



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 182

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5219

House of Representatives, March 26, 2026

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 THE ORDER OF GUBERNATORIAL SUCCESSION UNDER CERTAIN PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) In case of the death,
2 resignation, refusal to serve or removal from the office of Governor and:

3 (1) There is a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor such that
4 no person is able to succeed to the office of Governor in accordance with
5 subsection a. of article twenty-second of the amendments to the
6 Constitution of the state, and there is a vacancy in the office of president
7 pro tempore of the Senate due to the Senate not electing one of its
8 members president pro tempore in accordance with section 19 or 20 of
9 article fourth of the Constitution of the state such that no person is able
10 to succeed to the office of Lieutenant Governor in accordance with
11 section 19 of article fourth of the Constitution of the state, the speaker of
12 the House of Representatives shall, upon taking the oath of office of

13 Governor, be Governor of the state until another is chosen at the next
14 regular election for Governor and is duly qualified;

15 (2) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivision (1) of this
16 subsection, (A) there is a vacancy in the office of speaker of the House
17 of Representatives, (B) the speaker of the House of Representatives
18 refuses to take the oath of office of Governor or is unable to take such
19 oath due to absence from the state, or (C) the speaker of the House of
20 Representatives is ineligible for the office of Governor or otherwise
21 unable to serve in such capacity, the Treasurer shall, upon taking the
22 oath of office of Governor, be Governor of the state until another is
23 chosen at the next regular election for Governor and is duly qualified;

24 (3) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivisions (1) and (2) of
25 this subsection and any refusal or absence described in subdivision (2)
26 of this subsection, (A) there is a vacancy in the office of Treasurer, (B)
27 the Treasurer refuses to take the oath of office of Governor or is unable
28 to take such oath due to absence from the state, or (C) the Treasurer is
29 ineligible for the office of Governor or otherwise unable to serve in such
30 capacity, the Secretary of the State shall, upon taking the oath of office
31 of Governor, be Governor of the state until another is chosen at the next
32 regular election for Governor and is duly qualified;

33 (4) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivisions (1) to (3),
34 inclusive, of this subsection and any refusals or absences described in
35 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, (A) there is a vacancy in the
36 office of Secretary of the State, (B) the Secretary of the State refuses to
37 take the oath of office of Governor or is unable to take such oath due to
38 absence from the state, or (C) the Secretary of the State is ineligible for
39 the office of Governor or otherwise unable to serve in such capacity, the
40 Comptroller shall, upon taking the oath of office of Governor, be
41 Governor of the state until another is chosen at the next regular election
42 for Governor and is duly qualified;

43 (5) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivisions (1) to (4),
44 inclusive, of this subsection and any refusals or absences described in
45 subdivisions (2) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection, (A) there is a vacancy

46 in the office of Comptroller, (B) the Comptroller refuses to take the oath
47 of office of Governor or is unable to take such oath due to absence from
48 the state, or (C) the Comptroller is ineligible for the office of Governor
49 or otherwise unable to serve in such capacity, the Attorney General
50 shall, upon taking the oath of office of Governor, be Governor of the
51 state until another is chosen at the next regular election for Governor
52 and is duly qualified;

53 (6) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivisions (1) to (5),
54 inclusive, of this subsection and any refusals or absences described in
55 subdivisions (2) to (5), inclusive, of this subsection, (A) there is a vacancy
56 in the office of Attorney General, (B) the Attorney General refuses to
57 take the oath of office of Governor or is unable to take such oath due to
58 absence from the state, or (C) the Attorney General is ineligible for the
59 office of Governor or otherwise unable to serve in such capacity, the
60 majority leader of the Senate shall, upon taking the oath of office of
61 Governor, be Governor of the state until another is chosen at the next
62 regular election for Governor and is duly qualified; and

63 (7) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivisions (1) to (6),
64 inclusive, of this subsection and any refusals or absences described in
65 subdivisions (2) to (6), inclusive, of this subsection (A) there is a vacancy
66 in the office of majority leader of the Senate, (B) the majority leader of
67 the Senate refuses to take the oath of office of Governor or is unable to
68 take such oath due to absence from the state, or (C) the majority leader
69 of the Senate is ineligible for the office of Governor or otherwise unable
70 to serve in such capacity, the majority leader of the House of
71 Representatives shall, upon taking the oath of office of Governor, be
72 Governor of the state until another is chosen at the next regular election
73 for Governor and is duly qualified.

74 (b) In case of the impeachment of the Governor or of the Governor's
75 absence from the state, and:

76 (1) There is a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor such that
77 no person is able to act as Governor in accordance with subsection b. of
78 article twenty-second of the amendments to the Constitution of the

79 state, and there is a vacancy in the office of president pro tempore of the
80 Senate due to the Senate not electing one of its members president pro
81 tempore in accordance with section 19 or 20 of article fourth of the
82 Constitution of the state such that no person is able to succeed to the
83 office of Lieutenant Governor in accordance with section 19 of article
84 fourth of the Constitution of the state, the speaker of the House of
85 Representatives shall exercise the powers and authority and perform the
86 duties appertaining to the office of Governor until, if the Governor has
87 been impeached, the Governor has been acquitted or, if absent, the
88 Governor has returned;

89 (2) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivision (1) of this
90 subsection, (A) there is a vacancy in the office of speaker of the House
91 of Representatives, (B) the speaker of the House of Representatives
92 refuses to exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties
93 appertaining to the office of Governor or is unable to so exercise and
94 perform due to absence from the state, or (C) the speaker of the House
95 of Representatives is ineligible for the office of Governor or otherwise
96 unable to serve in such capacity, the Treasurer shall exercise the powers
97 and authority and perform the duties appertaining to the office of
98 Governor until, if the Governor has been impeached, the Governor has
99 been acquitted or, if absent, the Governor has returned;

100 (3) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivisions (1) and (2) of
101 this subsection and any refusal or absence described in subdivision (2)
102 of this subsection, (A) there is a vacancy in the office of Treasurer, (B)
103 the Treasurer refuses to exercise the powers and authority and perform
104 the duties appertaining to the office of Governor or is unable to so
105 exercise and perform due to absence from the state, or (C) the Treasurer
106 is ineligible for the office of Governor or otherwise unable to serve in
107 such capacity, the Secretary of the State shall exercise the powers and
108 authority and perform the duties appertaining to the office of Governor
109 until, if the Governor has been impeached, the Governor has been
110 acquitted or, if absent, the Governor has returned;

111 (4) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivisions (1) to (3),

112 inclusive, of this subsection and any refusals or absences described in
113 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, (A) there is a vacancy in the
114 office of Secretary of the State, (B) the Secretary of the State refuses to
115 exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining
116 to the office of Governor or is unable to so exercise and perform due to
117 absence from the state, or (C) the Secretary of the State is ineligible for
118 the office of Governor or otherwise unable to serve in such capacity, the
119 Comptroller shall exercise the powers and authority and perform the
120 duties appertaining to the office of Governor until, if the Governor has
121 been impeached, the Governor has been acquitted or, if absent, the
122 Governor has returned;

123 (5) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivisions (1) to (4),
124 inclusive, of this subsection and any refusals or absences described in
125 subdivisions (2) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection, (A) there is a vacancy
126 in the office of Comptroller, (B) the Comptroller refuses to exercise the
127 powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining to the office
128 of Governor or is unable to so exercise and perform due to absence from
129 the state, or (C) the Comptroller is ineligible for the office of Governor
130 or otherwise unable to serve in such capacity, the Attorney General shall
131 exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining
132 to the office of Governor until, if the Governor has been impeached, the
133 Governor has been acquitted or, if absent, the Governor has returned;

134 (6) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivisions (1) to (5),
135 inclusive, of this subsection and any refusals or absences described in
136 subdivisions (2) to (5), inclusive, of this subsection, (A) there is a vacancy
137 in the office of Attorney General, (B) the Attorney General refuses to
138 exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining
139 to the office of Governor or is unable to so exercise and perform due to
140 absence from the state, or (C) the Attorney General is ineligible for the
141 office of Governor or otherwise unable to serve in such capacity, the
142 majority leader of the Senate shall exercise the powers and authority and
143 perform the duties appertaining to the office of Governor until, if the
144 Governor has been impeached, the Governor has been acquitted or, if
145 absent, the Governor has returned; and

146 (7) In addition to the vacancies set forth in subdivisions (1) to (6),
 147 inclusive, of this subsection and any refusals or absences described in
 148 subdivisions (2) to (6), inclusive, of this subsection, (A) there is a vacancy
 149 in the office of majority leader of the Senate, (B) the majority leader of
 150 the Senate refuses to exercise the powers and authority and perform the
 151 duties appertaining to the office of Governor or is unable to so exercise
 152 and perform due to absence from the state, or (C) the majority leader of
 153 the Senate is ineligible for the office of Governor or otherwise unable to
 154 serve in such capacity, the majority leader of the House of
 155 Representatives shall exercise the powers and authority and perform the
 156 duties appertaining to the office of Governor until, if the Governor has
 157 been impeached, the Governor has been acquitted or, if absent, the
 158 Governor has returned.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (a)(7), "of this subsection" was added before "(A) there is a vacancy", for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill formalizes and expands the existing order of succession for the Office of the Governor under certain conditions, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5219*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ORDER OF GUBERNATORIAL SUCCESSION UNDER CERTAIN PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY CIRCUMSTANCES.*****SUMMARY**

Under the state constitution, if the office of the governor is vacant, the lieutenant governor, followed by the Senate president pro tempore, exercises the governor's power and duties. This bill establishes an extended statutory line of gubernatorial succession if the offices of governor and lieutenant governor are vacant while there is a vacancy in the office of the Senate president pro tempore because the Senate has not elected a replacement as required by the constitution, leaving no one to constitutionally ascend to the governor's office (see BACKGROUND).

Specifically, after the president pro tempore, the bill sets the succession order as follows: (1) speaker of the House of Representatives, (2) state treasurer, (3) secretary of the state, (4) state comptroller, (5) attorney general, (6) Senate majority leader, and then (7) House majority leader.

Under the bill, if all the offices earlier in the line of succession are vacant, or in combination with earlier officers being passed over due to an officer's (1) refusal to take the oath of office; (2) absence from the state; (3) ineligibility to serve as governor (for example, the person is not yet 30 years old); or (4) other inability to serve, the next officer in line becomes governor.

Additionally, if a vacancy occurs in the office of the governor due to death, resignation, refusal to serve, or removal from office, as is the case under the constitutional line of succession, upon taking the oath of

office, the officer serves until a new governor is chosen at the next regular election and duly qualified. Similarly, in the case of impeachment or the governor’s absence from the state, if the offices of the lieutenant governor and Senate president pro tempore are vacant, the next officer in line, as described above, temporarily exercises the governor’s powers and duties until the governor has been acquitted or has returned.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Constitutional Line of Succession

Under the state constitution, if a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the governor (due to death, resignation, refusal to serve, or removal from office), the lieutenant governor succeeds to the office, followed by the Senate president pro tempore. In either case, the officer serves as governor until a new governor is chosen at the next regular election and duly qualified. When a governor is being impeached or is absent from the state, these officers temporarily exercise the governor’s powers and duties, if and until the governor is acquitted of impeachment, or until the governor returns from his or her absence.

If the president pro tempore is elevated to a higher office while the Senate is in session, it must, within 15 days of the president pro tempore’s taking his or her new oath of office, elect one of its members as president pro tempore. If the General Assembly is not in session, the secretary of the state must convene the Senate within 15 days of a vacancy to elect a president pro tempore (Conn. Const. art. IV, §§ 18-20).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 3 (03/11/2026)