



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Substitute Bill No. 393



**AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES
DUE TO THE DEATH OF CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 9-211 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (a) In case of a vacancy in the office of senator in Congress, the
5 Governor, except as otherwise provided by federal or state law, shall,
6 not more than ten days after the occurrence of such vacancy, issue writs
7 of election directed to the town clerks or assistant town clerks ordering
8 an election to be held on the one hundred fiftieth day after the issue of
9 such writs on a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, to fill such
10 vacancy for the remaining portion of the term vacated, provided (1)
11 except as provided in subdivisions (2), (3) and (4) of this subsection, if
12 such a vacancy occurs due to the death of the senator in Congress, the
13 Governor shall issue such writs not less than seven days after such
14 occurrence and not more than seventeen days after such occurrence, (2)
15 except as provided in subdivisions [(2) and (3)] (3) and (4) of this
16 subsection, if such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-
17 fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or
18 municipal election in November of any year, the Governor shall so issue
19 such writs that order an election to be held on the day of such regular
20 election, [(2)] (3) except as provided in subdivision [(3)] (4) of this

21 subsection, if such vacancy occurs after the municipal election in the
22 year preceding the last year of the term of a senator or in the last year of
23 the term of a senator, the Governor shall nominate a person to fill such
24 vacancy and such nomination shall be filed with both the clerk of the
25 Senate and the clerk of the House of Representatives. Approval of such
26 nomination shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the
27 membership of each chamber of the General Assembly, or ~~[(3)]~~ (4) if
28 such a vacancy occurs in the year of a state election and not more than
29 sixty-two days prior to such election, and the office of senator in
30 Congress for which the vacancy exists will be on the ballot during such
31 election, the Governor shall not issue such writs and no election shall be
32 held under this section. If the position vacated is that of member-elect,
33 the Governor shall so issue writs and an election shall be held as
34 provided in this section.

35 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 9-212 of the general statutes is
36 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
37 *1, 2026*):

38 (a) In case of a vacancy in the office of representative in Congress
39 from any district, the Governor, except as otherwise provided by law,
40 shall not more than ten days after the occurrence of such vacancy issue
41 writs of election directed to the town clerks or assistant town clerks, in
42 such district, ordering an election to be held on the sixtieth day after the
43 issue of such writs on a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, to fill such
44 vacancy, provided (1) except as provided in subdivisions (2), (3) and (4)
45 of this subsection, if such a vacancy occurs due to the death of the
46 representative in Congress, the Governor shall issue such writs not less
47 than seven days after such occurrence and not more than seventeen days
48 after such occurrence, (2) if such a vacancy occurs between the one
49 hundred twenty-fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a
50 regular state or municipal election in November of any year, the
51 Governor shall so issue such writs on the sixtieth day before the day of
52 such regular election, ordering an election to be held on the day of such
53 regular election, [(2)] (3) if such a vacancy occurs after the sixty-third
54 day before the day of a regular state election but before the regular state

55 election, the Governor shall not issue such writs and no election shall be
56 held under this section, unless the position vacated is that of member-
57 elect, in which case the Governor shall issue such writs and an election
58 shall be held as provided in this section, and [(3)] (4) if a primary for
59 such office occurs pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section
60 9-450, the Governor shall, within ten days following the filing of a
61 candidacy for nomination by a person other than the party-endorsed
62 candidate, issue new writs of election, in place of those first issued
63 pursuant to this section.

64 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 9-215 of the general statutes is
65 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
66 *1, 2026*):

67 (b) [When any such vacancy occurs, except as provided in this
68 section] Except as otherwise provided in this section, not later than ten
69 days after the occurrence of any such vacancy, or not earlier than seven
70 days and not later than seventeen days after such occurrence if due to
71 the death of the member or member-elect, the Governor shall [, within
72 ten days after its occurrence,] issue writs of election, directed to the town
73 clerks or assistant town clerks in the several towns in the district in
74 which the vacancy exists, ordering an election to be held therein on the
75 forty-sixth day after the issue of such writs to fill such vacancy, and
76 cause them to be conveyed to such town clerks or assistant town clerks.
77 No such election shall be held on a Saturday or Sunday. If such a
78 vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-fifth day and the forty-
79 ninth day before the day of a regular state or municipal election in
80 November of any year, the Governor shall so issue such writs on the
81 forty-sixth day before the day of such regular election, ordering an
82 election to be held on the day of such regular election. If such a vacancy
83 occurs after the forty-ninth day before the day of a regular state election
84 but before the Wednesday following the first Monday of January of the
85 next-succeeding year, the Governor shall not issue such writs and no
86 election shall be held under this section, unless the position vacated is
87 that of member-elect, in which case the Governor shall issue such writs
88 and an election shall be held as provided in this section.

89 Sec. 4. Section 9-218 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is
90 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
91 *1, 2026*):

92 [When] Except as otherwise provided in this section, when there is
93 no election of probate judge in any district by reason of two or more
94 having an equal and the highest number of votes, or when a new
95 probate district is created and no provision made for the election of a
96 judge thereof, or whenever it is shown to the Governor that a vacancy is
97 about to exist in said office by reason of the resignation of the incumbent
98 to take effect at a future time or by reason of constitutional limitation, or
99 when there is a vacancy in said office, the Governor may issue writs of
100 election directed to the town clerk or clerks or assistant town clerk or
101 clerks within such district, ordering an election to be held on a day
102 named therein, other than a Saturday or Sunday, to fill such vacancy or
103 impending vacancy, and cause such writs to be conveyed to such clerk
104 or clerks. If such a vacancy occurs due to the death of the probate judge,
105 the Governor shall issue such writs not less than seven days after such
106 occurrence. On receiving such writs, such clerk or clerks shall warn
107 elections to be held on the day appointed in such writs, in the same
108 manner as state elections are warned. Such elections shall be organized
109 and conducted, and the vote shall be declared and returns made,
110 certified, directed, deposited and transmitted, in the same manner as at
111 a state election. The Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller
112 shall, within thirty days after any such election, count and declare the
113 votes so returned, and notice shall be given to the person declared
114 elected, in the same manner as is provided in the election of probate
115 judges at state elections. The Secretary of the State shall enter the returns
116 in tabular form in books kept by him for that purpose and present a copy
117 of the same, with the name of, and the total number of votes received
118 by, each of the candidates for said office, to the Governor within ten
119 days thereafter. The Probate Court Administrator shall cite a probate
120 judge to act as a judge in the district during any vacancy in said office
121 in accordance with section 45a-120.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-211(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-212(a)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-215(b)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-218

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
The provisions of Section 3 were rewritten for clarity.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*