



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5001

LCO No. 2792



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR ALL AND VARIOUS
OTHER REFORMS TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 [(a)] Any elector eligible to vote at a primary or an election and any
4 person eligible to vote at a referendum, who will not appear at such
5 elector's or person's polling place on the day of such primary, election
6 or referendum, may vote by absentee ballot. [if such elector or person is
7 unable to appear at such elector's or person's polling place on the day of
8 such primary, election or referendum for any of the following reasons:
9 (1) Such elector's or person's active service with the armed forces of the
10 United States; (2) such elector's or person's absence from the town of
11 such elector's or person's voting residence; (3) sickness; (4) physical
12 disability; (5) the tenets of such elector's or person's religion forbid
13 secular activity on the day of such primary, election or referendum; or
14 (6) the required performance of such elector's or person's duties as a

15 primary, election or referendum official, including as a town clerk or
16 registrar of voters or as staff of the clerk or registrar, at a polling place
17 other than such elector's or person's own during all of the hours of
18 voting at such primary, election or referendum.]

19 [(b) No person shall misrepresent the eligibility requirements for
20 voting by absentee ballot prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, to
21 any elector or prospective absentee ballot applicant.]

22 Sec. 2. Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the
23 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

24 Each absentee ballot shall be returned to the municipal clerk, inserted
25 in an inner envelope which shall be capable of being sealed and which
26 shall have printed on its face a form containing the following statements:

27 "I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee
28 balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum
29 in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I
30 [expect to be unable to] will not appear at my polling place on the day
31 of such primary, election or referendum. [for one or more of the
32 following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my
33 absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote; (3) sickness; (4)
34 physical disability; (5) the tenets of my religion which forbid secular
35 activity on the day of such primary, election or referendum; or (6) my
36 duties as a primary, election or referendum official.]

37 Date

38 (Signature)"

39 Sec. 3. Subsections (k) to (o), inclusive, of section 9-140 of the 2026
40 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
41 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

42 (k) (1) A person shall register with the municipal clerk before
43 distributing five or more absentee ballot applications for an election,

44 primary or referendum, not including applications distributed to such
45 person's immediate family. Such requirement shall not apply to a person
46 who is the designee of an applicant or to any employee of the
47 Department of Correction who provides the application for absentee
48 ballot form prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a to
49 incarcerated absentee ballot applicants.

50 (2) The municipal clerk shall reject the application of any absentee
51 ballot applicant made upon the form prescribed under subsection (c) of
52 section 9-139a if such form indicates any address other than an address
53 at a Department of Correction facility. The municipal clerk shall
54 maintain a log of all applications of incarcerated absentee ballot
55 applicants received by such municipal clerk, which log shall indicate the
56 name and address of each applicant, the date of receipt of each
57 application and the date such municipal clerk mailed the absentee ballot
58 to such applicant or the reason why such application was rejected.

59 (3) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications shall
60 maintain a list of the names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot
61 applicants who receive such applications, and shall file such list with
62 the municipal clerk prior to the date of the primary, election or
63 referendum for which the applications were so distributed, except that
64 such requirements shall not apply to any employee of the Department
65 of Correction who provides the application for absentee ballot form
66 prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a to incarcerated
67 absentee ballot applicants. Any person who distributes absentee ballot
68 applications and receives an executed application shall forthwith file the
69 application with the municipal clerk.

70 [(l) No candidate, party or political committee, or agent of such
71 candidate or committee shall mail unsolicited applications for absentee
72 ballots to any person, unless such mailing includes: (1) A written
73 explanation of the eligibility requirements for voting by absentee ballot
74 as prescribed in subsection (a) of section 9-135, and (2) a written warning
75 that voting or attempting to vote by absentee ballot without meeting one

76 or more of such eligibility requirements subjects the elector or applicant
77 to potential civil and criminal penalties. As used in this subsection,
78 "agent" means any person authorized to act on behalf of another
79 person.]

80 [(m)] (l) The Secretary of the State shall conspicuously post on the
81 Secretary of the State's web site, adjacent to the absentee ballot
82 application form available for downloading, a notice that the
83 application may be downloaded by a person only for (1) the person's
84 own use, (2) the use of a member of the person's immediate family, or
85 (3) the use of a designee of the applicant. The notice shall also contain
86 an advisory statement concerning the requirements of subsection (k) of
87 this section.

88 [(n)] (m) The State Elections Enforcement Commission, in
89 consultation with the Secretary of the State, shall prepare a summary of
90 the requirements and prohibitions of the absentee voting laws, which
91 shall be posted on said agencies' web sites. Candidates and political
92 party chairpersons shall provide such summary to campaign and party
93 employees and volunteers.

94 [(o)] (n) As used in this section, (1) "immediate family" has the same
95 meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section 9-140b, as amended by
96 this act, and (2) "designee" has the same meaning as provided in
97 subsection (b) of section 9-140b.

98 Sec. 4. Section 9-153a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
99 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
100 *1, 2026*):

101 The form of absentee ballot application provided by any federal
102 department or agency, referred to in section 9-140, as amended by this
103 act, may be used only by a person in any one of the following categories
104 who is eligible to vote and who [expects to be unable to] will not appear
105 at [his] such person's proper polling place; [for any reason specified in
106 section 9-135:] (1) Members of the armed forces, (2) the spouses and

107 dependents of such members, (3) members of religious groups or
108 welfare agencies assisting members of the armed forces, who are
109 officially attached to and serving with the armed forces, and their
110 spouses and dependents, (4) civilian employees of the United States in
111 all categories serving outside the territorial limits of the several states of
112 the United States and the District of Columbia and their spouses and
113 dependents when residing with or accompanying them, whether or not
114 the employee is subject to the civil service laws and the Federal
115 Classification Act of 1949, and whether or not paid from funds
116 appropriated by the Congress, (5) citizens of the United States
117 temporarily residing outside of the territorial limits of the several states
118 of the United States and the District of Columbia, and (6) overseas
119 citizens qualified to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens
120 Absentee Voting Act, 100 Stat. 924, 42 USC 1973ff et seq., as amended
121 from time to time. Any such person may apply for an absentee ballot in
122 the manner provided in section 9-140, as amended by this act, either on
123 the form prescribed by the Secretary of the State under section 9-140, as
124 amended by this act, or on the application form provided by any federal
125 department or agency hereinbefore referred to.

126 Sec. 5. Section 9-369a of the general statutes is repealed and the
127 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

128 Whenever by law it is provided that a question may be submitted to
129 a vote of the electors of a municipality at an election, as that term is
130 defined in section 9-1:

131 (a) The electors of the municipality [entitled to vote] voting by
132 absentee ballot at the election under the provisions of section 9-135, as
133 amended by this act, [shall be entitled to] may vote upon any such
134 question.

135 (b) When the clerk of the municipality determines that the necessary
136 action has been taken for submission of the question, [he] the clerk shall,
137 at least forty-five days prior to the election, file in the office of the

138 Secretary of the State a statement setting forth the designation of the
139 question as it is to appear on the ballot at the election, the date upon
140 which the submitting action was taken and the reference to the law
141 under which the action was taken. Such designation shall be in the form
142 of a question, as provided in section 9-369. Whenever it is specifically
143 provided in the general statutes that any such question may be
144 approved for such submission within the period of forty-five days prior
145 to such an election, and action is taken to submit a question within such
146 period, the clerk of the municipality shall file the statement required by
147 this subsection with the Secretary of the State immediately upon the
148 taking of such action.

149 (c) When action is taken for submission of a question, from the time
150 of such action through the day of the election, the clerk of the
151 municipality shall make the full text of the question and the designation
152 which is to appear upon the ballot available for public inspection. If the
153 designation is not prescribed by law, the clerk shall phrase the
154 designation of the question in a form suitable for printing on the ballot.
155 The warning of the election shall include a statement that the question
156 is to be voted upon, the designation of the question to appear on the
157 ballot, and a statement that the full text of the question is available for
158 public inspection in the clerk's office.

159 (d) The moderator or head moderator of the election shall file the
160 results of the vote on each such question and the returns of the election
161 with the Secretary of the State in the manner prescribed under the
162 provisions of section 9-314 or other applicable law.

163 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 9-369c of the general statutes is
164 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
165 *2026*):

166 (b) At any such referendum, any person who [would be] is eligible to
167 vote on the question or proposal [if he appeared in person and is unable
168 to] and who will not appear in person [for one or more of the reasons

169 set forth in section 9-135,] may cast [his] such person's vote by absentee
170 ballot, in accordance with the requirements of this section.

171 Sec. 7. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section
172 9-163aa of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by
173 section 69 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted
174 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

175 (B) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an individual
176 who enrolls in a political party during a period of early voting at a
177 primary from voting by absentee ballot [, if eligible,] or in person on the
178 day of such primary.

179 Sec. 8. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section
180 9-164 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
181 in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

182 (a) (1) (A) On and after January 1, [2022] 2027, and notwithstanding
183 any contrary provision of law, there shall be held in each municipality
184 [.] biennially, or quadrennially if the charter of such municipality so
185 provides, a municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday of
186 November of the odd-numbered years, except that such municipal
187 election may be held on the first Monday of May of the odd-numbered
188 years if the legislative body of such municipality so determines by a
189 three-fourths vote.

190 Sec. 9. (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Not later than January 1, 2027, the
191 Secretary of the State shall (1) review the current procedures regarding
192 registrars of voters examining the qualifications of persons who apply,
193 in person but not at the office of such registrars, to be admitted as
194 electors, including, but not limited to, the procedures set forth in
195 sections 9-19b and 9-31a of the general statutes, and (2) submit to the
196 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
197 matters relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section
198 11-4a of the general statutes, a report containing recommendations for
199 legislation to address the ability of persons with disabilities to apply in

200 the manner described in subdivision (1) of this section.

201 Sec. 10. Section 9-258 of the general statutes is repealed and the
202 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

203 (a) (1) For municipalities with more than one voting district, the
204 election officials of each polling place shall be electors of the state and
205 shall consist of [(1)] (A) one moderator, [(2)] (B) at least one but not more
206 than two official checkers, [(3)] (C) two assistant registrars of voters of
207 opposite political parties, each of whom shall be residents of the town,
208 [(4)] (D) at least one but not more than two ballot clerks, and [(5)] (E) at
209 least one but not more than two voting tabulator tenders for each voting
210 tabulator in use at the polling place. Head moderators, central counting
211 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law
212 shall also be deemed election officials.

213 (2) A known candidate for any office shall not serve as an election
214 official on election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that
215 (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the
216 same office, may perform his or her official duties, [and] (B) a deputy
217 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,
218 may perform his or her official duties, and (C) an assistant municipal
219 clerk, who is a candidate for the office of municipal clerk, may perform
220 his or her official duties.

221 (3) If, in the opinion of the registrar of voters, the public convenience
222 of the electors in any voting district so requires, provision shall be made
223 for an additional line or lines of electors at the polling place and, if more
224 than one line of electors is established, at least one but not more than
225 two additional official checkers and at least one but not more than two
226 ballot clerks for each line of electors shall be appointed and, if more than
227 one tabulator is used in a polling place, at least one but not more than
228 two additional voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each
229 additional machine so used. [Head moderators, central counting
230 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law

231 shall also be deemed election officials.]

232 (b) (1) For municipalities with one voting district, the election officials
233 of such polling place shall be electors of the state and shall consist of
234 [(1)] (A) one moderator, [(2)] (B) at least one but not more than two
235 official checkers, [(3)] (C) at least one but not more than two voting
236 tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in use at the polling place,
237 and [(4)] (D) at least one but not more than two ballot clerks.
238 Additionally, such election officials may consist of two registrars of
239 voters of opposite political parties, or two assistant registrars of voters
240 of opposite political parties, as the case may be, subject to the
241 requirements of sections 9-259 and 9-439, provided if the registrars of
242 voters are present in the polling place, they shall appoint at least one
243 designee to be present in their office. Head moderators, central counting
244 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law
245 shall also be deemed election officials.

246 (2) A known candidate for any office shall not serve as an election
247 official on election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that
248 (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the
249 same office, may perform his or her official duties, [and] (B) a deputy
250 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,
251 may perform his or her official duties, and (C) an assistant municipal
252 clerk, who is a candidate for the office of municipal clerk, may perform
253 his or her official duties.

254 (3) If, in the opinion of the registrar of voters, the public convenience
255 of the electors in any voting district so requires, provision shall be made
256 for an additional line or lines of electors at the polling place and, if more
257 than one line of electors is established, at least one but not more than
258 two additional official checkers for each line of electors shall be
259 appointed and, if more than one tabulator is used in a polling place, at
260 least one but not more than two additional voting tabulator tenders shall
261 be appointed for each additional tabulator so used. [Head moderators,
262 central counting moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed

263 pursuant to law shall be deemed to be election officials.]

264 (c) No election official shall perform services for any party or
265 candidate on election day nor appear at any political party headquarters
266 prior to eight o'clock p.m. on election day.

267 Sec. 11. Section 9-190b of the general statutes is repealed and the
268 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

269 If [a registrar of voters fails] one or more registrars of voters of a
270 municipality fail to attain or maintain, whichever is applicable,
271 certification required under subsection (a) of section 9-192a or [is the
272 subject] are the subjects of an investigation of any matter related to the
273 duties of such [registrar's] registrars' office resulting from a statement
274 filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission by the Secretary
275 of the State, the Secretary may issue a written instruction, pursuant to
276 section 9-3, as amended by this act, to such registrar or registrars to
277 appear before the Secretary on the date and at such time as provided in
278 such instruction. The Secretary shall cite the reasons for such instruction
279 and inform such registrar or registrars that such appearance is for the
280 purpose of determining whether to temporarily relieve such registrar or
281 registrars of [his or her] their duties as provided in this section. The
282 registrar or registrars shall appear before the Secretary and be given a
283 fair opportunity to show cause, if any, why such registrar or registrars
284 should not be temporarily relieved of [his or her] their duties. If, after
285 such opportunity, the Secretary determines that the public interest in the
286 orderly conduct of elections would be so served, the Secretary may
287 temporarily relieve such registrar or registrars of [his or her] their duties
288 and require one or more of the deputy [registrar] registrars of voters
289 appointed by such registrar or registrars to administer the operations of
290 such office until such certification has been attained or maintained or
291 until the State Elections Enforcement Commission has completed such
292 investigation and taken final action on such matter. The proceeding
293 described in this section shall not be considered a contested case under
294 chapter 54. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a municipality from

295 paying the salary of any such registrar of voters while such resolution is
296 pending.

297 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 9-364a of the general statutes is
298 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
299 *2026*):

300 (a) As used in this section, "election worker" means any municipal
301 clerk, assistant municipal clerk, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of
302 voters, election official described in section 9-258, as amended by this
303 act, primary official described in section 9-436 or recanvass official
304 described in section 9-311, as amended by this act, and "personal
305 identifying information" has the same meaning as provided in section
306 53a-129a.

307 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) If any municipal official,
308 including any election worker, as defined in section 9-364a of the
309 general statutes, as amended by this act, receives from any private or
310 governmental entity, individual or official a subpoena, warrant or other
311 request for or to inspect any record or recording of or produced at, or
312 any tabulator, ballot box or other device used in the conduct of, any
313 election, primary or referendum, such municipal official shall, not later
314 than thirty-six hours after the receipt of such subpoena, warrant or other
315 request, provide a copy of such subpoena, warrant or other request to
316 the offices of the Attorney General and the Secretary of the State. The
317 offices of the Attorney General and the Secretary of the State shall post
318 notice, on each of said offices' Internet web sites, of the methods by
319 which a municipal official may provide such copy to said offices. In the
320 case of the Secretary of the State receiving such a subpoena, warrant or
321 other request, the Secretary shall immediately provide a copy of such
322 subpoena, warrant or other request to the office of the Attorney General.

323 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,
324 "election worker" means any municipal clerk, assistant municipal clerk,
325 registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters or election official

326 described in section 9-258 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

327 (b) The Attorney General may seek preliminary or permanent
328 injunctive, declaratory or other appropriate equitable relief to prevent
329 or redress interference in connection with any election for presidential
330 electors, a senator in Congress or representative in Congress by bringing
331 a complaint to any judge of the Supreme Court, in which the Attorney
332 General shall set out the claimed interference. The Attorney General
333 shall file a certification attached to the complaint indicating that a copy
334 of the complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the
335 Secretary of the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and
336 any other interested party. If such complaint is made prior to such
337 election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on
338 the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the
339 Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission.
340 If such complaint is made subsequent to the election, it shall be brought
341 not later than fourteen days after the election. Upon receipt of such
342 complaint, such judge shall forthwith order any injunctive or
343 declaratory relief necessary to preserve or restore the status quo,
344 including, but not limited to, ordering that an election worker retain
345 custody of any record or recording of or produced at, or any tabulator,
346 ballot box or other device used in the conduct of, such election. Upon a
347 showing of exigent circumstances, such judge may issue an immediate
348 ex parte order granting such relief as such judge deems appropriate.
349 Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such
350 complaint, upon a day not more than five or less than three days from
351 the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than three or
352 more than five days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose
353 election may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to any
354 election worker who may be affected by the decision upon such hearing,
355 to the Secretary of the State, to the State Elections Enforcement
356 Commission and to any other party or parties whom such judge deems
357 proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing upon such
358 complaint. Such judge, with two other judges of the Supreme Court to

359 be designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on the day fixed
360 for such hearing and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the
361 parties. If sufficient reason is shown, such judges may order that the
362 State Elections Enforcement Commission maintain custody of any
363 record or recording of or produced at, or any tabulator, ballot box or
364 other device used in the conduct of, such election. If sufficient reason is
365 shown, such judges may order permanent injunctive, declaratory or
366 other appropriate equitable relief in connection with the State Elections
367 Enforcement Commission or election worker custody of any record or
368 recording of or produced at, or any tabulator, ballot box or other device
369 used in the conduct of, such election.

370 Sec. 15. Section 9-311 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes,
371 as amended by sections 91 and 92 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the
372 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

373 (a) If, within three days after an election, it appears to the moderator
374 that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such
375 moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written
376 notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials, consisting of at least
377 two checkers of different political parties and at least two absentee ballot
378 counters of different political parties who served at such election, and
379 the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the election was
380 held and such other officials as may be required to conduct such
381 recanvass. Such written notice shall require the clerk or registrars of
382 voters, as the case may be, to bring with them the depository envelopes
383 required by section 9-150a, as amended by [this act] public act 26-1, the
384 package of write-in ballots provided for in section 9-310, the absentee
385 ballot applications, the list of absentee ballot applications, the registry
386 list and the moderators' returns and shall require such recanvass
387 officials to meet at a specified time not later than the fifth business day
388 after such election to recanvass the returns of each voting tabulator,
389 except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, and all absentee
390 ballots and write-in ballots used in the municipality in such election. If
391 any of such recanvass officials are unavailable at the time of the

392 recanvass, the registrar of voters of the same political party as that of the
393 recanvass official unable to attend shall designate another elector
394 having previous training and experience in the conduct of elections to
395 take such recanvass official's place. Before such recanvass is made, such
396 moderator shall give notice, in writing, to the chairperson of the town
397 committee of each political party which nominated candidates for the
398 election, and, in the case of a state election, not later than twenty-four
399 hours after a determination is made regarding the need for a recanvass
400 to the Secretary of the State, of the time and place where such recanvass
401 is to be made; and each such chairperson may send party
402 representatives to be present at such recanvass. Such party
403 representatives may observe, but no one other than a recanvass official
404 may take part in the recanvass. If a party representative notes any
405 irregularity in the recanvass procedure, such party representative shall
406 be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in any contest
407 relating to the election.

408 (b) The moderator shall determine the place or places, which may
409 include the office of the Secretary of the State, where the recanvass shall
410 be conducted and, if such recanvass is held before the tabulators are
411 boxed and collected in the manner required by section 9-266, the
412 moderator may require that such recanvass of such tabulators be
413 conducted in each place where the tabulators are located, or the
414 moderator may require that such tabulators be removed to one central
415 place where such recanvass shall be conducted. All recanvassing
416 procedures shall be open to public observation, subject to the provisions
417 of subsection (d) of this section. Such recanvass officials shall, in the
418 presence of such moderator and registrars of voters, make a record of
419 the number on the seal and the number on the protective counter, if one
420 is provided, on each voting tabulator specified by such moderator. Such
421 registrars of voters in the presence of such moderator shall turn over the
422 keys of each such tabulator to such recanvass officials, and such
423 recanvass officials, in the presence of such registrars of voters and
424 moderator, shall immediately proceed to recanvass the vote cast

425 thereon, and shall then open the package of absentee ballots and
426 recanvass the vote cast thereon. In the course of the recanvass of the
427 absentee ballot vote the recanvass officials shall check all outer
428 envelopes for absentee ballots against the inner envelopes for such
429 ballots and against the registry list to verify postmarks, addresses and
430 registry list markings and also to determine whether the number of
431 envelopes from which absentee ballots have been removed is the same
432 as the number of persons checked as having voted by absentee ballot.
433 The write-in ballots shall also be recanvassed at this time. Any party
434 representative present shall have a right to view each ballot as it is being
435 recanvassed by the recanvass officials, so as to be able to discern the
436 markings on such ballot. All of the recanvass officials shall use the same
437 forms for tallies and returns as were used at the original canvass and the
438 absentee ballot counters shall also sign the tallies.

439 (c) The votes shall be announced and recorded in the manner
440 prescribed in section 9-309 on return forms provided by the registrars of
441 voters and appended thereto shall be a statement signed by the
442 moderator indicating the time and place of the recanvass and the names,
443 addresses, titles and party affiliations of the recanvass officials. The
444 write-in ballots shall be replaced in a properly secured sealed package.
445 Upon the completion of such recanvass, any tabulator used in such
446 recanvass shall be locked and sealed, the keys thereof shall immediately
447 be returned to such registrars of voters and such tabulator shall remain
448 so locked until the expiration of fourteen days after such election or for
449 such longer period as is ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.
450 The absentee ballots shall be replaced in their wrappers and be resealed
451 by the moderator in the presence of the recanvass officials. Upon the
452 completion of such recanvass, such moderator and at least two of the
453 recanvass officials of different political parties shall forthwith prepare
454 and sign such return forms which shall contain a written statement
455 giving the result of such recanvass for each tabulator and each package
456 of absentee ballots whose returns were so recanvassed, setting forth
457 whether or not the original canvass was correctly made and stating

458 whether or not the discrepancy still remains unaccounted for. Such
459 return forms containing such statement shall forthwith be filed by the
460 moderator in the office of such clerk. If such recanvass reveals that the
461 original canvass of returns was not correctly made, such return forms
462 containing such statement so filed with the clerk shall constitute a
463 corrected return. In the case of a state election, a recanvass return shall
464 be made in duplicate on a form prescribed and provided by the
465 Secretary of the State, and the moderator shall file one copy with the
466 Secretary of the State and one copy with the town clerk not later than
467 ten days after the election. Such recanvass return shall be substituted for
468 the original return and shall have the same force and effect as an original
469 return.

470 (d) (1) The moderator may, when any disorder arises that interferes
471 with the conduct of a recanvass, including any attempt by a person other
472 than a recanvass official to take part in such recanvass or by such a
473 person to communicate with a recanvass official, and the offender
474 refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful authority, order that the
475 offender be removed by the recanvass officials from such recanvass until
476 the offender conforms to order or, if need be, until such recanvass is
477 completed.

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

482 (e) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c),
483 inclusive, of this section, a recanvass under this section may be
484 conducted with, instead of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators
485 used at the election, either a different voting tabulator or a high-speed
486 voting tabulator whenever (A) such recanvass is conducted at the office
487 of the Secretary of the State, or (B) such recanvass is conducted in the
488 municipality in which such election was held, the moderator requests to
489 borrow from the Secretary of the State either a different voting tabulator

490 or a high-speed voting tabulator for such purpose and the Secretary
491 agrees to such request.

492 (2) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
493 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this
494 subsection.

495 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) As used in this section, (1) "moderator" means, in the case of
496 municipalities not divided into voting districts, the moderator of the
497 election and, in the case of municipalities divided into voting districts,
498 the head moderator of the election, and (2) "registrars of voters", in a
499 municipality where there are different registrars of voters for different
500 voting districts, means the registrars of voters in the voting district in
501 which, at the last-preceding election, the presiding officer for the
502 purpose of declaring the result of the vote of the whole municipality was
503 moderator.

504 Sec. 16. Section 9-311a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes,
505 as amended by section 93 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the
506 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

507 (a) For purposes of this section, state, district and municipal offices
508 shall be as defined in section 9-372 except that the office of presidential
509 elector shall be deemed a state office. Forthwith after a regular or special
510 election for municipal office, or forthwith upon tabulation of the vote
511 for state and district offices by the Secretary of the State, when at any
512 such election the plurality of an elected candidate for an office over the
513 vote for a defeated candidate receiving the next highest number of votes
514 was either (1) less than a vote equivalent to one-half of one per cent of
515 the total number of votes cast for the office but not more than two
516 thousand votes, or (2) less than twenty votes, there shall be a canvass
517 of the returns of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators and absentee
518 ballots used in such election for such office unless such defeated
519 candidate or defeated candidates, as the case may be, for such office file
520 a written statement waiving this right to such canvass with the

521 municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office, or with the Secretary of
522 the State in the case of a state or district office. In the case of state and
523 district offices, the Secretary of the State upon tabulation of the votes for
524 such offices shall notify the town clerks in the state or district, as the case
525 may be, of the state and district offices which qualify for an automatic
526 recanvass and shall also notify each candidate for any such office. When
527 a recanvass is to be held, the municipal clerk shall promptly notify the
528 moderator, as defined in section 9-311, as amended by [this act] public
529 act 26-1, who shall proceed forthwith to cause a recanvass of such
530 returns of the office in question in the same manner as is provided in
531 section 9-311, as amended by [this act] public act 26-1. In addition to the
532 notice required under section 9-311, as amended by [this act] public act
533 26-1, the moderator shall, before such recanvass is [made] conducted,
534 give notice in writing to each candidate for a municipal office that
535 qualifies for an automatic recanvass under this section of the time when
536 [] and place, which may include the office of the Secretary of the State,
537 where [] such recanvass is to be [made to each candidate for a municipal
538 office which qualifies for an automatic recanvass under this section]
539 conducted. Nothing in this section shall preclude the right to judicial
540 proceedings on behalf of a candidate under any provision of chapter
541 149. For the purposes of this section, "the total number of votes cast for
542 the office" means, in the case of multiple openings for the same office,
543 the total number of electors checked as having voted in the state, district,
544 municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be. When a
545 recanvass of the returns for an office for which there are multiple
546 openings is required by the provisions of this section, the returns for all
547 candidates for all openings for the office shall be recanvassed. If a
548 candidate notes any irregularity in the recanvass procedure, such
549 candidate shall be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in
550 any contest relating to the election.

551 (b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this
552 section, a recanvass under this section may be conducted with, instead
553 of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators used at the election, either a

554 different voting tabulator or a high-speed voting tabulator whenever
555 (A) such recanvass is conducted at the office of the Secretary of the State,
556 or (B) such recanvass is conducted in the municipality in which such
557 election was held, the moderator requests to borrow from the Secretary
558 of the State either a different voting tabulator or a high-speed voting
559 tabulator for such purpose and the Secretary agrees to such request.

560 (2) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
561 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this
562 subsection.

563 Sec. 17. Section 9-311b of the general statutes is repealed and the
564 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

565 (a) If the electors fail to elect a candidate for any office by reason of
566 an equality of votes at any election, there shall be a recanvass of the
567 returns for such office, in the same manner as is provided in section 9-
568 311, as amended by this act, unless, prior to the time of such recanvass,
569 all but one of the candidates so receiving an equal number of votes dies,
570 withdraws his name or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold such
571 office.

572 (b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this
573 section, a recanvass under this section may be conducted with, instead
574 of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators used at the election, a
575 different voting tabulator or a high-speed voting tabulator whenever
576 (A) such recanvass is conducted at the office of the Secretary of the State,
577 or (B) such recanvass is conducted in the municipality in which such
578 election was held, the moderator requests to borrow from the Secretary
579 of the State either a different voting tabulator or a high-speed voting
580 tabulator for such purpose and the Secretary agrees to such request.

581 (2) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
582 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this
583 subsection.

584 Sec. 18. Section 9-23l of the general statutes is repealed and the
585 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

586 Registrars of voters shall accept the mail voter registration
587 application form prescribed by the [Federal] Election Assistance
588 Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,
589 P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, as an application for
590 admission as an elector for all elections in Connecticut. The procedures
591 in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g which are not
592 inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-
593 31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made
594 under this section.

595 Sec. 19. Section 9-23m of the general statutes is repealed and the
596 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

597 The Secretary of the State shall make available for distribution the
598 mail voter registration application form prescribed by the [Federal]
599 Election Assistance Commission pursuant to the National Voter
600 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time. The
601 secretary may make any changes in any forms required by this title
602 which, in the opinion of the secretary, are necessary to cause said forms
603 to conform to the provisions of applicable federal law.

604 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any citizen who has not yet
605 attained the age of eighteen years but who will have attained the age of
606 eighteen years on or before the day of an election, and who is otherwise
607 qualified to be an elector and has applied for admission as an elector,
608 may vote at such election during the period of early voting or by
609 absentee ballot.

610 Sec. 21. Section 9-374 of the general statutes is repealed and the
611 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

612 (a) No authority of the state or any political subdivision thereof
613 having jurisdiction over the conduct of any primary shall permit the

614 name of a party-endorsed candidate for an office or position to be
615 printed on the official ballot to be used at any such primary unless a
616 copy of the party rules regulating such party and its method of selecting
617 party-endorsed candidates for nomination to such office or for election
618 as town committee members, as the case may be, has been filed in the
619 office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before such
620 candidate is selected under such method of endorsement. The selection
621 of delegates to conventions shall not be valid unless at least one copy of
622 the party rules regulating the manner of making such selection has been
623 filed in the office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before
624 such selection is made. A duplicate copy of such rules shall also be filed
625 with the state central committee of such party. A copy of the local party
626 rules, relating to a party in a municipality, shall be filed forthwith by the
627 town chairman or the secretary of the town committee of such party in
628 such municipality with the Secretary of the State. The state party rules
629 shall be filed by the state chairman or the secretary of the state central
630 committee of such party.

631 **(b)** In the case of a minor party, no authority of the state or any
632 subdivision thereof having jurisdiction over the conduct of any election
633 shall permit the name of a candidate of such party for any office to be
634 printed on the official ballot unless at least one copy of the party rules
635 regulating the manner of nominating a candidate for such office has
636 been filed in the office of the Secretary of the State at least one hundred
637 eighty days before the nomination of such candidate. In the case of a
638 minor party, the selection of town committee members and delegates to
639 conventions shall not be valid unless at least one copy of the party rules
640 regulating the manner of making such selection has been filed in the
641 office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before such selection
642 is made. **[A]** In the case of a minor party, a copy of local party rules shall
643 forthwith be also filed with the town clerk of the municipality to which
644 they relate, except that for any municipality in which such minor party
645 does not have a local party, state party rules of such minor party may be
646 filed with the Secretary of the State.

647 (c) Party rules shall not be effective until sixty days after the filing of
648 the same with the Secretary of the State. A party in any municipality for
649 which local party rules with respect to any office or position have not
650 been filed as provided in this section shall, as to such office or position,
651 be subject to the provisions of the effective state rules of such party
652 applicable in municipalities which do not have local party rules, until
653 such time as local party rules therefor are filed and become effective as
654 provided in this section. The town chairman of a party in any
655 municipality for which local party rules have not been adopted and filed
656 as provided in this section shall forthwith file a statement with the
657 Secretary of the State to the effect that such party in such municipality
658 does not have local party rules. Any dispute arising under the party
659 rules of any party shall be referred to the state central committee of such
660 party.

661 (d) The term "party rules" as used in this section includes any
662 amendment to such party rules. When any amendment is to be filed as
663 required by this section, complete party rules incorporating such
664 amendment shall be filed, together with a separate copy of such
665 amendment. All party rules and all amendments to such party rules
666 shall ensure such party's compliance with the federal Americans with
667 Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12101, et seq., as amended from time to time.

668 Sec. 22. Subsection (g) of section 9-140 of the 2026 supplement to the
669 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
670 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

671 (g) (1) On the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets the
672 municipal clerk shall mail an absentee voting set to each applicant
673 whose application was received by the municipal clerk prior to that day.
674 When the municipal clerk receives an application during the time period
675 in which absentee voting sets are to be issued, [he] the municipal clerk
676 shall mail an absentee voting set to the applicant [,] within twenty-four
677 hours, unless the applicant submits [his] such applicant's application in
678 person at the office of the municipal clerk and [asks] requests to be given

679 [his] such applicant's absentee voting set immediately, in which case the
680 municipal clerk shall comply with [the] such request. Any absentee
681 voting set to be mailed to an applicant shall be mailed to the bona fide
682 personal mailing address shown on the application. If an applicant has
683 provided a mailing address at a Department of Correction facility and
684 such applicant is subsequently transferred to another Department of
685 Correction facility, the Commissioner of Correction shall ensure
686 delivery of the absentee voting set to such applicant. Issuance of
687 absentee voting sets shall also be subject to the provisions of subsection
688 (c) of this section, section 9-150c [and section 9-159q] concerning persons
689 designated to deliver or return ballots in cases involving unforeseen
690 illness or disability and section 9-159q concerning supervised voting at
691 certain health care institutions.

692 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
693 subsection, upon receipt of an application under section 9-140e, as
694 amended by this act, 9-153e, as amended by this act, 9-153f, as amended
695 by this act, or 9-158c, the municipal clerk shall issue by electronic means
696 an absentee ballot to such applicant.

697 Sec. 23. Subsection (a) of section 9-140e of the general statutes is
698 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
699 *1, 2026*):

700 (a) Any elector who is permanently physically disabled or suffering
701 from a long-term illness and who files an application for an absentee
702 ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that
703 such elector is permanently physically disabled or suffering from a long-
704 term illness and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated
705 polling location, shall be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status
706 and shall [receive] be issued by electronic means an absentee ballot for
707 each election, primary or referendum conducted in such elector's
708 municipality for which such elector is eligible to vote. Such elector's
709 permanent absentee ballot status shall remain in effect until such elector:
710 (1) Is removed from the official registry list of the municipality, (2) is

711 removed from permanent absentee ballot status pursuant to the
712 provisions of this section, or (3) requests that he or she no longer receive
713 such permanent absentee ballot status.

714 Sec. 24. Section 9-153e of the general statutes is repealed and the
715 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

716 A member of the armed forces who is an elector or an applicant for
717 admission as an elector, or the member's spouse or dependent if living
718 where such member is stationed, may apply before a regular election for
719 a blank absentee ballot to vote for all offices being contested at the
720 election. The municipal clerk shall make such ballots available for this
721 purpose beginning not earlier than ninety days before the election.
722 Application shall be made upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of
723 the State or on the federal postcard application form provided pursuant
724 to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 100 Stat.
725 924, 42 USC 1973ff et seq., as amended from time to time, or any other
726 applicable law and shall be issued only if the applicant states that due
727 to military contingencies the regular application procedure, as set forth
728 in section 9-140, as amended by this act, cannot be followed. Upon
729 receipt of the application, the municipal clerk shall issue [the ballot
730 either] by mail or electronic means, as requested by the elector, the ballot
731 which shall be prescribed and provided by the Secretary of the State,
732 and a list of the offices to be voted upon indicating the number of
733 individuals for which each elector may vote. As soon as a complete list
734 of nominated candidates, including the party designations of such
735 candidates, and questions is available, the municipal clerk shall send
736 such list to each applicant. If the list of candidates and questions is not
737 available when the ballot is issued, the municipal clerk shall include a
738 statement indicating that such list shall be [mailed] sent as soon as it
739 becomes available. The ballot shall permit the elector to vote by writing
740 in the names of specific candidates and offices for which [he] such
741 elector is voting. The elector may also vote on the questions in a manner
742 prescribed by the Secretary of the State. If such ballot is issued by
743 electronic means, the municipal clerk at the time of such issuance shall

744 include a certification, prescribed by the Secretary of the State, [that]
745 which the elector shall be required to complete, sign and return with the
746 completed ballot in order for such ballot to be counted. If the military
747 contingency no longer exists, application for an additional ballot for all
748 offices may be made pursuant to the provisions of section 9-153b.

749 Sec. 25. Section 9-153f of the general statutes is repealed and the
750 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

751 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-140, as amended by this
752 act, any elector who is living, or expects to be living or traveling before
753 and on election day, outside the territorial limits of the several states of
754 the United States and the District of Columbia and any member of the
755 armed forces who is an elector or an applicant for admission as an
756 elector, or the member's spouse or dependent if living where such
757 member is stationed, may apply for a blank absentee ballot to vote for
758 all offices being contested at an election or primary. Application shall be
759 made upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on the
760 federal postcard application form provided pursuant to the Uniformed
761 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 100 Stat. 924, 42 USC 1973ff
762 et seq., as amended from time to time, or any other applicable law. The
763 municipal clerk receiving such an application shall, as soon as a
764 complete list of candidates and questions to be voted upon at such
765 election or primary becomes available, issue [the ballot either] by mail
766 or electronic means, as requested by the elector, the ballot which shall
767 be the blank ballot prescribed and provided by the Secretary of the State
768 under section 9-153e, as amended by this act. The municipal clerk shall
769 include with the ballot a complete list of the offices to be voted upon,
770 the number of individuals for which each elector may vote, the
771 candidates, and, in the case of an election, the party designation of each
772 candidate and questions to be voted upon. If such ballot is issued by
773 electronic means, the municipal clerk at the time of such issuance shall
774 include a certification, prescribed by the Secretary of the State, [that]
775 which the elector shall be required to complete, sign and return with the
776 completed ballot in order for such ballot to be counted. [If application

777 for an absentee ballot is made at the time of availability of regular
778 absentee ballots as provided in section 9-140, the provisions of section
779 9-140 shall prevail.] Except as otherwise provided in this section, the
780 procedures governing the issuance of ballots under this section shall
781 conform as nearly as may be to the procedures provided in section 9-
782 140, as amended by this act.

783 Sec. 26. Section 9-158e of the general statutes is repealed and the
784 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

785 (a) (1) A person applying for a presidential ballot in person shall
786 present: [(1)] (A) A current and valid photo identification, or [(2)] (B) a
787 copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check,
788 paycheck or other government document that shows the name and
789 address of the voter. [The application]

790 (2) A person applying for a presidential ballot by mail shall [be
791 accompanied by] include with such application: (A) A copy of a current
792 and valid photo identification, or (B) a copy of a current utility bill, bank
793 statement, government check, paycheck or government document that
794 shows the name and address of the voter.

795 (3) Upon receipt of an application for a presidential ballot under
796 sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, the municipal clerk, if satisfied that
797 the application is proper and that the applicant is qualified to vote under
798 said sections, shall forthwith [give or mail to the applicant, as the case
799 may be,] issue to the applicant by electronic means a ballot for
800 presidential and vice-presidential electors for use at the election and
801 instructions and envelopes for [its] the return of such ballot.

802 (b) Upon receipt of an application for an overseas ballot, the
803 municipal clerk, if satisfied that the application is proper and that the
804 applicant is qualified to vote at the federal election for which the
805 application is made, pursuant to the provisions of sections 9-158b to 9-
806 158m, inclusive, shall forthwith [mail] issue to the applicant by
807 electronic means a ballot containing the names and offices of the

808 candidates for federal office and instructions and envelopes for [its
809 return to the applicant] the return of such ballot.

810 Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 9-140b of the general statutes, as
811 amended by section 88 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following
812 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

813 (a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or
814 referendum only if: (1) [It] Such ballot is mailed by (A) the ballot
815 applicant, (B) a designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot
816 because of illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the
817 immediate family of an applicant who is a student, so that [it] the ballot
818 is received by the clerk of the municipality in which the applicant is
819 qualified to vote not later than the close of the polls; (2) [it] such ballot
820 is returned by the applicant in person to [the] such clerk by the day
821 before the election or primary or prior to the opening of the polls on the
822 day of the referendum; (3) [it] such ballot is returned by a designee of
823 an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant, in person, to [said] such
824 clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election,
825 primary or referendum; (4) [it] such ballot is returned by a member of
826 the immediate family of the [absentee voter] applicant, in person, to
827 [said] such clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the
828 election, primary or referendum; (5) in the case of [a presidential or
829 overseas ballot, it] a ballot issued under section 9-140e, as amended by
830 this act, 9-153e, as amended by this act, 9-153f, as amended by this act,
831 or 9-158e, as amended by this act, such ballot is mailed or otherwise
832 returned [pursuant to] in accordance with the provisions of section 9-
833 158g, as amended by this act; or (6) [it] such ballot is returned with the
834 proper identification as required by the Help America Vote Act, P.L.
835 107-252, as amended from time to time, if applicable, inserted in the
836 outer envelope so such identification can be viewed without opening
837 the inner envelope. A person returning an absentee ballot to the
838 municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or (4) of this subsection shall
839 present identification and, on the outer envelope of the absentee ballot,
840 sign [his] such person's name in the presence of the municipal clerk [.]

841 and indicate [his] such person's address [, his] and relationship to the
842 voter or [his] position [,] and the date and time of such return. As used
843 in this section, "immediate family" means a dependent relative who
844 resides in the individual's household or any spouse, child, parent or
845 sibling of the individual.

846 Sec. 28. Section 9-158g of the general statutes is repealed and the
847 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

848 (a) [The] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the voter
849 shall sign the certification upon the inner envelope, securely seal it,
850 enclose it in an outer serially-numbered envelope, and return it to the
851 municipal clerk of the town in which [he] such voter is qualified to vote.
852 The municipal clerk shall keep it in [his] the municipal clerk's office until
853 delivered by [him] such municipal clerk to the registrars of voters at the
854 same time and in the same manner as [is provided for absentee ballots]
855 provided in section 9-140c. If the ballot is returned by a person other
856 than the voter or the United States Postal Service, the person delivering
857 the ballot shall sign [his] such person's name and address and indicate
858 the date and time of [its] such ballot's delivery on the outer envelope in
859 the municipal clerk's presence. The ballot, to be cast, shall be returned
860 so that [it] such ballot is received by the [town] municipal clerk not later
861 than the close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or
862 referendum, as applicable.

863 (b) (1) If the Secretary of the State designates an electronic ballot
864 transmission system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, a
865 voter who was issued a ballot under section 9-140e, as amended by this
866 act, 9-153e, as amended by this act, 9-153f, as amended by this act, or 9-
867 158e, as amended by this act, may return such ballot through such
868 system, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary.

869 (2) The Secretary of the State may designate one or more systems for
870 the electronic transmission of ballots, through which any voter
871 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection may return such voter's

872 ballot, provided such system:

873 (A) Has received one or more independent security reviews from a
874 laboratory accredited under the National Voluntary Laboratory
875 Accreditation Program, or a successor program, overseen by the
876 National Institute of Standards and Technology, or a successor federal
877 agency or organization;

878 (B) Meets the National Institute of Standards and Technology
879 Cybersecurity Framework guidelines, or the cybersecurity framework
880 guidelines of a successor federal agency or organization; and

881 (C) Is approved by The University of Connecticut, or a successor state
882 agency or organization.

883 (3) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations in accordance
884 with the provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this
885 subsection.

886 Sec. 29. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of
887 section 9-140b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
888 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

889 (2) (A) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B)
890 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the first day of
891 issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section
892 9-140, and on each [weekday] business day thereafter until the close of
893 the polls at the election, primary or referendum, including at the close
894 of the polls at such election, primary or referendum, the municipal clerk
895 shall retrieve from the secure drop box described in said subparagraph
896 each such ballot deposited in such drop box.

897 Sec. 30. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-409 of the general statutes
898 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
899 *October 1, 2026*):

900 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, petition forms

901 for candidacies for nomination to municipal office or for election as
902 members of town committees shall be available from the registrar
903 [beginning on the day following the making of the party's endorsement
904 of a candidate or candidates for such office or position, or] beginning on
905 the day following the final day for the making of [such] the party's
906 endorsement of a candidate or candidates for such office or position
907 under the provisions of section 9-391, [, whichever comes first.]

908 (b) Petition forms for candidacies for nomination to the municipal
909 offices of state senator and state representative shall be available from
910 the registrar beginning on the seventy-seventh day preceding the day of
911 the primary for such office.

912 Sec. 31. Section 7-22 of the general statutes is repealed and the
913 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

914 Whenever [complaint in writing is made to the Attorney General that
915 the town clerk of any town] the Secretary of the State or the State
916 Elections Enforcement Commission finds that there is reason to believe
917 that the clerk of any municipality, with regard to such clerk's duties
918 under title 9, is guilty of misconduct, wilful and material neglect of any
919 such duty or incompetence in the conduct of any such [town clerk's
920 office] duty, the Secretary or the commission may refer the matter to the
921 Attorney General in the form of a written complaint setting forth the
922 alleged facts in support of such reason to believe. Upon such referral,
923 the Attorney General shall make such investigation of the charges as the
924 Attorney General deems proper and shall, if the Attorney General is of
925 the opinion that the evidence obtained warrants such action, prepare a
926 statement in writing of the charges against such [town] municipal clerk,
927 together with a citation in the name of the state, commanding such
928 [town] municipal clerk to appear before a judge of the Superior Court at
929 a date named in the citation and show cause, if any, why such [town]
930 municipal clerk should not be removed from office as provided in this
931 section. The Attorney General shall cause a copy of such statement and
932 citation to be served by some proper officer upon the defendant [town]

933 municipal clerk at least ten days before the date of appearance named
934 in such citation, and the original statement and citation, with the return
935 of the officer thereon, shall be returned to the clerk of the superior court
936 for the judicial district within which such [town] municipality is
937 situated. To carry into effect the proceedings authorized by this section,
938 the Attorney General shall have power to summon witnesses, require
939 the production of necessary books, papers and other documents and
940 administer oaths to witnesses; and upon the date named in such citation
941 for the appearance of such [town] municipal clerk, or upon any
942 adjourned date fixed by the judge before whom such proceedings are
943 pending, the Attorney General shall appear and conduct the hearing on
944 behalf of the state. If, after a full hearing of all the evidence offered by
945 the Attorney General and by and on behalf of the defendant, such judge
946 is of the opinion that the evidence presented warrants the removal of
947 such [town] municipal clerk from office, the judge shall cause to be
948 prepared a written order to that effect, which order shall be signed by
949 the judge and lodged with the clerk of the superior court for the judicial
950 district in which such defendant resides. Such clerk of the superior court
951 shall cause a certified copy of such order to be served forthwith upon
952 such [town] municipal clerk, and upon such service the office held by
953 such [town] municipal clerk shall become vacant, notwithstanding the
954 pendency of any appeal of such written order, and the vacancy thereby
955 created shall be filled at once in the manner provided in section 9-220.
956 Any witnesses summoned and any officer making service under the
957 provisions of this section shall be allowed and paid by the state the same
958 fees as are allowed by law in criminal prosecutions.

959 Sec. 32. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) Not earlier than the
960 fifteenth day after any state election and not later than two business
961 days before the canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer
962 and Comptroller, commencing on a day designated by the Secretary, the
963 registrars of voters shall conduct a risk-limiting audit of such election.
964 Each such audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public
965 observation. Any election official who participates in the administration

966 and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated
967 by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such
968 municipality for elections.

969 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
970 offices subject to a risk-limiting audit pursuant to this section shall be
971 (A) the office of presidential elector, if applicable, (B) all applicable state
972 offices, as defined in section 9-372 of the general statutes, (C) at least one
973 representative in Congress, selected in a random drawing by the
974 Secretary of the State, (D) at least five per cent, in the aggregate, of the
975 offices of state senator and state representative, selected in a random
976 drawing by the Secretary, and (E) any other office required to be audited
977 by federal law. Whenever an office is randomly selected by the Secretary
978 under this subsection, the selection process shall be open to the public.

979 (2) (A) If an office of representative in Congress is subject to recanvass
980 or an election contest pursuant to any provision of the general statutes,
981 the Secretary of the State shall ensure such office is included in the office
982 or offices selected under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this
983 subsection.

984 (B) If an office of state senator or state representative is subject to
985 recanvass or an election contest pursuant to any provision of the general
986 statutes, the Secretary of the State shall ensure such office is included in
987 the offices selected under subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of this
988 subsection.

989 (c) Prior to the day designated by the Secretary of the State for the
990 commencement of the risk-limiting audit described in subsection (a) of
991 this section, the registrars of voters shall submit to the Secretary the
992 ballot manifests created under section 35 of this act.

993 (d) The risk-limiting audit described in subsection (a) of this section
994 shall be conducted in accordance with instructions and procedures
995 prescribed by the Secretary of the State not later than January 1, 2027,
996 which instructions and procedures shall be consistent across all offices

997 subject to such audit. The risk limit for each such audit shall be not more
998 than five per cent. The results of each audit conducted pursuant to this
999 section, including any such audit that produces an outcome of
1000 "INCONCLUSIVE" as described in subsection (e) of this section, shall be
1001 reported on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Secretary. Such
1002 reported results shall be filed with the Secretary, who shall immediately
1003 forward such reported results to The University of Connecticut for
1004 analysis. The University of Connecticut shall submit to the Secretary a
1005 written report regarding such analysis that describes any concerns
1006 identified. After receipt of such written report, the Secretary shall
1007 transmit a copy of such written report to the State Elections Enforcement
1008 Commission.

1009 (e) In the event a risk-limiting audit conducted pursuant to this
1010 section for a particular office produces an outcome of
1011 "INCONCLUSIVE", the Secretary of the State shall order a manual
1012 recount of all ballots cast for such office.

1013 (f) If the written report submitted by The University of Connecticut
1014 under subsection (d) of this section indicates that a voting tabulator
1015 failed to record votes accurately and in the manner provided by title 9
1016 of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall require that the
1017 voting tabulator be examined and recertified by the Secretary or the
1018 Secretary's designee. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
1019 prohibit the Secretary from requiring that a voting tabulator be
1020 examined and recertified.

1021 (g) The audit results reported to the Secretary of the State pursuant to
1022 subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public inspection and may
1023 be used as prima facie evidence of an irregularity in any contest arising
1024 pursuant to chapter 149 of the general statutes or for any other cause of
1025 action arising from such election.

1026 (h) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the results from an
1027 audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the outcome of the

1028 person declared elected by virtue of having received the greatest
1029 number of votes, as determined by the paper ballots, the Secretary of the
1030 State shall conduct such further investigation of the voting tabulator as
1031 may be necessary for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to
1032 decertify the voting tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the
1033 voting tabulator to be examined and recertified in accordance with
1034 subsection (f) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary as a
1035 result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections
1036 Enforcement Commission, and the commission may initiate such
1037 further investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection
1038 (a) of section 9-7b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, as may
1039 be required to determine if any violations of the general statutes
1040 concerning election law have been committed.

1041 (i) The individual paper ballots used at an election shall be carefully
1042 preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in accordance
1043 with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310 of the general statutes,
1044 as applicable.

1045 (j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any
1046 candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to
1047 chapter 149 of the general statutes.

1048 (k) After a state election, any voting tabulator may be kept locked for
1049 a period longer than that prescribed by sections 9-266, 9-310 and 9-447
1050 of the general statutes, if such an extended period is ordered by a court
1051 of competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of the State or the State Elections
1052 Enforcement Commission. Such court or the Secretary of the State may
1053 order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted by such persons
1054 as the court or the Secretary may designate, provided the State Elections
1055 Enforcement Commission may order such an audit where the particular
1056 office in question is that of the Secretary of the State. If the machine
1057 utilized in such election is an optical scan voting system, such order to
1058 lock such machine shall include the tabulator, memory card and all
1059 other components and processes utilized in the programming of such

1060 machine.

1061 (l) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
1062 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for the conduct
1063 of risk-limiting audits described in subsection (a) of this section and to
1064 establish guidelines for expanded audits when the results from such a
1065 risk-limiting audit cannot be reconciled with the outcome of the person
1066 declared elected by virtue of having received the greatest number of
1067 votes, as determined by the paper ballots.

1068 (m) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
1069 Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine
1070 whenever any problem is discovered as a result of an audit described in
1071 subsection (a) of this section.

1072 (n) As used in this section:

1073 (1) "Risk-limiting audit" means a publicly verifiable auditing
1074 procedure that (A) manually examines a statistical sample of paper
1075 ballots that reflect the intents of the voters having cast such ballots, (B)
1076 produces an outcome of either "ACCEPTABLE" or "INCONCLUSIVE",
1077 and (C) guarantees a specified risk limit;

1078 (2) "Risk limit" means the maximum probability that an audit would
1079 produce an outcome of "ACCEPTABLE" when there is a disagreement
1080 between the person declared elected and the person who received the
1081 greatest number of votes as determined by the paper ballots; and

1082 (3) "State election" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1
1083 of the general statutes.

1084 Sec. 33. Subsection (a) of section 9-320 of the general statutes is
1085 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
1086 *1, 2027*):

1087 (a) The clerk of each municipality shall, [within ten days after the
1088 municipal election] not later than the last day of the month in which the

1089 municipal election was held, return to the Secretary of the State a
1090 statement of the name, post-office address and term of each person
1091 elected to office in such election. If an elected [town] municipal clerk is
1092 registrar of vital statistics, ex officio, such return shall so indicate. Each
1093 municipal clerk neglecting to make such return shall be fined not more
1094 than twenty-five dollars.

1095 Sec. 34. Section 9-320f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1096 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1097 (a) [(1)] Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any [federal or state]
1098 election or primary and not later than two business days before the
1099 canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and
1100 Comptroller, [and (2) not earlier than the fifth day after any municipal
1101 election or primary and not later than two business days before the
1102 canvass of votes] or by the town clerk, as applicable, the registrars of
1103 voters shall conduct a manual audit, or an electronic audit authorized
1104 under section 9-320g, as amended by this act, of the votes recorded in
1105 not less than five per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or
1106 municipality, whichever is applicable. For the purposes of this section,
1107 any central location used in a municipality for the counting of absentee
1108 ballots, early voting ballots or same-day election registration ballots
1109 shall be deemed a voting district. Such manual or electronic audit shall
1110 be noticed in advance and be open to public observation. Any election
1111 official who participates in the administration and conduct of an audit
1112 pursuant to this section shall be compensated by the municipality at the
1113 standard rate of pay established by such municipality for elections or
1114 primaries, as the case may be.

1115 (b) The voting districts subject to an audit described in subsection (a)
1116 of this section shall be selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of
1117 the State and such selection process shall be open to the public. The
1118 offices subject to an audit pursuant to this section shall be, (1) [in the
1119 case of an election where the office of presidential elector is on the ballot,
1120 all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional

1121 office selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State, but in
1122 no case less than three offices, (2) in the case of an election where the
1123 office of Governor is on the ballot, all offices required to be audited by
1124 federal law, plus one additional office selected in a random drawing by
1125 the Secretary of the State, but in no case less than three offices, (3)] in the
1126 case of a municipal election, three offices or twenty per cent of the
1127 number of offices on the ballot, whichever is greater, selected at random
1128 by the municipal clerk, and [(4)] (2) in the case of a primary, [election,]
1129 all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional
1130 office, if any, but in no event less than twenty per cent of the offices on
1131 the ballot, selected in a random drawing by the municipal clerk.

1132 (c) If a selected voting district has an office that is subject to recanvass
1133 or an election or primary contest pursuant to any provision of the
1134 general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall select an alternative
1135 district, pursuant to the process described in subsection (b) of this
1136 section.

1137 (d) The manual or electronic audit described in subsection (a) of this
1138 section shall consist of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper
1139 ballots cast and counted by each voting tabulator subject to such audit.
1140 Once complete, the vote totals established pursuant to such manual or
1141 electronic tabulation shall be compared to the results reported by the
1142 voting tabulator on the day of the election or primary. The results of
1143 such manual or electronic tabulation shall be reported on a form
1144 prescribed by the Secretary of the State which shall include the total
1145 number of ballots counted, the total votes received by each candidate in
1146 question, the total votes received by each candidate in question on
1147 ballots that were properly completed by each voter and the total votes
1148 received by each candidate in question on ballots that were not properly
1149 completed by each voter. Such [report] reported results shall be filed
1150 with the Secretary, [of the State] who shall immediately forward such
1151 [report] reported results to The University of Connecticut for analysis.
1152 The University of Connecticut shall [file] submit to the Secretary a
1153 written report [with the Secretary of the State] regarding such analysis

1154 that describes any discrepancies identified. After receipt of such written
1155 report, the Secretary [of the State shall file such report with] shall
1156 transmit a copy of such written report to the State Elections Enforcement
1157 Commission.

1158 (e) For the purposes of this section, a ballot that has not been properly
1159 completed will be deemed to be a ballot on which (1) votes have been
1160 marked by the voter outside the vote targets, (2) votes have been marked
1161 by the voter using a manual marking device that cannot be read by the
1162 voting tabulator, or (3) in the judgment of the registrars of voters, the
1163 voter marked the ballot in such a manner that the voting tabulator may
1164 not have read the marks as votes cast.

1165 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-311, as amended by
1166 this act, the Secretary of the State shall order a discrepancy recanvass of
1167 the returns of an election or primary for any office if a discrepancy, as
1168 defined in subsection (o) of this section, exists where the margin of
1169 victory in the race for such office is less than the amount of the
1170 discrepancy multiplied by the total number of voting districts where
1171 such race appeared on the ballot, provided in a year in which the
1172 Secretary of the State is a candidate for an office on the ballot and that
1173 office is subject to an audit as provided by this section, the State
1174 Elections Enforcement Commission shall order a discrepancy recanvass
1175 if a discrepancy, as defined by subsection (o) of this section, has
1176 occurred that could affect the outcome of the election or primary for
1177 such office.

1178 (g) If the written report submitted by The University of Connecticut
1179 [report described in] under subsection (d) of this section indicates that a
1180 voting tabulator failed to record votes accurately and in the manner
1181 provided by [the general statutes] this title, the Secretary of the State
1182 shall require that the voting tabulator be examined and recertified by
1183 the Secretary, [of the State,] or the Secretary's designee. Nothing in this
1184 subsection shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary [of the State] from
1185 requiring that a voting tabulator be examined and recertified.

1186 (h) The audit [report filed] results reported to the Secretary of the
1187 State pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public
1188 inspection and may be used as prima facie evidence of a discrepancy in
1189 any contest arising pursuant to chapter 149 or for any other cause of
1190 action arising from such election or primary.

1191 (i) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the manual or electronic
1192 count from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the
1193 electronic vote tabulation and discrepancies from the election or
1194 primary, the Secretary of the State shall conduct such further
1195 investigation of the voting tabulator malfunction as may be necessary
1196 for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to decertify the voting
1197 tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the voting tabulator to be
1198 examined and recertified [pursuant to] in accordance with subsection
1199 (g) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary [of the State] as
1200 a result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections
1201 Enforcement Commission and the commission may initiate such further
1202 investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of
1203 section 9-7b, as amended by this act, as may be required to determine if
1204 any violations of the general statutes concerning election law have been
1205 committed.

1206 (j) The individual paper ballots used at an election or primary shall
1207 be carefully preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in
1208 accordance with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310, [whichever
1209 is] as applicable.

1210 (k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any
1211 candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to
1212 chapter 149.

1213 (l) After an election or primary, any voting tabulator may be kept
1214 locked for a period longer than that prescribed by sections 9-266, 9-310
1215 and 9-447, if such an extended period is ordered by [either] a court of
1216 competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of the State or the State Elections

1217 Enforcement Commission. [Either the] Such court or the Secretary [of
1218 the State] may order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted
1219 by such persons as the court or the Secretary of the State may designate,
1220 provided the State Elections Enforcement Commission may order such
1221 an audit under the circumstances prescribed in subsection (f) of this
1222 section. If the machine utilized in such election or primary is an optical
1223 scan voting system, such order to lock such machine shall include the
1224 tabulator, memory card and all other components and processes utilized
1225 in the programming of such machine.

1226 (m) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
1227 with the provisions of chapter 54, [as may be necessary] for the conduct
1228 of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper ballots described in
1229 subsection (a) of this section and to establish guidelines for expanded
1230 audits when there are differences between the manual or electronic
1231 counts from the audit described in subsection (a) of this section and
1232 tabulator counts from the election or primary.

1233 (n) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
1234 Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine
1235 whenever any problem is discovered as a result of an audit described in
1236 subsection (a) of this section.

1237 (o) As used in this section: [, "discrepancy"]

1238 (1) "Discrepancy" means any difference in vote totals between
1239 tabulator counts from an election or primary and manual or electronic
1240 counts from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section in a
1241 voting district that exceeds one-half of one per cent of the lesser amount
1242 of the vote totals between such tabulator counts and such manual or
1243 electronic counts where such differences cannot be resolved through an
1244 accounting of ballots that were not marked properly in accordance with
1245 subsection (e) of this section; [, "state election" means "state election", as
1246 defined in section 9-1, "municipal election"]

1247 (2) "Municipal election" means a municipal election held pursuant to

1248 section 9-164, as amended by this act; [, "manual"]

1249 (3) "Manual" means by hand and without the assistance of electronic
1250 equipment; and ["electronic"]

1251 (4) "Electronic" means through the use of equipment described in
1252 section 9-320g, as amended by this act.

1253 Sec. 35. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) Except in the case of a
1254 recanvass subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, not
1255 later than seventy-two hours after the close of the polls at each state
1256 election, as defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes:

1257 (1) The election officials in each polling place shall create a ballot
1258 manifest for such polling place in accordance with procedures
1259 prescribed by the Secretary of the State; and

1260 (2) The absentee ballot counters in each central counting location shall
1261 create a ballot manifest for such central counting location in accordance
1262 with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

1263 (b) Not later than twenty-four hours after the completion of any
1264 recanvass conducted at a state election in a voting district, the recanvass
1265 officials shall create a ballot manifest for such district in accordance with
1266 procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

1267 (c) All ballot manifest creation procedures shall be open to public
1268 observation.

1269 (d) Immediately after a ballot manifest has been created pursuant to
1270 this section, the moderator shall submit such ballot manifest to the
1271 registrars of voters.

1272 Sec. 36. Section 9-323 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1273 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1274 Any elector or candidate who claims that he or she is aggrieved by

1275 any ruling of any election official in connection with any election for
1276 presidential electors and for a senator in Congress and for
1277 representative in Congress or any of them, held in his or her town, or
1278 that there was a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such election
1279 for candidates for such electors, senator in Congress and representative
1280 in Congress, or any of them, at any voting district in his or her town, or
1281 any candidate for such an office who claims that he or she is aggrieved
1282 by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive,
1283 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the casting of absentee
1284 ballots at such election, may bring his or her complaint to any judge of
1285 the Supreme Court, in which he or she shall set out the claimed errors
1286 of such election official, the claimed errors in the count or the claimed
1287 violations of said sections. In any action brought pursuant to the
1288 provisions of this section, the complainant shall file a certification
1289 attached to the complaint indicating that a copy of the complaint has
1290 been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the State Elections
1291 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such
1292 election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on
1293 the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the
1294 Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission.
1295 If such complaint is made subsequent to the election, it shall be brought
1296 not later than fourteen days after the election or, if such complaint is
1297 brought in response to [the manual tabulation of paper ballots
1298 authorized] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended
1299 by this act, or section 32 of this act, such complaint shall be brought not
1300 later than seven days after the close of any such [manual tabulation]
1301 audit, and in either such circumstance, the judge shall forthwith order a
1302 hearing to be had upon such complaint, upon a day not more than five
1303 or less than three days from the making of such order, and shall cause
1304 notice of not less than three or more than five days to be given to any
1305 candidate or candidates whose election may be affected by the decision
1306 upon such hearing, to such election official, to the Secretary of the State,
1307 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission and to any other party
1308 or parties whom such judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time

1309 and place for the hearing upon such complaint. Such judge, with two
1310 other judges of the Supreme Court to be designated by the Chief Court
1311 Administrator, shall, on the day fixed for such hearing and without
1312 unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient reason is
1313 shown, such judges may order any voting tabulators to be unlocked or
1314 any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes cast, including
1315 absentee ballots, to be made. Such judges shall thereupon, in the case
1316 they, or any two of them, find any error in the rulings of the election
1317 official, any mistake in the count of such votes or any violation of said
1318 sections, certify the result of their finding or decision, or the finding or
1319 decision of a majority of them, to the Secretary of the State before the
1320 first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December. Such judges
1321 may order a new election or a change in the existing election schedule,
1322 provided such order complies with Section 302 of the Help America
1323 Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time. Such certificate of
1324 such judges, or a majority of them, shall be final upon all questions
1325 relating to the rulings of such election officials, to the correctness of such
1326 count and, for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations,
1327 and shall operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding
1328 officers so as to conform to such finding or decision.

1329 Sec. 37. Section 9-324 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1330 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1331 Any elector or candidate who claims that such elector or candidate is
1332 aggrieved by any ruling of any election official in connection with any
1333 election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State
1334 Treasurer, Attorney General, State Comptroller or judge of probate, held
1335 in such elector's or candidate's town, or that there has been a mistake in
1336 the count of the votes cast at such election for candidates for said offices
1337 or any of them, at any voting district in such elector's or candidate's
1338 town, or any candidate for such an office who claims that such candidate
1339 is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-
1340 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the
1341 casting of absentee ballots at such election or any candidate for the office

1342 of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State
1343 Treasurer, Attorney General or State Comptroller, who claims that such
1344 candidate is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-700
1345 to 9-716, inclusive, may bring such elector's or candidate's complaint to
1346 any judge of the Superior Court, in which such elector or candidate shall
1347 set out the claimed errors of such election official, the claimed errors in
1348 the count or the claimed violations of said sections. In any action
1349 brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the complainant shall
1350 send a copy of the complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the
1351 complaint by hand, to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If
1352 such complaint is made prior to such election, such judge shall proceed
1353 expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint and shall cause
1354 notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the State and the
1355 State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made
1356 subsequent to the election, it shall be brought not later than fourteen
1357 days after the election or, if such complaint is brought in response to
1358 [the manual tabulation of paper ballots authorized] an audit conducted
1359 pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section 32 of this
1360 act, such complaint shall be brought not later than seven days after the
1361 close of any such [manual tabulation] audit and, in either such
1362 circumstance, such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon
1363 such complaint, upon a day not more than five nor less than three days
1364 from the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than
1365 three nor more than five days to be given to any candidate or candidates
1366 whose election may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to
1367 such election official, the Secretary of the State, the State Elections
1368 Enforcement Commission and to any other party or parties whom such
1369 judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing
1370 upon such complaint. Such judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing
1371 and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient
1372 reason is shown, such judge may order any voting tabulators to be
1373 unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes
1374 cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. Such judge shall thereupon,
1375 in case such judge finds any error in the rulings of the election official,

1376 any mistake in the count of the votes or any violation of said sections,
1377 certify the result of such judge's finding or decision to the Secretary of
1378 the State before the fifteenth day of the next succeeding December. Such
1379 judge may order a new election or a change in the existing election
1380 schedule. Such certificate of such judge of such judge's finding or
1381 decision shall be final and conclusive upon all questions relating to
1382 errors in the rulings of such election officials, to the correctness of such
1383 count, and, for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations,
1384 and shall operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding
1385 officers, so as to conform to such finding or decision, unless the same is
1386 appealed from as provided in section 9-325.

1387 Sec. 38. Section 9-328 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1388 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1389 Any elector or candidate claiming to have been aggrieved by any
1390 ruling of any election official in connection with an election for any
1391 municipal office or a primary for justice of the peace, or any elector or
1392 candidate claiming that there has been a mistake in the count of votes
1393 cast for any such office at such election or primary, or any candidate in
1394 such an election or primary claiming that he is aggrieved by a violation
1395 of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a,
1396 as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such
1397 election or primary, may bring a complaint to any judge of the Superior
1398 Court for relief therefrom. In any action brought pursuant to the
1399 provisions of this section, the complainant shall send a copy of the
1400 complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the complaint by hand,
1401 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is
1402 made prior to such election or primary, such judge shall proceed
1403 expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint and shall cause
1404 notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the State and the
1405 State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made
1406 subsequent to such election or primary, it shall be brought not later than
1407 fourteen days after such election or primary, except that if such
1408 complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of paper

1409 ballots, authorized] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as
1410 amended by this act, or section 32 of this act, such complaint shall be
1411 brought not later than seven days after the close of any such [manual
1412 tabulation] audit, to any judge of the Superior Court, in which he shall
1413 set out the claimed errors of the election official, the claimed errors in
1414 the count or the claimed violations of said sections. Such judge shall
1415 forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such complaint, upon a day
1416 not more than five nor less than three days from the making of such
1417 order, and shall cause notice of not less than three nor more than five
1418 days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose election or
1419 nomination may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to such
1420 election official, the Secretary of the State, the State Elections
1421 Enforcement Commission and to any other party or parties whom such
1422 judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing
1423 upon such complaint. Such judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing
1424 and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient
1425 reason is shown, he may order any voting tabulators to be unlocked or
1426 any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes cast, including
1427 absentee ballots, to be made. Such judge shall thereupon, if he finds any
1428 error in the rulings of the election official or any mistake in the count of
1429 the votes, certify the result of his finding or decision to the Secretary of
1430 the State before the tenth day succeeding the conclusion of the hearing.
1431 Such judge may order a new election or primary or a change in the
1432 existing election schedule. Such certificate of such judge of his finding
1433 or decision shall be final and conclusive upon all questions relating to
1434 errors in the ruling of such election officials, to the correctness of such
1435 count, and, for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations,
1436 and shall operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding
1437 officers, so as to conform to such finding or decision, except that this
1438 section shall not affect the right of appeal to the Supreme Court and it
1439 shall not prevent such judge from reserving such questions of law for
1440 the advice of the Supreme Court as provided in section 9-325. Such
1441 judge may, if necessary, issue his writ of mandamus, requiring the
1442 adverse party and those under him to deliver to the complainant the

1443 appurtenances of such office, and shall cause his finding and decree to
1444 be entered on the records of the Superior Court in the proper judicial
1445 district.

1446 Sec. 39. Subsection (a) of section 9-329a of the general statutes is
1447 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
1448 *1, 2027*):

1449 (a) Any (1) elector or candidate aggrieved by a ruling of an election
1450 official in connection with any primary held pursuant to (A) section 9-
1451 423, 9-425 or 9-464, or (B) a special act, (2) elector or candidate who
1452 alleges that there has been a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such
1453 primary, or (3) candidate in such a primary who alleges that he is
1454 aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-
1455 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the
1456 casting of absentee ballots at such primary, may bring his complaint to
1457 any judge of the Superior Court for appropriate action. In any action
1458 brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the complainant shall
1459 file a certification attached to the complaint indicating that a copy of the
1460 complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the State
1461 Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to
1462 such primary such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render
1463 judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be
1464 given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement
1465 Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to such primary it
1466 shall be brought, not later than fourteen days after such primary, or if
1467 such complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of
1468 paper ballots, described in] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-
1469 320f, as amended by this act, or section 32 of this act, such complaint
1470 shall be brought, not later than seven days after the close of any such
1471 [manual tabulation] audit, to any judge of the Superior Court.

1472 Sec. 40. Subsection (b) of section 9-3 of the general statutes, as
1473 amended by section 89 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following
1474 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1475 (b) During any municipal, state or federal election, primary or
1476 recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as
1477 amended by this act, or section 32 of this act, the Secretary of the State
1478 may issue an order, whether orally or in writing, to any registrar of
1479 voters or moderator to correct any irregularity or impropriety in the
1480 conduct of such election, primary or recanvass or audit. Any such order
1481 shall be effective upon issuance. As soon as practicable after issuance of
1482 an oral order pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall reduce such
1483 order to writing, cite within such order any applicable provision of law
1484 authorizing such order and cause a copy of such written order to be
1485 delivered to the individual who is the subject of such order or, in the
1486 case that such order was originally issued in writing, issue a subsequent
1487 written order that conforms to such requirements. The Superior Court,
1488 on application of the Secretary or the Attorney General, may enforce by
1489 appropriate decree or process any such order issued pursuant to this
1490 subsection.

1491 Sec. 41. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 9-229 of the general
1492 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1493 (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1494 (3) The duties of each regional election advisor shall include, but not
1495 be limited to: (A) Holding the instructional sessions described in
1496 subdivision (2) of this subsection; (B) communicating with registrars of
1497 voters to assist, to the extent permitted under law, in preparations for
1498 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit
1499 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section
1500 32 of this act; and (C) transmitting any order issued by the Secretary of
1501 the State, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-3, as amended by this
1502 act.

1503 Sec. 42. Subsection (a) of section 9-229b of the general statutes is
1504 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
1505 *1, 2027*):

1506 (a) Any regional council of governments organized under the
1507 provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, may appoint a regional
1508 election advisor, who shall represent, consult with and act on behalf of
1509 such regional council of governments and any combination of regional
1510 councils of governments or member towns of regional councils of
1511 governments that may seek the assistance of such regional election
1512 advisor. A regional election advisor shall consult and coordinate with
1513 the Secretary of the State to provide such assistance in preparations for
1514 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit
1515 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section
1516 32 of this act.

1517 Sec. 43. Section 9-320g of the general statutes is repealed and the
1518 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1519 Notwithstanding any provision of this title, the Secretary of the State,
1520 in consultation and coordination with The University of Connecticut,
1521 may authorize the use of electronic equipment for the purpose of
1522 conducting any audit required pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended
1523 by this act, [for any primary or general election held on or after January
1524 1, 2016] or section 32 of this act, provided (1) the Secretary of the State
1525 prescribes specifications for (A) the testing, set-up and operation of such
1526 equipment, and (B) the training of election officials in the use of such
1527 equipment; and (2) the Secretary of the State and The University of
1528 Connecticut agree that such equipment is sufficient in quantity to
1529 accommodate the total number of audits to be conducted. Nothing in
1530 this section shall preclude any candidate or elector from seeking
1531 additional remedies pursuant to chapter 149 as a result of any
1532 information revealed by such process.

1533 Sec. 44. (*Effective January 1, 2027*) The Secretary of the State shall
1534 establish a pilot program for the conduct of risk-limiting audits at
1535 municipal elections in 2027. The Secretary shall randomly select three
1536 municipalities for participation in such pilot program, provided the
1537 Secretary shall select: (1) One municipality with a population of less

1538 than twenty thousand; (2) one municipality with a population of twenty
1539 thousand or greater, but less than ninety thousand; and (3) one
1540 municipality with a population of ninety thousand or greater. For the
1541 purposes of this section, "risk-limiting audit" has the same meaning as
1542 provided in section 32 of this act and "population" means the estimated
1543 number of people according to the most recent version of the State
1544 Register and Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90 of the general
1545 statutes.

1546 Sec. 45. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the 2026
1547 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
1548 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1549 (1) To make investigations on its own initiative or with respect to
1550 statements filed with the commission by the Secretary of the State, any
1551 town clerk or any registrar of voters or upon written complaint under
1552 oath by any individual, with respect to alleged violations of any
1553 provision of the general statutes relating to any election or referendum
1554 or of any regulation adopted thereunder, any primary held pursuant to
1555 section 9-423, 9-425 or 9-464 or any primary held pursuant to a special
1556 act, and to hold hearings when the commission deems necessary to
1557 investigate violations of any provisions of the general statutes relating
1558 to any such election, primary or referendum or of any regulation
1559 adopted thereunder, and for the purpose of such hearings the
1560 commission may administer oaths, examine witnesses and receive oral
1561 and documentary evidence, and shall have the power to subpoena
1562 witnesses under procedural rules the commission shall adopt, to compel
1563 their attendance and to require the production for examination of any
1564 books and papers which the commission deems relevant to any matter
1565 under investigation or in question. Until the commission determines
1566 that it is necessary to investigate a violation, commission members and
1567 staff shall keep confidential any information concerning a complaint or
1568 preliminary investigation, except upon request of the treasurer, deputy
1569 treasurer, chairperson or candidate affiliated with a committee that is
1570 the subject of the complaint or preliminary investigation. In connection

1571 with its investigation of any alleged violation of any provision of
 1572 chapter 145, or of any provision of section 9-359 or section 9-359a, the
 1573 commission shall also have the power to subpoena any municipal clerk
 1574 and to require the production for examination of any absentee ballot,
 1575 inner and outer envelope from which any such ballot has been removed,
 1576 depository envelope containing any such ballot or inner or outer
 1577 envelope as provided in sections 9-150a and 9-150b and any other
 1578 record, form or document as provided in section 9-150b, in connection
 1579 with the election, primary or referendum to which the investigation
 1580 relates. In case of a refusal to comply with any subpoena issued
 1581 pursuant to this subsection or to testify with respect to any matter upon
 1582 which that person may be lawfully interrogated, the superior court for
 1583 the judicial district of Hartford, on application of the commission, may
 1584 issue an order requiring such person to comply with such subpoena and
 1585 to testify; failure to obey any such order of the court may be punished
 1586 by the court as a contempt thereof. In any matter under investigation
 1587 which concerns the operation or inspection of or outcome recorded on
 1588 any voting tabulator, the commission may issue an order to the
 1589 registrars of voters to impound such tabulator until the investigation is
 1590 completed;

1591 Sec. 46. Section 9-192b of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 1592 *October 1, 2026*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-135
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-137
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-140(k) to (o)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-153a
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-369a
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-369c(b)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-163aa(a)(4)(B)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-164(a)(1)(A)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section

Sec. 10	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-258
Sec. 11	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-190b
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-364a(a)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-311
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-311a
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-311b
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	9-23l
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	9-23m
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-374
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-140(g)
Sec. 23	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-140e(a)
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-153e
Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-153f
Sec. 26	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-158e
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-140b(a)
Sec. 28	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-158g
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-140b(c)(2)(A)
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-409(a) and (b)
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	7-22
Sec. 32	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 33	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-320(a)
Sec. 34	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-320f
Sec. 35	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 36	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-323
Sec. 37	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-324
Sec. 38	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-328
Sec. 39	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-329a(a)
Sec. 40	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-3(b)
Sec. 41	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-229(b)(3)
Sec. 42	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-229b(a)
Sec. 43	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-320g
Sec. 44	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 45	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-7b(a)(1)
Sec. 46	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) remove the statutory restrictions on eligibility for absentee voting, (2) allow municipalities to provide by charter for quadrennial municipal elections, (3) authorize the Secretary of the State to recommend changes to procedures for in-person voter registration of disabled individuals, (4) permit assistant municipal clerks running for municipal clerk to perform their official duties on the day of an election, (5) provide for jointly temporarily relieving the registrars of voters of a municipality, (6) allow for Attorney General involvement in matters relating to subpoenas, warrants, other requests and alleged interference at elections, (7) permit the use of high-speed voting tabulators for recanvasses, (8) replace certain references to the Federal Election Commission with references to the Election Assistance Commission, (9) allow seventeen-year-olds who will attain the age of eighteen by the day of an election to vote early or by absentee at such election, (10) address applicability and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance of party rules filed with the Secretary, (11) provide for electronic ballot delivery and return for certain absentee voters, (12) amend the retrieval requirement for absentee ballots from drop boxes, (13) modify the availability time of primary petitions for certain municipal candidates, (14) amend the reasons for which, and the process by which, municipal clerks may be removed from office, (15) amend deadlines for the submission of municipal election returns and the conduct of post-election audits, (16) implement the recommendations of the risk-limiting audits working group, (17) authorize the State Elections Enforcement Commission to also investigate violations of elections-related regulations and not just violations of elections-related statutes, and (18) repeal a training requirement for registrars of voters.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]