



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 522

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5531

House of Representatives, April 8, 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 FAITHFUL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) (1) Each candidate for
2 presidential elector who is endorsed for nomination to such office by a
3 political party under section 9-388 of the general statutes, or who files a
4 candidacy for nomination to such office with a political party
5 designation under section 9-453b of the general statutes, shall execute
6 the following pledge: "If chosen for the office of presidential elector, I
7 agree to serve and to mark my electoral college ballots for the nominees
8 for President and Vice President of the political party by which I was
9 nominated.". A copy of such executed pledge shall be included in the
10 filing of the certificate of endorsement or candidacy for nomination, as
11 applicable.

12 (2) If a political party's nominee for President or Vice President dies
13 or withdraws as a candidate in accordance with such political party's
14 rules prior to the meeting of presidential electors under section 9-176 of

15 the general statutes, as amended by this act, the pledge executed under
16 subsection (a) of this section shall apply to such political party's
17 successor nominee.

18 (b) Each candidate for presidential elector who files a candidacy for
19 nomination to such office without a political party designation under
20 section 9-453b of the general statutes, or who registers a candidacy
21 associated with a write-in candidate for President under subsection (b)
22 of section 9-175 of the general statutes, shall execute the following
23 pledge: "If chosen for the office of presidential elector, I agree to serve
24 and to mark my electoral college ballots for the candidate for President
25 listed on this filing and for such candidate's running mate as Vice
26 President.". A copy of such executed pledge shall be included in the
27 filing of the candidacy for nomination or the registration associated with
28 a write-in candidate for President, as applicable.

29 Sec. 2. Section 9-176 of the general statutes is repealed and the
30 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

31 (a) The presidential electors of the state shall meet at the office of the
32 Secretary of the State at twelve o'clock noon on the first Tuesday after
33 the second Wednesday of the December following their election [and]
34 to cast their electoral college ballots for President and Vice President, as
35 required by the Constitution and laws of the United States. [, shall cast
36 their ballots for President and Vice President. Each such elector shall
37 cast such elector's ballots for the candidates under whose names such
38 elector ran on the official election ballot, as provided in section 9-175]
39 The Secretary of the State shall preside over the casting of such ballots.

40 (b) (1) If any [such] presidential elector is absent or if there is a
41 vacancy in the [electoral college] presidential electors of the state for any
42 cause, the presidential electors present shall [, before voting for
43 President and Vice President, elect] choose by ballot an [elector] eligible
44 person to fill such vacancy, and the person so chosen shall be a
45 presidential elector, shall perform the duties of such office and shall cast
46 his or her electoral college ballots for the candidates to whom the
47 presidential elector that he or she is replacing was pledged.

48 (2) To be eligible to be chosen to fill a vacancy in the presidential
49 electors of the state under subdivision (1) of this subsection, a person
50 shall execute the following pledge: "I agree to serve and to mark my
51 electoral college ballots consistent with the pledge of the presidential
52 elector who I am replacing."

53 (c) The Secretary of the State shall provide to each presidential elector
54 the electoral college ballots for President and Vice President. Each
55 presidential elector shall complete such ballots by marking such ballots
56 with his or her votes for President and Vice President, respectively, and
57 affixing his or her signature and legibly printed name to such ballots.

58 (d) Each presidential elector shall present such completed ballots to
59 the Secretary of the State, who shall examine such ballots and accept as
60 cast each such ballot marked consistent with the pledge executed by
61 such presidential elector under section 1 of this act or subdivision (2) of
62 subsection (b) of this section, as applicable. In the case of an electoral
63 college ballot marked inconsistent with the pledge so executed, the
64 Secretary shall not accept as cast such ballot.

65 (e) Any presidential elector who refuses to comply with any
66 provision of subsection (c) or (d) of this section, or marks any electoral
67 college ballot inconsistent with the pledge executed by such presidential
68 elector under section 1 of this act or subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
69 this section, shall forfeit the office of presidential elector and cause a
70 vacancy in the presidential electors of the state, which vacancy shall be
71 filled in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection
72 (b) of this section. Each time such a vacancy is so filled, the process set
73 forth in subsections (c) and (d) of this section shall be repeated until all
74 electoral college ballots of all presidential electors of the state have been
75 accepted as cast.

76 (f) After all electoral college ballots of all presidential electors of the
77 state have been accepted as cast, the Secretary of the State shall furnish
78 six duplicate originals of the certificate of ascertainment of appointment
79 of presidential electors previously issued and transmitted by the
80 Secretary pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-315, as amended by this

81 act, or an amended version of such certificate prepared pursuant to
82 subsection (h) of this section, as applicable, to the presidential electors.
83 The Secretary shall then assist such presidential electors with preparing,
84 signing and transmitting the six certificates of votes required under 3
85 USC Sections 9 to 11, inclusive, as amended from time to time, and
86 annexing to all certificates of votes the duplicate originals of the most
87 recent version of the certificate of ascertainment described in this
88 subdivision.

89 (g) Any presidential elector who refuses to sign any of the certificates
90 of votes, as provided in subsection (f) of this section, shall forfeit the
91 office of presidential elector and cause a vacancy in the presidential
92 electors of the state, which vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the
93 provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. Each time
94 such a vacancy is so filled, the process set forth in subsections (c), (d)
95 and (f) of this section shall be repeated until all electoral college ballots
96 of all presidential electors of the state have been accepted as cast and all
97 certificates of votes have been signed by all such presidential electors.

98 (h) After all electoral college ballots of all presidential electors of the
99 state have been accepted as cast and all certificates of votes have been
100 signed by all such presidential electors, the Secretary of the State shall
101 prepare a final list of presidential electors of the state. Whenever the
102 final list of presidential electors of the state differs from the list of
103 presidential electors of the state that was included on the certificate of
104 ascertainment of appointment of presidential electors previously issued
105 and transmitted by the Secretary of the State pursuant to subsection (b)
106 of section 9-315, as amended by this act, the Secretary shall immediately
107 (1) prepare an amended certificate of ascertainment of appointment of
108 presidential electors that complies with the provisions of 3 USC 5(a)(2),
109 as amended from time to time, (2) issue such amended certificate, and
110 (3) transmit, in the most expeditious method available, such amended
111 certificate to the Archivist of the United States.

112 (i) Any presidential elector who fails to mark his or her electoral
113 college ballots consistent with the pledge he or she has executed under

114 section 1 of this act or subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, as
115 applicable, shall be ineligible upon such failure and thereafter to the
116 office of presidential elector.

117 Sec. 3. Section 9-315 of the general statutes is repealed and the
118 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

119 (a) The votes returned as cast for a senator in Congress,
120 representatives in Congress and presidential electors shall be publicly
121 counted by the Treasurer, Secretary of the State and Comptroller on the
122 last Wednesday of the month in which [they] such votes were cast, and
123 such votes shall be counted in conformity to any decision rendered by
124 the judges of the Supreme Court as provided in section 9-323. In
125 accordance with the count so made, they shall, on said day, declare what
126 persons are elected senators in the Congress of the United States or
127 representatives in Congress, and the Secretary of the State shall
128 forthwith notify [them] such persons by mail of their election; and,
129 except in the event that the Agreement Among the States to Elect the
130 President by National Popular Vote under section 9-175a has taken
131 effect in accordance with Article IV of said agreement, they shall declare
132 the proper number of persons having the greatest number of votes to be
133 presidential electors and, in case of an equal vote for said presidential
134 electors, shall determine by lot from the persons having such equal
135 number of votes the persons appointed, and the Secretary of the State
136 shall forthwith notify [them] such persons by mail of their appointment.

137 (b) For the purposes of the Electoral Count Reform Act of 2022, P.L.
138 117-328, Div. P, Title I, as amended from time to time, the Secretary of
139 the State shall be the executive of the state responsible for issuing a
140 certificate of ascertainment of appointment of presidential electors and,
141 immediately after such issuance, transmitting such certificate to the
142 Archivist of the United States. In preparing such certificate, the
143 Secretary shall specify in the text thereof that (1) the presidential electors
144 appointed under subsection (a) of this section will serve as such unless
145 a vacancy occurs in the presidential electors of the state before the
146 conclusion of the meeting held under section 9-176, as amended by this

147 act, in which case an eligible person shall be chosen to fill such vacancy
 148 in accordance with the provisions of said section, and (2) if an eligible
 149 person is chosen to fill such a vacancy, the Secretary shall issue an
 150 amended certificate of ascertainment of appointment of presidential
 151 electors, stating the names comprising the final list of presidential
 152 electors of the state, and shall transmit such amended certificate to the
 153 Archivist of the United States.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	9-176
Sec. 3	October 1, 2026	9-315

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(d), "complete his or her electoral college ballot and" was deleted to eliminate redundant language and "such a presidential elector's pledge" was changed to "the pledge so executed" for clarity; in Section 2(e), ", as applicable" was deleted for accuracy; and in Section 2, subsections (f)(1) and (2) were redesignated as subsections (f) and (g), the remaining subsections of the section were relettered, an internal reference to "subsection (g)" was changed to "subsection (h)" and an internal reference to "subdivision (1) of this subsection" was changed to "subsection (f) of this section" for clarity.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 makes procedural changes regarding presidential electors, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5531*****AN ACT CONCERNING FAITHFUL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.***

By law, when a voter casts a ballot for a presidential candidate, the ballot is cast for a slate of presidential electors who have pledged to vote for that candidate when all state electors convene to choose the president and vice president of the United States (CGS § 9-175).

This bill requires candidates for presidential elector and individuals who fill a vacancy for these offices to execute a pledge that they will vote for the candidate they are pledged to vote for. It specifies that any person who fails to vote for their pledged candidate is permanently ineligible to serve as a presidential elector in the future. Additionally, the bill establishes procedures for rejecting an elector's ballot if cast for anyone other than the pledged candidate.

State law currently requires presidential electors to vote for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates under whose names they ran on the official ballot, but it does not nullify their vote if they fail to do so.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes, including specifying how electors must be chosen if the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) is activated, which Connecticut has joined (see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR PLEDGES

Under the bill, each (1) presidential elector candidate nominated by a political party or (2) person who files a candidacy for the office with a political party designation, must execute the following pledge:

“If chosen for the office of presidential elector, I agree to serve and to mark my electoral college ballots for the nominees for President and Vice President of the political party by which I was nominated.”

The bill specifies that when a political party’s nominee for President or Vice President dies or withdraws before the meeting of electors, the presidential elector’s pledge above must apply to the successor nominee.

Similarly, a person who files a candidacy without a political party designation or who registers a candidacy for a write-in candidate must execute the following pledge:

“If chosen for the office of presidential elector, I agree to serve and to mark my electoral college ballots for the candidate for President listed on this filing and for such candidate’s running mate as Vice President.”

In either case, a copy of the executed pledge must be included in the filed certificate of endorsement, candidacy for nomination, or registration, as applicable.

Relatedly, to be chosen to fill a vacancy for these offices, a person must execute the following pledge:

“I agree to serve and to mark my electoral college ballots consistent with the pledge of the presidential elector who I am replacing.”

VOTING OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

By law, all the state’s presidential electors must meet at the secretary of the state’s (SOTS) office at noon on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday of the December following their election. Current law specifies that each elector must cast their vote for his or her pledged candidate. Instead, the bill eliminates this requirement and creates procedures for nullifying these ballots.

Under the bill, SOTS must give presidential electors their ballots and then preside over the voting process. Presidential electors must mark their ballots, sign them, and legibly print their names. After completing

their ballots, electors must present them to SOTS, who may accept them only if marked for the candidate the electors are pledged for.

If a ballot is marked for another candidate or an elector refuses to vote for the pledged candidate or comply with the bill's procedures, the elector forfeits the office, creating a vacancy. As under existing law, the remaining presidential electors choose a new elector by ballot.

The bill specifies that each time a vacancy is filled, the procedures above must be repeated until all ballots are accepted.

POST-VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Certificate of Votes

Federal law establishes procedures states must follow when transmitting the results of the meeting of presidential electors. First, presidential electors must make and sign six certificates of their votes, seal them with their appointment certificates, and then transmit them to certain people required by federal law (3 U.S.C. §§ 9-11). The bill requires SOTS to provide these certificates and assist in this process.

Under the bill, if an elector refuses to sign the certificates of votes, they forfeit the office of presidential elector, and a vacancy is created. The vacancy must be filled as described above and the procedures above repeated until all ballots have been accepted and the certificates of votes are signed.

Certificate of Ascertainment of Appointment

By law, SOTS must issue a certificate of ascertainment of appointment for presidential electors once the winners have been declared and transmit it to the U.S. Archivist. Generally, this certificate is the official list of people declared to be the state's presidential electors (3 U.S.C. § 5).

If the list of presidential electors has changed since SOTS issued the certificate (for example, filling a vacancy), the bill requires the secretary to amend the certificate, issue it, and transmit it to the U.S. Archivist by the most expeditious available method, as required under federal law

for the original list.

Relatedly, the bill generally requires SOTS to note these procedures in the original certificate filed with the U.S. Archivist.

BACKGROUND

Related Case

In 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed a Washington Supreme Court decision, holding that a state may constitutionally enforce a presidential elector's pledge to support his or her party's nominee – and the state voters' choice – for president (*Chaitali et al. v. Washington*, 140 S. Ct. 2316 (2020)).

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

The NPVIC is an interstate agreement that any state party to the agreement will commit its presidential electors to the national popular vote winner if enough jurisdictions have done so to cumulatively possess a majority of the Electoral College votes (currently 270 of 538 votes). To date, 17 other states (California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington) and Washington, D.C. have adopted the compact. Together with Connecticut, they currently hold 209 electoral votes. (These electoral votes are based on population and the U.S. Census; thus, they are current until at least the next decennial census in 2030.)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 4 (03/20/2026)