar files, the residential address of any of the following persons employed by such public agency:

(1) A federal court judge, federal court magistrate, judge of the Superior Court, Appellate Court or Supreme Court of the state, or family support magistrate;

(2) A sworn member of a municipal police department, a sworn member of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or a sworn law enforcement officer within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection;

(3) An employee of the Department of Correction;

(4) An attorney-at-law who represents or has represented the state in a criminal prosecution;

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- (5) An attorney-at-law who is or has been employed by the Division of Public Defender Services or a social worker who is employed by the Division of Public Defender Services;
- (6) An inspector employed by the Division of Criminal Justice;
- (7) A firefighter;
- (8) An employee of the Department of Children and Families;
- (9) A member or employee of the Board of Pardons and Paroles;
- (10) An employee of the judicial branch;
- (11) An employee of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services who provides direct care to patients;
- (12) A member or employee of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities; or
- (13) A state marshal appointed by the State Marshal Commission pursuant to section 6-38b.

(b) The business address of any person described in this section, and the address of each town hall, city hall or other municipal building in which the office of the registrars of voters of a municipality is located, shall be subject to disclosure under section 1-210. The provisions of this section shall not apply to Department of Motor Vehicles records described in section 14-10.

(c) (1) Except as provided in subsections (a) and ~~[(d)]~~ (e) of this section, no public agency may disclose the residential address of any person listed in subsection (a) of this section from any record described in subdivision (2) of this subsection that is requested in accordance with the provisions of said subdivision, regardless of whether such person is an employee of the public agency, provided such person has (A)



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submitted a written request for the nondisclosure of the person's residential address to the public agency, and (B) furnished his or her business address to the public agency.

(2) Any public agency that receives a request for a record subject to disclosure under this chapter where such request (A) specifically names a person who has requested that his or her address be kept confidential under subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall make a copy of the record requested to be disclosed and shall redact the copy to remove such person's residential address prior to disclosing such record, (B) is for an existing list that is derived from a readily accessible electronic database, shall make a reasonable effort to redact the residential address of any person who has requested that his or her address be kept confidential under subdivision (1) of this subsection prior to the release of such list, or (C) is for any list that the public agency voluntarily creates in response to a request for disclosure, shall make a reasonable effort to redact the residential address of any person who has requested that his or her address be kept confidential under subdivision (1) of this subsection prior to the release of such list.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, an agency shall not be prohibited from disclosing the residential address of any person listed in subsection (a) of this section from any record other than the records described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(d) (1) Except as provided in subsections (a) and (e) of this section and subject to the provisions of subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, no public agency of a municipality may disclose, under the Freedom of Information Act, from a public record, including any record described in subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, the residential address of any person who is a municipal clerk, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters, election official described in section 9-258, primary official described in section 9-436 or audit official described in section 9-

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320f, as amended by this act, regardless of whether such person is an employee of the public agency, provided such person has (A) submitted to the municipality a written request for the nondisclosure of the person's residential address, and (B) furnished to the municipality (i) his or her business address, or (ii) if such person does not have a business address, the address of the town hall, city hall or other municipal building in which the office of the registrars of voters of such municipality is located.

(2) (A) If a person submits a written request described in subdivision (1) of this subsection prior to the ninetieth day preceding an election, the prohibition in said subdivision against disclosing such person's residential address shall take effect on the ninetieth day preceding such election and shall expire on the ninetieth day following such election.

(B) If a person submits a written request described in subdivision (1) of this subsection on or after the ninetieth day preceding an election, the prohibition in said subdivision against disclosing such person's residential address shall take effect upon such submission and shall expire on the ninetieth day following such election.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to prohibit the disclosure of the residential address of any person described in subdivision (1) of this subsection in the case where such residential address appears on a public record by virtue of such person holding any elective or appointive state or municipal office other than municipal clerk, registrar of voters or deputy registrar of voters.

[(d)] (e) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit the disclosure without redaction of any document, as defined in section 7-35bb, any list prepared under title 9, or any list published under section 12-55.

[(e)] (f) No public agency or public official or employee of a public

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agency shall be penalized for violating a provision of this section, unless such violation is wilful and knowing. Any complaint of such a violation shall be made to the Freedom of Information Commission. Upon receipt of such a complaint, the commission shall serve upon the public agency, official or employee, as the case may be, by certified or registered mail, a copy of the complaint. The commission shall provide the public agency, official or employee with an opportunity to be heard at a hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, unless the commission, upon motion of the public agency, official or employee or upon motion of the commission, dismisses the complaint without a hearing if it finds, after examining the complaint and construing all allegations most favorably to the complainant, that the public agency, official or employee has not wilfully and knowingly violated a provision of this section. If the commission finds that the public agency, official or employee wilfully and knowingly violated a provision of this section, the commission may impose against such public agency, official or employee a civil penalty of not less than twenty dollars nor more than one thousand dollars. Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow a private right of action against a public agency, public official or employee of a public agency.

Approved June 6, 2024