



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 695

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7245

House of Representatives, April 14, 2025

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A DEADLINE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESSES AT CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-19h of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2025*):

4 (b) (1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,
5 and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
6 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall include an application for the
7 admission of an elector with each application form provided for a motor
8 vehicle operator's license and a motor vehicle operator's license renewal,
9 which are issued under subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with
10 each application form provided for an identity card issued under section
11 1-1h. Such application form for the admission of an elector (A) shall be
12 subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, (B) shall not include

13 any provisions for the witnessing of the application, and (C) shall
14 contain a statement that (i) specifies each eligibility requirement, (ii)
15 contains an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement,
16 and (iii) requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury.
17 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept any such completed
18 application for admission which is submitted in person, by mail or
19 through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
20 subsection. Except as provided in said subdivision, the applicant shall
21 state on such form, under penalty of perjury, the applicant's name, bona
22 fide residence address, date of birth, whether the applicant is a United
23 States citizen, party enrollment, if any, prior voting address, if registered
24 previously, and that the applicant's privileges as an elector are not
25 forfeited by reason of conviction of a felony. No Social Security number
26 on any such application form for the admission of an elector filed prior
27 to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any
28 governmental agency. The commissioner shall indicate on each such
29 form the date of receipt of such application to ensure that any eligible
30 applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is received by the
31 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote
32 in an election. The commissioner shall provide the applicant with an
33 application receipt, on a form approved by the Secretary of the State and
34 on which the commissioner shall record the date that the commissioner
35 received the application, using an official date stamp bearing the words
36 "Department of Motor Vehicles". The commissioner shall provide such
37 receipt whether the application was submitted in person, by mail or
38 through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
39 subsection. The commissioner shall forthwith transmit the application
40 to the registrars of voters of the applicant's town of residence. If a
41 registration application is accepted within five days before the last day
42 for registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be
43 transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence of
44 the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance. The
45 procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g which are
46 not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L.
47 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made

48 under this section. The commissioner is not an admitting official and
49 may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral
50 privileges of persons convicted of a felony.

51 (2) (A) (i) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide an
52 electronic system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to
53 effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding
54 application for admission of an elector, except that the condition that an
55 applicant state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may be
56 waived for any such eligibility requirement verified independently by
57 said commissioner through a federally approved identity verification
58 program or other evidence acceptable to said commissioner. Such
59 electronic system may provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an
60 applicant's signature on file with said commissioner. The use of any
61 such electronic system shall comply with the National Voter
62 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

63 [(B) (i)] (ii) (I) Unless otherwise provided in [this] subparagraph
64 (A)(ii) of this subdivision, if the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
65 determines that a person applying for a motor vehicle operator's license,
66 a motor vehicle operator's license renewal or an identity card meets each
67 eligibility requirement for admission as an elector, said commissioner
68 shall forthwith transmit an application for such person's admission as
69 an elector to the registrars of voters of the town of residence of such
70 person through an electronic system pursuant to this subdivision, in
71 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection,
72 except that no such application shall be transmitted if such person
73 declines to apply for such admission.

74 [(ii)] (II) If said commissioner determines that a person applying for
75 a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license
76 renewal or an identity card is not a United States citizen, said
77 commissioner shall not provide such person an opportunity to apply for
78 admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this
79 subdivision and shall not transmit any application for such admission
80 on behalf of such person.

81 [(iii)] (III) If said commissioner cannot determine whether a person
82 applying for a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle
83 operator's license renewal or an identity card is a United States citizen,
84 such person shall attest to his or her United States citizenship as a
85 precondition of said commissioner processing such person's application
86 for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this
87 subdivision.

88 (B) If the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles has not provided the
89 electronic system described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision by
90 March 31, 2027, then beginning April 1, 2027, and each day thereafter
91 until such electronic system has been so provided in accordance with
92 the provisions of said subparagraph, five thousand dollars of the funds
93 appropriated to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the fiscal year
94 ending June 30, 2027, shall be transferred to the office of the Secretary of
95 the State for each day that such electronic system is not so provided.

96 Sec. 2. Section 9-19i of the general statutes is repealed and the
97 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

98 (a) Any change of address form submitted by a person in accordance
99 with law for purposes of a motor vehicle operator's license shall serve
100 as notification of change of address for voter registration for the person
101 unless the person states on the form that the change of address is not for
102 voter registration purposes. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
103 forthwith transmit such change of address information to the registrars
104 of voters of the town of the former address of the person. If the name of
105 the person appears on the registry list of the town, and if the new
106 address is also within such town, the registrars shall enter the name of
107 such elector on the registry list at the place where he then resides. If the
108 name of the person appears on the registry list of the town and if the
109 new address is outside such town, the registrars shall remove the name
110 of such elector from the registry list and send the elector the notice,
111 information and application required by subsection (c) of section 9-35,
112 except that if said commissioner is using an electronic system pursuant
113 to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of the State may prescribe

114 alternative procedures for sending such notice and information and
115 may waive the requirement to send such application.

116 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide an
117 electronic system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to
118 effectuate the purposes of subsection (a) of this section regarding
119 notifications of change of address for voter registration. Such electronic
120 system may provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an applicant's
121 signature on file with said commissioner. The use of any such electronic
122 system shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,
123 P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

124 (2) If the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles has not provided the
125 electronic system described in subdivision (1) of this subsection by
126 March 31, 2027, then beginning April 1, 2027, and each day thereafter
127 until such electronic system has been so provided in accordance with
128 the provisions of said subdivision, five thousand dollars of the funds
129 appropriated to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the fiscal year
130 ending June 30, 2027, shall be transferred to the office of the Secretary of
131 the State for each day that such electronic system is not so provided.

132 Sec. 3. Section 9-23n of the general statutes is repealed and the
133 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

134 (a) As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means (1)
135 public assistance offices, (2) all offices in the state that provide
136 state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to
137 persons with disabilities, (3) libraries that are open to the public, and (4)
138 such other appropriate offices as the Secretary of the State shall
139 designate in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of
140 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

141 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each
142 voter registration agency shall (A) distribute mail voter registration
143 application forms, (B) assist applicants for assistance or services
144 provided by the agency in completing voter registration application
145 forms, except for applicants who refuse assistance in completing such

146 forms, (C) accept completed voter registration application forms and
147 provide each applicant with an application receipt, on which the agency
148 shall record the date that the agency received the application, using an
149 official date stamp bearing the name of the agency, and (D) immediately
150 transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of the town of
151 voting residence of the applicants. The agency shall provide such receipt
152 whether the application was submitted in person, by mail or through an
153 electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. If a
154 registration application is accepted within five days before the last day
155 for registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be
156 transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence of
157 the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance. Except
158 as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the voter registration
159 agency shall indicate on the completed mail voter registration
160 application form, without indicating the identity of the voter
161 registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such agency, to ensure
162 that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is
163 received by the registration agency by the last day for registration to
164 vote in an election. If a state-funded program primarily engaged in
165 providing services to persons with disabilities provides services to a
166 person with a disability at the person's home, the agency shall provide
167 such voter registration services at the person's home. The procedures in
168 subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g that are not inconsistent
169 with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as
170 amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made under this
171 section. Officials and employees of such voter registration agencies are
172 not admitting officials, as defined in section 9-17a, and may not restore,
173 under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons
174 convicted of a felony.

175 (2) (A) (i) Each voter registration agency shall provide an electronic
176 system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to effectuate
177 the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding application
178 for admission of an elector, except that the condition that an applicant
179 state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may be waived
180 for any such eligibility requirement verified independently by the

181 agency through a federally approved identity verification program or
182 other evidence acceptable to the agency. Such electronic system may
183 provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an applicant's signature
184 on file with the voter registration agency. The use of any such electronic
185 system shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,
186 P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

187 [(B) (i)] (ii) (I) Unless otherwise provided in [this] subparagraph
188 (A)(ii) of this subdivision, if the voter registration agency determines
189 that a person applying for assistance or services provided by the agency
190 meets each eligibility requirement for admission as an elector, the
191 agency shall forthwith transmit an application for such person's
192 admission as an elector to the registrars of voters of the town of
193 residence of such person through an electronic system pursuant to this
194 subdivision, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
195 subsection, except that no such application shall be transmitted if such
196 person declines to apply for such admission.

197 [(ii)] (II) If the voter registration agency determines that a person
198 applying for assistance or services provided by the agency is not a
199 United States citizen, the agency shall not provide such person an
200 opportunity to apply for admission as an elector through an electronic
201 system pursuant to this subdivision and shall not transmit any
202 application for such admission on behalf of such person.

203 [(iii)] (III) If the voter registration agency cannot determine whether
204 a person applying for assistance or services provided by the agency is a
205 United States citizen, such person shall attest to his or her United States
206 citizenship as a precondition of the agency processing such person's
207 application for admission as an elector through an electronic system
208 pursuant to this subdivision.

209 (B) If a voter registration agency has not provided the electronic
210 system described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision by March 31,
211 2027, then beginning April 1, 2027, and each day thereafter until such
212 electronic system has been so provided in accordance with the
213 provisions of said subparagraph, five thousand dollars of the funds

214 appropriated to such voter registration agency for the fiscal year ending
215 June 30, 2027, shall be transferred to the office of the Secretary of the
216 State for each day that such electronic system is not so provided.

217 Sec. 4. Section 9-23o of the general statutes is repealed and the
218 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

219 (a) A voter registration agency, as defined in section 9-23n, as
220 amended by this act, shall comply with the National Voter Registration
221 Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, and (1) shall
222 distribute with each application for assistance or services provided by
223 the agency, and with each recertification, renewal or change of address
224 form relating to such assistance or services, a mail voter registration
225 application form approved by the Secretary of the State, and (2) during
226 each application for such assistance or services and each recertification,
227 renewal or change of address relating to such assistance or services,
228 shall use an electronic system described in subdivision (2) of subsection
229 (b) of section 9-23n, as amended by this act, in accordance with said
230 subdivision to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of said
231 subsection regarding application for admission of an elector, unless the
232 applicant declines to register to vote pursuant to the provisions of the
233 National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from
234 time to time. Such declination shall be in writing, except in the case of
235 an application for service or assistance provided by a library, or a
236 recertification, renewal or change of address form relating to such
237 library service or assistance. Such voter registration agency shall
238 provide each applicant to register to vote the same degree of assistance
239 with regard to the completion of the registration application form as is
240 provided by the agency with regard to the completion of its own forms,
241 unless the applicant refuses such assistance.

242 (b) If a voter registration agency has not commenced use of the
243 electronic system described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section
244 9-23n, as amended by this act, by March 31, 2027, then beginning April
245 1, 2027, and each day thereafter until use of such electronic system has
246 commenced in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of

247 subsection (a) of this section, five thousand dollars of the funds
 248 appropriated to such voter registration agency for the fiscal year ending
 249 June 30, 2027, shall be transferred to the office of the Secretary of the
 250 State for each day that use of such electronic system has not so
 251 commenced.

252 Sec. 5. Section 9-23p of the general statutes is repealed and the
 253 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

254 (a) Each public institution of higher education shall (1) distribute mail
 255 voter registration application forms, and assist applicants who request
 256 assistance in completing such voter registration application forms, and
 257 (2) use an electronic system described in subdivision (2) of subsection
 258 (b) of section 9-23n, as amended by this act, in accordance with said
 259 subdivision to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of said
 260 subsection regarding application for admission of an elector, and assist
 261 applicants who request assistance in so applying through such
 262 electronic system.

263 (b) If a public institution of higher education has not commenced use
 264 of the electronic system described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
 265 section 9-23n, as amended by this act, by March 31, 2027, then beginning
 266 April 1, 2027, and each day thereafter until use of such electronic system
 267 has commenced in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of
 268 subsection (a) of this section, five thousand dollars of the funds
 269 appropriated to such public institution of higher education for the fiscal
 270 year ending June 30, 2027, shall be transferred to the office of the
 271 Secretary of the State for each day that use of such electronic system has
 272 not so commenced.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	9-19h(b)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	9-19i
Sec. 3	October 1, 2025	9-23n
Sec. 4	October 1, 2025	9-23o
Sec. 5	October 1, 2025	9-23p

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Sections 1(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I) and 3(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I), "subparagraph (A)(i) of this subdivision" was changed to "subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision" for accuracy.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Transfer to	None	See Below
Constituent Units of Higher Education; Social Services, Dept.; Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.; Library, CT State; Aging and Disability Services, Dept.	GF - Transfer from	None	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Transfer from	None	See Below

Explanation

The bill results in a potential transfer from various state agencies and municipalities to the Secretary of the State (SOTS) associated with penalties for non-compliance with implementation of the automatic voter registration system (AVR). The bill requires the transfer of \$5,000 per day to (SOTS) beginning in FY 27 from certain voter registration entities as a penalty for failure to provide AVR for public use beginning 3/31/27.

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

The exact transfer to the SOTS will depend on the number of applicable state agencies, public libraries, and higher education institutions that are not in compliance with AVR requirements as of April 1, 2027, and the amount of time that would be required to reach compliance to abate future penalties.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to compliance with voter registration requirements.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7245*****AN ACT CONCERNING A DEADLINE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESSES AT CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning April 1, 2027, this bill subjects the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and voter registration agencies (see BACKGROUND) to a penalty for each day they do not provide a statutorily required electronic system to automatically transmit voter registration information. (In practice, DMV has already implemented such a system, but voter registration agencies generally have not.) It also imposes a similar penalty on voter registration agencies and public higher education institutions that have not started using these systems by April 1, 2027.

The bill requires that for each day an entity is in noncompliance, \$5,000 of the funds appropriated to it for FY 27 must be transferred to the secretary of the state's office. (The bill is silent on who determines noncompliance or how the funds would be transferred. It is also unclear if a voter registration agency that is in noncompliance with both requirements is subject to one or two penalties.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

BACKGROUND***Automatic Voter Registration***

By law, the DMV, voter registration agencies, and public higher education institutions must use a secretary of the state-approved electronic system to automatically transmit voter information for qualified applicants to registrars of voters unless the applicants decline to apply for admission. The systems must also comply with the National

Voter Registration Act (NVRA; see below).

The DMV commissioner must include a voter registration application as part of each application for a driver's license, driver's license renewal, or identity card. Additionally, any change of address notice filed with the DMV must also serve as notice for voter registration purposes until specifically noted otherwise.

Similarly, voter registration agencies must generally provide, assist with, and transmit voter registration applications for those the agency serves or assists. Public higher education institutions are also required to distribute mail voter registration application forms and assist individuals using the electronic system.

National Voter Registration Act

The NVRA (P.L. 103-31) generally requires states to offer eligible citizens the opportunity to register to vote by:

1. applying as part of a driver's license application or renewal;
2. sending a mail-in application; or
3. applying in person at a designated voter registration agency, including offices providing public assistance or services to individuals with disabilities.

The requirements apply to federal elections; however, in practice, states such as Connecticut have extended the procedures to state and local elections.

Voter Registration Agencies

The NVRA requires covered states to designate as voter registration agencies (1) all offices that provide federal or state public assistance, (2) all offices that provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to individuals with disabilities, and (3) Armed Forces recruitment offices. States must also designate additional voter registration agencies, which may include (1) state or local offices such as public libraries or schools, fishing and hunting license bureaus, or

unemployment compensation offices or (2) with their agreement, federal or nongovernmental offices (52 U.S.C. § 20506).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/26/2025)