



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5530

LCO No. 2801



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF ABSENTEE BALLOT ACCESS
IN UNCONSOLIDATED CITIES AND BOROUGHES WITHIN A TOWN.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study absentee ballot access in certain cities and boroughs in the state
3 that are unconsolidated with the towns within which such cities or
4 boroughs are respectively located. The task force shall examine the
5 feasibility of, and obstacles to, allowing voters in any such
6 unconsolidated city or town to apply for an absentee ballot through the
7 online application system established and maintained by the Secretary
8 of the State pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-140 of the general
9 statutes for an election, primary or referendum held in such
10 unconsolidated city or town.

11 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

12 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
13 one of whom shall be the town clerk of a town within which all or part
14 of an unconsolidated city or borough is located;

15 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
16 whom shall be the clerk of an unconsolidated city or borough;

17 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
18 Representatives;

19 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
20 a registrar of voters of a town within which all or part of an
21 unconsolidated city or borough is located;

22 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
23 Representatives;

24 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
25 a registrar of voters of a town within which all or part of an
26 unconsolidated city or borough is located;

27 (7) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;

28 (8) One appointed by the Secretary, who shall be an attorney with
29 expertise in the election laws of the state; and

30 (9) The director of the Center for Voting Technology Research at The
31 University of Connecticut, or the director's designee.

32 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
33 (2), (3) or (5) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
34 General Assembly.

35 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
36 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
37 be filled by the appointing authority.

38 (e) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee, shall be the
39 chairperson of the task force. Such chairperson shall schedule the first
40 meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days
41 after the effective date of this section.

42 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
43 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections
44 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

45 (g) Not later than January 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report
46 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
47 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
48 elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
49 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
50 submits such report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To study obstacles to allowing a voter in an unconsolidated city or borough within a town to be able to apply for an absentee ballot through the Secretary of the State's online application system for an election, primary or referendum held for such unconsolidated city or borough.

[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.]