



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 5399



Offered by:

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To: Subst. House Bill No. 5498

File No. 491

Cal. No. 341

**"AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION SECURITY AND
TRANSPARENCY, VARIOUS OTHER REVISIONS RELATED TO
ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AND STATE ELECTIONS
ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION COMPLAINTS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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4 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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

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

12 (2) (A) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B)

13 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the first day of
14 issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section
15 9-140, and on each weekday thereafter until the close of the polls at the
16 election, primary or referendum, including at the close of the polls at
17 such election, primary or referendum, the municipal clerk shall retrieve
18 from the secure drop box described in said subparagraph each such
19 ballot deposited in such drop box.

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

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

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

43 (a) (1) The municipal clerk shall retain the envelopes containing
44 absentee ballots received by him under section 9-140b, as amended by

45 this act, and shall not open such envelopes. The municipal clerk shall
46 endorse over his signature, upon each outer envelope as he receives it,
47 (A) the date and precise time of its receipt, and (B) the method of its
48 receipt, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this
49 subsection. The clerk shall make an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of
50 all such endorsements, and at the close of the polls shall deliver such
51 affidavit to the head moderator, who shall endorse the time of its receipt
52 and return it to the clerk after all counting is complete. The clerk shall
53 preserve the affidavit for one hundred eighty days in accordance with
54 the requirements of section 9-150b. The clerk shall keep a list of the
55 names of the applicants who return absentee ballots to the clerk under
56 section 9-140b, as amended by this act. The list shall be preserved as a
57 public record as required by section 9-150b.

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

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

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

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

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

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

108 (d) Subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section shall not apply to
109 members of the armed forces, and if] (c) If more than one absentee ballot
110 is received from any elector, [who is a member of the armed forces,] the

111 ballot of such elector [bearing the latest postmark] last received by the
112 municipal clerk shall be counted if no absentee ballot of such elector has
113 already been counted. [, provided that] For all absentee ballots of such
114 elector that are not counted, the municipal clerk shall mark [all] the
115 serially-numbered outer envelopes [bearing earlier postmarks]
116 "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection and shall deliver such
117 ballots in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act.

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

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

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

139 (c) The municipal clerk shall keep a list containing the name, address
140 and voting district of each absentee ballot applicant who has been issued
141 more than one absentee ballot under this section and the serial number
142 appearing on the outer envelope of each absentee voting set so issued.

143 The list shall be kept with the list required under section 9-140, as
144 amended by this act.

145 (d) If more than one ballot is received from an applicant who has been
146 sent a correct ballot under subsection (a) of this section, the ballot
147 [bearing the latest serial number] last received by the municipal clerk
148 shall be counted [,] if no ballot of such applicant has already been
149 counted. [~~The~~] For all ballots of such applicant that are not counted, the
150 municipal clerk shall inscribe the word "rejected" and note the reasons
151 for rejection on the outer envelope [of each of such applicant's other
152 ballots not so counted] and shall seal them, unopened, in a package and
153 retain them in a safe place until delivered in accordance with section 9-
154 140c, as amended by this act.

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

157 An applicant who applies for an absentee ballot because of
158 unforeseen illness or physical disability occurring within six days
159 immediately preceding the close of the polls at an election, primary or
160 referendum or because the applicant is a patient in a hospital or nursing
161 home, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, within such six-day
162 period, may appoint a designee, as defined in subsection (b) of section
163 9-140b, to deliver the ballot to [him] the applicant, by stating on the
164 application, in a space provided for that purpose, (1) the date of
165 occurrence of the illness or disability or the name and address of the
166 hospital or nursing home in which the applicant is a patient within such
167 six-day period, (2) the name, address and category under [said]
168 subsection [,] (b) of section 9-140b of the person so designated, and (3)
169 the delivery which the person is designated to perform, provided the
170 person so designated shall also sign a statement on the application to
171 the effect that [he] such person consents to the designation and will
172 perform the delivery without tampering with the ballot in any way. If
173 the application designates a person to deliver the ballot to the applicant,
174 [that] such person shall personally submit the application to the
175 municipal clerk. If such application is personally submitted to the clerk,

176 [in person,] within six days immediately preceding the close of the polls
177 at an election, [or] primary or referendum, by a person designated on
178 the application to deliver the absentee ballot to the applicant as
179 provided in this section and in subsection (b) of [said] section 9-140b,
180 and if [the] such application is dated within such [time] six-day period,
181 the clerk shall give [that] such person the absentee voting set.

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

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

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

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

198 (b) Any person who influences or attempts to influence by force or
199 threat the vote, or by force, threat, bribery or corrupt means, the speech,
200 of any other person [in] at a primary, caucus, referendum, convention
201 or election; [or] any person who influences or attempts to influence by
202 force, threat or harassment any election worker in the performance of
203 any duty under the provisions of this title related to election
204 administration at a primary, referendum, election or recanvass; any
205 person who wilfully and fraudulently suppresses or destroys any vote
206 or ballot properly given or cast, whether so given or cast by mail, by
207 deposit in a secure drop box or in person at a polling place or designated

208 early voting or same-day election registration location, or, in counting
209 such votes or ballots, wilfully miscounts or misrepresents the number
210 thereof; and any presiding or other officer of a primary, caucus or
211 convention who wilfully announces the result of a ballot or vote of such
212 primary, caucus or convention, untruly and wrongfully, shall be guilty
213 of a class C felony.

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

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

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

227 (a) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish the following
228 materials to municipal clerks: The absentee ballot facsimile, the
229 application for absentee ballot authorized for use at each election or
230 primary, the inner envelope, the outer envelope provided for the return
231 of the ballot to the municipal clerk, the instructions for the use of the
232 absentee ballot and the envelope for mailing of such forms by the clerk
233 to the absentee ballot applicant.

234 (b) The application for absentee ballot shall be in the form of a
235 statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee
236 balloting. Each application shall contain (1) spaces for the signature
237 under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting of any person
238 who assists the applicant in the completion of an application together
239 with the information required in section 9-140, as amended by this act,

240 [and] (2) spaces for the signature and the printed or typed name of the
241 applicant, and (3) a clear and conspicuous notation of the year for which
242 such application's use is authorized.

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

246 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, application
247 for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of the municipality in
248 which the applicant is eligible to vote or has applied for such eligibility.
249 Any person who assists another person in the completion of an
250 application shall, in the space provided, sign the application and print
251 or type his name, residence address and telephone number. Such
252 signature shall be made under the penalties of false statement in
253 absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not invalidate the
254 application solely because it does not contain the name of a person who
255 assisted the applicant in the completion of the application. The
256 municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee ballot application
257 any material which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate or
258 referendum question. The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all
259 absentee ballot applications provided under this subsection, including
260 the name and address of each person to whom applications are
261 provided and the number of applications provided to each such person.
262 Each absentee ballot application provided by the municipal clerk shall
263 be consecutively numbered and be stamped or marked with the name
264 of the municipality issuing the application. The application shall be
265 signed by the applicant under the penalties of false statement in
266 absentee balloting on (A) the form prescribed by the Secretary of the
267 State pursuant to section 9-139a, as amended by this act, (B) a form
268 provided by any federal department or agency if applicable pursuant to
269 section 9-153a, or (C) any of the special forms of application prescribed
270 pursuant to section 9-150c, as amended by this act, 9-153a, 9-153b, as
271 amended by this act, 9-153d, 9-153e, 9-153f or 9-158d, if applicable. Any
272 such absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write may cause the
273 application to be completed by an authorized agent who shall, in the

274 spaces provided for the date and signature, write the date and name of
275 the absentee ballot applicant followed by the word "by" and his own
276 signature. If the ballot is to be mailed to the applicant, the applicant shall
277 list the bona fide personal mailing address of the applicant in the
278 appropriate space on the application.

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

289 (3) No municipal clerk shall provide, for an election, primary or
290 referendum, five or more absentee ballot applications to any person
291 earlier than ninety days prior to the first day of issuance of absentee
292 voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-140, for such
293 election, primary or referendum.

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

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

301 (a) The Secretary of the State may enter into an agreement to share
302 information or data with any other state in order to maintain the state-
303 wide centralized voter registration system established pursuant to
304 section 9-50b, as amended by this act. If an agency of this state, another
305 state or the federal government provides the Secretary with information

306 or data to be used to maintain such system, the Secretary shall not use
307 such information or data for any purpose except to maintain such
308 system and shall ensure that such information or data is held
309 confidential, [if such information or data, while in the possession of such
310 other agency or state or federal government, as applicable, was required
311 to be held confidential,] except as provided for in subsection (b) of this
312 section.

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

320 Sec. 11. Section 9-50b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
321 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
322 *1, 2024*):

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

331 (b) Not later than July 1, 2003, each registrar of voters shall transmit
332 to the office of the Secretary of the State all elector information required
333 by the office to complete the state-wide centralized voter registration
334 system. Each registrar shall transmit such information in a format
335 prescribed by the Secretary. Not later than September 1, 2003, each
336 registrar of voters shall participate in the state-wide centralized voter
337 registration system in the manner prescribed by the Secretary. On and

338 after July 1, 2024, each town clerk shall utilize the state-wide centralized
339 voter registration system whenever carrying out any provision of this
340 title.

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

348 Sec. 12. Subsection (h) of section 9-163aa of the 2024 supplement to
349 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
350 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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

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

369 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party

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

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

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

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

399 [(2)] (3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party
400 employee or volunteer, may be within [such] the seventy-five-foot
401 radius [of seventy-five feet] described in subdivision (1) of this

402 subsection (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such
403 person's official duties or to the conduct of government business within
404 such radius, (B) only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or
405 conduct such business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in
406 any conduct described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

407 Sec. 14. Subsection (c) of section 9-236 of the general statutes is
408 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
409 *2024*):

410 (c) No person shall be allowed within any polling place for any
411 purpose other than casting his or her vote, except (1) those permitted or
412 exempt under this section or section 9-236a, (2) primary officials under
413 section 9-436, (3) election officials under section 9-258, including (A) a
414 municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same
415 office, performing his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of
416 voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing
417 his or her official duties, or (4) [party] unofficial checkers under section
418 9-235. Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to enter,
419 remain within and leave any polling place or restricted area
420 surrounding any polling place to observe the election, provided any
421 such representative who in any way interferes with the orderly process
422 of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. A number of students in
423 grades four to twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in
424 any one polling place, may enter any polling place between twelve
425 o'clock noon and three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the
426 activities taking place in the polling place, provided there is proper
427 parental or teacher supervision present, and provided further, any such
428 student who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting
429 shall be evicted by the moderator. An elector may be accompanied into
430 any polling place by one or more children who are fifteen years of age
431 or younger and supervised by the elector if the elector is the parent or
432 legal guardian of such children.

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

435 1, 2024):

436 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, at any election,
437 primary or referendum, all absentee ballots shall, within existing
438 resources, be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a at a
439 central location designated by the registrars of voters in writing to the
440 municipal clerk at least twenty days before the election, primary or
441 referendum, which location shall be published in the warning for the
442 election, primary or referendum. Except as provided in subsection (b) of
443 this section, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to
444 vote in the primary of either of two parties, all absentee ballots shall be
445 separated, counted, tallied and placed in depository envelopes by
446 voting district. Any member of the public may observe the counting of
447 absentee ballots at such central location, provided no candidate for
448 election or nomination shall be allowed to participate in such counting,
449 except (1) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for
450 the same office, and (2) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate
451 for the office of registrar of voters, performing such official's duties.

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

467 Sec. 16. Section 9-140e of the general statutes is repealed and the

468 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

469 (a) Any elector who is permanently physically disabled or suffering
470 from a long-term illness and who files an application for an absentee
471 ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that
472 such elector is permanently physically disabled or suffering from a long-
473 term illness and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated
474 polling location, shall be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status
475 and shall receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary or
476 referendum conducted in such elector's municipality for which such
477 elector is eligible to vote. Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status
478 shall remain in effect until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official
479 registry list of the municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee
480 ballot status pursuant to the provisions of this section, or (3) requests
481 that he or she no longer receive such permanent absentee ballot status.

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

502 Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the 2024 supplement to the
503 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
504 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

505 (a) (1) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any federal or state
506 election or primary and not later than two business days before the
507 canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and
508 Comptroller, [for any federal or state election or primary, or] and (2) not
509 earlier than the fifth day after any municipal election or primary and not
510 later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the town
511 clerk, [for any municipal election or primary,] the registrars of voters
512 shall conduct a manual audit, or [, for an election or primary held on or
513 after January 1, 2016,] an electronic audit authorized under section 9-
514 320g, of the votes recorded in not less than five per cent of the voting
515 districts in the state, district or municipality, whichever is applicable.
516 For the purposes of this section, any central location used in a
517 municipality for the counting of absentee ballots, early voting ballots or
518 same-day election registration ballots shall be deemed a voting district.
519 Such manual or electronic audit shall be noticed in advance and be open
520 to public observation. Any election official who participates in the
521 administration and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be
522 compensated by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established
523 by such municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

524 Sec. 18. Section 9-460 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
525 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
526 *1, 2024*):

527 If any party has nominated a candidate for office, or, on and after
528 November 4, 1981, if a candidate has qualified to appear on any ballot
529 by nominating petition under a reserved party designation, in
530 accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and such nominee
531 thereafter, but prior to forty-six days before the opening of the polls on
532 the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, dies,
533 withdraws such nominee's name or for any reason becomes disqualified
534 to hold the office for which such nominee has been nominated, (1) such

535 party or, on and after November 4, 1981, the party designation
536 committee may make a nomination to fill such vacancy or provide for
537 the making of such nomination as its rules prescribe, and (2) if another
538 party that is qualified to nominate a candidate for such office does not
539 have a nominee for such office, such party may also nominate a
540 candidate for such office as its rules prescribe. No withdrawal, and no
541 nomination to replace a candidate who has withdrawn, under this
542 section shall be valid unless the candidate who has withdrawn has filed
543 a letter of withdrawal signed by such candidate with the Secretary of the
544 State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator
545 or state representative from any district, or with the municipal clerk in
546 the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state
547 representative. A copy of such candidate's letter of withdrawal to the
548 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. No
549 nomination to fill a vacancy under this section shall be valid unless it is
550 certified to the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office
551 or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or
552 to the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state
553 senator or state representative, by the organization or committee
554 making such nomination, at least forty-two days before the opening of
555 the polls on the day of the election, except as otherwise provided by this
556 section. If a nominee dies within forty-six days before the election, but
557 prior to twenty-four hours before the commencement of the period of
558 early voting at the election for which such nomination has been made,
559 the vacancy may be filled in the manner prescribed in this section by
560 two o'clock p.m. of the day before the first day of such period of early
561 voting with the municipal clerk or the Secretary of the State, as the case
562 may be. If a nominee dies within twenty-four hours before the
563 commencement of the period of early voting at the election and prior to
564 the close of the polls on the day of the election for which such
565 nomination has been made, such nominee shall not be replaced and the
566 votes cast for such nominee shall be canvassed and counted, and if such
567 nominee receives a plurality of the votes cast, a vacancy shall exist in the
568 office for which the nomination was made. The vacancy shall then be
569 filled in a manner prescribed by law. A copy of such certification to the

570 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. Such
571 nomination to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification shall
572 include a statement setting forth the reason for such vacancy. If at the
573 time such nomination is certified to the Secretary of the State or to the
574 municipal clerk, as the case may be, the ballots have already been
575 printed, the Secretary of the State shall direct the municipal clerk in each
576 municipality affected to (A) have the ballots reprinted with the
577 nomination thus made included thereon, (B) cause printed stickers to be
578 affixed to the ballots so that the name of any candidate who has died [,
579 withdrawn or been disqualified] is deleted and the name of any
580 candidate chosen to fill such vacancy appears in the same position as
581 that in which the vacated candidacy appeared, or (C) [cause blank
582 stickers to be so affixed] if the vacancy is not filled, cause the name of
583 the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be obscured in such
584 manner that such name is no longer visible.

585 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is
586 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
587 *2024*):

588 (a) At the top of each ballot shall be printed the name of the party
589 holding the primary, and each ballot shall contain the names of all
590 candidates to be voted upon at such primary, except the names of
591 justices of the peace. The vertical columns shall be headed by the
592 designation of the office or position and instructions as to the number
593 for which an elector may vote for such office or position, in the same
594 manner as a ballot used in a regular election. The name of each
595 candidate for town committee or municipal office, except for the
596 municipal offices of state senator and state representative, shall appear
597 on the ballot as authorized by each candidate. The name of each
598 candidate for state or district office or for the municipal offices of state
599 senator or state representative shall appear on the ballot as it appears on
600 the certificate or statement of consent filed under section 9-388, 9-391, 9-
601 400 or 9-409. On the first horizontal line, below the designation of the
602 office or position in each column, shall be placed the name of the party-
603 endorsed candidate for such office or position, such name to be marked

604 with an asterisk; provided, where more than one person may be voted
605 for for any office or position, the names of the party-endorsed
606 candidates shall be arranged in alphabetical order from left to right
607 under the appropriate office or position designation and shall continue,
608 if necessary, from left to right on the next lower line or lines. In the case
609 of no party endorsement there shall be inserted the designation "no
610 party endorsement" at the head of the vertical column, immediately
611 beneath the designation of the office or position. On the horizontal lines
612 below the line for party-endorsed candidates shall be placed, in the
613 appropriate columns, the names of all other candidates as [hereinafter]
614 provided in this section.

615 Sec. 20. Subsection (g) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is
616 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
617 *2024*):

618 (g) The name of each candidate shall appear on the ballot in such
619 position as is [hereinbefore] required in this section, and such position
620 shall be determined as of the final time for filing candidacies specified
621 in section 9-400 or 9-405. Vacancies in candidacies thereafter occurring
622 shall not cause the position of any candidate's name on the ballot to be
623 changed to another position. The name of any candidate whose
624 candidacy has been vacated shall not appear on the ballot. If such a
625 vacancy results in the cancellation of a primary for any office, the office
626 column or columns where the names of the candidates and the title of
627 the office would have appeared if the primary for that office had not
628 been cancelled shall be left blank. If a vacancy occurs in a party-
629 endorsed candidacy and a person is chosen in accordance with section
630 9-426 or 9-428, as amended by this act, to fill the resulting vacancy in
631 candidacy, the name of the person so chosen shall appear in the same
632 position as that in which the name of the vacating candidate appeared.
633 The municipal clerk shall have the ballot prepared so that the name of
634 any candidate who has vacated such candidate's candidacy is deleted
635 and so that the name of any candidate chosen to fill a vacancy in
636 candidacy appears in the same position as that in which the vacated
637 candidacy appeared. The municipal clerk may use [blank or] printed

638 stickers [, as the case may be,] in preparing the ballots if the ballots were
639 printed before [the occurrence of the vacancy in candidacy or] the
640 selection of a candidate to fill a vacancy in candidacy. If a vacancy in
641 candidacy is not filled, the municipal clerk shall cause the name of the
642 candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be obscured in such
643 manner that such name is no longer visible. The order of the offices and
644 positions shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

645 Sec. 21. Section 9-428 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
646 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
647 *1, 2024*):

648 (a) If a party-endorsed candidate for election to the position of town
649 committee member, prior to twenty-four hours before the opening of
650 the polls at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the day of such
651 primary, withdraws his name from nomination or for any reason
652 becomes disqualified to hold the position for which he is a candidate,
653 the state central committee, the town committee or other authority of
654 the party which endorsed such candidate may make an endorsement to
655 fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such endorsement, in such
656 manner as is prescribed in the rules of such party, and certify to the
657 registrar and municipal clerk or to the Secretary of the State, as the case
658 may be, the name of the person so endorsed. If such certification is made
659 at least twenty-four hours prior to the opening of the polls at the
660 primary, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who
661 has died, or at least seven days before the day of such primary, in the
662 case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has withdrawn
663 or become disqualified, such person so endorsed shall run in the
664 primary as the party-endorsed candidate, except as provided in sections
665 9-416 and 9-417. If such certification of another party-endorsed
666 candidate has been made within the time specified in this section, and if
667 the ballots have already been printed and the names of the candidates
668 for such position appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the
669 registrar, as the case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality
670 holding such primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the
671 person so certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an

672 endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification
673 has been made less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours
674 prior to the opening of the polls at the primary, such Secretary or
675 registrar shall direct such clerk to have stickers printed and inserted
676 upon the ballots, having the name of the person so certified appearing
677 thereon, and the moderator in each polling place shall cause such
678 stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the opening of the polls at such
679 primary. If no such certification has been made, such clerk shall cause
680 the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be
681 obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

682 (b) If a party-endorsed candidate for nomination to an office, prior to
683 twenty-four hours before the commencement of the period of early
684 voting at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the first day of
685 such period of early voting, withdraws his name from nomination or for
686 any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for which he is a
687 candidate, the state central committee, the town committee or other
688 authority of the party which endorsed such candidate may make an
689 endorsement to fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such
690 endorsement, in such manner as is prescribed in the rules of such party,
691 and certify to the registrar and municipal clerk or to the Secretary of the
692 State, as the case may be, the name of the person so endorsed. If such
693 certification is made at least twenty-four hours prior to the
694 commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, in the case
695 of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, or at least
696 seven days before the first day of such period of early voting, in the case
697 of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has withdrawn or
698 become disqualified, such person so endorsed shall run in the primary
699 as the party-endorsed candidate, except as provided in sections 9-416
700 and 9-417. If such certification of another party-endorsed candidate has
701 been made within the time specified in this section, and if the ballots
702 have already been printed and the names of the candidates for such
703 office appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the registrar, as
704 the case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality holding such
705 primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the person so

706 certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an endorsement
707 to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification has been made
708 less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours prior to the
709 commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, such
710 Secretary or registrar shall direct such clerk to have stickers printed and
711 inserted upon the ballots, having the name of the person so certified
712 appearing thereon, and the moderator in each polling place shall cause
713 such stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the opening of the polls
714 at such primary. If no such certification has been made, such clerk shall
715 cause the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to
716 be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

717 Sec. 22. Subsection (d) of section 9-135b of the general statutes is
718 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
719 *2024*):

720 (d) If a vacancy in candidacy occurs after the ballots have been
721 printed, the clerk may either reprint the ballots or cause [blank or]
722 printed stickers [, as the case may be,] to be affixed to them so that the
723 name of any candidate who has vacated his candidacy is deleted and
724 the name of any candidate chosen to fill the vacancy as provided in
725 section 9-428, as amended by this act, or section 9-460, as amended by
726 this act, appears in the same position as that in which the vacated
727 candidacy appeared except as provided in section 9-426 or 9-453s. If no
728 candidate is chosen to fill such vacancy as so provided, the clerk shall
729 cause the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to
730 be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

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

733 If, after determination of the order of candidates on the ballot, a
734 candidate dies, his name shall not appear on such ballot; provided that
735 the position of each remaining candidate on the ballot shall not be
736 altered by the deletion of such name. The secretary may authorize [the
737 use of] town clerks to use blank stickers on the ballot, [by town clerks]

738 or otherwise cause the name of such deceased candidate to be obscured
739 in such manner that such name is no longer visible, in order to comply
740 with the provisions of this section.

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

744 (g) (1) In the case of a written complaint filed with the commission
745 pursuant to section 9-7b, commission staff shall conduct and complete a
746 preliminary examination of such complaint by the fourteenth day
747 following its receipt, at which time such staff shall, at its discretion, (A)
748 dismiss the complaint for failure to allege any substantial violation of
749 state election law supported by evidence, (B) engage the respondent in
750 discussions in an effort to speedily resolve any matter pertaining to a de
751 minimis violation, or (C) investigate and docket the complaint for a
752 determination by the commission that probable cause or no probable
753 cause exists for any such violation. If commission staff dismisses a
754 complaint pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, such staff
755 shall provide a brief written statement concisely setting forth the
756 reasons for such dismissal. If commission staff engages a respondent
757 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision but is unable to
758 speedily resolve any such matter described in said subparagraph by the
759 forty-fifth day following receipt of the complaint, such staff shall docket
760 such complaint for a determination by the commission that probable
761 cause or no probable cause exists for any violation of state election law.
762 If the commission does not, by the sixtieth day following receipt of the
763 complaint, either issue a decision or render its determination that
764 probable cause or no probable cause exists for any violation of state
765 election laws, the complainant or respondent may apply to the superior
766 court for the judicial district of Hartford for an order to show cause why
767 the commission has not acted upon the complaint and to provide
768 evidence that the commission has unreasonably delayed action. For any
769 complaint received on or after January 1, 2018, if the commission does
770 not, by one year following receipt of such complaint, issue a decision
771 thereon, the commission shall dismiss such complaint, provided the

772 length of time of any delay caused by (i) the commission or commission
773 staff granting any extension or continuance to a respondent prior to the
774 issuance of any such decision, (ii) any subpoena issued in connection
775 with such complaint, (iii) any litigation in state or federal court related
776 to such complaint, or (iv) any investigation by, or consultation of the
777 commission or commission staff with, the Chief State's Attorney, the
778 Attorney General, the United States Department of Justice or the United
779 States Attorney for Connecticut related to such complaint, shall be
780 added to such one year. For any complaint received on or after July 1,
781 2024, if the commission does not, by the ninetieth day following the
782 commission's determination that probable cause exists for any violation
783 of state election laws, issue a decision on such complaint, the
784 commission shall refer such complaint to the Chief State's Attorney
785 pursuant to subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b for further
786 enforcement action. Not later than twelve months after the referral to
787 the Chief State's Attorney of any complaint under this subdivision, or
788 not later than the expiration of the period of time prescribed by section
789 54-193 for the violation of state election laws alleged in any such
790 complaint, whichever occurs first, the Chief State's Attorney shall
791 submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General
792 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections and the
793 judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, detailing
794 the status of any enforcement action related to such referred complaint.

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

798 (b) (1) The registrars of voters of each municipality shall designate a
799 location for the conduct of early voting, which location shall be the same
800 for the duration of the period of early voting except as otherwise
801 specified in this subdivision, provided (A) the registrars of voters have
802 access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such
803 location, and (B) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of
804 the State not later than [one hundred twenty] sixty days prior to the day
805 of [a regular election or a primary, other than a presidential preference

806 primary, or not later than twenty days prior to the day of a special
807 election or a presidential preference] an election or a primary. The
808 written certification under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall
809 provide (i) the name, street address and relevant contact information
810 associated with such location, (ii) the number of election or primary
811 officials to be appointed by the registrars of voters to serve at such
812 location and the roles of such officials, and (iii) a description of the
813 design of such location and a plan for effective conduct of such early
814 voting. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written
815 certification not later than [ninety] forty-five days prior to the day of [a
816 regular election or a primary, other than a presidential preference
817 primary, or not later than fifteen days prior to the day of a special
818 election or a presidential preference] an election or a primary. If the
819 Secretary disapproves such certification, the Secretary shall provide, in
820 writing, the reasons for such disapproval and shall issue an order for
821 such corrective action as the Secretary deems necessary, including, but
822 not limited to, the appointment of additional election or primary
823 officials or the alteration of such design or plan. After having received
824 approval of such certification or having complied with any order for
825 corrective action to the Secretary's satisfaction, as applicable, the
826 registrars of voters shall determine the site of such location designated
827 for the conduct of early voting at least thirty-one days prior to [a regular
828 election or a primary, other than a presidential preference primary, or
829 at least eleven days prior to a special election or a presidential
830 preference] an election or a primary. Such location shall not be changed
831 within such period, except, if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters
832 unanimously find that such location has been rendered unusable within
833 such period, such clerk and registrars shall forthwith designate another
834 location for the conduct of early voting to be used in place of the location
835 so rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice that such location
836 has been so changed. The provisions of sections 9-168d and 9-168e shall
837 apply to such location designated for the conduct of early voting.

838 Sec. 26. Subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 9-163aa of the 2024
839 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is

840 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

841 (4) (A) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on which
842 early voting is conducted, a moderator and such other election or
843 primary officials to serve at each location designated for such conduct.
844 The moderator so appointed shall perform any duty required, and may
845 exercise any power authorized, under this title related to the conduct of
846 early voting at such location. On any such day and solely for purposes
847 related to the conduct of early voting, the registrars of voters of a
848 municipality may, upon agreement, appoint one of the registrars from
849 such municipality as moderator in accordance with the provisions of
850 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The registrars of voters may
851 delegate to each other election or primary official so appointed any of
852 the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of
853 voters shall supervise each such official and train each such official to be
854 an early voting election or primary official.

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

865 Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 9-21a of the general statutes is
866 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
867 *1, 2025*):

868 (a) The Secretary of the State, at [such times as the Secretary
869 determines, may] least annually, shall cause a search to be made of
870 computerized voter registration records to identify electors who may be
871 registered in more than one town or registered more than once in the

872 same town. The Secretary [may] shall compile, from such search, a list
873 of possible duplicate registrations in any town or towns and shall
874 transmit such list to the registrars of voters of the appropriate town or
875 towns.

876 Sec. 28. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-19k of the 2024
877 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
878 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

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

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

905 Sec. 29. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than thirty days after
906 the Jury Administrator compiles the list of all qualified jurors in the state
907 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-222a of the general statutes, the
908 Jury Administrator shall make such list available to the Secretary of the
909 State for the purpose of verifying the information contained in the
910 system for online voter registration established and maintained
911 pursuant to section 9-19k of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

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

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

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

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

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

934 (3) An employee of the Department of Correction;

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

937 (5) An attorney-at-law who is or has been employed by the Division
938 of Public Defender Services or a social worker who is employed by the
939 Division of Public Defender Services;

940 (6) An inspector employed by the Division of Criminal Justice;

941 (7) A firefighter;

942 (8) An employee of the Department of Children and Families;

943 (9) A member or employee of the Board of Pardons and Paroles;

944 (10) An employee of the judicial branch;

945 (11) An employee of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
946 Services who provides direct care to patients;

947 (12) A member or employee of the Commission on Human Rights
948 and Opportunities; or

949 (13) A state marshal appointed by the State Marshal Commission
950 pursuant to section 6-38b.

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

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

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

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

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

986 (d) (1) Except as provided in subsections (a) and (e) of this section and
987 subject to the provisions of subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection,
988 no public agency of a municipality may disclose, under the Freedom of
989 Information Act, from a public record, including any record described
990 in subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, the residential address
991 of any person who is a municipal clerk, registrar of voters, deputy
992 registrar of voters, election official described in section 9-258, primary
993 official described in section 9-436 or audit official described in section 9-
994 320f, as amended by this act, regardless of whether such person is an
995 employee of the public agency, provided such person has (A) submitted

996 to the municipality a written request for the nondisclosure of the
997 person's residential address, and (B) furnished to the municipality (i) his
998 or her business address, or (ii) if such person does not have a business
999 address, the address of the town hall, city hall or other municipal
1000 building in which the office of the registrars of voters of such
1001 municipality is located.

1002 (2) (A) If a person submits a written request described in subdivision
1003 (1) of this subsection prior to the ninetieth day preceding an election, the
1004 prohibition in said subdivision against disclosing such person's
1005 residential address shall take effect on the ninetieth day preceding such
1006 election and shall expire on the ninetieth day following such election.

1007 (B) If a person submits a written request described in subdivision (1)
1008 of this subsection on or after the ninetieth day preceding an election, the
1009 prohibition in said subdivision against disclosing such person's
1010 residential address shall take effect upon such submission and shall
1011 expire on the ninetieth day following such election.

1012 (3) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to prohibit
1013 the disclosure of the residential address of any person described in
1014 subdivision (1) of this subsection in the case where such residential
1015 address appears on a public record by virtue of such person holding any
1016 elective or appointive state or municipal office other than municipal
1017 clerk, registrar of voters or deputy registrar of voters.

1018 [(d)] (e) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to
1019 prohibit the disclosure without redaction of any document, as defined
1020 in section 7-35bb, any list prepared under title 9, or any list published
1021 under section 12-55.

1022 [(e)] (f) No public agency or public official or employee of a public
1023 agency shall be penalized for violating a provision of this section, unless
1024 such violation is wilful and knowing. Any complaint of such a violation
1025 shall be made to the Freedom of Information Commission. Upon receipt
1026 of such a complaint, the commission shall serve upon the public agency,
1027 official or employee, as the case may be, by certified or registered mail,

1028 a copy of the complaint. The commission shall provide the public
 1029 agency, official or employee with an opportunity to be heard at a
 1030 hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
 1031 unless the commission, upon motion of the public agency, official or
 1032 employee or upon motion of the commission, dismisses the complaint
 1033 without a hearing if it finds, after examining the complaint and
 1034 construing all allegations most favorably to the complainant, that the
 1035 public agency, official or employee has not wilfully and knowingly
 1036 violated a provision of this section. If the commission finds that the
 1037 public agency, official or employee wilfully and knowingly violated a
 1038 provision of this section, the commission may impose against such
 1039 public agency, official or employee a civil penalty of not less than twenty
 1040 dollars nor more than one thousand dollars. Nothing in this section shall
 1041 be construed to allow a private right of action against a public agency,
 1042 public official or employee of a public agency."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-140b(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-140c(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-153b
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-153c
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-150c
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-364
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-364a
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	9-139a(a) and (b)
Sec. 9	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	9-140(a)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-50c
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-50b
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-163aa(h)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-19j(j)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-236(c)
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-147a
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	9-140e
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-320f(a)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-460
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-437(a)

Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-437(g)
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-428
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-135b(d)
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-472
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-7a(g)(1)
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	9-163aa(b)(1)
Sec. 26	<i>from passage</i>	9-163aa(b)(4)
Sec. 27	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	9-21a(a)
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-19k(a) and (b)
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 30	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	1-217