



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 491**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NO-EXCUSE  
ABSENTEE VOTING.**

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 Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 from passage*):

3 [(a)] Any elector eligible to vote at a primary or an election and any  
4 person eligible to vote at a referendum may vote by absentee ballot, [if  
5 such elector or person is unable to appear at such elector's or person's  
6 polling place on the day of such primary, election or referendum for any  
7 of the following reasons: (1) Such elector's or person's active service with  
8 the armed forces of the United States; (2) such elector's or person's  
9 absence from the town of such elector's or person's voting residence; (3)  
10 sickness; (4) physical disability; (5) the tenets of such elector's or person's  
11 religion forbid secular activity on the day of such primary, election or  
12 referendum; or (6) the required performance of such elector's or person's  
13 duties as a primary, election or referendum official, including as a town  
14 clerk or registrar of voters or as staff of the clerk or registrar, at a polling  
15 place other than such elector's or person's own during all of the hours  
16 of voting at such primary, election or referendum] provided such elector  
17 properly completes and submits an absentee ballot application in  
18 accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

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 Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 from passage*):

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

28 "I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee  
29 balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum  
30 in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast, [and that I  
31 expect to be unable to appear at my polling place on the day of such  
32 primary, election or referendum for one or more of the following  
33 reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my absence from  
34 the town in which I am eligible to vote; (3) sickness; (4) physical  
35 disability; (5) the tenets of my religion which forbid secular activity on  
36 the day of such primary, election or referendum; or (6) my duties as a  
37 primary, election or referendum official.]

38 Date ....

39 .... (Signature)

40 .... (Printed name)"

41 (b) Each such return envelope shall also be endorsed on the outside  
42 with the words "OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT" and bear a label  
43 generated by the state-wide centralized voter registration system  
44 described in section 9-50b. Such label shall include (1) (A) the name and  
45 return address of the sender, (B) the applicant's name and voting  
46 residence by street and number, (C) the applicant's voting district, (D)  
47 the ballot style, (E) the unique ballot identification number, appearing  
48 both in a text format and as a scannable barcode, and (F) the date of the

49 primary, election or referendum at which the ballot is to be cast and, if  
50 the absentee ballot is to be cast at a primary, the name of the party  
51 holding the primary, and (2) a notice, sufficient to warn any person  
52 handling the ballot, of the restrictions set forth in section 9-140b, as  
53 amended by this act, concerning who may possess or return the ballot  
54 and the restrictions and penalties set forth in section 9-359 concerning  
55 the completion or execution of absentee ballots. The clerk shall also  
56 inscribe such clerk's official address for the return of the ballot on the  
57 return envelope prior to issuance of the ballot and return envelope.

58       Sec. 3. Section 9-139a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
59 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
60 *passage*):

61       (a) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish the following  
62 materials to municipal clerks: The absentee ballot facsimile, the  
63 application for absentee ballot authorized for use at each election or  
64 primary, the [inner envelope, the outer] envelope provided for the  
65 return of the ballot to the municipal clerk, the instructions for the use of  
66 the absentee ballot and the envelope for mailing of such forms by the  
67 clerk to the absentee ballot applicant.

68       (b) The application for absentee ballot shall be in the form of a  
69 statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee  
70 balloting. Each application shall contain (1) spaces for the signature  
71 under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting of any person  
72 who assists the applicant in the completion of an application together  
73 with the information required in section 9-140, as amended by this act,  
74 (2) spaces for the signature and the printed or typed name of the  
75 applicant, and (3) a clear and conspicuous notation of the year for which  
76 such application's use is authorized.

77       (c) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish to the  
78 Department of Correction an application for absentee ballot form for use  
79 within Department of Correction facilities. Such form shall contain  
80 spaces for all information required under subsection (b) of this section.

81 Each such form shall be consecutively numbered and shall indicate that  
82 such form is only for use by an absentee ballot applicant who is  
83 incarcerated in a Department of Correction facility and that such  
84 applicant is required to provide in the appropriate space on such form  
85 a mailing address at the Department of Correction facility in order for  
86 an absentee ballot to be mailed to such applicant.

87 (d) The instructions for the use of the absentee ballot shall be in plain  
88 language and shall include the steps to be taken if a vote is to be  
89 cancelled or changed, and shall also contain a simple and concise  
90 restatement of the provisions of subsection [(l)] (k) of section 9-150a, as  
91 amended by this act, [and section 9-159o] concerning rejection of ballots  
92 marked in such manner as to identify the voters casting them, [, and  
93 withdrawal of ballots by persons who find they are able to vote at the  
94 polls.]

95 (e) A sufficient supply of such instructions and envelopes shall be  
96 printed to supply the number which the municipal clerk requests or the  
97 Secretary of the State deems sufficient.

98 Sec. 4. Section 9-140 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is  
99 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
100 *passage*):

101 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, application  
102 for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of the municipality in  
103 which the applicant is eligible to vote or has applied for such eligibility.  
104 Any person who assists another person in the completion of an  
105 application shall, in the space provided, sign the application and print  
106 or type [his] such person's name, residence address and telephone  
107 number, except that any employee of the Department of Correction who  
108 so assists an incarcerated applicant shall provide the address and  
109 telephone number of the department facility to which such employee is  
110 assigned in lieu of such employee's residence address and telephone  
111 number. Such signature shall be made under the penalties of false  
112 statement in absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not invalidate

113 the application solely because it does not contain the name of a person  
114 who assisted the applicant in the completion of the application. The  
115 municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee ballot application  
116 any material which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate or  
117 referendum question. The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all  
118 absentee ballot applications provided under this subsection, including  
119 the name and address of each person to whom applications are  
120 provided and the number of applications provided to each such person.  
121 Each absentee ballot application provided by the municipal clerk shall  
122 [be consecutively numbered] display a unique ballot identification  
123 number and be stamped or marked with the name of the municipality  
124 issuing the application. The application shall be signed by the applicant  
125 under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting on (A) the  
126 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-139a,  
127 as amended by this act, (B) a form provided by any federal department  
128 or agency if applicable pursuant to section 9-153a, or (C) any of the  
129 special forms of application prescribed pursuant to section 9-150c, 9-  
130 153a, 9-153b, as amended by this act, 9-153d, 9-153e, 9-153f or 9-158d, if  
131 applicable. Any such absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write  
132 may cause the application to be completed by an authorized agent who  
133 shall, in the spaces provided for the date and signature, write the date  
134 and name of the absentee ballot applicant followed by the word "by"  
135 and [his] such authorized agent's own signature. If the ballot is to be  
136 mailed to the applicant, the applicant shall list the bona fide personal  
137 mailing address of the applicant in the appropriate space on the  
138 application.

139 (2) A municipal clerk may transmit an application to a person under  
140 this subsection by facsimile machine or other electronic means, if so  
141 requested by the applicant. If a municipal clerk has a facsimile machine  
142 or other electronic means, an applicant may return a completed  
143 application to the clerk by such a machine or device, provided the  
144 applicant shall also mail the original of the completed application to the  
145 clerk, either separately or with the absentee ballot that is issued to the  
146 applicant. If the clerk does not receive such original application by the

147 close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum, the  
148 absentee ballot shall not be counted.

149 (3) No municipal clerk shall provide, for an election, primary or  
150 referendum, five or more absentee ballot applications to any person  
151 earlier than ninety days prior to the first day of issuance of absentee  
152 voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of this section, for such election,  
153 primary or referendum.

154 (4) No municipal clerk shall provide or accept for return, and no  
155 person shall [distribute or otherwise] use, any absentee ballot  
156 application in a given year unless such application contains the notation  
157 described in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 9-139a, as  
158 amended by this act, authorizing such application's use in such year.

159 (b) On and after July 1, 2021:

160 (1) Application for an absentee ballot may also be made to the  
161 Secretary of the State through an online system established and  
162 maintained by the Secretary for such purpose if an applicant's signature  
163 is in a database described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k, or the system  
164 described in section 9-4c, and such signature may be imported into such  
165 online application system.

166 (2) In order for an application for an absentee ballot to be submitted  
167 through the online system described in subdivision (1) of this  
168 subsection, the applicant's signature shall be obtained from a database  
169 described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k, or the system described in  
170 section 9-4c, and the applicant shall, on an online form prescribed by the  
171 Secretary, (A) type [his or her] such applicant's name, (B) indicate the  
172 municipality in which such applicant is eligible to vote or has applied  
173 for such eligibility, and (C) mark a box associated with the following  
174 statement:

175 "By clicking on the box below, I swear or affirm all of the following  
176 under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting:

177 1. I am the person whose name is provided on this form, and I desire  
178 to apply for an absentee ballot.

179 2. I am eligible to vote in the municipality provided on this form or  
180 have applied for such eligibility.

181 3. I authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles or other Connecticut  
182 state agency to transmit to the Connecticut Secretary of the State my  
183 signature that is on file with such agency and understand that such  
184 signature will be used by the Secretary on this online application for an  
185 absentee ballot as if I had signed this form personally."

186 (3) Not later than twenty-four hours after receipt of any submitted  
187 application for an absentee ballot through the online system described  
188 in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Secretary shall transmit such  
189 application to the clerk of the municipality indicated in such application.

190 (c) The municipal clerk shall check the name of each absentee ballot  
191 applicant against the last-completed registry list and any updated  
192 registry lists on file in the municipal clerk's office. If the name of such  
193 applicant does not appear on any of such lists, the clerk shall send such  
194 applicant a notice, in a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, to  
195 the effect that (1) the applicant's name did not appear on the list of  
196 electors of the municipality at the time the application was processed,  
197 and (2) unless the applicant is admitted or restored as an elector of the  
198 municipality by the applicable cutoff dates, an absentee ballot will not  
199 be mailed to [him] such applicant. Such notice shall not be so mailed if,  
200 prior to the mailing of the notice, the registrars provide the clerk with  
201 reliable information showing the absentee ballot applicant to be an  
202 elector of the municipality.

203 (d) (1) An absentee voting set shall consist of (A) the mailing envelope  
204 containing all other items of such set and used to issue such set to the  
205 applicant, (B) an absentee ballot, [inner and outer envelopes] (C) an  
206 envelope for [its] the ballot's return, (D) instructions for [its] the ballot's  
207 use, and (E) if applicable, explanatory texts concerning ballot questions,  
208 as provided for in sections 2-30a and 9-369b, as amended by this act.

209       (2) No other material shall be included with an absentee voting set  
210 issued to an applicant, except (A) as provided in sections 9-153e and 9-  
211 153f, [or] (B) where necessary to correct an error or omission as provided  
212 in section 9-153c, as amended by this act, or (C) any voting information  
213 as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the State, provided no such  
214 voting information shall promote the success or defeat of any candidate  
215 or question.

216       (e) Upon receipt of an application, the municipal clerk shall, unless a  
217 notice is mailed to the applicant pursuant to subsection (c) of this  
218 section, [write the serial number of the outer] ensure the unique ballot  
219 identification number appearing on the return envelope included in the  
220 absentee voting set to be issued to the applicant matches the unique  
221 identification number displayed on the application form in the space  
222 provided for [that purpose on the application form. Sets shall be issued  
223 to applicants in consecutive ascending numerical order of the envelope  
224 serial numbers, and] such purpose. As absentee voting sets are issued to  
225 applicants, the clerk shall keep a list of the unique ballot identification  
226 numbers [indicating beside each number] and shall indicate beside each  
227 unique ballot identification number on the list the name of the applicant  
228 to whom [that set] the absentee voting set corresponding with such  
229 unique ballot identification number was issued. The list shall be  
230 preserved as a public record as required by section 9-150b, as amended  
231 by this act.

232       (f) Absentee voting sets shall be issued beginning on the thirty-first  
233 day before an election and the twenty-first day before a primary or, if  
234 such day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, beginning on the next  
235 preceding business day.

236       (g) On the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets, the municipal  
237 clerk shall mail an absentee voting set to each applicant whose  
238 application was received by the clerk prior to that day. When the clerk  
239 receives an application during the time period in which absentee voting  
240 sets are to be issued, [he] the clerk shall mail an absentee voting set to  
241 the applicant [,] within twenty-four hours, unless the applicant submits

242 [his] such applicant's application in person at the office of the clerk and  
243 [asks] requests to be given [his] such applicant's absentee voting set  
244 immediately, in which case the clerk shall comply with the request. Any  
245 absentee voting set to be mailed to an applicant shall be mailed to the  
246 bona fide personal mailing address shown on the application. If an  
247 applicant has provided a mailing address at a Department of Correction  
248 facility and such applicant is subsequently transferred to another  
249 Department of Correction facility, the Commissioner of Correction shall  
250 ensure delivery of the absentee voting set to such applicant. Issuance of  
251 absentee voting sets shall also be subject to the provisions of subsection  
252 (c) of this section, section 9-150c [and section 9-159q] concerning persons  
253 designated to deliver or return ballots in cases involving unforeseen  
254 illness or disability and section 9-159q, as amended by this act,  
255 concerning supervised voting at certain health care institutions.

256 (h) No absentee ballot shall be issued on the day of an election or  
257 primary, or after the opening of the polls on the day of a referendum,  
258 except in cases involving unforeseen illness or disability [or presidential  
259 or overseas ballots] as provided in section 9-150c and presidential or  
260 overseas ballots as provided in sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive.

261 (i) The municipal clerk shall file executed applications in alphabetical  
262 order according to the applicants' surnames. Such applications shall be  
263 preserved as a public record as required by section 9-150b, as amended  
264 by this act.

265 (j) No person shall pay or give any compensation to another, and no  
266 person shall accept any compensation, solely for (1) distributing  
267 absentee ballot applications obtained from a municipal clerk or the  
268 Secretary of the State, or (2) assisting any other person in the execution  
269 of an absentee ballot.

270 (k) (1) A person shall register with the municipal clerk before  
271 distributing five or more absentee ballot applications for an election,  
272 primary or referendum, not including applications distributed to such  
273 person's immediate family. Such requirement shall not apply to a person

274 who is the designee of an applicant or to any employee of the  
275 Department of Correction who provides the application for absentee  
276 ballot form prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a, as  
277 amended by this act, to one or more incarcerated absentee ballot  
278 applicants.

279 (2) The municipal clerk shall reject the application of any absentee  
280 ballot applicant made upon the form prescribed under subsection (c) of  
281 section 9-139a, as amended by this act, if such form indicates any  
282 address other than an address at a Department of Correction facility.  
283 The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all applications of  
284 incarcerated absentee ballot applicants received by such municipal  
285 clerk, which log shall indicate the name and address of each applicant,  
286 the date of receipt of each application and the date such municipal clerk  
287 mailed the absentee ballot to such applicant or the reason why such  
288 application was rejected.

289 (3) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications shall  
290 maintain a list of the names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot  
291 applicants who receive such applications, and shall file such list with  
292 the municipal clerk prior to the date of the primary, election or  
293 referendum for which the applications were so distributed, except that  
294 such requirements shall not apply to any employee of the Department  
295 of Correction who provides the application for absentee ballot form  
296 prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a, as amended by this  
297 act, to incarcerated absentee ballot applicants. Any person who  
298 distributes absentee ballot applications and receives an executed  
299 application shall forthwith file the application with the municipal clerk.

300 (l) No candidate, party or political committee, or agent of such  
301 candidate or committee shall mail or deliver unsolicited applications for  
302 absentee ballots to any person, unless such [mailing includes]  
303 committee or agent includes with such mailing or delivery: (1) A written  
304 [explanation of the eligibility requirements for voting by absentee ballot  
305 as prescribed in subsection (a) of section 9-135] disclaimer that such  
306 mailing or delivery was (A) paid for by such committee or agent, and

307 (B) in the case of a candidate committee, approved by the applicable  
308 candidate, and (2) a written [warning that voting or attempting to vote  
309 by absentee ballot without meeting one or more of such eligibility  
310 requirements subjects the elector or applicant to potential civil and  
311 criminal penalties] explanation of the various ways an absentee ballot  
312 may be returned, as provided in subsection (a) of section 9-140b, as  
313 amended by this act. As used in this subsection, "agent" means any  
314 person authorized to act on behalf of another person.

315 (m) The Secretary of the State shall conspicuously post on the  
316 Secretary of the State's web site, adjacent to the absentee ballot  
317 application form available for downloading, a notice that the  
318 application may be downloaded by a person only for (1) the person's  
319 own use, (2) the use of a member of the person's immediate family, or  
320 (3) the use of a designee of the applicant. The notice shall also contain  
321 an advisory statement concerning the requirements of subsection (k) of  
322 this section.

323 (n) The State Elections Enforcement Commission, in consultation  
324 with the Secretary of the State, shall prepare a summary of the  
325 requirements and prohibitions of the absentee voting laws, which shall  
326 be posted on said agencies' web sites. Candidates and political party  
327 chairpersons shall provide such summary to campaign and party  
328 employees and volunteers.

329 (o) As used in this section, (1) "immediate family" has the same  
330 meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section 9-140b, as amended by  
331 this act, and (2) "designee" has the same meaning as provided in  
332 subsection (b) of section 9-140b, as amended by this act.

333 Sec. 5. Section 9-140a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
334 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

335 Each absentee ballot applicant shall sign the form on the [inner]  
336 return envelope provided for in section 9-137, as amended by this act,  
337 which shall constitute a statement under the penalties of false statement  
338 in absentee balloting. Any absentee ballot applicant who is unable to

339 write may cause [his] such applicant's name to be signed on the form by  
340 an authorized agent who shall, in the space provided for the signature,  
341 write the name of the applicant followed by the word "by" and [his] such  
342 authorized agent's own signature. The failure of the applicant or  
343 authorized agent to date the form shall not invalidate the ballot. The  
344 ballot shall be inserted in the [inner envelope, and the inner envelope  
345 shall be inserted in the outer] return envelope [,] prior to the return of  
346 the ballot to the municipal clerk. If an applicant is required to return  
347 identification with the ballot pursuant to the Help America Vote Act,  
348 P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time, the municipal clerk shall  
349 provide to the applicant an additional envelope preaddressed to the  
350 municipal clerk for the return of such applicant's identification, which  
351 envelope may be postage prepaid, and the applicant shall return such  
352 identification [shall be inserted in the outer envelope so such  
353 identification can be viewed without opening the inner envelope] to the  
354 municipal clerk in such additional envelope.

355 Sec. 6. Section 9-140b of the general statutes, as amended by section  
356 88 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
357 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

358 (a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or  
359 referendum only if: (1) [It] Such ballot is mailed by (A) the ballot  
360 applicant, (B) a designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot  
361 because of illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the  
362 immediate family of an applicant who is a student, so that [it] the ballot  
363 is received by the clerk of the municipality in which the applicant is  
364 qualified to vote not later than the close of the polls; (2) [it] such ballot  
365 is returned by the applicant in person to [the] such clerk by the day  
366 before the election or primary or prior to the opening of the polls on the  
367 day of the referendum; (3) [it] such ballot is returned by a designee of  
368 an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant, in person, to [said] such  
369 clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election,  
370 primary or referendum; (4) [it] such ballot is returned by a member of  
371 the immediate family of the [absentee voter] applicant, in person, to  
372 [said] such clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the

373 election, primary or referendum; (5) in the case of a presidential or  
374 overseas ballot, [it] such ballot is mailed or otherwise returned pursuant  
375 to the provisions of section 9-158g, as amended by this act; or (6) [it] such  
376 ballot is returned with the proper identification as required by the Help  
377 America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time, if  
378 applicable, [inserted in the outer envelope so such identification can be  
379 viewed without opening the inner envelope] in accordance with the  
380 provisions of section 9-140a, as amended by this act. A person returning  
381 an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or  
382 (4) of this subsection shall present identification and, on the [outer]  
383 return envelope of the absentee ballot, sign [his] such person's name in  
384 the presence of the municipal clerk [,] and indicate [his] such person's  
385 address [, his] and relationship to the voter or [his] position [,] and the  
386 date and time of such return. An absentee ballot shall be deemed cast  
387 when it is received and accepted by the municipal clerk in accordance  
388 with the provisions of this subsection, provided the statement on the  
389 return envelope for such absentee ballot is signed by the applicant. As  
390 used in this section, "immediate family" means a dependent relative  
391 who resides in the individual's household or any spouse, child, parent  
392 or sibling of the individual.

393 (b) As used in this section and section 9-150c, "designee" means (1) a  
394 person who is caring for the applicant because of the applicant's illness  
395 or physical disability, including, but not limited to, a licensed physician  
396 or a registered or practical nurse, (2) a member of the applicant's family,  
397 who is designated by an absentee ballot applicant and who consents to  
398 such designation, or (3) a police officer, registrar of voters, deputy  
399 registrar of voters or assistant registrar of voters in the municipality in  
400 which the applicant resides.

401 (c) (1) For purposes of this section, "mailed" means (A) sent by the  
402 United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or  
403 messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the  
404 State, or (B) deposited in a secure drop box designated by the municipal  
405 clerk for such purpose, in accordance with instructions prescribed by  
406 the Secretary.

407 (2) (A) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B)  
408 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the first day of  
409 issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section  
410 9-140, as amended by this act, and on each [weekday] business day  
411 thereafter until the close of the polls at the election, primary or  
412 referendum, including at the close of the polls at such election, primary  
413 or referendum, the municipal clerk shall retrieve from the secure drop  
414 box described in said subparagraph each such ballot deposited in such  
415 drop box.

416 (B) On and after July 1, 2025, each municipality shall provide a video  
417 recording device for each secure drop box described in subparagraph  
418 (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection within such municipality, which  
419 device's recordings shall capture the location of such drop box and  
420 evidence the date and time of each such recording beginning on the first  
421 day of issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of  
422 section 9-140, as amended by this act, and until the last retrieval of  
423 absentee ballots from such drop box at the close of the polls at the  
424 election or primary. Each such recording shall, as soon as practicable, be  
425 made publicly available from the date of recording, but in no case later  
426 than five days after such last retrieval. Each such recording shall be  
427 retained by the municipality for a period of twelve months and may be  
428 destroyed at the end of such period, except that the State Elections  
429 Enforcement Commission or a court of competent jurisdiction may  
430 order that such period be extended until the conclusion of any  
431 investigation related to such recording.

432 (3) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
433 with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning the use of secure drop  
434 boxes for the deposit of absentee ballots, including, but not limited to,  
435 the placement and positioning of any such drop box and the video  
436 recording of any such drop box and retention of any such recording.

437 (d) No person shall have in [his] such person's possession any official  
438 absentee ballot or ballot envelope for use at any primary, election or  
439 referendum except the applicant to whom it was issued, the Secretary of

440 the State or [his or her] the Secretary's authorized agents, any official  
441 printer of absentee ballot forms and [his] such printer's designated  
442 carriers, the United States Postal Service, any other carrier, courier or  
443 messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the  
444 State, any person authorized by a municipal clerk to receive and process  
445 official absentee ballot forms on behalf of the municipal clerk, any  
446 authorized primary, election or referendum official or any other person  
447 authorized by any provision of the general statutes to possess a ballot or  
448 ballot envelope.

449 (e) No (1) candidate, or (2) agent of a candidate, political party or  
450 committee, as defined in section 9-601, shall knowingly be present when  
451 an absentee ballot applicant executes an absentee ballot, except when  
452 (A) [when] the candidate or agent is (i) a member of the immediate  
453 family of the applicant, or (ii) authorized by law to be present, or (B)  
454 [when] the absentee ballot is executed in the office of the municipal clerk  
455 and the municipal clerk or an employee of the municipal clerk is a  
456 candidate or agent.

457 Sec. 7. Section 9-140c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
458 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

459 (a) (1) The municipal clerk shall retain the return envelopes  
460 containing absentee ballots received by [him] such clerk under section  
461 9-140b, as amended by this act, and shall not open such return  
462 envelopes. [The] As the municipal clerk receives each absentee ballot,  
463 such clerk shall first make a record, for the purposes of subdivision (3)  
464 of this subsection, of each return envelope on which the applicant did  
465 not sign the statement and shall then endorse over [his] such clerk's  
466 signature [,] upon each [outer] return envelope [as he receives it,] (A)  
467 the date and precise time of its receipt, and (B) the method of its receipt,  
468 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.  
469 The clerk shall make an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of all such  
470 endorsements [, and at the close of the polls] and shall deliver such  
471 affidavit at the close of the polls to the head moderator, who shall  
472 endorse the time of its receipt and return it to the clerk after all counting

473 is complete. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for one hundred eighty  
474 days in accordance with the requirements of section 9-150b, as amended  
475 by this act. The clerk shall keep a list of the names of the applicants who  
476 return absentee ballots to the clerk under section 9-140b, as amended by  
477 this act. The list shall be preserved as a public record as required by  
478 section 9-150b, as amended by this act.

479 (2) The municipal clerk shall record on the [outer] return envelope of  
480 each absentee ballot [returned] received by such clerk under section 9-  
481 140b, as amended by this act, whether such absentee ballot was (A) sent  
482 by the United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or  
483 messenger service, (B) deposited in a secure drop box, in which case the  
484 location of such drop box shall also be so recorded, (C) returned in  
485 person by an elector, or (D) returned in person by the designee or  
486 immediate family member of an elector. As soon as reasonably  
487 practicable after the close of the polls at an election or primary, the  
488 municipal clerk shall submit to the Secretary of the State a report  
489 detailing the total count of all absentee ballots returned for such election  
490 or primary, broken down by each method described in subparagraphs  
491 (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision.

492 (3) (A) If the municipal clerk receives an absentee ballot without the  
493 statement on the return envelope signed by the applicant, such absentee  
494 ballot may be cured in person at the municipal clerk's office beginning  
495 on the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in  
496 subsection (f) of section 9-140, as amended by this act, and until the close  
497 of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum. After such  
498 close of the polls, no such absentee ballot may be cured.

499 (B) In the case of any absentee ballot described in subparagraph (A)  
500 of this subdivision, the municipal clerk shall use best efforts to contact  
501 the affected voter as soon as possible, but in no case later than twenty-  
502 four hours after receiving the absentee ballot, for the purpose of curing  
503 such ballot pursuant to said subparagraph. During the period beginning  
504 twenty-four hours prior to the closing of the polls and until such closing  
505 of the polls, the municipal clerk shall use best efforts to contact the

506 affected voter for such purpose immediately upon receiving the  
507 absentee ballot. The municipal clerk's best efforts shall include, but need  
508 not be limited to, contacting the affected voter by (i) calling the  
509 telephone number or numbers listed on the voter's absentee ballot  
510 application and voter registration, if the voter has provided any, and (ii)  
511 sending an electronic mail to the electronic mail address listed on the  
512 voter's absentee ballot application and voter registration, if the voter has  
513 provided any. If the voter has provided neither a telephone number nor  
514 an electronic mail address, the municipal clerk shall exercise discretion  
515 in attempting to contact the voter by other means.

516 (b) (1) Beginning [not earlier than the seventh day before the election,  
517 primary or referendum] the day after the first day of issuance of  
518 absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-140, as  
519 amended by this act, and on any weekday thereafter, all absentee ballots  
520 received by the municipal clerk at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of [such  
521 day] the day of the election, primary or referendum may be sorted into  
522 voting districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in this  
523 subsection. On any such day, beginning as soon as the ballots have been  
524 sorted, the registrars of voters, without opening the [outer] return  
525 envelopes, may check the names of the applicants returning ballots on  
526 the official checklist to be used at the election, primary or referendum  
527 by indicating "absentee" or "A" preceding each such name and, if  
528 unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the  
529 primary of either of two parties, the designation of the party in which  
530 the applicants are voting preceding each such name. Unless absentee  
531 ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places, pursuant to  
532 subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the registrars shall also place such  
533 indication on a duplicate checklist to be retained by the municipal clerk  
534 until the municipal clerk delivers such duplicate checklist to the  
535 registrars, in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, for the use  
536 of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

537 (2) All absentee ballots received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of  
538 the last day before the election, primary or referendum which is not a  
539 Sunday or legal holiday, shall be sorted into voting districts by the

540 municipal clerk and checked as provided in subdivision (1) of this  
541 subsection not later than such last day.

542 (c) If the name of the applicant returning the ballot is not on the  
543 official checklist for any polling place in such municipality, the  
544 registrars shall endorse on the face of [such outer] the return envelope  
545 the word "rejected", followed by a statement of the reasons for rejection,  
546 and [the outer] such return envelope shall not be opened [or the ballot]  
547 nor shall such ballot be counted.

548 (d) After such checking has been completed on any such day, the  
549 municipal clerk shall seal the unopened ballots in a package and retain  
550 them in a safe place.

551 (e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, ballots  
552 received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. on the last day before the  
553 election, primary or referendum shall be delivered by the municipal  
554 clerk to the registrars [between ten o'clock a.m. and twelve o'clock noon]  
555 not later than seven o'clock a.m. on the day of the election, [or] primary  
556 [and at twelve o'clock noon on the day of a] or referendum. Unless  
557 absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places,  
558 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the municipal clerk shall  
559 also deliver to the registrars at this time the duplicate checklist provided  
560 for in subsection (b) of this section, for the use of the absentee ballot  
561 counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

562 (2) [The] In the case of a special election or referendum, the municipal  
563 clerk may deliver [the] such ballots at a time that is later than [the time  
564 provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection] seven o'clock a.m. on the  
565 day of such special election or referendum, provided such time is  
566 mutually agreed upon by the municipal clerk and registrars and is not  
567 later than [eight] four o'clock p.m. on the day of [the election, primary]  
568 such special election or referendum.

569 (f) Absentee ballots timely received by the municipal clerk after  
570 eleven o'clock a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or  
571 referendum shall be sorted into voting districts by the clerk and retained

572 by the clerk separately until delivered to the registrars of voters for  
573 checking.

574 (g) Any or all of such ballots received after eleven o'clock a.m. of such  
575 last day before an election, primary or referendum and before six o'clock  
576 p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall, upon  
577 request of the registrars, be delivered to the registrars by the municipal  
578 clerk at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or  
579 referendum for checking, or at a later time mutually agreed upon by the  
580 clerk and registrars, provided such time is not later than eight o'clock  
581 p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.

582 (h) Absentee ballots received after six o'clock p.m. on the day of the  
583 election, primary or referendum and any ballots received prior to six  
584 o'clock p.m. of such day which were not delivered earlier shall be  
585 delivered to the registrars at the close of the polls for checking. Although  
586 absentee ballots shall be checked by the registrars [of voters] at various  
587 times throughout the election, primary or referendum day, absentee  
588 ballots may be counted at one single time during such day.

589 (i) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the absentee  
590 ballot counters, upon receipt of the ballots delivered by the municipal  
591 clerk to the registrars at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election,  
592 primary or referendum and at the close of the polls pursuant to  
593 subsections (g) and (h) of this section, shall check the names of the  
594 applicants returning ballots on the duplicate checklist in the same  
595 manner as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

596 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,  
597 the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m.  
598 on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall be called in to  
599 the appropriate polling places where they shall be checked by the  
600 checkers on the official checklists, and they shall also be checked by the  
601 absentee ballot counters on the duplicate checklist required under  
602 subsection (b) of this section.

603 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place

604 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the names of applicants  
605 whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the  
606 election, primary or referendum shall be checked by the absentee ballot  
607 counters and checkers at such polling place on the official checklist used  
608 at such polling place.

609 (3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,  
610 the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at the close of the  
611 polls shall be checked by the absentee ballot counters on the official  
612 checklists used at the polling places and such official checklists, bearing  
613 the certifications required by section 9-307, shall be delivered by the  
614 registrars or assistant registrars to the central counting moderator for  
615 that purpose.

616 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place  
617 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the official checklist used at  
618 such polling place shall remain in such polling place for checking by the  
619 absentee ballot counters at such polling place.

620 (4) If the name of an applicant returning a ballot has been checked on  
621 the official checklist as having voted in person, the absentee ballot  
622 counters shall, in checking the ballots, endorse on the face of the [outer]  
623 return envelope the word "rejected" followed by a statement of the  
624 reason for rejection, and [the outer] such return envelope shall not be  
625 opened [or the ballot] nor shall such ballot be counted.

626 (5) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,  
627 when central counting is completed and the result is announced, the  
628 central counting moderator shall deliver the duplicate checklist, the  
629 official checklists and the returns required by section 9-150b, as  
630 amended by this act, to the head moderator.

631 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place  
632 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, and such counting is  
633 completed and the result for such polling place is announced, the  
634 moderator for such polling place shall deliver the official checklist used  
635 at such polling place and the return required by section 9-150b, as

636 amended by this act, to the head moderator.

637 (j) Each time absentee ballots are delivered by the clerk to the  
638 registrars pursuant to this section, the clerk and registrars shall execute  
639 an affidavit of delivery and receipt stating the number of ballots  
640 delivered. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for the period prescribed  
641 in section 9-150b, as amended by this act.

642 (k) The absentee ballot counters shall count, in the manner provided  
643 in section 9-150a, as amended by this act, each group of absentee ballots  
644 upon receipt from the registrars.

645 (l) The municipal clerk shall retain all [outer] return envelopes  
646 containing absentee ballots received by [him] such clerk after the close  
647 of the polls, unopened, for the period prescribed in section 9-150b, as  
648 amended by this act.

649 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The office of the Secretary of the  
650 State shall develop and install integrated ballot-tracking software with  
651 the state-wide centralized voter registration system described in section  
652 9-50b of the general statutes, for use by electors who vote by absentee  
653 ballot. Such software shall, at a minimum, permit the elector to track (1)  
654 when the municipal clerk has received and accepted the elector's  
655 absentee ballot application, (2) when the municipal clerk's office has  
656 mailed the absentee ballot set to the elector, (3) when the absentee ballot  
657 set has been delivered to the elector, (4) when the absentee ballot being  
658 returned by the elector has been delivered to the municipal clerk, and  
659 (5) whether the elector's returned absentee ballot has been accepted,  
660 requires curing pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section  
661 9-140c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or has been  
662 rejected.

663 Sec. 9. Section 9-140e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
664 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

665 (a) Any elector who [is permanently physically disabled or suffering  
666 from a long-term illness and who files an application for an absentee

667 ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that  
668 such elector is permanently physically disabled or suffering from a long-  
669 term illness and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated  
670 polling location, shall be eligible for] files an application for an absentee  
671 ballot may simultaneously request permanent absentee ballot status, in  
672 a space provided on such application for such purpose. Each elector  
673 granted permanent absentee ballot status [and shall receive] shall be  
674 issued an absentee ballot for each election, primary or referendum  
675 conducted in such elector's municipality for which such elector is  
676 eligible to vote. Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status shall  
677 remain in effect until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official  
678 registry list of the municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee  
679 ballot status [pursuant to] in accordance with the provisions of  
680 subsection (b) of this section, or (3) requests [that he or she] in writing  
681 to the registrar of voters that such elector no longer receive such  
682 permanent absentee ballot status.

683 (b) [The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each such  
684 elector with permanent absentee ballot status in January of each year,  
685 on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, for the purpose of  
686 determining if such elector continues to reside at the address indicated  
687 on the elector's permanent absentee ballot application. If such written  
688 notice is returned as undeliverable, the elector in question shall be  
689 removed from permanent absentee ballot status. If such elector indicates  
690 on such notice that the elector no longer resides at such address and the  
691 elector's new address is within the same municipality, the registrars of  
692 voters shall change the elector's address pursuant to section 9-35 and  
693 such elector shall retain permanent absentee ballot status. If the elector  
694 indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides in the  
695 municipality, the registrars of voters shall remove such individual from  
696 the registry list of the municipality and send such individual an  
697 application for voter registration. Failure to return such written notice  
698 shall not result in the removal of an elector from the official registry list  
699 of the municipality or from permanent absentee ballot status.] An  
700 elector granted permanent absentee ballot status shall be removed from

701 such status whenever (1) such elector's absentee ballot is returned as  
702 undeliverable, (2) such elector submits a change of address form for a  
703 move outside the state with the National Change of Address System of  
704 the United States Postal Service, (3) a registrar of voters of the  
705 municipality in which such elector previously resided receives  
706 information or data, used to maintain the state-wide centralized voter  
707 registration system under section 9-50c, that such elector has moved  
708 outside the state, (4) the Secretary of the State or a registrar of voters of  
709 the municipality in which such elector previously resided receives  
710 information under section 9-21 that such elector has registered to vote  
711 outside the state, or (5) such elector's name is placed on the inactive  
712 registry list compiled under section 9-35.

713 (c) The Secretary of the State shall develop and conduct a state-wide  
714 public awareness mailing, beginning as soon as practicable after the  
715 effective date of this section, to educate the public regarding changes to  
716 the absentee voting process and the availability of permanent absentee  
717 ballot status. The Secretary shall make available to each municipal clerk  
718 the materials comprising such mailing and, on and after the day such  
719 materials are so made available, each municipal clerk shall include such  
720 materials with each absentee ballot application provided by such  
721 municipal clerk in 2026.

722 Sec. 10. Section 9-150a of the general statutes, as amended by section  
723 90 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
724 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

725 (a) [The] Immediately after the opening of the polls on the day of an  
726 election, primary or referendum, the absentee ballot counters shall  
727 proceed to the central counting location or to the respective polling  
728 places when counting is to take place pursuant to subsection (b) of  
729 section 9-147a, [at the times designated by the registrars of voters.]

730 (b) At the time each group of ballots is delivered to them pursuant to  
731 section 9-140c, as amended by this act, the counters shall perform any  
732 checking of such ballots required by subsection (i) of said section and

733 shall then proceed as hereinafter provided.

734 (c) Except with respect to ballots marked "Rejected" pursuant to  
735 section 9-140c, as amended by this act, or other applicable law, the  
736 counters shall remove the [inner envelopes] absentee ballots from the  
737 [outer] return envelopes, shall note the total number of absentee ballots  
738 received and shall report such total to the moderator. They shall  
739 similarly note and separately so report the total numbers of presidential  
740 ballots and overseas ballots received pursuant to sections 9-158a to 9-  
741 158m, inclusive.

742 (d) (1) (A) If the statement on the [inner] return envelope has not been  
743 signed as required by section 9-140a, as amended by this act, such  
744 [inner] return envelope shall not be opened [or] nor shall the ballot be  
745 removed therefrom, [, and such inner envelope shall be replaced in the  
746 opened outer envelope which shall be marked "Rejected" and the reason  
747 therefor endorsed thereon by the counters.] The return envelope shall  
748 be marked "Rejected" and the reason for such rejection shall be endorsed  
749 on such return envelope by the counters.

750 (B) The moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot  
751 applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected" under subparagraph (A)  
752 of this subdivision and include thereon for each such applicant the  
753 reason for the rejection. The moderator shall transmit such log to the  
754 Secretary of the State at the same time and in the same manner as the  
755 duplicate list to be transmitted to the Secretary by electronic means in  
756 accordance with section 9-314.

757 (2) (A) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the  
758 ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r and  
759 has not met the requirements of subsection (e) of section 9-23r, as  
760 amended by this act, the counters shall replace the ballot in the opened  
761 [inner envelope, replace the inner envelope in the opened outer] return  
762 envelope and shall mark "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot" and endorse  
763 the reason for such rejection on [the outer] such return envelope, and  
764 the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot for federal offices only,

765 pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

766 (B) The moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot  
767 applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot"  
768 under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision and include thereon for  
769 each such applicant the reason for the rejection. The moderator shall  
770 transmit such log to the Secretary of the State at the same time and in  
771 the same manner as the duplicate list to be transmitted to the Secretary  
772 by electronic means in accordance with section 9-314.

773 [(e) The counters shall then remove the absentee ballots from the  
774 remaining inner envelopes.]

775 [(f)] (e) Before the ballots are counted, all opened [outer and inner]  
776 envelopes from which such ballots have been removed, and all [outer]  
777 envelopes marked "Rejected" as required by law, shall be placed and  
778 sealed by the counters, separately by voting district, in depository  
779 envelopes prescribed by the Secretary of the State and provided by the  
780 municipal clerk. The counters shall seal such depository envelopes by  
781 wrapping them lengthwise and sideways with nonreusable tape,  
782 endorse on each such envelope their names, the voting district and the  
783 time of the count, and deliver such envelopes to the moderator.

784 [(g)] (f) The counters shall then count such ballots as provided in this  
785 section. The moderator shall supervise the counting.

786 [(h)] (g) The Secretary of the State shall provide a procedure manual  
787 for counting absentee ballots. The manual shall include a description of  
788 the steps to be followed in receiving, handling, counting and preserving  
789 absentee ballots. Facsimile ballots shall be printed in the manual,  
790 illustrating potential variations in ballot markings along with the correct  
791 interpretation to be given in each situation illustrated.

792 [(i)] (h) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section the provisions  
793 of section 9-265 shall apply to write-in votes on absentee ballots at  
794 elections.

795 (2) Votes cast by absentee ballot at a primary may be counted only for  
796 candidates whose names appear on the ballot on primary day, and no  
797 write-in vote shall be counted except as provided in subdivision (3) of  
798 this subsection.

799 (3) If a write-in vote on an absentee ballot is cast for a candidate for  
800 any office whose name appears on the ballot for that office on election  
801 or primary day, such candidate's name shall be deemed to have been  
802 checked on such ballot and, except as otherwise provided in subsection  
803 [(j)] (i) of this section, one vote shall be counted and recorded for such  
804 candidate for such office.

805 (4) Except as otherwise provided in section 9-265, if the name of a  
806 registered write-in candidate for an office is written in for such office on  
807 an absentee ballot it shall be deemed validly written in for purposes of  
808 subsection [(j)] (i) of this section.

809 [(j)] (i) In the counting of absentee ballots the intent of the voter shall  
810 govern, provided the following conclusive presumptions, where  
811 applicable, shall prevail in determining such intent:

812 (1) If the names of more candidates for an office than the voter is  
813 entitled to vote for are checked or validly written in, then the vote cast  
814 for that office shall be deemed an invalid overvote.

815 (2) If the name of a candidate who has vacated [his] such candidate's  
816 candidacy is checked, such vote shall not be counted.

817 (3) On an absentee ballot on which candidates' names are printed, a  
818 vote shall be deemed cast only for each candidate whose name is  
819 individually checked or validly written in, except as otherwise provided  
820 in this subsection. If a party designation is circled, checked, underscored  
821 or similarly marked in any manner, or written in, no vote shall be  
822 deemed cast or cancelled for any candidate by virtue of such marking  
823 or writing.

824 [(k)] (j) If the intent of an absentee voter is difficult to ascertain due to

825 uncertain, conflicting or incorrect ballot markings which are not clearly  
826 addressed in this section or in the procedure manual for counting  
827 absentee ballots provided by the Secretary of the State, the absentee  
828 ballot counters shall submit the ballot and their question to the  
829 moderator. They shall then count the ballot in accordance with the  
830 moderator's decision as to the voter's intent, if such intent is  
831 ascertainable. A ballot or part of a ballot on which the intent is  
832 determined by the moderator to be not ascertainable, shall not be  
833 counted. The moderator shall endorse on the ballot the question and  
834 [his] such moderator's decision.

835 ~~[(l)]~~ [(k)] No absentee ballot shall be rejected as a marked ballot unless,  
836 in the opinion of the moderator, it was marked for the purpose of  
837 providing a means of identifying the voter who cast it.

838 ~~[(m)]~~ [(l)] After the absentee ballots have been so counted they shall be  
839 placed by the counters, separately by voting district, in depository  
840 envelopes prescribed by the Secretary of the State and provided by the  
841 municipal clerk. Any notes, worksheets, or other written materials used  
842 by the counters in counting such ballots shall be endorsed by them with  
843 their names, the date and the time of the count and shall also be placed  
844 in such depository envelopes together with the ballots, and with the  
845 separate record of the number of votes cast on such ballots for each  
846 candidate as required by section 9-150b, as amended by this act. Such  
847 depository envelopes shall then be sealed, endorsed and delivered to  
848 the moderator by the counters in the same manner as provided in  
849 subsection ~~[(f)]~~ [(e)] of this section.

850 Sec. 11. Subsections (e) to (i), inclusive, of section 9-150b of the general  
851 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
852 *(Effective from passage)*:

853 (e) The sealed depository envelopes required by subsections ~~[(f)]~~ and  
854 ~~(m)]~~ [(e)] and [(l)] of section 9-150a, as amended by this act, shall be  
855 returned by the moderator to the municipal clerk as soon as practicable  
856 on or before the day following the election, primary or referendum.

857 (f) The municipal clerk shall preserve for sixty days after the election,  
858 primary or referendum the depository envelopes containing opened  
859 envelopes and rejected ballots required by subsection [(f)] (e) of section  
860 9-150a, as amended by this act, and shall so preserve for one hundred  
861 eighty days the depository envelopes containing counted ballots and  
862 related materials required by subsection [(m)] (l) of section 9-150a, as  
863 amended by this act.

864 (g) No such depository envelope shall be opened except by order of  
865 a court of competent jurisdiction, by the State Elections Enforcement  
866 Commission pursuant to a subpoena issued under subdivision (1) of  
867 subsection (a) of section 9-7b, as amended by this act, or within five  
868 business days after an election, primary or referendum for the purpose  
869 of a recanvass conducted pursuant to law. After such a recanvass the  
870 depository envelopes and their contents shall be returned to the  
871 municipal clerk and preserved for the stated period.

872 (h) For sixty days after the election, primary or referendum the  
873 following shall be preserved by the municipal clerk as a public record  
874 open to public inspection: (1) All executed absentee ballot application  
875 forms and direction by registrar forms, as required by subsection (i) of  
876 section 9-140, as amended by this act; (2) the list and index of applicants  
877 for presidential or overseas ballots as required by section 9-158h, as  
878 amended by this act; (3) the [numerical] list of unique ballot  
879 identification numbers corresponding to absentee voting sets issued as  
880 required by subsection (e) of section 9-140, as amended by this act; (4)  
881 the list of the names of persons whose absentee ballots are received by  
882 the municipal clerk, as required by subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
883 section 9-140c, as amended by this act; (5) all unused absentee ballots;  
884 and (6) all envelopes containing ballots received by the municipal clerk  
885 after the close of the polls, which shall remain unopened.

886 (i) For one hundred eighty days after the election, primary or  
887 referendum the following shall be preserved by the municipal clerk as a  
888 public record open to public inspection: (1) The affidavit regarding the  
889 municipal clerk's endorsement of [inner] return envelopes, as required

890 by subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-140c, as amended by this  
891 act; and (2) the affidavit regarding delivery and receipt of ballots, as  
892 required by subsection (j) of [said] section 9-140c, as amended by this  
893 act.

894 Sec. 12. Section 9-153b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
895 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

896 (a) If any absentee ballot applicant applies for an additional absentee  
897 ballot, such applicant shall note on the application the reason for  
898 applying for an additional absentee ballot and shall return the absentee  
899 voting set formerly issued to such applicant before another set is issued,  
900 provided, if such applicant is unable to return such formerly issued set,  
901 such application for an additional ballot shall be accompanied by a  
902 statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee  
903 balloting in which such applicant shall note the reason for such  
904 applicant's inability to return such formerly issued set. If such applicant  
905 fails to file such a statement, no additional set shall be issued to such  
906 applicant. An application for an additional absentee ballot shall only be  
907 made by an absentee ballot applicant. Any additional absentee voting  
908 set issued under this subsection shall only be either provided in person  
909 to the applicant or mailed directly to the applicant at the bona fide  
910 mailing address designated by such applicant.

911 (b) For all absentee voting sets or portions thereof returned under  
912 subsection (a) of this section, the municipal clerk shall mark the [serially-  
913 numbered outer] return envelope "rejected" and note the reasons for  
914 rejection on all absentee ballots and envelopes so returned and shall seal  
915 all such absentee voting sets or portions thereof in a package and retain  
916 them in a safe place until delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as  
917 amended by this act. The municipal clerk shall keep a list of the names  
918 of each absentee ballot applicant who has applied for more than one  
919 absentee ballot, as provided in section 9-140, as amended by this act,  
920 together with the [serial] unique ballot identification number appearing  
921 on the [outer] return envelope of each absentee voting set issued to each  
922 such applicant.

923 (c) If more than one absentee ballot is received from any elector, the  
924 ballot of such elector last received by the municipal clerk shall be  
925 counted if no absentee ballot of such elector has already been counted.  
926 For all absentee ballots of such elector that are not counted, the  
927 municipal clerk shall mark the [serially-numbered outer] return  
928 envelopes "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection and shall deliver  
929 such ballots in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act.

930 Sec. 13. Section 9-153c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
931 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

932 (a) If a municipal clerk has omitted the name of a candidate, party or  
933 office designation, inserted an incorrect or misspelled name of a  
934 candidate, party or office designation, provided an absentee ballot  
935 applicant with a ballot which is not the correct ballot for [his] such  
936 applicant's voting district, or incorrectly imprinted or failed to imprint  
937 the designation of a state or local question on an absentee ballot in the  
938 appropriate space, and if any such omission or error is likely to mislead  
939 any voter, [he] the clerk shall, as soon as [he] such clerk becomes aware  
940 of such omission or error, promptly mail to each applicant to whom  
941 such an absentee ballot has been issued, a correct absentee ballot, the  
942 necessary envelopes for its return and instructions, a statement  
943 explaining the error or omission including the correct name or question  
944 and a copy of this section. The municipal clerk shall inform the Secretary  
945 of the State when [he] such clerk proceeds under this subsection.

946 (b) Any additional absentee voting sets issued to applicants under  
947 this section shall be issued [in consecutive ascending numerical order  
948 based upon the serial number appearing on the outer] bearing a unique  
949 ballot identification number on the envelope for return of ballots to the  
950 municipal clerk, and the clerk shall keep a record of such unique ballot  
951 identification numbers by making a notation on, or attaching a  
952 memorandum to, the applicant's original application for an absentee  
953 ballot.

954 (c) The municipal clerk shall keep a list containing the name, address

955 and voting district of each absentee ballot applicant who has been issued  
956 more than one absentee ballot under this section and the [serial] unique  
957 ballot identification number appearing on the [outer] return envelope of  
958 each absentee voting set so issued. The list shall be kept with the list  
959 required under section 9-140, as amended by this act.

960 (d) If more than one ballot is received from an applicant who has been  
961 sent a correct ballot under subsection (a) of this section, the ballot last  
962 received by the municipal clerk shall be counted if no ballot of such  
963 applicant has already been counted. For all ballots of such applicant that  
964 are not counted, the municipal clerk shall inscribe the word "rejected"  
965 and note the reasons for rejection on the [outer] return envelope and  
966 shall seal them, unopened, in a package and retain them in a safe place  
967 until delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this  
968 act.

969 Sec. 14. Section 9-158f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
970 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

971 (a) The voter, after marking [his] such voter's presidential ballot so as  
972 to express [his] such voter's choice, shall fold it so as to conceal the  
973 markings, and enclose it in [an inner] a return envelope furnished by the  
974 town clerk for such purpose. The envelope shall have imprinted upon  
975 its back a statement which shall be signed by the voter. The failure of  
976 the voter to date the statement shall not invalidate the ballot. Such  
977 statement shall be substantially as follows:

978 Certification of Presidential Voter

979 I, the undersigned, do hereby state under the penalties of false  
980 statement in absentee balloting that:

981 (1) I am qualified to vote for Presidential and Vice-Presidential  
982 electors in the town of .... Connecticut, at the presidential election to be  
983 held on November ..., 20...

984 (2) I have not applied, nor do I intend to apply, for a ballot to vote for

985 Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors at said election from any  
986 other town, city, county or state, and

987 (3) I have not voted, and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot  
988 in said presidential election.

989 Dated at ..., this ... day of ... 20...

990 .... (Signature of voter)

991 .... (Printed name of voter)

992 (b) The overseas elector, after marking [his] such elector's overseas  
993 ballot so as to express [his] such elector's choice, shall fold it so as to  
994 conceal the markings and enclose it in [an inner] a return envelope  
995 furnished by the town clerk for such purpose. The envelope shall have  
996 imprinted upon its back a statement which shall be signed by the elector.  
997 The failure of the elector to date the statement shall not invalidate the  
998 ballot. The statement shall be substantially as follows:

999 Certification of Overseas Elector

1000 I, the undersigned, do hereby state under the penalties of false  
1001 statement in absentee balloting that:

1002 (1) I am qualified to vote for candidates for federal office in the town  
1003 of ..., Connecticut, at the federal election to be held on ..., 20...

1004 (2) I have not applied, nor do I intend to apply, for a ballot to vote for  
1005 candidates for federal office at said election from any other town, city or  
1006 county in Connecticut or in any other state or election district of any  
1007 state or territory or any territory or possession of the United States.

1008 (3) I have not voted, and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot  
1009 in said federal election.

1010 Dated at ..., this ... day of ..., 20...

1011 .... (Signature of overseas elector)

1012 .... (Printed name of overseas elector)

1013 Sec. 15. Section 9-158g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1014 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1015 The voter shall sign the certification upon the [inner] return envelope,  
1016 [securely seal it, enclose it in an outer serially-numbered envelope]  
1017 insert the completed ballot in such return envelope, which shall bear a  
1018 return label displaying the unique ballot identification number both in  
1019 text format and as a scannable barcode, and return it to the municipal  
1020 clerk of the town in which [he] such voter is qualified to vote. The clerk  
1021 shall keep it in [his] the clerk's office until delivered by [him] such clerk  
1022 to the registrars of voters at the same time and in the same manner as [is  
1023 provided for absentee ballots] provided in section 9-140c, as amended  
1024 by this act. If the ballot is returned by a person other than the voter or  
1025 the United States Postal Service, the person delivering the ballot shall  
1026 sign [his] such person's name and address and indicate the date and  
1027 time of [its] such ballot's delivery on the [outer] return envelope in the  
1028 clerk's presence. The ballot, to be cast, shall be returned so that [it] such  
1029 ballot is received by the [town] clerk not later than the close of the polls  
1030 on the day of the election.

1031 Sec. 16. Section 9-158h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1032 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1033 The clerk shall prepare and keep open to public inspection a list of all  
1034 persons who have applied under sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, to  
1035 vote as presidential voters or overseas electors with their names, voting  
1036 addresses and application dates together with the [serial number]  
1037 unique ballot identification numbers of the return envelopes issued, and  
1038 shall maintain an alphabetical index of the list for a period of one  
1039 hundred eighty days after the election or primary.

1040 Sec. 17. Section 9-159p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1041 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1042 (a) Any elector may challenge the right of any person offering to vote

1043 by absentee ballot based upon false identity, disenfranchisement for  
1044 conviction of a felony or lack of bona fide residence. The failure of an  
1045 elector to challenge, pursuant to this section, the right of a person to vote  
1046 by absentee ballot shall not bar such elector from bringing an action to  
1047 contest the primary or election under section 9-323, 9-324, 9-328 or 9-  
1048 329a, based on the alleged invalidity of the absentee ballot cast at such  
1049 primary or election.

1050 (b) Challenges shall not be made indiscriminately and may only be  
1051 made if the challenger knows or reasonably believes that the right of the  
1052 person offering to vote by absentee ballot should be denied on one or  
1053 more of the grounds specified in subsection (a) of this section.

1054 (c) Challenges made concerning ballots that the municipal clerk has  
1055 not delivered to the registrars of voters for counting pursuant to sections  
1056 9-140c, as amended by this act, and 9-147a shall be made in writing to  
1057 the municipal clerk. Challenges made concerning ballots that the  
1058 municipal clerk has delivered to the registrars of voters for counting  
1059 pursuant to sections 9-140c, as amended by this act, and 9-147a shall be  
1060 made in writing to the central counting moderator or the moderator of  
1061 the polling place at which the ballot is to be counted pursuant to  
1062 subsection (b) of section 9-147a. All challenges shall be made under oath.

1063 (d) Immediately upon receipt of a challenge, the municipal clerk shall  
1064 send copies of the challenge to each registrar of voters and to the person  
1065 offering to vote by absentee ballot. The municipal clerk shall send the  
1066 copy of the challenge to the person offering to vote by first class certified  
1067 mail to the mailing address shown on the application for the absentee  
1068 ballot. The municipal clerk shall furnish copies of any written response  
1069 to the challenge to each registrar of voters. The municipal clerk shall  
1070 deliver the ballot in the [inner] return envelope, which shall not be  
1071 opened, [the serially-numbered envelope] and any other evidence  
1072 relevant to the challenge, to the registrars, who shall sign a receipt for  
1073 the same.

1074 (e) Immediately upon receipt of a challenge, the moderator shall

1075 deliver copies of the challenge to each registrar of voters. The moderator  
1076 shall also deliver, or designate another election, primary or referendum  
1077 official to deliver, the ballot in the [inner] return envelope, which shall  
1078 not be opened, [the serially-numbered envelope] and any other  
1079 evidence relevant to the challenge to the registrars, who shall sign a  
1080 receipt for the same.

1081 (f) The registrars of voters shall examine the challenge, any written  
1082 response to the challenge and any other evidence or information they  
1083 deem relevant to the challenge, including the [inner] return envelope,  
1084 which shall not be opened, and shall determine whether the challenge  
1085 should be upheld. If the registrars fail to agree that the challenge should  
1086 be upheld, it shall be deemed to have been denied.

1087 (g) The registrars of voters shall make the determination not earlier  
1088 than noon of the day of the election, primary or referendum at which  
1089 the ballot is submitted and not later than the time when the counting of  
1090 all other absentee ballots at the election, primary or referendum has  
1091 been completed.

1092 (h) The registrars of voters shall notify, in writing, the municipal clerk  
1093 and the central counting moderator, or the moderator of the polling  
1094 place at which the ballot is to be counted pursuant to subsection (b) of  
1095 section 9-147a, of their determination. If the challenge is denied, the  
1096 absentee ballot shall be delivered by the registrars to the appropriate  
1097 location for counting pursuant to law. If the challenge is upheld, the  
1098 registrars shall mark the word "rejected" on the [serially-numbered  
1099 outer] return envelope and note the reasons for rejection, and shall  
1100 return it together with all other evidence received in connection with the  
1101 challenge to the municipal clerk who shall retain the same until  
1102 delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act,  
1103 except that a challenge to a ballot which the municipal clerk has  
1104 delivered to the registrars of voters for counting pursuant to sections 9-  
1105 140c, as amended by this act, and 9-147a shall be returned to the  
1106 moderator to whom the challenge was made.

1107 (i) Within five days after the election, primary or referendum the  
1108 municipal clerk shall send to the person whose offer to vote was  
1109 challenged a copy of the written determination of the registrars and a  
1110 statement as to the disposition of the absentee ballot.

1111 Sec. 18. Subsection (g) of section 9-159q of the general statutes is  
1112 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
1113 *passage*):

1114 (g) The registrars or their designees, as the case may be, shall jointly  
1115 deliver the ballots to the respective applicants at the institution and shall  
1116 jointly supervise the voting of such ballots. The ballots shall be returned  
1117 to the registrars or their designees by the electors in the envelopes  
1118 provided and in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-137, as  
1119 amended by this act, [9-139] and 9-140a, as amended by this act. If any  
1120 elector asks for assistance in voting his ballot, two registrars or their  
1121 designees of different political parties or, for a primary, their designees  
1122 of different candidates, shall render such assistance as they deem  
1123 necessary and appropriate to enable such elector to vote his ballot. The  
1124 registrars or their designees may reject a ballot when (1) the elector  
1125 declines to vote a ballot, or (2) the registrars or their designees are unable  
1126 to determine how the elector who has requested their assistance desires  
1127 to vote the ballot. When the registrars or their designees reject a ballot,  
1128 they shall mark the [serially-numbered outer] return envelope "rejected"  
1129 and note the reasons for rejection. Nothing in this section shall limit the  
1130 right of an elector to vote his ballot in secret.

1131 Sec. 19. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the 2026  
1132 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
1133 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1134 (1) To make investigations on its own initiative or with respect to  
1135 statements filed with the commission by the Secretary of the State, any  
1136 town clerk or any registrar of voters or upon written complaint under  
1137 oath by any individual, with respect to alleged violations of any  
1138 provision of the general statutes relating to any election or referendum,

1139 any primary held pursuant to section 9-423, 9-425 or 9-464 or any  
1140 primary held pursuant to a special act, and to hold hearings when the  
1141 commission deems necessary to investigate violations of any provisions  
1142 of the general statutes relating to any such election, primary or  
1143 referendum, and for the purpose of such hearings the commission may  
1144 administer oaths, examine witnesses and receive oral and documentary  
1145 evidence, and shall have the power to subpoena witnesses under  
1146 procedural rules the commission shall adopt, to compel their attendance  
1147 and to require the production for examination of any books and papers  
1148 which the commission deems relevant to any matter under investigation  
1149 or in question. Until the commission determines that it is necessary to  
1150 investigate a violation, commission members and staff shall keep  
1151 confidential any information concerning a complaint or preliminary  
1152 investigation, except upon request of the treasurer, deputy treasurer,  
1153 chairperson or candidate affiliated with a committee that is the subject  
1154 of the complaint or preliminary investigation. In connection with its  
1155 investigation of any alleged violation of any provision of chapter 145, or  
1156 of any provision of section 9-359 or section 9-359a, as amended by this  
1157 act, the commission shall also have the power to subpoena any  
1158 municipal clerk and to require the production for examination of any  
1159 absentee ballot, [inner and outer] return envelope from which any such  
1160 ballot has been removed, depository envelope containing any such  
1161 ballot or [inner or outer] return envelope as provided in sections 9-150a,  
1162 as amended by this act, and 9-150b, as amended by this act, and any  
1163 other record, form or document as provided in section 9-150b, as  
1164 amended by this act, in connection with the election, primary or  
1165 referendum to which the investigation relates. In case of a refusal to  
1166 comply with any subpoena issued pursuant to this subsection or to  
1167 testify with respect to any matter upon which that person may be  
1168 lawfully interrogated, the superior court for the judicial district of  
1169 Hartford, on application of the commission, may issue an order  
1170 requiring such person to comply with such subpoena and to testify;  
1171 failure to obey any such order of the court may be punished by the court  
1172 as a contempt thereof. In any matter under investigation which concerns  
1173 the operation or inspection of or outcome recorded on any voting

1174 tabulator, the commission may issue an order to the registrars of voters  
1175 to impound such tabulator until the investigation is completed;

1176 Sec. 20. Subsection (e) of section 9-23r of the general statutes is  
1177 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
1178 *passage*):

1179 (e) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section does not  
1180 submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this section as  
1181 part of the individual's application for admission as an elector, and if the  
1182 individual votes by absentee ballot in an election for federal office, the  
1183 individual shall enclose in the [outer absentee ballot envelope, and not  
1184 in the inner envelope with the ballot] additional envelope provided by  
1185 the municipal clerk pursuant to section 9-140a, as amended by this act,  
1186 for the return of such applicant's identification: (1) A copy of a current  
1187 and valid photo identification, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank  
1188 statement, government check, paycheck, or other government  
1189 document that shows the name and address of the voter. If an individual  
1190 does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an election for  
1191 federal office, such [individual's] individual's absentee ballot shall be  
1192 processed in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (A) of  
1193 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-150a, as amended by this  
1194 act, and treated as a provisional ballot for federal office only, pursuant  
1195 to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

1196 Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 9-311 of the 2026 supplement to the  
1197 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1198 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1199 (b) The moderator shall determine the place or places where the  
1200 recanvass shall be conducted and, if such recanvass is held before the  
1201 tabulators are boxed and collected in the manner required by section 9-  
1202 266, the moderator may require that such recanvass of such tabulators  
1203 be conducted in each place where the tabulators are located, or the  
1204 moderator may require that such tabulators be removed to one central  
1205 place where such recanvass shall be conducted. All recanvassing

1206 procedures shall be open to public observation, subject to the provisions  
1207 of subsection (d) of this section. Such recanvass officials shall, in the  
1208 presence of such moderator and registrars of voters, make a record of  
1209 the number on the seal and the number on the protective counter, if one  
1210 is provided, on each voting tabulator specified by such moderator. Such  
1211 registrars of voters in the presence of such moderator shall turn over the  
1212 keys of each such tabulator to such recanvass officials, and such  
1213 recanvass officials, in the presence of such registrars of voters and  
1214 moderator, shall immediately proceed to recanvass the vote cast  
1215 thereon, and shall then open the package of absentee ballots and  
1216 recanvass the vote cast thereon. In the course of the recanvass of the  
1217 absentee ballot vote the recanvass officials shall check all [outer] return  
1218 envelopes for absentee ballots [against the inner envelopes for such  
1219 ballots and] against the registry list to verify postmarks, addresses and  
1220 registry list markings and also to determine whether the number of  
1221 envelopes from which absentee ballots have been removed is the same  
1222 as the number of persons checked as having voted by absentee ballot.  
1223 The write-in ballots shall also be recanvassed at this time. Any party  
1224 representative present shall have a right to view each ballot as it is being  
1225 recanvassed by the recanvass officials, so as to be able to discern the  
1226 markings on such ballot. All of the recanvass officials shall use the same  
1227 forms for tallies and returns as were used at the original canvass and the  
1228 absentee ballot counters shall also sign the tallies.

1229 Sec. 22. Section 9-359a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1230 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1231 (a) A person is guilty of false statement in absentee balloting when  
1232 [he] such person intentionally makes a false written statement in or on,  
1233 or signs the name of another person to, the application for an absentee  
1234 ballot or the [inner] return envelope accompanying any such ballot,  
1235 which [he] such person does not believe to be true and which statement  
1236 or signature is intended to mislead a public servant in the performance  
1237 of [his] such public servant's official function.

1238 (b) False statement in absentee balloting is a class D felony.

1239 Sec. 23. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
1240 section 9-369b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
1241 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1242 (B) Each such explanatory text shall be prepared by the municipal  
1243 clerk and shall specify the intent and purpose of each such proposal or  
1244 question. Such explanatory text shall not advocate either the approval  
1245 or disapproval of the proposal or question. The municipal clerk shall  
1246 cause such question or proposal and such explanatory text to be printed  
1247 in sufficient supply for public dissemination and shall also provide for  
1248 the printing of such explanations of proposals or questions on posters  
1249 of a size to be determined by said clerk. At least three such posters shall  
1250 be posted at each polling place at which electors will be voting on such  
1251 proposals or questions. Any posters printed in excess of the number  
1252 required by this section to be posted may be displayed by said clerk at  
1253 the clerk's discretion at locations which are frequented by the public.  
1254 The explanatory text shall also be furnished to each absentee ballot  
1255 applicant pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 9-140,  
1256 as amended by this act. Each such explanatory text shall be subject to  
1257 the approval of the municipal attorney.

1258 Sec. 24. Sections 9-139 and 9-159o of the general statutes are repealed.  
1259 (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-135
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-137
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-139a
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-140
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-140a
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-140b
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-140c
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-140e
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-150a
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-150b(e) to (i)

Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	9-153b
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	9-153c
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	9-158f
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	9-158g
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	9-158h
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	9-159p
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	9-159q(g)
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	9-7b(a)(1)
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	9-23r(e)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	9-311(b)
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	9-359a
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	9-369b(a)(1)(B)
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 4(d)(1)(C) and (D), "its" was changed to "[its] the ballot's" for clarity; in Section 9(b), "state, and (5)" was changed to "state, or (5)" for accuracy and "Pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section" was deleted for clarity; and in Section 9(c), "beginning the day" was changed to "on and after the day" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*