



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 5841



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.
SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.
SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 441

File No. 483

Cal. No. 284

**"AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION
OVERSIGHT."**

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

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established a
4 Municipal Election Accountability Board, which shall be within the
5 office of the Secretary of the State for administrative purposes only, for
6 the purposes of reviewing the administration of elections, primaries and
7 referenda, including the conduct of early voting, absentee voting and
8 same-day election registration, in municipalities in this state whenever
9 such municipalities are referred to the board for such review, overseeing
10 the administration of elections in such municipalities where necessary
11 and establishing procedural safeguards for the effective conduct of such
12 elections, primaries and referenda in such municipalities. Nothing in
13 this section shall be construed to (1) affect the powers and duties under

14 title 9 of the general statutes of the Secretary of the State or the State
15 Elections Enforcement Commission, including chapter 151a of the
16 general statutes, or (2) preclude any person from seeking additional
17 remedies under said title, including said chapter.

18 (b) (1) The Municipal Election Accountability Board shall be
19 comprised of: (A) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee,
20 who shall be the chairperson of the board; (B) the executive director of
21 the State Elections Enforcement Commission, or the executive director's
22 designee; (C) nine members appointed by the Secretary of the State as
23 follows: (i) One member who is admitted to the practice of law in this
24 state and has expertise in election administration; (ii) two members who
25 are moderators certified under section 9-229 of the general statutes and
26 enrolled in different political parties and who shall be selected from a
27 list of five recommendations by the Registrars of Voters Association of
28 Connecticut; (iii) two members who are registrars of voters and enrolled
29 in different political parties and who shall be selected from a list of five
30 recommendations by the Registrars of Voters Association of
31 Connecticut; (iv) two members who are town clerks, one or both of
32 whom may be unaffiliated but in no case may be enrolled in the same
33 political party, and who shall be selected from a list of five
34 recommendations by the Connecticut Town Clerks Association; and (v)
35 two members who are chief elected officials of municipalities and
36 enrolled in different political parties and who shall be selected from a
37 list of five recommendations by, jointly, the Connecticut Conference of
38 Municipalities and the Connecticut Council of Small Towns; and (D) one
39 member appointed by each of the four legislative leaders, as defined in
40 section 4-9d of the general statutes, with the advice and consent of the
41 General Assembly, who shall have expertise in election administration
42 or election law, provided any such member appointed under this
43 subparagraph when the General Assembly is not in session shall serve
44 as an acting member until the next regular session of the General
45 Assembly, at which time such acting member shall be subject to
46 approval by the General Assembly. Appointments under
47 subparagraphs (C) and (D) of this subdivision shall be made so that no

48 single municipality is represented by more than one member.

49 (2) Members described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subdivision
50 (1) of this subsection shall serve for a term of four years and until a
51 successor is appointed, and initial appointments of such members shall
52 be made not later than August 1, 2024. Members described in said
53 subparagraphs shall recuse themselves from participating in any
54 proceeding of the board on any matter in which a conflict exists due to
55 such member or the immediate family of such member being involved
56 in such matter. The filling of any vacancy shall be for the remainder of
57 the applicable member's term. The members of the board shall serve
58 without compensation. A majority of the board shall constitute a
59 quorum for the transaction of any business of the board. For the
60 purposes of this subdivision, "immediate family" means a dependent
61 relative who resides in the member's household or any spouse, child,
62 parent or sibling of the member.

63 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than January 15, 2025,
64 the Municipal Election Accountability Board shall submit a report on its
65 recommendations for proposed regulations to be adopted thereby to the
66 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
67 matters relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section
68 11-4a of the general statutes. Such recommendations for proposed
69 regulations shall include, but not be limited to: (1) A mechanism for the
70 referral of municipalities to the board by the Secretary of the State, the
71 State Elections Enforcement Commission, courts of competent
72 jurisdiction, municipal officials and members of the public, based on
73 allegations of irregularities or improprieties in the administration of
74 elections, primaries and referenda; (2) a process for review by the board
75 of such municipalities, including hearings at which such municipalities
76 may respond to such allegations, meetings at which the board may
77 make determinations as to oversight of any such municipalities,
78 procedural rules for the conduct of such hearings and meetings and a
79 schedule for such hearings and meetings; (3) tiers of oversight for such
80 municipalities, accounting for the severity and frequency of such
81 alleged irregularities or improprieties in the administration of elections,

82 primaries and referenda; and (4) any other subject the board deems
83 necessary to implement the provisions of subsection (a) of section 1 of
84 this act."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section