



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 573

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 467

Senate, April 9, 2026

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING OBSERVATION OF THE CONDUCT OF ELECTION RECANVASS PROCEDURES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 9-311 of the 2026
2 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 92 of public
3 act 26-1, are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
4 (*Effective from passage*):

5 (b) (1) The moderator shall determine the place or places where the
6 recanvass shall be conducted and, if such recanvass is held before the
7 tabulators are boxed and collected in the manner required by section 9-
8 266, the moderator may require that such recanvass of such tabulators
9 be conducted in each place where the tabulators are located, or the
10 moderator may require that such tabulators be removed to one central
11 place where such recanvass shall be conducted. [All recanvassing
12 procedures shall be open to public observation, subject to the provisions
13 of subsection (d) of this section.] Such recanvass officials shall, in the

14 presence of such moderator and registrars of voters, make a record of
15 the number on the seal and the number on the protective counter, if one
16 is provided, on each voting tabulator specified by such moderator. Such
17 registrars of voters in the presence of such moderator shall turn over the
18 keys of each such tabulator to such recanvass officials, and such
19 recanvass officials, in the presence of such registrars of voters and
20 moderator, shall immediately proceed to recanvass the vote cast
21 thereon, and shall then open the package of absentee ballots and
22 recanvass the vote cast thereon. In the course of the recanvass of the
23 absentee ballot vote the recanvass officials shall check all outer
24 envelopes for absentee ballots against the inner envelopes for such
25 ballots and against the registry list to verify postmarks, addresses and
26 registry list markings and also to determine whether the number of
27 envelopes from which absentee ballots have been removed is the same
28 as the number of persons checked as having voted by absentee ballot.
29 The write-in ballots shall also be recanvassed at this time. Any party
30 representative present shall have a right to view each ballot as it is being
31 recanvassed by the recanvass officials, so as to be able to discern the
32 markings on such ballot. All of the recanvass officials shall use the same
33 forms for tallies and returns as were used at the original canvass and the
34 absentee ballot counters shall also sign the tallies.

35 (2) (A) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section:

36 (i) All recanvassing procedures shall be open to public observation
37 and shall afford members of the public the right to observe such
38 procedures in person and without the need to so observe through
39 electronic means;

40 (ii) The moderator shall not impede the ability of members of the
41 public to observe such recanvassing procedures; and

42 (iii) Any moderator who violates the provisions of subparagraph
43 (A)(i) or (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall be fined not less than one
44 hundred dollars.

45 (B) Nothing in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be

46 construed to allow any member of the public observing recanvass
47 procedures pursuant to said subparagraph to interfere with the conduct
48 of a recanvass.

49 (c) The votes shall be announced and recorded in the manner
50 prescribed in section 9-309 on return forms provided by the registrars of
51 voters and appended thereto shall be a statement signed by the
52 moderator indicating the time and place of the recanvass and the names,
53 addresses, titles and party affiliations of the recanvass officials. The
54 write-in ballots shall be replaced in a properly secured sealed package.
55 Upon the completion of such recanvass, any tabulator used in such
56 recanvass shall be locked and sealed, the keys thereof shall immediately
57 be returned to such registrars of voters and such tabulator shall remain
58 so locked until the expiration of fourteen days after such election or for
59 such longer period as is ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.
60 The absentee ballots shall be replaced in their wrappers and be resealed
61 by the moderator in the presence of the recanvass officials. Upon the
62 completion of such recanvass, such moderator and at least two of the
63 recanvass officials of different political parties shall forthwith prepare
64 and sign such return forms which shall contain a written statement
65 giving the result of such recanvass for each tabulator and each package
66 of absentee ballots whose returns were so recanvassed, setting forth
67 whether or not the original canvass was correctly made and stating
68 whether or not the discrepancy still remains unaccounted for. Such
69 return forms containing such statement shall forthwith be filed by the
70 moderator in the office of such clerk. If such recanvass reveals that the
71 original canvass of returns was not correctly made, such return forms
72 containing such statement so filed with the clerk shall constitute a
73 corrected return. In the case of a state election, a recanvass return shall
74 be made in duplicate on a form prescribed and provided by the
75 Secretary of the State, and the moderator shall file one copy with the
76 Secretary of the State and one copy with the town clerk not later than
77 ten days after the election. Such recanvass return shall be substituted for
78 the original return and shall have the same force and effect as an original
79 return.

80 (d) (1) The moderator may, when any disorder arises that interferes
 81 with the conduct of a recanvass, including any attempt by a person other
 82 than a recanvass official to take part in such recanvass or by such a
 83 person to communicate with a recanvass official, and the offender
 84 refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful authority, order that the
 85 offender be removed by the recanvass officials from such recanvass until
 86 the offender conforms to order or, if need be, until such recanvass is
 87 completed.

88 (2) Each political party or, in the case of an office subject to recanvass
 89 for which there is more than one candidate from a political party, each
 90 candidate may appoint one representative to communicate directly with
 91 the moderator during a recanvass.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-311(b) to (d)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
 Subsections (c) and (d) were added for clarity.

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 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Elections Enforcement Commission	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill: (1) clarifies that recanvasses must be open to in-person observation; (2) prohibits moderators from impeding public observation; and (3) establishes a fine of at least \$100 for moderators who violate the provisions of the bill, resulting in a potential minimal revenue increase to the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), beginning in FY 27. The exact revenue will depend on the number of violations and the value of the fines imposed.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future, subject to the number of violations and the fines imposed.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 467*****AN ACT CONCERNING OBSERVATION OF THE CONDUCT OF ELECTION RECANVASS PROCEDURES.*****SUMMARY**

State law requires that election recanvasses (recounts) must generally be open to public observation. This bill (1) specifically requires them to be open to in-person observation and not just electronically, (2) specifies that moderators may not impede members of the public from observing, and (3) establishes a fine of at least \$100 for moderators who violate these provisions. (The bill does not specify a maximum allowable amount for the fine nor how it will be imposed or enforced.)

The bill specifies that these provisions may not be construed to allow the public to interfere in a recanvass. By law, unchanged by the bill, a moderator may order the removal of a person from a recanvass if disorder happens that interferes with the recanvass and the offender refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful authority.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/23/2026)