



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 5101



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.

SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5308

File No. 407

Cal. No. 372

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

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 1-1h of the general statutes
4 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
5 *1, 2024*):

6 (a) Any person who does not possess a valid motor vehicle operator's
7 license may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for an identity
8 card. The application for an identity card shall be accompanied by the
9 birth certificate of the applicant or a certificate of identification of the
10 applicant issued and authorized for such use by the Department of
11 Correction and, except as provided in this subsection, a fee of twenty-
12 eight dollars. Such application shall include: (1) The applicant's name;
13 (2) the applicant's address; (3) whether the address is permanent or
14 temporary; (4) the applicant's date of birth; (5) notice to the applicant

15 that false statements on such application are punishable under section
16 53a-157b; and (6) such other pertinent information as the Commissioner
17 of Motor Vehicles deems necessary. The applicant shall sign the
18 application in the presence of an official of the Department of Motor
19 Vehicles. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any applicant who
20 does not have the means to pay such fee, including any applicant who
21 is a resident of a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons
22 or a certified homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The
23 commissioner may waive the fee for any applicant (A) who has
24 voluntarily surrendered such applicant's motor vehicle operator's
25 license, (B) whose license has been refused by the commissioner
26 pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of section 14-36, (C) who is
27 both a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and blind,
28 as defined in subsection (a) of section 1-1f, [, or (D) who is a resident of
29 a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons or a certified
30 homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The] Not later than
31 September 1, 2024, the commissioner shall adopt regulations, in
32 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish the procedure
33 and qualifications for the issuance of an identity card to any such
34 [homeless] applicant who does not have the means to pay the fee for
35 such identity card. For the purposes of this subsection, "certified
36 homeless youth" and "certified homeless young adult" have the same
37 meanings as provided in section 7-36.

38 (b) (1) An identity card shall indicate its date of expiration, contain a
39 picture of the applicant and specify the applicant's height, sex and eye
40 color.

41 (2) (A) An original identity card shall expire within a period not
42 exceeding seven years following the date of the applicant's next
43 birthday. Any person who holds an identity card may be notified by the
44 commissioner before its expiration and may renew such card in such
45 manner as the commissioner shall prescribe. Upon renewal of an
46 identity card, the commissioner may issue an identity card for a period
47 to be determined by the commissioner, provided such period does not
48 exceed eight years. [The] Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this

49 subdivision, (i) the fee for the renewal of an identity card that expires
50 eight years from the date of issuance shall be thirty-two dollars, [The]
51 and (ii) the commissioner shall charge a prorated amount of such fee for
52 an identity card that expires less than eight years from the date of
53 issuance. The commissioner shall not provide notification by mail to the
54 holder of an identity card if the United States Postal Service has
55 determined that mail is undeliverable to such person at the address for
56 such person that is in the records of the department.

57 (B) The commissioner shall waive the fee for the renewal of an
58 identity card, or any prorated amount of such fee, for any person who
59 does not have the means to pay such fee or prorated amount.

60 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) At the request of any elector
61 who has applied for and received an absentee ballot, each library in the
62 state that is open to the public shall make available to such elector, free
63 of charge, a photocopier in such library for the purposes of producing a
64 copy of such elector's photo identification to be inserted in the outer
65 envelope of such elector's returned absentee ballot in accordance with
66 the provisions of section 9-140a of the general statutes, as amended by
67 this act.

68 (b) At the request of any person applying for a presidential ballot by
69 mail, each library in the state that is open to the public shall make
70 available to such person, free of charge, a photocopier in such library for
71 the purposes of producing a copy of such person's photo identification
72 to accompany such person's application for a presidential ballot in
73 accordance with the provisions of section 9-158e of the general statutes,
74 as amended by this act.

75 (c) Each library in the state that is open to the public may seek
76 reimbursement from the State Treasurer of all costs associated with
77 producing copies of photo identification for the purposes described in
78 subsections (a) and (b) of this section, upon submission of
79 documentation substantiating that such costs were incurred.

80 Sec. 503. Section 9-140a of the general statutes is repealed and the

81 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

82 Each absentee ballot applicant shall sign the form on the inner
83 envelope provided for in section 9-137, which shall constitute a
84 statement under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting.
85 Any absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write may cause his
86 name to be signed on the form by an authorized agent who shall, in the
87 space provided for the signature, write the name of the applicant
88 followed by the word "by" and his own signature. The failure of the
89 applicant or authorized agent to date the form shall not invalidate the
90 ballot. The ballot shall be inserted in the inner envelope, [and] the inner
91 envelope shall be inserted in the outer envelope [,] and a copy of the
92 applicant's photo identification shall also be inserted in the outer
93 envelope prior to the return of the ballot to the municipal clerk. [If an
94 applicant is required to return identification with the ballot pursuant to
95 the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time,
96 such identification shall be inserted in the outer envelope so such
97 identification can be viewed without opening the inner envelope.]

98 Sec. 504. Subsection (a) of section 9-140b of the 2024 supplement to
99 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
100 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

101 (a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or
102 referendum only if: (1) It is mailed by (A) the ballot applicant, (B) a
103 designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot because of
104 illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the immediate family
105 of an applicant who is a student, so that it is received by the clerk of the
106 municipality in which the applicant is qualified to vote not later than the
107 close of the polls; (2) it is returned by the applicant in person to the clerk
108 by the day before a regular election, special election or primary or prior
109 to the opening of the polls on the day of a referendum; (3) it is returned
110 by a designee of an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant, in person,
111 to said clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election,
112 primary or referendum; (4) it is returned by a member of the immediate
113 family of the absentee voter, in person, to said clerk not later than the

114 close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum; (5)
115 in the case of a presidential or overseas ballot, it is mailed or otherwise
116 returned pursuant to the provisions of section 9-158g; or (6) it is returned
117 with [the proper] a copy of the applicant's photo identification [as
118 required by the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from
119 time to time, if applicable, inserted in the outer envelope so such
120 identification can be viewed without opening the inner envelope]
121 inserted in the outer envelope. A person returning an absentee ballot to
122 the municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or (4) of this subsection
123 shall present identification and, on the outer envelope of the absentee
124 ballot, sign his name in the presence of the municipal clerk, and indicate
125 his address, his relationship to the voter or his position, and the date
126 and time of such return. As used in this section, "immediate family"
127 means a dependent relative who resides in the individual's household
128 or any spouse, child, parent or sibling of the individual.

129 Sec. 505. Subsection (a) of section 9-158e of the general statutes is
130 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
131 *2024*):

132 (a) A person applying for a presidential ballot in person shall present
133 [:(1) A] a current and valid photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a
134 current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or
135 other government document that shows the name and address of the
136 voter.] The application for a presidential ballot by mail shall be
137 accompanied by [:(A) A] a copy of a current and valid photo
138 identification. [, or (B) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
139 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the
140 name and address of the voter.] Upon receipt of an application for a
141 presidential ballot under sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, the clerk,
142 if satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is
143 qualified to vote under said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the
144 applicant, as the case may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-
145 presidential electors for use at the election and instructions and
146 envelopes for its return.

147 Sec. 506. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is
148 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
149 *2024*):

150 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has
151 entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street
152 address, if any, and the elector's name to the official checker or checkers
153 in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials
154 present to hear the same. Each elector [who registered to vote by mail
155 for the first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the
156 elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r,]
157 shall present to the official checker or checkers, before the elector votes,
158 [either] a current and valid photo identification that shows the elector's
159 name and address, [or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
160 government check, paycheck or other government document that shows
161 the name and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1) present
162 to the official checker or checkers the elector's Social Security card or any
163 other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector's name
164 and either the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a
165 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's
166 residential address and date of birth, print the elector's name and sign a
167 statement under penalty of false statement that the elector is the elector
168 whose name appears on the official checklist. Such form shall clearly
169 state the penalty of false statement. A separate form shall be used for
170 each elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of identification
171 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the official checker or checkers
172 shall check the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually
173 on paper or electronically. If the elector completes the form under
174 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the registrar of voters or the assistant
175 registrar of voters, as the case may be, shall examine the information on
176 such form and either instruct the official checker or checkers to check
177 the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually on paper or
178 electronically, or notify the elector that the form is incomplete or
179 inaccurate.]

180 Sec. 507. Section 9-23r of the general statutes is repealed and the

181 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

182 (a) On or after January 1, 2003, any person who is applying, by mail,
183 to register to vote for the first time in this state may submit as part of
184 such voter registration application: (1) A copy of a current and valid
185 photo identification, (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
186 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the
187 name and address of the voter, (3) a valid Connecticut motor vehicle
188 operator's license number, or (4) the last four digits of the individual's
189 Social Security number. Members of the armed forces and persons
190 entitled to use the federal post card application for absentee ballots
191 under section 9-153a are not required to provide identification when
192 registering by mail. No information submitted as part of a voter
193 registration application under this subsection shall be subject to
194 disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to chapter
195 14, except for the name, address, date of birth and telephone number of
196 the applicant.

197 [(b) If an individual submits such information pursuant to this section
198 as part of the individual's voter registration application and, with
199 respect to subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this section, the
200 registrars of voters are able to match the information submitted with an
201 existing Connecticut identification record bearing the same number,
202 name and date of birth as provided, such individual shall not be
203 required to produce identification when voting in person or by absentee
204 ballot and may sign a statement as described in subparagraph (B) of
205 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261 in lieu of presenting
206 identification when voting in person.]

207 [(c)] (b) Any additional documentation submitted as part of the voter
208 registration application pursuant to this section may be destroyed by
209 the registrars of voters after verification pursuant to the Help America
210 Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time.

211 [(d)] (c) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section
212 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this

213 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,
214 when the individual has entered the polling place in an election for
215 federal office, the individual shall present [:(1) A] a current and valid
216 photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank
217 statement, government check, paycheck or other government document
218 that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an individual does not
219 meet the requirements of this subsection in an election for federal office,
220 such individual may cast a provisional ballot prescribed under sections
221 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

222 [(e)] (d) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section
223 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this
224 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,
225 and if the individual votes by absentee ballot in an election for federal
226 office, the individual shall enclose in the outer absentee ballot envelope,
227 and not in the inner envelope with the ballot [:(1) A] a copy of a current
228 and valid photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill,
229 bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government
230 document that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an
231 individual does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an
232 election for federal office, such [individual's] individual's absentee
233 ballot shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of
234 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-150a, as amended by this
235 act, and treated as a provisional ballot for federal office only, pursuant
236 to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

237 Sec. 508. Subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of section 9-23g of the 2024
238 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
239 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

240 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant
241 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present to
242 the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received through
243 the mail or an application receipt that was previously provided to the
244 applicant pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h,
245 subsection (b) of this section or section 9-23n. If an applicant presents

246 said notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original
 247 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the
 248 registrar, or assistant registrar upon notice to and approval by the
 249 registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official check
 250 list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if otherwise
 251 eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the polling
 252 place a [preprinted form of identification pursuant to subparagraph (A)
 253 of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261] current and valid
 254 photo identification.

255 Sec. 509. Subsection (d) of section 9-150a of the general statutes is
 256 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
 257 *2024*):

258 (d) (1) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as
 259 required by section 9-140a, as amended by this act, such inner envelope
 260 shall not be opened or the ballot removed therefrom, and such inner
 261 envelope shall be replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be
 262 marked "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the
 263 counters. (2) If such statement is signed but the individual completing
 264 the ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r, as
 265 amended by this act, and has not met the requirements of subsection
 266 [(e)] (d) of section 9-23r, as amended by this act, the counters shall
 267 replace the ballot in the opened inner envelope, replace the inner
 268 envelope in the opened outer envelope and mark "Rejected as an
 269 Absentee Ballot" and endorse the reason for such rejection on the outer
 270 envelope, and the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot for
 271 federal offices only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	1-1h(a) and (b)
Sec. 502	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 503	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-140a
Sec. 504	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-140b(a)
Sec. 505	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-158e(a)

Sec. 506	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-261(a)
Sec. 507	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-23r
Sec. 508	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-23g(d)(4)
Sec. 509	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-150a(d)