



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5531

LCO No. 2810



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING FAITHFUL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

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

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

12 (2) If a political party's nominee for President or Vice President dies
13 or withdraws as a candidate in accordance with such political party's
14 rules prior to the meeting of presidential electors under section 9-176 of
15 the general statutes, as amended by this act, the pledge executed under

16 subsection (a) of this section shall apply to such political party's
17 successor nominee.

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

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 Section 9-176 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

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

47 presidential elector that he or she is replacing was pledged.

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

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

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

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

77 (f) (1) After all electoral college ballots of all presidential electors of

78 the state have been accepted as cast, the Secretary of the State shall
79 furnish six duplicate originals of the certificate of ascertainment of
80 appointment of presidential electors previously issued and transmitted
81 by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-315, as amended
82 by this act, or an amended version of such certificate prepared pursuant
83 to subsection (g) of this section, as applicable, to the presidential
84 electors. The Secretary shall then assist such presidential electors with
85 preparing, signing and transmitting the six certificates of votes required
86 under 3 USC Sections 9 to 11, inclusive, as amended from time to time,
87 and annexing to all certificates of votes the duplicate originals of the
88 most recent version of the certificate of ascertainment described in this
89 subdivision.

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

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

111 (3) transmit, in the most expeditious method available, such amended
112 certificate to the Archivist of the United States.

113 (h) Any presidential elector who fails to mark his or her electoral
114 college ballots consistent with the pledge he or she has executed under
115 section 1 of this act or subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, as
116 applicable, shall be ineligible upon such failure and thereafter to the
117 office of presidential elector.

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

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

135 (b) For the purposes of the Electoral Count Reform Act of 2022, P.L.
136 117-328, Div. P, Title I, as amended from time to time, the Secretary of
137 the State shall be the executive of the state responsible for issuing a
138 certificate of ascertainment of appointment of presidential electors and,
139 immediately after such issuance, transmitting such certificate to the
140 Archivist of the United States. In preparing such certificate, the
141 Secretary shall specify in the text thereof that (1) the presidential electors

142 appointed under subsection (a) of this section will serve as such unless
143 a vacancy occurs in the presidential electors of the state before the
144 conclusion of the meeting held under section 9-176, as amended by this
145 act, in which case an eligible person shall be chosen to fill such vacancy
146 in accordance with the provisions of said section, and (2) if an eligible
147 person is chosen to fill such a vacancy, the Secretary shall issue an
148 amended certificate of ascertainment of appointment of presidential
149 electors, stating the names comprising the final list of presidential
150 electors of the state, and shall transmit such amended certificate to the
151 Archivist of the United States.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require candidates for presidential electors, as part of their candidacy filings or registrations, to execute pledges to vote for the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates associated with such filings or registrations, and (2) modify the process by which meetings of presidential electors are conducted in order to ensure votes are cast consistent with such pledges.

[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.]