



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4526



Offered by:

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To: Subst. House Bill No. 5001

File No. 528

Cal. No. 348

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

5 [(a)] Any elector eligible to vote at a primary or an election and any  
6 person eligible to vote at a referendum may vote by absentee ballot, [if  
7 such elector or person is unable to appear at such elector's or person's  
8 polling place on the day of such primary, election or referendum for any  
9 of the following reasons: (1) Such elector's or person's active service with  
10 the armed forces of the United States; (2) such elector's or person's  
11 absence from the town of such elector's or person's voting residence; (3)  
12 sickness; (4) physical disability; (5) the tenets of such elector's or person's

13 religion forbid secular activity on the day of such primary, election or  
 14 referendum; or (6) the required performance of such elector's or person's  
 15 duties as a primary, election or referendum official, including as a town  
 16 clerk or registrar of voters or as staff of the clerk or registrar, at a polling  
 17 place other than such elector's or person's own during all of the hours  
 18 of voting at such primary, election or referendum] provided such elector  
 19 properly completes and submits an absentee ballot application in  
 20 accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

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

24 Sec. 2. Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

40 Date ....

41 .... (Signature)

42 .... (Printed name)"

43        (b) Each such return envelope shall also be endorsed on the outside  
44 with the words "OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT" and bear a label  
45 generated by the state-wide centralized voter registration system  
46 described in section 9-50b. Such label shall include (1) (A) the name and  
47 return address of the sender, (B) the applicant's name and voting  
48 residence by street and number, (C) the applicant's voting district, (D)  
49 the ballot style, (E) the unique ballot identification number, appearing  
50 both in a text format and as a scannable barcode, and (F) the date of the  
51 primary, election or referendum at which the ballot is to be cast and, if  
52 the absentee ballot is to be cast at a primary, the name of the party  
53 holding the primary, and (2) a notice, sufficient to warn any person  
54 handling the ballot, of the restrictions set forth in section 9-140b, as  
55 amended by this act, concerning who may possess or return the ballot  
56 and the restrictions and penalties set forth in section 9-359 concerning  
57 the completion or execution of absentee ballots. The clerk shall also  
58 inscribe such clerk's official address for the return of the ballot on the  
59 return envelope prior to issuance of the ballot and return envelope.

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

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

71        (b) The application for absentee ballot shall be in the form of a  
72 statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee  
73 balloting. Each application shall contain (1) spaces for the signature  
74 under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting of any person  
75 who assists the applicant in the completion of an application together

76 with the information required in section 9-140, as amended by this act,  
77 (2) spaces for the signature and the printed or typed name of the  
78 applicant, and (3) a clear and conspicuous notation of the year for which  
79 such application's use is authorized.

80 (c) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish to the  
81 Department of Correction an application for absentee ballot form for use  
82 within Department of Correction facilities. Such form shall contain  
83 spaces for all information required under subsection (b) of this section.  
84 Each such form shall be consecutively numbered and shall indicate that  
85 such form is only for use by an absentee ballot applicant who is  
86 incarcerated in a Department of Correction facility and that such  
87 applicant is required to provide in the appropriate space on such form  
88 a mailing address at the Department of Correction facility in order for  
89 an absentee ballot to be mailed to such applicant.

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

98 (e) A sufficient supply of such instructions, privacy sleeves and  
99 envelopes shall be printed to supply the number which the municipal  
100 clerk requests or the Secretary of the State deems sufficient.

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

104 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, application  
105 for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of the municipality in  
106 which the applicant is eligible to vote or has applied for such eligibility.

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

142 (2) A municipal clerk may transmit an application to a person under  
143 this subsection by facsimile machine or other electronic means, if so  
144 requested by the applicant. If a municipal clerk has a facsimile machine  
145 or other electronic means, an applicant may return a completed  
146 application to the clerk by such a machine or device, provided the  
147 applicant shall also mail the original of the completed application to the  
148 clerk, either separately or with the absentee ballot that is issued to the  
149 applicant. If the clerk does not receive such original application by the  
150 close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum, the  
151 absentee ballot shall not be counted.

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

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

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

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

169 (2) In order for an application for an absentee ballot to be submitted  
170 through the online system described in subdivision (1) of this  
171 subsection, the applicant's signature shall be obtained from a database  
172 described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k, or the system described in

173 section 9-4c, and the applicant shall, on an online form prescribed by the  
174 Secretary, (A) type [his or her] such applicant's name, (B) indicate the  
175 municipality in which such applicant is eligible to vote or has applied  
176 for such eligibility, and (C) mark a box associated with the following  
177 statement:

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

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

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

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

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

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

204 reliable information showing the absentee ballot applicant to be an  
205 elector of the municipality.

206 (d) (1) An absentee voting set shall consist of (A) the mailing envelope  
207 containing all other items of such set and used to issue such set to the  
208 applicant, (B) an absentee ballot, [inner and outer envelopes] (C) a  
209 privacy sleeve for the ballot, (D) an envelope for [its return] returning  
210 the ballot with the privacy sleeve, (E) instructions for [its use] using the  
211 ballot and privacy sleeve, and (F) if applicable, explanatory texts  
212 concerning ballot questions, as provided for in sections 2-30a and 9-  
213 369b, as amended by this act.

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

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

237 by this act.

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

242 (g) (1) On the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets, the  
243 municipal clerk shall mail an absentee voting set to each applicant  
244 whose application was received by the clerk prior to that day. When the  
245 clerk receives an application during the time period in which absentee  
246 voting sets are to be issued, [he] the clerk shall mail an absentee voting  
247 set to the applicant [,] within twenty-four hours, unless the applicant  
248 submits [his] such applicant's application in person at the office of the  
249 clerk and [asks] requests to be given [his] such applicant's absentee  
250 voting set immediately, in which case the clerk shall comply with the  
251 request. Any absentee voting set to be mailed to an applicant shall be  
252 mailed to the bona fide personal mailing address shown on the  
253 application. If an applicant has provided a mailing address at a  
254 Department of Correction facility and such applicant is subsequently  
255 transferred to another Department of Correction facility, the  
256 Commissioner of Correction shall ensure delivery of the absentee voting  
257 set to such applicant. Issuance of absentee voting sets shall also be  
258 subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, section 9-150c  
259 [and section 9-159q] concerning persons designated to deliver or return  
260 ballots in cases involving unforeseen illness or disability and section 9-  
261 159q, as amended by this act, concerning supervised voting at certain  
262 health care institutions.

263 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
264 subsection, upon receipt of an application under section 9-153e, as  
265 amended by this act, 9-153f, as amended by this act, or 9-158c, the  
266 municipal clerk may issue to the applicant an absentee ballot by  
267 electronic means if such applicant requests such manner of issuance.

268 (h) No absentee ballot shall be issued on the day of an election or

269 primary, or after the opening of the polls on the day of a referendum,  
270 except in cases involving unforeseen illness or disability [or presidential  
271 or overseas ballots] as provided in section 9-150c and presidential or  
272 overseas ballots as provided in sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive.

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

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

282 (k) (1) A person shall register with the municipal clerk before  
283 distributing five or more absentee ballot applications for an election,  
284 primary or referendum, not including applications distributed to such  
285 person's immediate family. Such requirement shall not apply to a person  
286 who is the designee of an applicant or to any employee of the  
287 Department of Correction who provides the application for absentee  
288 ballot form prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a, as  
289 amended by this act, to one or more incarcerated absentee ballot  
290 applicants.

291 (2) The municipal clerk shall reject the application of any absentee  
292 ballot applicant made upon the form prescribed under subsection (c) of  
293 section 9-139a, as amended by this act, if such form indicates any  
294 address other than an address at a Department of Correction facility.  
295 The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all applications of  
296 incarcerated absentee ballot applicants received by such municipal  
297 clerk, which log shall indicate the name and address of each applicant,  
298 the date of receipt of each application and the date such municipal clerk  
299 mailed the absentee ballot to such applicant or the reason why such  
300 application was rejected.

301 (3) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications shall  
302 maintain a list of the names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot  
303 applicants who receive such applications, and shall file such list with  
304 the municipal clerk prior to the date of the primary, election or  
305 referendum for which the applications were so distributed, except that  
306 such requirements shall not apply to any employee of the Department  
307 of Correction who provides the application for absentee ballot form  
308 prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a, as amended by this  
309 act, to incarcerated absentee ballot applicants. Any person who  
310 distributes absentee ballot applications and receives an executed  
311 application shall forthwith file the application with the municipal clerk.

312 (l) No candidate, party or political committee, or agent of such  
313 candidate or committee shall mail unsolicited applications for absentee  
314 ballots to any person, unless such [mailing includes] committee or agent  
315 includes with such mailing: (1) A written [explanation of the eligibility  
316 requirements for voting by absentee ballot as prescribed in subsection  
317 (a) of section 9-135] disclaimer that such mailing was (A) paid for by  
318 such committee or agent, and (B) in the case of a candidate committee,  
319 approved by the applicable candidate, and (2) a written [warning that  
320 voting or attempting to vote by absentee ballot without meeting one or  
321 more of such eligibility requirements subjects the elector or applicant to  
322 potential civil and criminal penalties] explanation of the various ways  
323 an absentee ballot may be returned, as provided in subsection (a) of  
324 section 9-140b, as amended by this act. As used in this subsection,  
325 "agent" means any person authorized to act on behalf of another person.

326 (m) The Secretary of the State shall conspicuously post on the  
327 Secretary of the State's web site, adjacent to the absentee ballot  
328 application form available for downloading, a notice that the  
329 application may be downloaded by a person only for (1) the person's  
330 own use, (2) the use of a member of the person's immediate family, or  
331 (3) the use of a designee of the applicant. The notice shall also contain  
332 an advisory statement concerning the requirements of subsection (k) of  
333 this section.

334 (n) The State Elections Enforcement Commission, in consultation  
335 with the Secretary of the State, shall prepare a summary of the  
336 requirements and prohibitions of the absentee voting laws, which shall  
337 be posted on said agencies' web sites. Candidates and political party  
338 chairpersons shall provide such summary to campaign and party  
339 employees and volunteers.

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

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

346 Each absentee ballot applicant shall sign the form on the [inner]  
347 return envelope provided for in section 9-137, as amended by this act,  
348 which shall constitute a statement under the penalties of false statement  
349 in absentee balloting. Any absentee ballot applicant who is unable to  
350 write may cause [his] such applicant's name to be signed on the form by  
351 an authorized agent who shall, in the space provided for the signature,  
352 write the name of the applicant followed by the word "by" and [his] such  
353 authorized agent's own signature. The failure of the applicant or  
354 authorized agent to date the form shall not invalidate the ballot. The  
355 ballot shall be inserted in the [inner envelope, and the inner envelope  
356 shall be inserted in the outer] return envelope [,] prior to the return of  
357 the ballot to the municipal clerk. If an applicant is required to return  
358 identification with the ballot pursuant to the Help America Vote Act,  
359 P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time, the municipal clerk shall  
360 provide to the applicant an additional envelope preaddressed to the  
361 municipal clerk for the return of such applicant's identification, which  
362 envelope may be postage prepaid, and the applicant shall return such  
363 identification [shall be inserted in the outer envelope so such  
364 identification can be viewed without opening the inner envelope] to the  
365 municipal clerk in such additional envelope.

366 Sec. 6. Section 9-140b of the general statutes, as amended by section  
367 88 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
368 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

369 (a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or  
370 referendum only if: (1) [It] Such ballot is mailed by (A) the ballot  
371 applicant, (B) a designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot  
372 because of illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the  
373 immediate family of an applicant who is a student, so that [it] the ballot  
374 is received by the clerk of the municipality in which the applicant is  
375 qualified to vote not later than the close of the polls; (2) [it] such ballot  
376 is returned by the applicant in person to [the] such clerk by the day  
377 before the election or primary or prior to the opening of the polls on the  
378 day of the referendum; (3) [it] such ballot is returned by a designee of  
379 an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant, in person, to [said] such  
380 clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election,  
381 primary or referendum; (4) [it] such ballot is returned by a member of  
382 the immediate family of the [absentee voter] applicant, in person, to  
383 [said] such clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the  
384 election, primary or referendum; (5) in the case of a presidential or  
385 overseas ballot, [it] such ballot is mailed or otherwise returned pursuant  
386 to the provisions of section 9-158g, as amended by this act; or (6) [it] such  
387 ballot is returned with the proper identification as required by the Help  
388 America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time, if  
389 applicable, [inserted in the outer envelope so such identification can be  
390 viewed without opening the inner envelope] in accordance with the  
391 provisions of section 9-140a, as amended by this act. A person returning  
392 an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or  
393 (4) of this subsection shall present identification and, on the [outer]  
394 return envelope of the absentee ballot, sign [his] such person's name in  
395 the presence of the municipal clerk [,] and indicate [his] such person's  
396 address [, his] and relationship to the voter or [his] position [,] and the  
397 date and time of such return. An absentee ballot shall be deemed cast  
398 when it is received and accepted by the municipal clerk in accordance  
399 with the provisions of this subsection, provided the statement on the

400 return envelope for such absentee ballot is signed by the applicant. As  
401 used in this section, "immediate family" means a dependent relative  
402 who resides in the individual's household or any spouse, child, parent  
403 or sibling of the individual.

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

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

418 (2) (A) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B)  
419 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the first day of  
420 issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section  
421 9-140, as amended by this act, and on each [weekday] business day  
422 thereafter until the close of the polls at the election, primary or  
423 referendum, including at the close of the polls at such election, primary  
424 or referendum, the municipal clerk shall retrieve from the secure drop  
425 box described in said subparagraph each such ballot deposited in such  
426 drop box.

427 (B) On and after July 1, 2025, each municipality shall provide a video  
428 recording device for each secure drop box described in subparagraph  
429 (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection within such municipality, which  
430 device's recordings shall capture the location of such drop box and  
431 evidence the date and time of each such recording beginning on the first

432 day of issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of  
433 section 9-140, as amended by this act, and until the last retrieval of  
434 absentee ballots from such drop box at the close of the polls at the  
435 election or primary. Each such recording shall, as soon as practicable, be  
436 made publicly available from the date of recording, but in no case later  
437 than five days after such last retrieval. Each such recording shall be  
438 retained by the municipality for a period of twelve months and may be  
439 destroyed at the end of such period, except that the State Elections  
440 Enforcement Commission or a court of competent jurisdiction may  
441 order that such period be extended until the conclusion of any  
442 investigation related to such recording.

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

448 (d) No person shall have in [his] such person's possession any official  
449 absentee ballot or ballot envelope for use at any primary, election or  
450 referendum except the applicant to whom it was issued, the Secretary of  
451 the State or [his or her] the Secretary's authorized agents, any official  
452 printer of absentee ballot forms and [his] such printer's designated  
453 carriers, the United States Postal Service, any other carrier, courier or  
454 messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the  
455 State, any person authorized by a municipal clerk to receive and process  
456 official absentee ballot forms on behalf of the municipal clerk, any  
457 authorized primary, election or referendum official or any other person  
458 authorized by any provision of the general statutes to possess a ballot or  
459 ballot envelope.

460 (e) No (1) candidate, or (2) agent of a candidate, political party or  
461 committee, as defined in section 9-601, shall knowingly be present when  
462 an absentee ballot applicant executes an absentee ballot, except when  
463 (A) [when] the candidate or agent is (i) a member of the immediate  
464 family of the applicant, or (ii) authorized by law to be present, or (B)

465 [when] the absentee ballot is executed in the office of the municipal clerk  
466 and the municipal clerk or an employee of the municipal clerk is a  
467 candidate or agent.

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

470 (a) (1) The municipal clerk shall retain the return envelopes  
471 containing absentee ballots received by [him] such clerk under section  
472 9-140b, as amended by this act, and shall not open such return  
473 envelopes. [The] As the municipal clerk receives each absentee ballot,  
474 such clerk shall first make a record, for the purposes of subdivision (3)  
475 of this subsection, of each return envelope on which the applicant did  
476 not sign the statement and shall then endorse over [his] such clerk's  
477 signature [,] upon each [outer] return envelope [as he receives it,] (A)  
478 the date and precise time of its receipt, and (B) the method of its receipt,  
479 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.  
480 The clerk shall make an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of all such  
481 endorsements [, and at the close of the polls] and shall deliver such  
482 affidavit at the close of the polls to the head moderator, who shall  
483 endorse the time of its receipt and return it to the clerk after all counting  
484 is complete. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for one hundred eighty  
485 days in accordance with the requirements of section 9-150b, as amended  
486 by this act. The clerk shall keep a list of the names of the applicants who  
487 return absentee ballots to the clerk under section 9-140b, as amended by  
488 this act. The list shall be preserved as a public record as required by  
489 section 9-150b, as amended by this act.

490 (2) The municipal clerk shall record on the [outer] return envelope of  
491 each absentee ballot [returned] received by such clerk under section 9-  
492 140b, as amended by this act, whether such absentee ballot was (A) sent  
493 by the United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or  
494 messenger service, (B) deposited in a secure drop box, in which case the  
495 location of such drop box shall also be so recorded, (C) returned in  
496 person by an elector, or (D) returned in person by the designee or  
497 immediate family member of an elector. As soon as reasonably

498 practicable after the close of the polls at an election or primary, the  
499 municipal clerk shall submit to the Secretary of the State a report  
500 detailing the total count of all absentee ballots returned for such election  
501 or primary, broken down by each method described in subparagraphs  
502 (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision.

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

510 (B) In the case of any absentee ballot described in subparagraph (A)  
511 of this subdivision, the municipal clerk shall use best efforts to contact  
512 the affected voter as soon as possible, but in no case later than twenty-  
513 four hours after receiving the absentee ballot, for the purpose of curing  
514 such ballot pursuant to said subparagraph. During the period beginning  
515 twenty-four hours prior to the closing of the polls and until such closing  
516 of the polls, the municipal clerk shall use best efforts to contact the  
517 affected voter for such purpose immediately upon receiving the  
518 absentee ballot. The municipal clerk's best efforts shall include, but need  
519 not be limited to, contacting the affected voter by (i) calling the  
520 telephone number or numbers listed on the voter's absentee ballot  
521 application and voter registration, if the voter has provided any, and (ii)  
522 sending an electronic mail to the electronic mail address listed on the  
523 voter's absentee ballot application and voter registration, if the voter has  
524 provided any. If the voter has provided neither a telephone number nor  
525 an electronic mail address, the municipal clerk shall exercise discretion  
526 in attempting to contact the voter by other means.

527 (b) (1) Beginning [not earlier than the seventh day before the election,  
528 primary or referendum] the day after the first day of issuance of  
529 absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-140, as  
530 amended by this act, and on any weekday thereafter, all absentee ballots

531 received by the municipal clerk at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of [such  
532 day] the day of the election, primary or referendum may be sorted into  
533 voting districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in this  
534 subsection. On any such day, beginning as soon as the ballots have been  
535 sorted, the registrars of voters, without opening the [outer] return  
536 envelopes, may check the names of the applicants returning ballots on  
537 the official checklist to be used at the election, primary or referendum  
538 by indicating "absentee" or "A" preceding each such name and, if  
539 unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the  
540 primary of either of two parties, the designation of the party in which  
541 the applicants are voting preceding each such name. Unless absentee  
542 ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places, pursuant to  
543 subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the registrars shall also place such  
544 indication on a duplicate checklist to be retained by the municipal clerk  
545 until the municipal clerk delivers such duplicate checklist to the  
546 registrars, in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, for the use  
547 of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

548 (2) All absentee ballots received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of  
549 the last day before the election, primary or referendum which is not a  
550 Sunday or legal holiday, shall be sorted into voting districts by the  
551 municipal clerk and checked as provided in subdivision (1) of this  
552 subsection not later than such last day.

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

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

562 (e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, ballots

563 received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. on the last day before the  
564 election, primary or referendum shall be delivered by the municipal  
565 clerk to the registrars [between ten o'clock a.m. and twelve o'clock noon]  
566 not later than eight o'clock a.m. on the day of the election, [or] primary  
567 [and at twelve o'clock noon on the day of a] or referendum. Unless  
568 absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places,  
569 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the municipal clerk shall  
570 also deliver to the registrars at this time the duplicate checklist provided  
571 for in subsection (b) of this section, for the use of the absentee ballot  
572 counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

573 (2) [The] In the case of a special election or referendum, the municipal  
574 clerk may deliver [the] such ballots at a time that is later than [the time  
575 provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection] eight o'clock a.m. on the  
576 day of such special election or referendum, provided such time is  
577 mutually agreed upon by the municipal clerk and registrars and is not  
578 later than [eight] four o'clock p.m. on the day of [the election, primary]  
579 such special election or referendum.

580 (f) Absentee ballots timely received by the municipal clerk after  
581 eleven o'clock a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or  
582 referendum shall be sorted into voting districts by the clerk and retained  
583 by the clerk separately until delivered to the registrars of voters for  
584 checking.

585 (g) Any or all of such ballots received after eleven o'clock a.m. of such  
586 last day before an election, primary or referendum and before six o'clock  
587 p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall, upon  
588 request of the registrars, be delivered to the registrars by the municipal  
589 clerk at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or  
590 referendum for checking, or at a later time mutually agreed upon by the  
591 clerk and registrars, provided such time is not later than eight o'clock  
592 p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.

593 (h) Absentee ballots received after six o'clock p.m. on the day of the  
594 election, primary or referendum and any ballots received prior to six

595 o'clock p.m. of such day which were not delivered earlier shall be  
596 delivered to the registrars at the close of the polls for checking. Although  
597 absentee ballots shall be checked by the registrars [of voters] at various  
598 times throughout the election, primary or referendum day, absentee  
599 ballots may be counted at one single time during such day.

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

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

614 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place  
615 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the names of applicants  
616 whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the  
617 election, primary or referendum shall be checked by the absentee ballot  
618 counters and checkers at such polling place on the official checklist used  
619 at such polling place.

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

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

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

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

642 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place  
643 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, and such counting is  
644 completed and the result for such polling place is announced, the  
645 moderator for such polling place shall deliver the official checklist used  
646 at such polling place and the return required by section 9-150b, as  
647 amended by this act, to the head moderator.

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

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

656 (l) The municipal clerk shall retain all [outer] return envelopes  
657 containing absentee ballots received by [him] such clerk after the close

658 of the polls, unopened, for the period prescribed in section 9-150b, as  
659 amended by this act.

660 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The office of the Secretary of the  
661 State shall develop and install integrated ballot-tracking software with  
662 the state-wide centralized voter registration system described in section  
663 9-50b of the general statutes, for use by electors who vote by absentee  
664 ballot. Such software shall, at a minimum, permit the elector to track (1)  
665 when the municipal clerk has received and accepted the elector's  
666 absentee ballot application, (2) when the municipal clerk's office has  
667 mailed the absentee ballot set to the elector, (3) when the absentee ballot  
668 set has been delivered to the elector, (4) when the absentee ballot being  
669 returned by the elector has been delivered to the municipal clerk, and  
670 (5) whether the elector's returned absentee ballot has been accepted,  
671 requires curing pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section  
672 9-140c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or has been  
673 rejected.

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

676 (a) Any elector who [is permanently physically disabled or suffering  
677 from a long-term illness and who files an application for an absentee  
678 ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that  
679 such elector is permanently physically disabled or suffering from a long-  
680 term illness and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated  
681 polling location, shall be eligible for] files an application for an absentee  
682 ballot may simultaneously request permanent absentee ballot status, in  
683 a space provided on such application for such purpose. Each elector  
684 granted permanent absentee ballot status [and shall receive] shall be  
685 issued an absentee ballot for each election, primary or referendum  
686 conducted in such elector's municipality for which such elector is  
687 eligible to vote. Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status shall  
688 remain in effect until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official  
689 registry list of the municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee  
690 ballot status [pursuant to] in accordance with the provisions of

691 subsection (b) of this section, or (3) requests [that he or she] in writing  
692 to the registrar of voters that such elector no longer receive such  
693 permanent absentee ballot status.

694 (b) [The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each such  
695 elector with permanent absentee ballot status in January of each year,  
696 on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, for the purpose of  
697 determining if such elector continues to reside at the address indicated  
698 on the elector's permanent absentee ballot application. If such written  
699 notice is returned as undeliverable, the elector in question shall be  
700 removed from permanent absentee ballot status. If such elector indicates  
701 on such notice that the elector no longer resides at such address and the  
702 elector's new address is within the same municipality, the registrars of  
703 voters shall change the elector's address pursuant to section 9-35 and  
704 such elector shall retain permanent absentee ballot status. If the elector  
705 indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides in the  
706 municipality, the registrars of voters shall remove such individual from  
707 the registry list of the municipality and send such individual an  
708 application for voter registration. Failure to return such written notice  
709 shall not result in the removal of an elector from the official registry list  
710 of the municipality or from permanent absentee ballot status.] An  
711 elector granted permanent absentee ballot status shall be removed from  
712 such status whenever (1) such elector's absentee ballot is returned as  
713 undeliverable, (2) such elector submits a change of address form for a  
714 move outside the state with the National Change of Address System of  
715 the United States Postal Service, (3) a registrar of voters of the  
716 municipality in which such elector previously resided receives  
717 information or data, used to maintain the state-wide centralized voter  
718 registration system under section 9-50c, that such elector has moved  
719 outside the state, (4) the Secretary of the State or a registrar of voters of  
720 the municipality in which such elector previously resided receives  
721 information under section 9-21 that such elector has registered to vote  
722 outside the state, or (5) such elector's name is placed on the inactive  
723 registry list compiled under section 9-35.

724 (c) The Secretary of the State shall develop and conduct a state-wide  
725 public awareness mailing, beginning as soon as practicable after the  
726 effective date of this section, to educate the public regarding changes to  
727 the absentee voting process and the availability of permanent absentee  
728 ballot status. The Secretary shall make available to each municipal clerk  
729 the materials comprising such mailing and, on and after the day such  
730 materials are so made available, each municipal clerk shall include such  
731 materials with each absentee ballot application provided by such  
732 municipal clerk in 2026.

733 Sec. 10. Section 9-150a of the general statutes, as amended by section  
734 90 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
735 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

736 (a) [The] Not later than fifteen minutes prior to the time specified or  
737 agreed to, as applicable, under subsection (e) of section 9-140c, as  
738 amended by this act, the absentee ballot counters shall proceed to the  
739 central counting location or to the respective polling places when  
740 counting is to take place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a. [at  
741 the times designated by the registrars of voters.]

742 (b) At the time each group of ballots is delivered to them pursuant to  
743 section 9-140c, as amended by this act, the counters shall perform any  
744 checking of such ballots required by subsection (i) of said section and  
745 shall then proceed as hereinafter provided.

746 (c) Except with respect to ballots marked "Rejected" pursuant to  
747 section 9-140c, as amended by this act, or other applicable law, the  
748 counters shall remove the [inner envelopes] absentee ballots from the  
749 [outer] return envelopes, shall note the total number of absentee ballots  
750 received and shall report such total to the moderator. They shall  
751 similarly note and separately so report the total numbers of presidential  
752 ballots and overseas ballots received pursuant to sections 9-158a to 9-  
753 158m, inclusive.

754 (d) (1) (A) If the statement on the [inner] return envelope has not been

755 signed as required by section 9-140a, as amended by this act, such  
756 [inner] return envelope shall not be opened [or] nor shall the ballot be  
757 removed therefrom. [, and such inner envelope shall be replaced in the  
758 opened outer envelope which shall be marked "Rejected" and the reason  
759 therefor endorsed thereon by the counters.] The return envelope shall  
760 be marked "Rejected" and the reason for such rejection shall be endorsed  
761 on such return envelope by the counters.

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

769 (2) (A) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the  
770 ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r and  
771 has not met the requirements of subsection (e) of section 9-23r, as  
772 amended by this act, the counters shall replace the ballot in the opened  
773 [inner envelope, replace the inner envelope in the opened outer] return  
774 envelope and shall mark "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot" and endorse  
775 the reason for such rejection on [the outer] such return envelope, and  
776 the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot for federal offices only,  
777 pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

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

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

787        [(f)] (e) Before the ballots are counted, all opened [outer and inner]  
788 envelopes from which such ballots have been removed, and all [outer]  
789 envelopes marked "Rejected" as required by law, shall be placed and  
790 sealed by the counters, separately by voting district, in depository  
791 envelopes prescribed by the Secretary of the State and provided by the  
792 municipal clerk. The counters shall seal such depository envelopes by  
793 wrapping them lengthwise and sideways with nonreusable tape,  
794 endorse on each such envelope their names, the voting district and the  
795 time of the count, and deliver such envelopes to the moderator.

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

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

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

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

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

817        (4) Except as otherwise provided in section 9-265, if the name of a

818 registered write-in candidate for an office is written in for such office on  
819 an absentee ballot it shall be deemed validly written in for purposes of  
820 subsection [(j)] (i) of this section.

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

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

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

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

836 [(k)] (j) If the intent of an absentee voter is difficult to ascertain due to  
837 uncertain, conflicting or incorrect ballot markings which are not clearly  
838 addressed in this section or in the procedure manual for counting  
839 absentee ballots provided by the Secretary of the State, the absentee  
840 ballot counters shall submit the ballot and their question to the  
841 moderator. They shall then count the ballot in accordance with the  
842 moderator's decision as to the voter's intent, if such intent is  
843 ascertainable. A ballot or part of a ballot on which the intent is  
844 determined by the moderator to be not ascertainable, shall not be  
845 counted. The moderator shall endorse on the ballot the question and  
846 [his] such moderator's decision.

847 [(l)] (k) No absentee ballot shall be rejected as a marked ballot unless,  
848 in the opinion of the moderator, it was marked for the purpose of

849 providing a means of identifying the voter who cast it.

850        [(m)] (l) After the absentee ballots have been so counted they shall be  
851 placed by the counters, separately by voting district, in depository  
852 envelopes prescribed by the Secretary of the State and provided by the  
853 municipal clerk. Any notes, worksheets, or other written materials used  
854 by the counters in counting such ballots shall be endorsed by them with  
855 their names, the date and the time of the count and shall also be placed  
856 in such depository envelopes together with the ballots, and with the  
857 separate record of the number of votes cast on such ballots for each  
858 candidate as required by section 9-150b, as amended by this act. Such  
859 depository envelopes shall then be sealed, endorsed and delivered to  
860 the moderator by the counters in the same manner as provided in  
861 subsection [(f)] (e) of this section.

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

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

869        (f) The municipal clerk shall preserve for sixty days after the election,  
870 primary or referendum the depository envelopes containing opened  
871 envelopes and rejected ballots required by subsection [(f)] (e) of section  
872 9-150a, as amended by this act, and shall so preserve for one hundred  
873 eighty days the depository envelopes containing counted ballots and  
874 related materials required by subsection [(m)] (l) of section 9-150a, as  
875 amended by this act.

876        (g) No such depository envelope shall be opened except by order of  
877 a court of competent jurisdiction, by the State Elections Enforcement  
878 Commission pursuant to a subpoena issued under subdivision (1) of  
879 subsection (a) of section 9-7b, as amended by this act, or within five

880 business days after an election, primary or referendum for the purpose  
881 of a recanvass conducted pursuant to law. After such a recanvass the  
882 depository envelopes and their contents shall be returned to the  
883 municipal clerk and preserved for the stated period.

884 (h) For sixty days after the election, primary or referendum the  
885 following shall be preserved by the municipal clerk as a public record  
886 open to public inspection: (1) All executed absentee ballot application  
887 forms and direction by registrar forms, as required by subsection (i) of  
888 section 9-140, as amended by this act; (2) the list and index of applicants  
889 for presidential or overseas ballots as required by section 9-158h, as  
890 amended by this act; (3) the [numerical] list of unique ballot  
891 identification numbers corresponding to absentee voting sets issued as  
892 required by subsection (e) of section 9-140, as amended by this act; (4)  
893 the list of the names of persons whose absentee ballots are received by  
894 the municipal clerk, as required by subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
895 section 9-140c, as amended by this act; (5) all unused absentee ballots;  
896 and (6) all envelopes containing ballots received by the municipal clerk  
897 after the close of the polls, which shall remain unopened.

898 (i) For one hundred eighty days after the election, primary or  
899 referendum the following shall be preserved by the municipal clerk as a  
900 public record open to public inspection: (1) The affidavit regarding the  
901 municipal clerk's endorsement of [inner] return envelopes, as required  
902 by subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-140c, as amended by this  
903 act; and (2) the affidavit regarding delivery and receipt of ballots, as  
904 required by subsection (j) of [said] section 9-140c, as amended by this  
905 act.

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

908 (a) If any absentee ballot applicant applies for an additional absentee  
909 ballot, such applicant shall note on the application the reason for  
910 applying for an additional absentee ballot and shall return the absentee  
911 voting set formerly issued to such applicant before another set is issued,

912 provided, if such applicant is unable to return such formerly issued set,  
913 such application for an additional ballot shall be accompanied by a  
914 statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee  
915 balloting in which such applicant shall note the reason for such  
916 applicant's inability to return such formerly issued set. If such applicant  
917 fails to file such a statement, no additional set shall be issued to such  
918 applicant. An application for an additional absentee ballot shall only be  
919 made by an absentee ballot applicant. Any additional absentee voting  
920 set issued under this subsection shall only be either provided in person  
921 to the applicant or mailed directly to the applicant at the bona fide  
922 mailing address designated by such applicant.

923 (b) For all absentee voting sets or portions thereof returned under  
924 subsection (a) of this section, the municipal clerk shall mark the [serially-  
925 numbered outer] return envelope "rejected" and note the reasons for  
926 rejection on all absentee ballots and envelopes so returned and shall seal  
927 all such absentee voting sets or portions thereof in a package and retain  
928 them in a safe place until delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as  
929 amended by this act. The municipal clerk shall keep a list of the names  
930 of each absentee ballot applicant who has applied for more than one  
931 absentee ballot, as provided in section 9-140, as amended by this act,  
932 together with the [serial] unique ballot identification number appearing  
933 on the [outer] return envelope of each absentee voting set issued to each  
934 such applicant.

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

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

944 (a) If a municipal clerk has omitted the name of a candidate, party or  
945 office designation, inserted an incorrect or misspelled name of a  
946 candidate, party or office designation, provided an absentee ballot  
947 applicant with a ballot which is not the correct ballot for [his] such  
948 applicant's voting district, or incorrectly imprinted or failed to imprint  
949 the designation of a state or local question on an absentee ballot in the  
950 appropriate space, and if any such omission or error is likely to mislead  
951 any voter, [he] the clerk shall, as soon as [he] such clerk becomes aware  
952 of such omission or error, promptly mail to each applicant to whom  
953 such an absentee ballot has been issued, a correct absentee ballot, the  
954 necessary envelopes for its return and instructions, a statement  
955 explaining the error or omission including the correct name or question  
956 and a copy of this section. The municipal clerk shall inform the Secretary  
957 of the State when [he] such clerk proceeds under this subsection.

958 (b) Any additional absentee voting sets issued to applicants under  
959 this section shall be issued [in consecutive ascending numerical order  
960 based upon the serial number appearing on the outer] bearing a unique  
961 ballot identification number on the envelope for return of ballots to the  
962 municipal clerk, and the clerk shall keep a record of such unique ballot  
963 identification numbers by making a notation on, or attaching a  
964 memorandum to, the applicant's original application for an absentee  
965 ballot.

966 (c) The municipal clerk shall keep a list containing the name, address  
967 and voting district of each absentee ballot applicant who has been issued  
968 more than one absentee ballot under this section and the [serial] unique  
969 ballot identification number appearing on the [outer] return envelope of  
970 each absentee voting set so issued. The list shall be kept with the list  
971 required under section 9-140, as amended by this act.

972 (d) If more than one ballot is received from an applicant who has been  
973 sent a correct ballot under subsection (a) of this section, the ballot last  
974 received by the municipal clerk shall be counted if no ballot of such  
975 applicant has already been counted. For all ballots of such applicant that  
976 are not counted, the municipal clerk shall inscribe the word "rejected"

977 and note the reasons for rejection on the [outer] return envelope and  
978 shall seal them, unopened, in a package and retain them in a safe place  
979 until delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this  
980 act.

981 Sec. 14. Section 9-153e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
982 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

983 A member of the armed forces who is an elector or an applicant for  
984 admission as an elector, or the member's spouse or dependent if living  
985 where such member is stationed, may apply before a regular election for  
986 a blank absentee ballot to vote for all offices being contested at the  
987 election. The municipal clerk shall make such ballots available for this  
988 purpose beginning not earlier than ninety days before the election.  
989 Application shall be made upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of  
990 the State or on the federal postcard application form provided pursuant  
991 to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 100 Stat.  
992 924, 42 USC 1973ff et seq., as amended from time to time, or any other  
993 applicable law and shall be issued only if the applicant states that due  
994 to military contingencies the regular application procedure, as set forth  
995 in section 9-140, as amended by this act, cannot be followed. Upon  
996 receipt of the application, the municipal clerk shall issue [the ballot] in  
997 the manner requested by the elector, either by mail or by electronic  
998 means, [as requested by the elector,] the ballot which shall be prescribed  
999 and provided by the Secretary of the State [,] and a list of the offices to  
1000 be voted upon indicating the number of individuals for which each  
1001 elector may vote. As soon as a complete list of nominated candidates,  
1002 including the party designations of such candidates, and questions is  
1003 available, the municipal clerk shall send such list to each applicant. If  
1004 the list of candidates and questions is not available when the ballot is  
1005 issued, the municipal clerk shall include a statement indicating that such  
1006 list shall be [mailed] sent as soon as it becomes available. The ballot shall  
1007 permit the elector to vote by writing in the names of specific candidates  
1008 and offices for which [he] such elector is voting. The elector may also  
1009 vote on the questions in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the

1010 State. If such ballot is issued by electronic means, the municipal clerk at  
1011 the time of such issuance shall include a certification, prescribed by the  
1012 Secretary of the State, [that] which the elector shall be required to  
1013 complete, sign and return with the completed ballot in order for such  
1014 ballot to be counted. If the military contingency no longer exists,  
1015 application for an additional ballot for all offices may be made pursuant  
1016 to the provisions of section 9-153b, as amended by this act.

1017 Sec. 15. Section 9-153f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1018 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1019 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-140, as amended by this  
1020 act, any elector who is living, or expects to be living or traveling before  
1021 and on [election] the day of an election or primary, outside the territorial  
1022 limits of the several states of the United States and the District of  
1023 Columbia and any member of the armed forces who is an elector or an  
1024 applicant for admission as an elector, or the member's spouse or  
1025 dependent if living where such member is stationed, may apply for a  
1026 blank absentee ballot to vote for all offices being contested at [an] such  
1027 election or primary. Application shall be made upon a form prescribed  
1028 by the Secretary of the State or on the federal postcard application form  
1029 provided pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee  
1030 Voting Act, 100 Stat. 924, 42 USC 1973ff et seq., as amended from time  
1031 to time, or any other applicable law. The municipal clerk receiving such  
1032 an application shall, as soon as a complete list of candidates and  
1033 questions to be voted upon at such election or primary becomes  
1034 available, issue [the ballot] in the manner requested by the elector, either  
1035 by mail or by electronic means, [as requested by the elector,] the ballot  
1036 which shall be the blank ballot prescribed and provided by the Secretary  
1037 of the State under section 9-153e, as amended by this act. The municipal  
1038 clerk shall include with the ballot a complete list of the offices to be  
1039 voted upon, the number of individuals for which each elector may vote,  
1040 the candidates, and, in the case of an election, the party designation of  
1041 each candidate and questions to be voted upon. If such ballot is issued  
1042 by electronic means, the municipal clerk at the time of such issuance

1043 shall include a certification, prescribed by the Secretary of the State,  
1044 [that] which the elector shall be required to complete, sign and return  
1045 with the completed ballot in order for such ballot to be counted. [If  
1046 application for an absentee ballot is made at the time of availability of  
1047 regular absentee ballots as provided in section 9-140, the provisions of  
1048 section 9-140 shall prevail.] Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
1049 the procedures governing the issuance of ballots under this section shall  
1050 conform as nearly as may be to the procedures provided in section 9-  
1051 140, as amended by this act.

1052 Sec. 16. Section 9-158e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1053 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1054 (a) (1) A person applying for a presidential ballot in person shall  
1055 present: [(1)] (A) A current and valid photo identification, or [(2)] (B) a  
1056 copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check,  
1057 paycheck or other government document that shows the name and  
1058 address of the voter. [The application]

1059 (2) A person applying for a presidential ballot by mail shall [be  
1060 accompanied by] include with such application: (A) A copy of a current  
1061 and valid photo identification, or (B) a copy of a current utility bill, bank  
1062 statement, government check, paycheck or government document that  
1063 shows the name and address of the voter.

1064 (3) Upon receipt of an application for a presidential ballot under  
1065 sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, the municipal clerk, if satisfied that  
1066 the application is proper and that the applicant is qualified to vote under  
1067 said sections, shall forthwith [give or mail to the applicant, as the case  
1068 may be] issue in the manner requested by the applicant, either by mail  
1069 or by electronic means, a ballot for presidential and vice-presidential  
1070 electors for use at the election and instructions and envelopes for [its]  
1071 the return of such ballot.

1072 (b) Upon receipt of an application for an overseas ballot, the  
1073 municipal clerk, if satisfied that the application is proper and that the

1074 applicant is qualified to vote at the federal election for which the  
1075 application is made, pursuant to the provisions of sections 9-158b to 9-  
1076 158m, inclusive, shall forthwith [mail] issue in the manner requested by  
1077 the applicant, either by mail or by electronic means, a ballot containing  
1078 the names and offices of the candidates for federal office and  
1079 instructions and envelopes for [its return to the applicant] the return of  
1080 such ballot.

1081 Sec. 17. Section 9-158f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1082 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1083 (a) The voter, after marking [his] such voter's presidential ballot so as  
1084 to express [his] such voter's choice, shall fold it so as to conceal the  
1085 markings, and enclose it in [an inner] a return envelope furnished by the  
1086 town clerk for such purpose. The envelope shall have imprinted upon  
1087 its back a statement which shall be signed by the voter. The failure of  
1088 the voter to date the statement shall not invalidate the ballot. Such  
1089 statement shall be substantially as follows:

1090 Certification of Presidential Voter

1091 I, the undersigned, do hereby state under the penalties of false  
1092 statement in absentee balloting that:

1093 (1) I am qualified to vote for Presidential and Vice-Presidential  
1094 electors in the town of .... Connecticut, at the presidential election to be  
1095 held on November ...., 20...

1096 (2) I have not applied, nor do I intend to apply, for a ballot to vote for  
1097 Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors at said election from any  
1098 other town, city, county or state, and

1099 (3) I have not voted, and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot  
1100 in said presidential election.

1101 Dated at ...., this .... day of .... 20...

1102 .... (Signature of voter)

1103 .... (Printed name of voter)

1104 (b) The overseas elector, after marking [his] such elector's overseas  
1105 ballot so as to express [his] such elector's choice, shall fold it so as to  
1106 conceal the markings and enclose it in [an inner] a return envelope  
1107 furnished by the town clerk for such purpose. The envelope shall have  
1108 imprinted upon its back a statement which shall be signed by the elector.  
1109 The failure of the elector to date the statement shall not invalidate the  
1110 ballot. The statement shall be substantially as follows:

1111 Certification of Overseas Elector

1112 I, the undersigned, do hereby state under the penalties of false  
1113 statement in absentee balloting that:

1114 (1) I am qualified to vote for candidates for federal office in the town  
1115 of ..., Connecticut, at the federal election to be held on ..., 20...

1116 (2) I have not applied, nor do I intend to apply, for a ballot to vote for  
1117 candidates for federal office at said election from any other town, city or  
1118 county in Connecticut or in any other state or election district of any  
1119 state or territory or any territory or possession of the United States.

1120 (3) I have not voted, and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot  
1121 in said federal election.

1122 Dated at ..., this ... day of ..., 20...

1123 .... (Signature of overseas elector)

1124 .... (Printed name of overseas elector)

1125 Sec. 18. Section 9-158g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1126 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1127 The voter shall sign the certification upon the [inner] return envelope,  
1128 [securely seal it, enclose it in an outer serially-numbered envelope]  
1129 insert the completed ballot in such return envelope, which shall bear a

1130 return label displaying the unique ballot identification number both in  
1131 text format and as a scannable barcode, and return it to the municipal  
1132 clerk of the town in which [he] such voter is qualified to vote. The clerk  
1133 shall keep it in [his] the clerk's office until delivered by [him] such clerk  
1134 to the registrars of voters at the same time and in the same manner as [is  
1135 provided for absentee ballots] provided in section 9-140c, as amended  
1136 by this act. If the ballot is returned by a person other than the voter or  
1137 the United States Postal Service, the person delivering the ballot shall  
1138 sign [his] such person's name and address and indicate the date and  
1139 time of [its] such ballot's delivery on the [outer] return envelope in the  
1140 clerk's presence. The ballot, to be cast, shall be returned so that [it] such  
1141 ballot is received by the [town] clerk not later than the close of the polls  
1142 on the day of the election.

1143 Sec. 19. Section 9-158h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1144 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1145 The clerk shall prepare and keep open to public inspection a list of all  
1146 persons who have applied under sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, to  
1147 vote as presidential voters or overseas electors with their names, voting  
1148 addresses and application dates together with the [serial number]  
1149 unique ballot identification numbers of the return envelopes issued, and  
1150 shall maintain an alphabetical index of the list for a period of one  
1151 hundred eighty days after the election or primary.

1152 Sec. 20. Section 9-159p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1153 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1154 (a) Any elector may challenge the right of any person offering to vote  
1155 by absentee ballot based upon false identity, disenfranchisement for  
1156 conviction of a felony or lack of bona fide residence. The failure of an  
1157 elector to challenge, pursuant to this section, the right of a person to vote  
1158 by absentee ballot shall not bar such elector from bringing an action to  
1159 contest the primary or election under section 9-323, as amended by this  
1160 act, 9-324, as amended by this act, 9-328, as amended by this act, or 9-  
1161 329a, as amended by this act, based on the alleged invalidity of the

1162 absentee ballot cast at such primary or election.

1163 (b) Challenges shall not be made indiscriminately and may only be  
1164 made if the challenger knows or reasonably believes that the right of the  
1165 person offering to vote by absentee ballot should be denied on one or  
1166 more of the grounds specified in subsection (a) of this section.

1167 (c) Challenges made concerning ballots that the municipal clerk has  
1168 not delivered to the registrars of voters for counting pursuant to sections  
1169 9-140c, as amended by this act, and 9-147a shall be made in writing to  
1170 the municipal clerk. Challenges made concerning ballots that the  
1171 municipal clerk has delivered to the registrars of voters for counting  
1172 pursuant to sections 9-140c, as amended by this act, and 9-147a shall be  
1173 made in writing to the central counting moderator or the moderator of  
1174 the polling place at which the ballot is to be counted pursuant to  
1175 subsection (b) of section 9-147a. All challenges shall be made under oath.

1176 (d) Immediately upon receipt of a challenge, the municipal clerk shall  
1177 send copies of the challenge to each registrar of voters and to the person  
1178 offering to vote by absentee ballot. The municipal clerk shall send the  
1179 copy of the challenge to the person offering to vote by first class certified  
1180 mail to the mailing address shown on the application for the absentee  
1181 ballot. The municipal clerk shall furnish copies of any written response  
1182 to the challenge to each registrar of voters. The municipal clerk shall  
1183 deliver the ballot in the [inner] return envelope, which shall not be  
1184 opened, [the serially-numbered envelope] and any other evidence  
1185 relevant to the challenge, to the registrars, who shall sign a receipt for  
1186 the same.

1187 (e) Immediately upon receipt of a challenge, the moderator shall  
1188 deliver copies of the challenge to each registrar of voters. The moderator  
1189 shall also deliver, or designate another election, primary or referendum  
1190 official to deliver, the ballot in the [inner] return envelope, which shall  
1191 not be opened, [the serially-numbered envelope] and any other  
1192 evidence relevant to the challenge to the registrars, who shall sign a  
1193 receipt for the same.

1194 (f) The registrars of voters shall examine the challenge, any written  
1195 response to the challenge and any other evidence or information they  
1196 deem relevant to the challenge, including the [inner] return envelope,  
1197 which shall not be opened, and shall determine whether the challenge  
1198 should be upheld. If the registrars fail to agree that the challenge should  
1199 be upheld, it shall be deemed to have been denied.

1200 (g) The registrars of voters shall make the determination not earlier  
1201 than noon of the day of the election, primary or referendum at which  
1202 the ballot is submitted and not later than the time when the counting of  
1203 all other absentee ballots at the election, primary or referendum has  
1204 been completed.

1205 (h) The registrars of voters shall notify, in writing, the municipal clerk  
1206 and the central counting moderator, or the moderator of the polling  
1207 place at which the ballot is to be counted pursuant to subsection (b) of  
1208 section 9-147a, of their determination. If the challenge is denied, the  
1209 absentee ballot shall be delivered by the registrars to the appropriate  
1210 location for counting pursuant to law. If the challenge is upheld, the  
1211 registrars shall mark the word "rejected" on the [serially-numbered  
1212 outer] return envelope and note the reasons for rejection, and shall  
1213 return it together with all other evidence received in connection with the  
1214 challenge to the municipal clerk who shall retain the same until  
1215 delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act,  
1216 except that a challenge to a ballot which the municipal clerk has  
1217 delivered to the registrars of voters for counting pursuant to sections 9-  
1218 140c, as amended by this act, and 9-147a shall be returned to the  
1219 moderator to whom the challenge was made.

1220 (i) Within five days after the election, primary or referendum the  
1221 municipal clerk shall send to the person whose offer to vote was  
1222 challenged a copy of the written determination of the registrars and a  
1223 statement as to the disposition of the absentee ballot.

1224 Sec. 21. Subsections (g) to (l), inclusive, of section 9-159q of the  
1225 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

1226 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1227 (g) The registrars or their designees, as the case may be, shall jointly  
1228 deliver the ballots to the respective applicants at the institution and shall  
1229 jointly supervise the voting of such ballots. The ballots shall be returned  
1230 to the registrars or their designees by the electors in the envelopes  
1231 provided and in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-137, as  
1232 amended by this act, [9-139] and 9-140a, as amended by this act. If any  
1233 elector asks for assistance in voting [his] such elector's ballot, two  
1234 registrars or their designees of different political parties or, for a  
1235 primary, their designees of different candidates, shall render such  
1236 assistance as they deem necessary and appropriate to enable such  
1237 elector to vote [his] the ballot. The registrars or their designees may  
1238 reject a ballot when (1) the elector declines to vote a ballot, or (2) the  
1239 registrars or their designees are unable to determine how the elector  
1240 who has requested their assistance desires to vote the ballot. When the  
1241 registrars or their designees reject a ballot, they shall mark the [serially-  
1242 numbered outer] return envelope "rejected" and note the reasons for  
1243 rejection. Nothing in this section shall limit the right of an elector to vote  
1244 [his] the ballot in secret.

1245 (h) After all ballots have been voted or marked "rejected" in  
1246 accordance with subsection (g) of this section, the registrars or their  
1247 designees shall jointly deliver or mail them in the envelopes, which shall  
1248 be sealed, to the appropriate town clerk, who shall retain them until  
1249 delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act.

1250 (i) When an institution is located in a town having a primary, the  
1251 registrar in that town of the party holding the primary shall appoint for  
1252 each such institution, one designee of the party-endorsed candidates  
1253 and one designee of the contestants from the lists, if any, submitted by  
1254 the party-endorsed candidates and contestants. Such registrar shall  
1255 notify all party-endorsed candidates and all contestants of their right to  
1256 submit a list of potential designees under this section. Each party-  
1257 endorsed candidate and each contestant may submit to such registrar in  
1258 writing a list of names of potential designees, provided any such list

1259 shall be submitted not later than ten days before the primary. If no such  
1260 lists are submitted within said period, such registrar shall appoint one  
1261 designee of the party-endorsed candidates and one designee of the  
1262 contestants. Each designee appointed pursuant to this section shall be  
1263 sworn to the faithful performance of [his] such designee's duties, and  
1264 the registrar shall file a certificate of each designation with [his] the town  
1265 clerk.

1266 (j) Any registrar of voters who has filed a request that the absentee  
1267 balloting at an institution be supervised and any registrar required to  
1268 conduct a supervision of voting under this section, who neglects to  
1269 perform any of the duties required of [him] such registrar by this section  
1270 so as to cause any elector to lose [his] such elector's vote shall be guilty  
1271 of a class A misdemeanor. Any registrar from the same town as a  
1272 registrar who has filed such a request may waive [his] the right to  
1273 participate in the supervision of absentee balloting.

1274 (k) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, if the spouse or a  
1275 child of a registrar of voters or a dependent relative residing in the  
1276 registrar's household is a candidate in the election or primary for which  
1277 supervised absentee voting is to occur, such registrar shall not supervise  
1278 such absentee voting but may designate the deputy registrar of voters  
1279 or an assistant registrar of voters, appointed by the registrar pursuant to  
1280 section 9-192, to supervise the absentee voting in [his] such registrar's  
1281 place.

1282 (l) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
1283 Secretary of the State may suspend the supervision of absentee balloting  
1284 under this section and section 9-159r, provided the Secretary (1)  
1285 suspends such supervision of absentee balloting in recognition of a  
1286 declaration by the Governor of a civil preparedness emergency,  
1287 pursuant to section 28-9, or a public health emergency, pursuant to  
1288 section 19-131a, and (2) submits a report, in accordance with section 11-  
1289 4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
1290 cognizance of matters relating to elections advising of such suspension  
1291 and specifying alternative actions to be taken to provide opportunities

1292 for absentee voting by electors described in this section and section 9-  
1293 159r.

1294 Sec. 22. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the 2026  
1295 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
1296 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1297 (1) To make investigations on its own initiative or with respect to  
1298 statements filed with the commission by the Secretary of the State, any  
1299 town clerk or any registrar of voters or upon written complaint under  
1300 oath by any individual, with respect to alleged violations of any  
1301 provision of the general statutes relating to any election or referendum,  
1302 any primary held pursuant to section 9-423, 9-425 or 9-464 or any  
1303 primary held pursuant to a special act, or alleged violations of any  
1304 regulation adopted under any such provision, and to hold hearings  
1305 when the commission deems necessary to investigate violations of any  
1306 provisions of the general statutes relating to any such election, primary  
1307 or referendum, or violations of any regulation adopted under any such  
1308 provisions, and for the purpose of such hearings the commission may  
1309 administer oaths, examine witnesses and receive oral and documentary  
1310 evidence, and shall have the power to subpoena witnesses under  
1311 procedural rules the commission shall adopt, to compel their attendance  
1312 and to require the production for examination of any books and papers  
1313 which the commission deems relevant to any matter under investigation  
1314 or in question. Until the commission determines that it is necessary to  
1315 investigate a violation, commission members and staff shall keep  
1316 confidential any information concerning a complaint or preliminary  
1317 investigation, except upon request of the treasurer, deputy treasurer,  
1318 chairperson or candidate affiliated with a committee that is the subject  
1319 of the complaint or preliminary investigation. In connection with its  
1320 investigation of any alleged violation of any provision of chapter 145, or  
1321 of any provision of section 9-359 or section 9-359a, as amended by this  
1322 act, the commission shall also have the power to subpoena any  
1323 municipal clerk and to require the production for examination of any  
1324 absentee ballot, [inner and outer] return envelope from which any such

1325 ballot has been removed, depository envelope containing any such  
1326 ballot or [inner or outer] return envelope as provided in sections 9-150a,  
1327 as amended by this act, and 9-150b, as amended by this act, and any  
1328 other record, form or document as provided in section 9-150b, as  
1329 amended by this act, in connection with the election, primary or  
1330 referendum to which the investigation relates. In case of a refusal to  
1331 comply with any subpoena issued pursuant to this subsection or to  
1332 testify with respect to any matter upon which that person may be  
1333 lawfully interrogated, the superior court for the judicial district of  
1334 Hartford, on application of the commission, may issue an order  
1335 requiring such person to comply with such subpoena and to testify;  
1336 failure to obey any such order of the court may be punished by the court  
1337 as a contempt thereof. In any matter under investigation which concerns  
1338 the operation or inspection of or outcome recorded on any voting  
1339 tabulator, the commission may issue an order to the registrars of voters  
1340 to impound such tabulator until the investigation is completed;

1341 Sec. 23. Subsection (e) of section 9-23r of the general statutes is  
1342 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
1343 *passage*):

1344 (e) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section does not  
1345 submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this section as  
1346 part of the individual's application for admission as an elector, and if the  
1347 individual votes by absentee ballot in an election for federal office, the  
1348 individual shall enclose in the [outer absentee ballot envelope, and not  
1349 in the inner envelope with the ballot] additional envelope provided by  
1350 the municipal clerk pursuant to section 9-140a, as amended by this act,  
1351 for the return of such applicant's identification: (1) A copy of a current  
1352 and valid photo identification, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank  
1353 statement, government check, paycheck, or other government  
1354 document that shows the name and address of the voter. If an individual  
1355 does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an election for  
1356 federal office, such [individual's] individual's absentee ballot shall be  
1357 processed in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (A) of

1358 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-150a, as amended by this  
1359 act, and treated as a provisional ballot for federal office only, pursuant  
1360 to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

1361 Sec. 24. Section 9-359a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1362 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1363 (a) A person is guilty of false statement in absentee balloting when  
1364 [he] such person intentionally makes a false written statement in or on,  
1365 or signs the name of another person to, the application for an absentee  
1366 ballot or the [inner] return envelope accompanying any such ballot,  
1367 which [he] such person does not believe to be true and which statement  
1368 or signature is intended to mislead a public servant in the performance  
1369 of [his] such public servant's official function.

1370 (b) False statement in absentee balloting is a class D felony.

1371 Sec. 25. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
1372 section 9-369b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
1373 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1374 (B) Each such explanatory text shall be prepared by the municipal  
1375 clerk and shall specify the intent and purpose of each such proposal or  
1376 question. Such explanatory text shall not advocate either the approval  
1377 or disapproval of the proposal or question. The municipal clerk shall  
1378 cause such question or proposal and such explanatory text to be printed  
1379 in sufficient supply for public dissemination and shall also provide for  
1380 the printing of such explanations of proposals or questions on posters  
1381 of a size to be determined by said clerk. At least three such posters shall  
1382 be posted at each polling place at which electors will be voting on such  
1383 proposals or questions. Any posters printed in excess of the number  
1384 required by this section to be posted may be displayed by said clerk at  
1385 the clerk's discretion at locations which are frequented by the public.  
1386 The explanatory text shall also be furnished to each absentee ballot  
1387 applicant pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 9-140,  
1388 as amended by this act. Each such explanatory text shall be subject to

1389 the approval of the municipal attorney.

1390 Sec. 26. Section 9-369a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1391 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1392 Whenever by law it is provided that a question may be submitted to  
1393 a vote of the electors of a municipality at an election, as that term is  
1394 defined in section 9-1:

1395 (a) The electors of the municipality [entitled to vote] voting by  
1396 absentee ballot at the election under the provisions of section 9-135, as  
1397 amended by this act, [shall be entitled to] may vote upon any such  
1398 question.

1399 (b) When the clerk of the municipality determines that the necessary  
1400 action has been taken for submission of the question, [he] the clerk shall,  
1401 at least forty-five days prior to the election, file in the office of the  
1402 Secretary of the State a statement setting forth the designation of the  
1403 question as it is to appear on the ballot at the election, the date upon  
1404 which the submitting action was taken and the reference to the law  
1405 under which the action was taken. Such designation shall be in the form  
1406 of a question, as provided in section 9-369. Whenever it is specifically  
1407 provided in the general statutes that any such question may be  
1408 approved for such submission within the period of forty-five days prior  
1409 to such an election, and action is taken to submit a question within such  
1410 period, the clerk of the municipality shall file the statement required by  
1411 this subsection with the Secretary of the State immediately upon the  
1412 taking of such action.

1413 (c) When action is taken for submission of a question, from the time  
1414 of such action through the day of the election, the clerk of the  
1415 municipality shall make the full text of the question and the designation  
1416 which is to appear upon the ballot available for public inspection. If the  
1417 designation is not prescribed by law, the clerk shall phrase the  
1418 designation of the question in a form suitable for printing on the ballot.  
1419 The warning of the election shall include a statement that the question

1420 is to be voted upon, the designation of the question to appear on the  
1421 ballot, and a statement that the full text of the question is available for  
1422 public inspection in the clerk's office.

1423 (d) The moderator or head moderator of the election shall file the  
1424 results of the vote on each such question and the returns of the election  
1425 with the Secretary of the State in the manner prescribed under the  
1426 provisions of section 9-314 or other applicable law.

1427 Sec. 27. Subsection (b) of section 9-369c of the general statutes is  
1428 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1429 *2026*):

1430 (b) At any such referendum, any person who [would be] is eligible to  
1431 vote on the question or proposal [if he appeared in person and is unable  
1432 to] and who will not appear in person [for one or more of the reasons  
1433 set forth in section 9-135,] may cast [his] such person's vote by absentee  
1434 ballot, in accordance with the requirements of this section.

1435 Sec. 28. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of  
1436 section 9-163aa of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as  
1437 amended by section 69 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following  
1438 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1439 (B) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an individual  
1440 who enrolls in a political party during a period of early voting at a  
1441 primary from voting by absentee ballot [, if eligible,] or in person on the  
1442 day of such primary.

1443 Sec. 29. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
1444 section 9-164 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
1445 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1446 (a) (1) (A) On and after January 1, [2022] 2027, and notwithstanding  
1447 any contrary provision of law, there shall be held in each municipality  
1448 [.] biennially, or quadrennially if the charter of such municipality so  
1449 provides, a municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday of

1450 November of the odd-numbered years, except that such municipal  
1451 election may be held on the first Monday of May of the odd-numbered  
1452 years if the legislative body of such municipality so determines by a  
1453 three-fourths vote.

1454 Sec. 30. Subsection (b) of section 9-19b of the general statutes is  
1455 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
1456 *passage*):

1457 (b) Except during the period between the last session for the  
1458 admission of electors prior to an election and the day following that  
1459 election, either registrar of voters, or a deputy registrar or assistant  
1460 registrar appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 9-192  
1461 may examine the qualifications of any person applying to be admitted  
1462 as an elector in the town and, except for applications submitted  
1463 pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection, approve such application  
1464 submitted in person (1) at the office of such official; (2) at any enrollment  
1465 session of the registrars of voters; (3) at any public place; (4) at any time  
1466 and at any place in the town, other than a public place, that is mutually  
1467 agreed upon by such official and the person applying to be admitted as  
1468 an elector in the town; or (5) at any public office of the Department of  
1469 Motor Vehicles, Labor Department or Department of Social Services  
1470 which is located in the town in which the registrar, deputy registrar or  
1471 assistant registrar serves, if written notice of the date and time is given  
1472 seven days in advance thereof to the commissioner of such department.  
1473 Upon receipt of a written notice under subdivision (5) of this subsection,  
1474 the commissioner of the department may designate a portion of the  
1475 public office which shall be used for the admission of electors. The other  
1476 registrar, or any deputy or assistant registrar, shall be permitted to be  
1477 present during the admission of any person pursuant to subdivisions (4)  
1478 and (5) of this subsection. Applications accepted and examined prior to  
1479 the last session for admission of electors prior to an election pursuant to  
1480 subdivision (4) of this subsection may be approved after such last  
1481 session. The admission of any person pursuant to subdivision (4) shall  
1482 be effective on the date when both registrars approve such application.

1483 The registrar who receives such application from the applicant shall  
1484 give written notice to the other registrar within one business day after  
1485 such receipt and the registrars shall forthwith act on such applications.  
1486 No rejection of any application under subdivision (4) of this subsection  
1487 shall be effective until the registrar has mailed to the other registrar and  
1488 the applicant a notice stating any reason for the rejection. Any applicant  
1489 whose application is rejected may appeal under the provisions of section  
1490 9-311.

1491 Sec. 31. Section 9-258 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1492 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1493 (a) (1) For municipalities with more than one voting district, the  
1494 election officials of each polling place shall be electors of the state and  
1495 shall consist of [(1)] (A) one moderator, [(2)] (B) at least one but not more  
1496 than two official checkers, [(3)] (C) two assistant registrars of voters of  
1497 opposite political parties, each of whom shall be residents of the town,  
1498 [(4)] (D) at least one but not more than two ballot clerks, and [(5)] (E) at  
1499 least one but not more than two voting tabulator tenders for each voting  
1500 tabulator in use at the polling place. Head moderators, central counting  
1501 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law  
1502 shall also be deemed election officials.

1503 (2) A known candidate for any office shall not serve as an election  
1504 official on election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that  
1505 (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the  
1506 same office, may perform his or her official duties, [and] (B) a deputy  
1507 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,  
1508 may perform his or her official duties, and (C) an assistant municipal  
1509 clerk, who is a candidate for the office of municipal clerk, may perform  
1510 his or her official duties.

1511 (3) If, in the opinion of the registrar of voters, the public convenience  
1512 of the electors in any voting district so requires, provision shall be made  
1513 for an additional line or lines of electors at the polling place and, if more  
1514 than one line of electors is established, at least one but not more than

1515 two additional official checkers and at least one but not more than two  
1516 ballot clerks for each line of electors shall be appointed and, if more than  
1517 one tabulator is used in a polling place, at least one but not more than  
1518 two additional voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each  
1519 additional machine so used. [Head moderators, central counting  
1520 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law  
1521 shall also be deemed election officials.]

1522 (b) (1) For municipalities with one voting district, the election officials  
1523 of such polling place shall be electors of the state and shall consist of  
1524 [(1)] (A) one moderator, [(2)] (B) at least one but not more than two  
1525 official checkers, [(3)] (C) at least one but not more than two voting  
1526 tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in use at the polling place,  
1527 and [(4)] (D) at least one but not more than two ballot clerks.  
1528 Additionally, such election officials may consist of two registrars of  
1529 voters of opposite political parties, or two assistant registrars of voters  
1530 of opposite political parties, as the case may be, subject to the  
1531 requirements of sections 9-259 and 9-439, provided if the registrars of  
1532 voters are present in the polling place, they shall appoint at least one  
1533 designee to be present in their office. Head moderators, central counting  
1534 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law  
1535 shall also be deemed election officials.

1536 (2) A known candidate for any office shall not serve as an election  
1537 official on election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that  
1538 (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the  
1539 same office, may perform his or her official duties, [and] (B) a deputy  
1540 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,  
1541 may perform his or her official duties, and (C) an assistant municipal  
1542 clerk, who is a candidate for the office of municipal clerk, may perform  
1543 his or her official duties.

1544 (3) If, in the opinion of the registrar of voters, the public convenience  
1545 of the electors in any voting district so requires, provision shall be made  
1546 for an additional line or lines of electors at the polling place and, if more  
1547 than one line of electors is established, at least one but not more than

1548 two additional official checkers for each line of electors shall be  
1549 appointed and, if more than one tabulator is used in a polling place, at  
1550 least one but not more than two additional voting tabulator tenders shall  
1551 be appointed for each additional tabulator so used. [Head moderators,  
1552 central counting moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed  
1553 pursuant to law shall be deemed to be election officials.]

1554 (c) No election official shall perform services for any party or  
1555 candidate on election day nor appear at any political party headquarters  
1556 prior to eight o'clock p.m. on election day.

1557 Sec. 32. Section 9-190b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1558 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1559 If [a registrar of voters fails] one or more registrars of voters or deputy  
1560 registrars of voters of a municipality fail to attain or maintain,  
1561 whichever is applicable, certification required under subsection (a) of  
1562 section 9-192a, as amended by this act, or [is the subject] are the subjects  
1563 of an investigation of any matter related to the duties of [such registrar's  
1564 office] the office of the registrars of voters of such municipality resulting  
1565 from a statement filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission  
1566 by the Secretary of the State, the Secretary may issue a written  
1567 instruction, pursuant to section 9-3, as amended by this act, to [such  
1568 registrar] any or all such registrars or deputy registrars to appear before  
1569 the Secretary on the date and at such time as provided in such  
1570 instruction. The Secretary shall cite the reasons for such instruction and  
1571 inform each such registrar or deputy registrar so appearing that such  
1572 appearance is for the purpose of determining whether to temporarily  
1573 relieve such registrar or deputy registrar of his or her duties as provided  
1574 in this section. [The registrar shall appear before the Secretary and] Each  
1575 such registrar or deputy registrar so appearing shall be given a fair  
1576 opportunity to show cause, if any, why such registrar or deputy  
1577 registrar should not be temporarily relieved of his or her duties. If, after  
1578 such opportunity, the Secretary determines that the public interest in the  
1579 orderly conduct of elections would be so served, the Secretary may  
1580 temporarily relieve any such registrar or deputy registrar of his or her

1581 duties and, in the case of a registrar so temporarily relieved, require the  
1582 deputy registrar [of voters] appointed by such registrar to administer  
1583 the operations of such office until such certification has been attained or  
1584 maintained or until the State Elections Enforcement Commission has  
1585 completed such investigation and taken final action on such matter. The  
1586 proceeding described in this section shall not be considered a contested  
1587 case under chapter 54. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a  
1588 municipality from paying the salary of any such registrar of voters or  
1589 deputy registrar of voters while such resolution is pending.

1590 Sec. 33. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) If any municipal official,  
1591 including any election worker, as defined in section 9-364a of the  
1592 general statutes, as amended by this act, receives from any private or  
1593 governmental entity, individual or official a subpoena, warrant or other  
1594 request for or to inspect any record or recording of or produced at, or  
1595 any tabulator, ballot box or other device used in the conduct of, any  
1596 election, primary or referendum, such municipal official shall, not later  
1597 than thirty-six hours after the receipt of such subpoena, warrant or other  
1598 request, provide a copy of such subpoena, warrant or other request to  
1599 the offices of the Attorney General and the Secretary of the State. The  
1600 offices of the Attorney General and the Secretary of the State shall post  
1601 notice, on each of said offices' Internet web sites, of the methods by  
1602 which a municipal official may provide such copy to said offices. In the  
1603 case of the Secretary of the State receiving such a subpoena, warrant or  
1604 other request, the Secretary shall immediately provide a copy of such  
1605 subpoena, warrant or other request to the office of the Attorney General.

1606 Sec. 34. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,  
1607 "election worker" means any municipal clerk, assistant municipal clerk,  
1608 registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters or election official  
1609 described in section 9-258 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

1610 (b) The Attorney General may seek preliminary or permanent  
1611 injunctive, declaratory or other appropriate equitable relief to prevent  
1612 or redress interference in connection with any election for presidential  
1613 electors, a senator in Congress or representative in Congress by bringing

1614 a complaint to any judge of the Supreme Court, in which the Attorney  
1615 General shall set out the claimed interference. The Attorney General  
1616 shall file a certification attached to the complaint indicating that a copy  
1617 of the complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the  
1618 Secretary of the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and  
1619 any other interested party. If such complaint is made prior to such  
1620 election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on  
1621 the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the  
1622 Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission.  
1623 If such complaint is made subsequent to the election, it shall be brought  
1624 not later than fourteen days after the election. Upon receipt of such  
1625 complaint, such judge shall forthwith order any injunctive or  
1626 declaratory relief necessary to preserve or restore the status quo,  
1627 including, but not limited to, ordering that an election worker retain  
1628 custody of any record or recording of or produced at, or any tabulator,  
1629 ballot box or other device used in the conduct of, such election. Upon a  
1630 showing of exigent circumstances, such judge may issue an immediate  
1631 ex parte order granting such relief as such judge deems appropriate.  
1632 Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such  
1633 complaint, upon a day not more than five or less than three days from  
1634 the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than three or  
1635 more than five days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose  
1636 election may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to any  
1637 election worker who may be affected by the decision upon such hearing,  
1638 to the Secretary of the State, to the State Elections Enforcement  
1639 Commission and to any other party or parties whom such judge deems  
1640 proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing upon such  
1641 complaint. Such judge, with two other judges of the Supreme Court to  
1642 be designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on the day fixed  
1643 for such hearing and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the  
1644 parties. If sufficient reason is shown, such judges may order that the  
1645 State Elections Enforcement Commission maintain custody of any  
1646 record or recording of or produced at, or any tabulator, ballot box or  
1647 other device used in the conduct of, such election. If sufficient reason is  
1648 shown, such judges may order permanent injunctive, declaratory or

1649 other appropriate equitable relief in connection with the State Elections  
1650 Enforcement Commission or election worker custody of any record or  
1651 recording of or produced at, or any tabulator, ballot box or other device  
1652 used in the conduct of, such election.

1653 Sec. 35. Section 9-311 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes,  
1654 as amended by sections 91 and 92 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the  
1655 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1656 (a) If, within three days after an election, it appears to the moderator  
1657 that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such  
1658 moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written  
1659 notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials, consisting of at least  
1660 two checkers of different political parties and at least two absentee ballot  
1661 counters of different political parties who served at such election, and  
1662 the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the election was  
1663 held and such other officials as may be required to conduct such  
1664 recanvass. Such written notice shall require the clerk or registrars of  
1665 voters, as the case may be, to bring with them the depository envelopes  
1666 required by section 9-150a, as amended by [this act] public act 26-1, the  
1667 package of write-in ballots provided for in section 9-310, the absentee  
1668 ballot applications, the list of absentee ballot applications, the registry  
1669 list and the moderators' returns and shall require such recanvass  
1670 officials to meet at a specified time not later than the fifth business day  
1671 after such election to recanvass the returns of each voting tabulator,  
1672 except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, and all absentee  
1673 ballots and write-in ballots used in the municipality in such election. If  
1674 any of such recanvass officials are unavailable at the time of the  
1675 recanvass, the registrar of voters of the same political party as that of the  
1676 recanvass official unable to attend shall designate another elector  
1677 having previous training and experience in the conduct of elections to  
1678 take such recanvass official's place. Before such recanvass is made, such  
1679 moderator shall give notice, in writing, to the chairperson of the town  
1680 committee of each political party which nominated candidates for the  
1681 election, and, in the case of a state election, not later than twenty-four

1682 hours after a determination is made regarding the need for a recanvass  
1683 to the Secretary of the State, of the time and place where such recanvass  
1684 is to be made; and each such chairperson may send party  
1685 representatives to be present at such recanvass. Such party  
1686 representatives may observe, but no one other than a recanvass official  
1687 may take part in the recanvass. If a party representative notes any  
1688 irregularity in the recanvass procedure, such party representative shall  
1689 be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in any contest  
1690 relating to the election.

1691 (b) The moderator shall determine the place or places, which may  
1692 include the office of the Secretary of the State, where the recanvass shall  
1693 be conducted and, if such recanvass is held before the tabulators are  
1694 boxed and collected in the manner required by section 9-266, the  
1695 moderator may require that such recanvass of such tabulators be  
1696 conducted in each place where the tabulators are located, or the  
1697 moderator may require that such tabulators be removed to one central  
1698 place where such recanvass shall be conducted. All recanvassing  
1699 procedures shall be open to public observation, subject to the provisions  
1700 of subsection (d) of this section. Such recanvass officials shall, in the  
1701 presence of such moderator and registrars of voters, make a record of  
1702 the number on the seal and the number on the protective counter, if one  
1703 is provided, on each voting tabulator specified by such moderator. Such  
1704 registrars of voters in the presence of such moderator shall turn over the  
1705 keys of each such tabulator to such recanvass officials, and such  
1706 recanvass officials, in the presence of such registrars of voters and  
1707 moderator, shall immediately proceed to recanvass the vote cast  
1708 thereon, and shall then open the package of absentee ballots and  
1709 recanvass the vote cast thereon. In the course of the recanvass of the  
1710 absentee ballot vote the recanvass officials shall check all [outer] return  
1711 envelopes for absentee ballots [against the inner envelopes for such  
1712 ballots and] against the registry list to verify postmarks, addresses and  
1713 registry list markings and also to determine whether the number of  
1714 envelopes from which absentee ballots have been removed is the same  
1715 as the number of persons checked as having voted by absentee ballot.

1716 The write-in ballots shall also be recanvassed at this time. Any party  
1717 representative present shall have a right to view each ballot as it is being  
1718 recanvassed by the recanvass officials, so as to be able to discern the  
1719 markings on such ballot. All of the recanvass officials shall use the same  
1720 forms for tallies and returns as were used at the original canvass and the  
1721 absentee ballot counters shall also sign the tallies.

1722 (c) The votes shall be announced and recorded in the manner  
1723 prescribed in section 9-309 on return forms provided by the registrars of  
1724 voters and appended thereto shall be a statement signed by the  
1725 moderator indicating the time and place of the recanvass and the names,  
1726 addresses, titles and party affiliations of the recanvass officials. The  
1727 write-in ballots shall be replaced in a properly secured sealed package.  
1728 Upon the completion of such recanvass, any tabulator used in such  
1729 recanvass shall be locked and sealed, the keys thereof shall immediately  
1730 be returned to such registrars of voters and such tabulator shall remain  
1731 so locked until the expiration of fourteen days after such election or for  
1732 such longer period as is ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.  
1733 The absentee ballots shall be replaced in their wrappers and be resealed  
1734 by the moderator in the presence of the recanvass officials. Upon the  
1735 completion of such recanvass, such moderator and at least two of the  
1736 recanvass officials of different political parties shall forthwith prepare  
1737 and sign such return forms which shall contain a written statement  
1738 giving the result of such recanvass for each tabulator and each package  
1739 of absentee ballots whose returns were so recanvassed, setting forth  
1740 whether or not the original canvass was correctly made and stating  
1741 whether or not the discrepancy still remains unaccounted for. Such  
1742 return forms containing such statement shall forthwith be filed by the  
1743 moderator in the office of such clerk. If such recanvass reveals that the  
1744 original canvass of returns was not correctly made, such return forms  
1745 containing such statement so filed with the clerk shall constitute a  
1746 corrected return. In the case of a state election, a recanvass return shall  
1747 be made in duplicate on a form prescribed and provided by the  
1748 Secretary of the State, and the moderator shall file one copy with the  
1749 Secretary of the State and one copy with the town clerk not later than

1750 ten days after the election. Such recanvass return shall be substituted for  
1751 the original return and shall have the same force and effect as an original  
1752 return.

1753 (d) (1) The moderator may, when any disorder arises that interferes  
1754 with the conduct of a recanvass, including any attempt by a person other  
1755 than a recanvass official to take part in such recanvass or by such a  
1756 person to communicate with a recanvass official, and the offender  
1757 refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful authority, order that the  
1758 offender be removed by the recanvass officials from such recanvass until  
1759 the offender conforms to order or, if need be, until such recanvass is  
1760 completed.

1761 (2) Each political party or, in the case of an office subject to recanvass  
1762 for which there is more than one candidate from a political party, each  
1763 candidate may appoint one representative to communicate directly with  
1764 the moderator during a recanvass.

1765 (e) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c),  
1766 inclusive, of this section, a recanvass under this section may be  
1767 conducted with, instead of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators  
1768 used at the election, either a different voting tabulator or a high-speed  
1769 voting tabulator whenever (A) such recanvass is conducted at the office  
1770 of the Secretary of the State, or (B) such recanvass is conducted in the  
1771 municipality in which such election was held and both (i) the moderator  
1772 requests to borrow from the Secretary of the State either a different  
1773 voting tabulator or a high-speed voting tabulator for such purpose, and  
1774 (ii) the Secretary agrees to such request.

1775 (2) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
1776 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this  
1777 subsection.

1778 [(e)] (f) As used in this section, (1) "moderator" means, in the case of  
1779 municipalities not divided into voting districts, the moderator of the  
1780 election and, in the case of municipalities divided into voting districts,

1781 the head moderator of the election, and (2) "registrars of voters", in a  
1782 municipality where there are different registrars of voters for different  
1783 voting districts, means the registrars of voters in the voting district in  
1784 which, at the last-preceding election, the presiding officer for the  
1785 purpose of declaring the result of the vote of the whole municipality was  
1786 moderator.

1787 Sec. 36. Section 9-311a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes,  
1788 as amended by section 93 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the  
1789 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1790 (a) For purposes of this section, state, district and municipal offices  
1791 shall be as defined in section 9-372 except that the office of presidential  
1792 elector shall be deemed a state office. Forthwith after a regular or special  
1793 election for municipal office, or forthwith upon tabulation of the vote  
1794 for state and district offices by the Secretary of the State, when at any  
1795 such election the plurality of an elected candidate for an office over the  
1796 vote for a defeated candidate receiving the next highest number of votes  
1797 was either (1) less than a vote equivalent to one-half of one per cent of  
1798 the total number of votes cast for the office but not more than two  
1799 thousand votes, or (2) less than twenty votes, there shall be a canvass  
1800 of the returns of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators and absentee  
1801 ballots used in such election for such office unless such defeated  
1802 candidate or defeated candidates, as the case may be, for such office file  
1803 a written statement waiving this right to such canvass with the  
1804 municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office, or with the Secretary of  
1805 the State in the case of a state or district office. In the case of state and  
1806 district offices, the Secretary of the State upon tabulation of the votes for  
1807 such offices shall notify the town clerks in the state or district, as the case  
1808 may be, of the state and district offices which qualify for an automatic  
1809 canvass and shall also notify each candidate for any such office. When  
1810 a canvass is to be held, the municipal clerk shall promptly notify the  
1811 moderator, as defined in section 9-311, as amended by [this act] public  
1812 act 26-1, who shall proceed forthwith to cause a canvass of such  
1813 returns of the office in question in the same manner as is provided in

1814 section 9-311, as amended by [this act] public act 26-1. In addition to the  
1815 notice required under section 9-311, as amended by [this act] public act  
1816 26-1, the moderator shall, before such recanvass is [made] conducted,  
1817 give notice in writing to each candidate for a municipal office that  
1818 qualifies for an automatic recanvass under this section of the time when  
1819 [ ] and place, which may include the office of the Secretary of the State,  
1820 where [ ] such recanvass is to be [made to each candidate for a municipal  
1821 office which qualifies for an automatic recanvass under this section]  
1822 conducted. Nothing in this section shall preclude the right to judicial  
1823 proceedings on behalf of a candidate under any provision of chapter  
1824 149. For the purposes of this section, "the total number of votes cast for  
1825 the office" means, in the case of multiple openings for the same office,  
1826 the total number of electors checked as having voted in the state, district,  
1827 municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be. When a  
1828 recanvass of the returns for an office for which there are multiple  
1829 openings is required by the provisions of this section, the returns for all  
1830 candidates for all openings for the office shall be recanvassed. If a  
1831 candidate notes any irregularity in the recanvass procedure, such  
1832 candidate shall be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in  
1833 any contest relating to the election.

1834 (b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
1835 section, a recanvass under this section may be conducted with, instead  
1836 of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators used at the election, either a  
1837 different voting tabulator or a high-speed voting tabulator whenever  
1838 (A) such recanvass is conducted at the office of the Secretary of the State,  
1839 or (B) such recanvass is conducted in the municipality in which such  
1840 election was held and both (i) the moderator requests to borrow from  
1841 the Secretary of the State either a different voting tabulator or a high-  
1842 speed voting tabulator for such purpose, and (ii) the Secretary agrees to  
1843 such request.

1844 (2) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
1845 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this  
1846 subsection.

1847 Sec. 37. Section 9-311b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1848 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1849 (a) If the electors fail to elect a candidate for any office by reason of  
1850 an equality of votes at any election, there shall be a recanvass of the  
1851 returns for such office, in the same manner as is provided in section 9-  
1852 311, as amended by this act, unless, prior to the time of such recanvass,  
1853 all but one of the candidates so receiving an equal number of votes dies,  
1854 withdraws his name or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold such  
1855 office.

1856 (b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
1857 section, a recanvass under this section may be conducted with, instead  
1858 of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators used at the election, a  
1859 different voting tabulator or a high-speed voting tabulator whenever  
1860 (A) such recanvass is conducted at the office of the Secretary of the State,  
1861 or (B) such recanvass is conducted in the municipality in which such  
1862 election was held and both (i) the moderator requests to borrow from  
1863 the Secretary of the State either a different voting tabulator or a high-  
1864 speed voting tabulator for such purpose, and (ii) the Secretary agrees to  
1865 such request.

1866 (2) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
1867 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this  
1868 subsection.

1869 Sec. 38. Section 9-23l of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1870 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1871 Registrars of voters shall accept the mail voter registration  
1872 application form prescribed by the [Federal] Election Assistance  
1873 Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,  
1874 P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, as an application for  
1875 admission as an elector for all elections in Connecticut. The procedures  
1876 in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g which are not  
1877 inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-

1878 31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made  
1879 under this section.

1880 Sec. 39. Section 9-23m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1881 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1882 The Secretary of the State shall make available for distribution the  
1883 mail voter registration application form prescribed by the [Federal]  
1884 Election Assistance Commission pursuant to the National Voter  
1885 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time. The  
1886 secretary may make any changes in any forms required by this title  
1887 which, in the opinion of the secretary, are necessary to cause said forms  
1888 to conform to the provisions of applicable federal law.

1889 Sec. 40. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any citizen who has not yet  
1890 attained the age of eighteen years but who will have attained the age of  
1891 eighteen years on or before the day of an election, and who is otherwise  
1892 qualified to be an elector and has applied for admission as an elector,  
1893 may vote at such election during the period of early voting or by  
1894 absentee ballot.

1895 Sec. 41. Section 9-374 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1896 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1897 (a) No authority of the state or any political subdivision thereof  
1898 having jurisdiction over the conduct of any primary shall permit the  
1899 name of a party-endorsed candidate for an office or position to be  
1900 printed on the official ballot to be used at any such primary unless a  
1901 copy of the party rules regulating such party and its method of selecting  
1902 party-endorsed candidates for nomination to such office or for election  
1903 as town committee members, as the case may be, has been filed in the  
1904 office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before such  
1905 candidate is selected under such method of endorsement. The selection  
1906 of delegates to conventions shall not be valid unless at least one copy of  
1907 the party rules regulating the manner of making such selection has been  
1908 filed in the office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before

1909 such selection is made. A duplicate copy of such rules shall also be filed  
1910 with the state central committee of such party. A copy of the local party  
1911 rules, relating to a party in a municipality, shall be filed forthwith by the  
1912 town chairman or the secretary of the town committee of such party in  
1913 such municipality with the Secretary of the State. The state party rules  
1914 shall be filed by the state chairman or the secretary of the state central  
1915 committee of such party.

1916 (b) In the case of a minor party, no authority of the state or any  
1917 subdivision thereof having jurisdiction over the conduct of any election  
1918 shall permit the name of a candidate of such party for any office to be  
1919 printed on the official ballot unless at least one copy of the party rules  
1920 regulating the manner of nominating a candidate for such office has  
1921 been filed in the office of the Secretary of the State at least one hundred  
1922 eighty days before the nomination of such candidate. In the case of a  
1923 minor party, the selection of town committee members and delegates to  
1924 conventions shall not be valid unless at least one copy of the party rules  
1925 regulating the manner of making such selection has been filed in the  
1926 office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before such selection  
1927 is made. [A] In the case of a minor party, a copy of local party rules shall  
1928 forthwith be also filed with the town clerk of the municipality to which  
1929 they relate, except that for any municipality in which no town  
1930 committee of such minor party exists and no local party rules of such  
1931 minor party have been filed with the town clerk, the state party rules of  
1932 such minor party that have been filed with the office of the Secretary of  
1933 the State shall be deemed the party rules for purposes of enrolled  
1934 members and candidates of such minor party in such municipality.

1935 (c) Party rules shall not be effective until sixty days after the filing of  
1936 the same with the Secretary of the State. A party in any municipality for  
1937 which local party rules with respect to any office or position have not  
1938 been filed as provided in this section shall, as to such office or position,  
1939 be subject to the provisions of the effective state rules of such party  
1940 applicable in municipalities which do not have local party rules, until  
1941 such time as local party rules therefor are filed and become effective as

1942 provided in this section. The town chairman of a party in any  
1943 municipality for which local party rules have not been adopted and filed  
1944 as provided in this section shall forthwith file a statement with the  
1945 Secretary of the State to the effect that such party in such municipality  
1946 does not have local party rules. Any dispute arising under the party  
1947 rules of any party shall be referred to the state central committee of such  
1948 party.

1949 (d) The term "party rules" as used in this section includes any  
1950 amendment to such party rules. When any amendment is to be filed as  
1951 required by this section, complete party rules incorporating such  
1952 amendment shall be filed, together with a separate copy of such  
1953 amendment. All party rules and all amendments to such party rules  
1954 shall ensure such party's compliance with the federal Americans with  
1955 Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12101, et seq., as amended from time to time.

1956 Sec. 42. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-409 of the general statutes  
1957 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
1958 *October 1, 2026*):

1959 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, petition forms  
1960 for candidacies for nomination to municipal office or for election as  
1961 members of town committees shall be available from the registrar  
1962 [beginning on the day following the making of the party's endorsement  
1963 of a candidate or candidates for such office or position, or] beginning on  
1964 the day following the final day for the making of [such endorsement]  
1965 the party's endorsement of a candidate or candidates for such office or  
1966 position under the provisions of section 9-391, as amended by this act.  
1967 [whichever comes first.]

1968 (b) Petition forms for candidacies for nomination to the municipal  
1969 offices of state senator and state representative shall be available from  
1970 the registrar beginning on the seventy-seventh day preceding the day of  
1971 the primary for such office.

1972 Sec. 43. Section 7-22 of the general statutes is repealed and the

1973 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1974 Whenever [complaint in writing is made to the Attorney General that  
1975 the town clerk of any town is guilty of misconduct, wilful and material  
1976 neglect of duty or incompetence in the conduct of such town clerk's  
1977 office, the Attorney General shall make such investigation of the  
1978 charges] the State Elections Enforcement Commission consults with the  
1979 Attorney General pursuant to subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section  
1980 9-7b as the result of an investigation made pursuant to subdivision (1)  
1981 of subsection (a) of section 9-7b, as amended by this act, with respect to  
1982 an alleged violation by a municipal clerk of any provision of the general  
1983 statutes relating to any election, primary or referendum described in  
1984 subdivision (1) of said subsection, or of any regulation adopted under  
1985 any such provision, the Attorney General may make such investigation  
1986 of the alleged violation as the Attorney General deems proper and shall,  
1987 if the Attorney General is of the opinion that the evidence obtained  
1988 warrants such action, prepare a statement in writing of [the charges  
1989 against such town clerk] such municipal clerk's alleged violations,  
1990 together with a citation in the name of the state, commanding such  
1991 [town] municipal clerk to appear before a judge of the Superior Court at  
1992 a date named in the citation and show cause, if any, why such [town]  
1993 municipal clerk should not be removed from office as provided in this  
1994 section. The Attorney General shall cause a copy of such statement and  
1995 citation to be served by some proper officer upon the defendant [town]  
1996 municipal clerk at least ten days before the date of appearance named  
1997 in such citation, and the original statement and citation, with the return  
1998 of the officer thereon, shall be returned to the clerk of the superior court  
1999 for the judicial district within which such [town] municipality is  
2000 situated. To carry into effect the proceedings authorized by this section,  
2001 the Attorney General shall have power to summon witnesses, require  
2002 the production of necessary books, papers and other documents and  
2003 administer oaths to witnesses; and upon the date named in such citation  
2004 for the appearance of such [town] municipal clerk, or upon any  
2005 adjourned date fixed by the judge before whom such proceedings are  
2006 pending, the Attorney General shall appear and conduct the hearing on

2007 behalf of the state. If, after a full hearing of all the evidence offered by  
2008 the Attorney General and by and on behalf of the defendant, such judge  
2009 is of the opinion that the evidence presented warrants the removal of  
2010 such [town] municipal clerk from office, the judge shall cause to be  
2011 prepared a written order to that effect, which order shall be signed by  
2012 the judge and lodged with the clerk of the superior court for the judicial  
2013 district in which such defendant resides. Such clerk of the superior court  
2014 shall cause a certified copy of such order to be served forthwith upon  
2015 such [town] municipal clerk, and upon such service the office held by  
2016 such [town] municipal clerk shall become vacant, notwithstanding the  
2017 pendency of any appeal of such written order, and the vacancy thereby  
2018 created shall be filled at once in the manner provided in section 9-220.  
2019 Any witnesses summoned and any officer making service under the  
2020 provisions of this section shall be allowed and paid by the state the same  
2021 fees as are allowed by law in criminal prosecutions.

2022       Sec. 44. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) Not earlier than the  
2023 fifteenth day after any state election and not later than two business  
2024 days before the canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer  
2025 and Comptroller, commencing on a day designated by the Secretary, the  
2026 registrars of voters shall conduct a risk-limiting audit of such election.  
2027 Each such audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public  
2028 observation. Any election official who participates in the administration  
2029 and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated  
2030 by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such  
2031 municipality for elections.

2032       (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the  
2033 offices subject to a risk-limiting audit pursuant to this section shall be  
2034 (A) the office of presidential elector, if applicable, (B) all applicable state  
2035 offices, as defined in section 9-372 of the general statutes, (C) at least one  
2036 representative in Congress, selected in a random drawing by the  
2037 Secretary of the State, (D) at least five per cent, in the aggregate, of the  
2038 offices of state senator and state representative, selected in a random  
2039 drawing by the Secretary, and (E) any other office required to be audited

2040 by federal law. Whenever an office is randomly selected by the Secretary  
2041 under this subsection, the selection process shall be open to the public.

2042 (2) (A) If an office of representative in Congress is subject to  
2043 recanvass, other than under section 9-311a, as amended by this act, or 9-  
2044 311b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or to an election  
2045 contest pursuant to any provision of the general statutes, the Secretary  
2046 of the State shall ensure such office is included in the office or offices  
2047 selected under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

2048 (B) If an office of state senator or state representative is subject to  
2049 recanvass, other than under section 9-311a, as amended by this act, or 9-  
2050 311b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or to an election  
2051 contest pursuant to any provision of the general statutes, the Secretary  
2052 of the State shall ensure such office is included in the offices selected  
2053 under subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

2054 (C) If any office is subject to recanvass under section 9-311a, as  
2055 amended by this act, or 9-311b of the general statutes, as amended by  
2056 this act, or if a candidate was elected to an office without opposition by  
2057 another candidate for such office, the Secretary of the State shall ensure  
2058 such office is excluded from the offices selected under subdivision (1) of  
2059 this subsection.

2060 (c) Prior to the day designated by the Secretary of the State for the  
2061 commencement of the risk-limiting audit described in subsection (a) of  
2062 this section, the registrars of voters shall submit to the Secretary the  
2063 ballot manifests created under section 47 of this act.

2064 (d) The risk-limiting audit described in subsection (a) of this section  
2065 shall be conducted in accordance with instructions and procedures  
2066 prescribed by the Secretary of the State not later than January 1, 2027,  
2067 which instructions and procedures shall be consistent across all offices  
2068 subject to such audit. The risk limit for each such audit shall be not more  
2069 than five per cent. The results of each audit conducted pursuant to this  
2070 section, including any such audit that produces an outcome of

2071 "INCONCLUSIVE" as described in subsection (e) of this section, shall be  
2072 reported on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Secretary. Such  
2073 reported results shall be filed with the Secretary, who shall immediately  
2074 forward such reported results to The University of Connecticut for  
2075 analysis. The University of Connecticut shall submit to the Secretary a  
2076 written report regarding such analysis that describes any concerns  
2077 identified. After receipt of such written report, the Secretary shall  
2078 transmit a copy of such written report to the State Elections Enforcement  
2079 Commission.

2080 (e) In the event a risk-limiting audit conducted pursuant to this  
2081 section for a particular office produces an outcome of  
2082 "INCONCLUSIVE", the Secretary of the State shall order a manual  
2083 recount of all ballots cast for such office.

2084 (f) If the written report submitted by The University of Connecticut  
2085 under subsection (d) of this section indicates that a voting tabulator  
2086 failed to record votes accurately and in the manner provided by title 9  
2087 of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall require that the  
2088 voting tabulator be examined and recertified by the Secretary or the  
2089 Secretary's designee. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to  
2090 prohibit the Secretary from requiring that a voting tabulator be  
2091 examined and recertified.

2092 (g) The audit results reported to the Secretary of the State pursuant to  
2093 subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public inspection and may  
2094 be used as prima facie evidence of an irregularity in any contest arising  
2095 pursuant to chapter 149 of the general statutes or for any other cause of  
2096 action arising from such election.

2097 (h) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the results from an  
2098 audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the outcome of the  
2099 person declared elected by virtue of having received the greatest  
2100 number of votes, as determined by the paper ballots, the Secretary of the  
2101 State shall conduct such further investigation of the voting tabulator as  
2102 may be necessary for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to

2103 decertify the voting tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the  
2104 voting tabulator to be examined and recertified in accordance with  
2105 subsection (f) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary as a  
2106 result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections  
2107 Enforcement Commission, and the commission may initiate such  
2108 further investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection  
2109 (a) of section 9-7b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, as may  
2110 be required to determine if any violations of the general statutes  
2111 concerning election law have been committed.

2112 (i) The individual paper ballots used at an election shall be carefully  
2113 preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in accordance  
2114 with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310 of the general statutes,  
2115 as applicable.

2116 (j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any  
2117 candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to  
2118 chapter 149 of the general statutes.

2119 (k) After a state election, any voting tabulator may be kept locked for  
2120 a period longer than that prescribed by sections 9-266, 9-310 and 9-447  
2121 of the general statutes, if such an extended period is ordered by a court  
2122 of competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of the State or the State Elections  
2123 Enforcement Commission. Such court or the Secretary of the State may  
2124 order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted by such persons  
2125 as the court or the Secretary may designate, provided the State Elections  
2126 Enforcement Commission may order such an audit where the particular  
2127 office in question is that of the Secretary of the State. If the machine  
2128 utilized in such election is an optical scan voting system, such order to  
2129 lock such machine shall include the tabulator, memory card and all  
2130 other components and processes utilized in the programming of such  
2131 machine.

2132 (l) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
2133 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for the conduct  
2134 of risk-limiting audits described in subsection (a) of this section and to

2135 establish guidelines for expanded audits when the results from such a  
2136 risk-limiting audit cannot be reconciled with the outcome of the person  
2137 declared elected by virtue of having received the greatest number of  
2138 votes, as determined by the paper ballots.

2139 (m) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
2140 Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine  
2141 whenever any problem is discovered as a result of an audit described in  
2142 subsection (a) of this section.

2143 (n) As used in this section:

2144 (1) "Risk-limiting audit" means a publicly verifiable auditing  
2145 procedure that (A) manually examines a statistical sample of paper  
2146 ballots that reflect the intents of the voters having cast such ballots, (B)  
2147 produces an outcome of either "ACCEPTABLE" or "INCONCLUSIVE",  
2148 and (C) guarantees a specified risk limit;

2149 (2) "Risk limit" means the maximum probability that an audit would  
2150 produce an outcome of "ACCEPTABLE" when there is a disagreement  
2151 between the person declared elected and the person who received the  
2152 greatest number of votes as determined by the paper ballots; and

2153 (3) "State election" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1  
2154 of the general statutes.

2155 Sec. 45. Subsection (a) of section 9-320 of the general statutes is  
2156 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
2157 *1, 2027*):

2158 (a) The clerk of each municipality shall, [within ten days after the  
2159 municipal election] not later than the last day of the month in which the  
2160 municipal election was held, return to the Secretary of the State a  
2161 statement of the name, post-office address and term of each person  
2162 elected to office in such election. If an elected [town] municipal clerk is  
2163 registrar of vital statistics, ex officio, such return shall so indicate. Each  
2164 municipal clerk neglecting to make such return shall be fined not more

2165 than twenty-five dollars.

2166 Sec. 46. Section 9-320f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2167 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2168 (a) [(1)] Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any federal or state  
2169 [election or] primary or any municipal election or primary and not later  
2170 than two business days before the canvass of votes by the Secretary of  
2171 the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, [and (2) not earlier than the fifth  
2172 day after any municipal election or primary and not later than two  
2173 business days before the canvass of votes] or by the town clerk, as  
2174 applicable, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit, or an  
2175 electronic audit authorized under section 9-320g, as amended by this  
2176 act, of the votes recorded in not less than five per cent of the voting  
2177 districts in the state, district or municipality, whichever is applicable.  
2178 For the purposes of this section, any central location used in a  
2179 municipality for the counting of absentee ballots, early voting ballots or  
2180 same-day election registration ballots shall be deemed a voting district.  
2181 Such manual or electronic audit shall be noticed in advance and be open  
2182 to public observation. Any election official who participates in the  
2183 administration and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be  
2184 compensated by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established  
2185 by such municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

2186 (b) The voting districts subject to an audit described in subsection (a)  
2187 of this section shall be selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of  
2188 the State and such selection process shall be open to the public. The  
2189 offices subject to an audit pursuant to this section shall be, (1) [in the  
2190 case of an election where the office of presidential elector is on the ballot,  
2191 all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional  
2192 office selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State, but in  
2193 no case less than three offices, (2) in the case of an election where the  
2194 office of Governor is on the ballot, all offices required to be audited by  
2195 federal law, plus one additional office selected in a random drawing by  
2196 the Secretary of the State, but in no case less than three offices, (3)] in the  
2197 case of a municipal election, three offices or twenty per cent of the

2198 number of offices on the ballot, whichever is greater, selected at random  
2199 by the municipal clerk, and [(4)] (2) in the case of a primary, [election,]  
2200 all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional  
2201 office, if any, but in no event less than twenty per cent of the offices on  
2202 the ballot, selected in a random drawing by the municipal clerk.

2203 (c) If a selected voting district has an office that is subject to recanvass  
2204 or an election or primary contest pursuant to any provision of the  
2205 general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall select an alternative  
2206 district, pursuant to the process described in subsection (b) of this  
2207 section.

2208 (d) The manual or electronic audit described in subsection (a) of this  
2209 section shall consist of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper  
2210 ballots cast and counted by each voting tabulator subject to such audit.  
2211 Once complete, the vote totals established pursuant to such manual or  
2212 electronic tabulation shall be compared to the results reported by the  
2213 voting tabulator on the day of the election or primary. The results of  
2214 such manual or electronic tabulation shall be reported on a form  
2215 prescribed by the Secretary of the State which shall include the total  
2216 number of ballots counted, the total votes received by each candidate in  
2217 question, the total votes received by each candidate in question on  
2218 ballots that were properly completed by each voter and the total votes  
2219 received by each candidate in question on ballots that were not properly  
2220 completed by each voter. Such [report] reported results shall be filed  
2221 with the Secretary, [of the State] who shall immediately forward such  
2222 [report] reported results to The University of Connecticut for analysis.  
2223 The University of Connecticut shall [file] submit to the Secretary a  
2224 written report [with the Secretary of the State] regarding such analysis  
2225 that describes any discrepancies identified. After receipt of such written  
2226 report, the Secretary [of the State shall file such report with] shall  
2227 transmit a copy of such written report to the State Elections Enforcement  
2228 Commission.

2229 (e) For the purposes of this section, a ballot that has not been properly  
2230 completed will be deemed to be a ballot on which (1) votes have been

2231 marked by the voter outside the vote targets, (2) votes have been marked  
2232 by the voter using a manual marking device that cannot be read by the  
2233 voting tabulator, or (3) in the judgment of the registrars of voters, the  
2234 voter marked the ballot in such a manner that the voting tabulator may  
2235 not have read the marks as votes cast.

2236 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-311, as amended by  
2237 this act, the Secretary of the State shall order a discrepancy recanvass of  
2238 the returns of an election or primary for any office if a discrepancy, as  
2239 defined in subsection (o) of this section, exists where the margin of  
2240 victory in the race for such office is less than the amount of the  
2241 discrepancy multiplied by the total number of voting districts where  
2242 such race appeared on the ballot, provided in a year in which the  
2243 Secretary of the State is a candidate for an office on the ballot and that  
2244 office is subject to an audit as provided by this section, the State  
2245 Elections Enforcement Commission shall order a discrepancy recanvass  
2246 if a discrepancy, as defined by subsection (o) of this section, has  
2247 occurred that could affect the outcome of the election or primary for  
2248 such office.

2249 (g) If the written report submitted by The University of Connecticut  
2250 [report described in] under subsection (d) of this section indicates that a  
2251 voting tabulator failed to record votes accurately and in the manner  
2252 provided by [the general statutes] this title, the Secretary of the State  
2253 shall require that the voting tabulator be examined and recertified by  
2254 the Secretary, [of the State,] or the Secretary's designee. Nothing in this  
2255 subsection shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary [of the State] from  
2256 requiring that a voting tabulator be examined and recertified.

2257 (h) The audit [report filed] results reported to the Secretary of the  
2258 State pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public  
2259 inspection and may be used as prima facie evidence of a discrepancy in  
2260 any contest arising pursuant to chapter 149 or for any other cause of  
2261 action arising from such election or primary.

2262 (i) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the manual or electronic

2263 count from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the  
2264 electronic vote tabulation and discrepancies from the election or  
2265 primary, the Secretary of the State shall conduct such further  
2266 investigation of the voting tabulator malfunction as may be necessary  
2267 for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to decertify the voting  
2268 tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the voting tabulator to be  
2269 examined and recertified [pursuant to] in accordance with subsection  
2270 (g) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary [of the State] as  
2271 a result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections  
2272 Enforcement Commission and the commission may initiate such further  
2273 investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
2274 section 9-7b, as amended by this act, as may be required to determine if  
2275 any violations of the general statutes concerning election law have been  
2276 committed.

2277 (j) The individual paper ballots used at an election or primary shall  
2278 be carefully preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in  
2279 accordance with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310, [whichever  
2280 is] as applicable.

2281 (k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any  
2282 candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to  
2283 chapter 149.

2284 (l) After an election or primary, any voting tabulator may be kept  
2285 locked for a period longer than that prescribed by sections 9-266, 9-310  
2286 and 9-447, if such an extended period is ordered by [either] a court of  
2287 competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of the State or the State Elections  
2288 Enforcement Commission. [Either the] Such court or the Secretary of the  
2289 State may order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted by  
2290 such persons as the court or the Secretary [of the State] may designate,  
2291 provided the State Elections Enforcement Commission may order such  
2292 an audit under the circumstances prescribed in subsection (f) of this  
2293 section. If the machine utilized in such election or primary is an optical  
2294 scan voting system, such order to lock such machine shall include the  
2295 tabulator, memory card and all other components and processes utilized

2296 in the programming of such machine.

2297 (m) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
2298 with the provisions of chapter 54, [as may be necessary] for the conduct  
2299 of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper ballots described in  
2300 subsection (a) of this section and to establish guidelines for expanded  
2301 audits when there are differences between the manual or electronic  
2302 counts from the audit described in subsection (a) of this section and  
2303 tabulator counts from the election or primary.

2304 (n) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
2305 Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine  
2306 whenever any problem is discovered as a result of an audit described in  
2307 subsection (a) of this section.

2308 (o) As used in this section: [, "discrepancy"]

2309 (1) "Discrepancy" means any difference in vote totals between  
2310 tabulator counts from an election or primary and manual or electronic  
2311 counts from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section in a  
2312 voting district that exceeds one-half of one per cent of the lesser amount  
2313 of the vote totals between such tabulator counts and such manual or  
2314 electronic counts where such differences cannot be resolved through an  
2315 accounting of ballots that were not marked properly in accordance with  
2316 subsection (e) of this section; [, "state election" means "state election", as  
2317 defined in section 9-1, "municipal election"]

2318 (2) "Municipal election" means a municipal election held pursuant to  
2319 section 9-164, as amended by this act; [, "manual"]

2320 (3) "Manual" means by hand and without the assistance of electronic  
2321 equipment; and ["electronic"]

2322 (4) "Electronic" means through the use of equipment described in  
2323 section 9-320g, as amended by this act.

2324 Sec. 47. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) Except in the case of a

2325 recanvass subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, not  
2326 later than seventy-two hours after the close of the polls at each state  
2327 election, as defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes:

2328 (1) The election officials in each polling place shall create a ballot  
2329 manifest for such polling place in accordance with procedures  
2330 prescribed by the Secretary of the State; and

2331 (2) The absentee ballot counters in each central counting location shall  
2332 create a ballot manifest for such central counting location in accordance  
2333 with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

2334 (b) Not later than twenty-four hours after the completion of any  
2335 recanvass conducted at a state election in a voting district, the recanvass  
2336 officials shall create a ballot manifest for such district in accordance with  
2337 procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

2338 (c) All ballot manifest creation procedures shall be open to public  
2339 observation.

2340 (d) Immediately after a ballot manifest has been created pursuant to  
2341 this section, the moderator shall submit such ballot manifest to the  
2342 registrars of voters.

2343 Sec. 48. Section 9-323 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2344 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2345 Any elector or candidate who claims that he or she is aggrieved by  
2346 any ruling of any election official in connection with any election for  
2347 presidential electors and for a senator in Congress and for  
2348 representative in Congress or any of them, held in his or her town, or  
2349 that there was a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such election  
2350 for candidates for such electors, senator in Congress and representative  
2351 in Congress, or any of them, at any voting district in his or her town, or  
2352 any candidate for such an office who claims that he or she is aggrieved  
2353 by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive,  
2354 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the casting of absentee

2355 ballots at such election, may bring his or her complaint to any judge of  
2356 the Supreme Court, in which he or she shall set out the claimed errors  
2357 of such election official, the claimed errors in the count or the claimed  
2358 violations of said sections. In any action brought pursuant to the  
2359 provisions of this section, the complainant shall file a certification  
2360 attached to the complaint indicating that a copy of the complaint has  
2361 been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the State Elections  
2362 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such  
2363 election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on  
2364 the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the  
2365 Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission.  
2366 If such complaint is made subsequent to the election, it shall be brought  
2367 not later than fourteen days after the election or, if such complaint is  
2368 brought in response to [the manual tabulation of paper ballots  
2369 authorized] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended  
2370 by this act, or section 44 of this act, such complaint shall be brought not  
2371 later than seven days after the close of any such [manual tabulation]  
2372 audit, and in either such circumstance, the judge shall forthwith order a  
2373 hearing to be had upon such complaint, upon a day not more than five  
2374 or less than three days from the making of such order, and shall cause  
2375 notice of not less than three or more than five days to be given to any  
2376 candidate or candidates whose election may be affected by the decision  
2377 upon such hearing, to such election official, to the Secretary of the State,  
2378 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission and to any other party  
2379 or parties whom such judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time  
2380 and place for the hearing upon such complaint. Such judge, with two  
2381 other judges of the Supreme Court to be designated by the Chief Court  
2382 Administrator, shall, on the day fixed for such hearing and without  
2383 unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient reason is  
2384 shown, such judges may order any voting tabulators to be unlocked or  
2385 any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes cast, including  
2386 absentee ballots, to be made. Such judges shall thereupon, in the case  
2387 they, or any two of them, find any error in the rulings of the election  
2388 official, any mistake in the count of such votes or any violation of said  
2389 sections, certify the result of their finding or decision, or the finding or

2390 decision of a majority of them, to the Secretary of the State before the  
2391 first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December. Such judges  
2392 may order a new election or a change in the existing election schedule,  
2393 provided such order complies with Section 302 of the Help America  
2394 Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time. Such certificate of  
2395 such judges, or a majority of them, shall be final upon all questions  
2396 relating to the rulings of such election officials, to the correctness of such  
2397 count and, for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations,  
2398 and shall operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding  
2399 officers so as to conform to such finding or decision.

2400 Sec. 49. Section 9-324 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2401 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2402 Any elector or candidate who claims that such elector or candidate is  
2403 aggrieved by any ruling of any election official in connection with any  
2404 election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State  
2405 Treasurer, Attorney General, State Comptroller or judge of probate, held  
2406 in such elector's or candidate's town, or that there has been a mistake in  
2407 the count of the votes cast at such election for candidates for said offices  
2408 or any of them, at any voting district in such elector's or candidate's  
2409 town, or any candidate for such an office who claims that such candidate  
2410 is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-  
2411 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the  
2412 casting of absentee ballots at such election or any candidate for the office  
2413 of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State  
2414 Treasurer, Attorney General or State Comptroller, who claims that such  
2415 candidate is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-700  
2416 to 9-716, inclusive, may bring such elector's or candidate's complaint to  
2417 any judge of the Superior Court, in which such elector or candidate shall  
2418 set out the claimed errors of such election official, the claimed errors in  
2419 the count or the claimed violations of said sections. In any action  
2420 brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the complainant shall  
2421 send a copy of the complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the  
2422 complaint by hand, to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If

2423 such complaint is made prior to such election, such judge shall proceed  
2424 expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint and shall cause  
2425 notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the State and the  
2426 State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made  
2427 subsequent to the election, it shall be brought not later than fourteen  
2428 days after the election or, if such complaint is brought in response to  
2429 [the manual tabulation of paper ballots authorized] an audit conducted  
2430 pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section 44 of this  
2431 act, such complaint shall be brought not later than seven days after the  
2432 close of any such [manual tabulation] audit and, in either such  
2433 circumstance, such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon  
2434 such complaint, upon a day not more than five nor less than three days  
2435 from the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than  
2436 three nor more than five days to be given to any candidate or candidates  
2437 whose election may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to  
2438 such election official, the Secretary of the State, the State Elections  
2439 Enforcement Commission and to any other party or parties whom such  
2440 judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing  
2441 upon such complaint. Such judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing  
2442 and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient  
2443 reason is shown, such judge may order any voting tabulators to be  
2444 unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes  
2445 cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. Such judge shall thereupon,  
2446 in case such judge finds any error in the rulings of the election official,  
2447 any mistake in the count of the votes or any violation of said sections,  
2448 certify the result of such judge's finding or decision to the Secretary of  
2449 the State before the fifteenth day of the next succeeding December. Such  
2450 judge may order a new election or a change in the existing election  
2451 schedule. Such certificate of such judge of such judge's finding or  
2452 decision shall be final and conclusive upon all questions relating to  
2453 errors in the rulings of such election officials, to the correctness of such  
2454 count, and, for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations,  
2455 and shall operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding  
2456 officers, so as to conform to such finding or decision, unless the same is  
2457 appealed from as provided in section 9-325.

2458 Sec. 50. Section 9-328 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2459 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2460 Any elector or candidate claiming to have been aggrieved by any  
2461 ruling of any election official in connection with an election for any  
2462 municipal office or a primary for justice of the peace, or any elector or  
2463 candidate claiming that there has been a mistake in the count of votes  
2464 cast for any such office at such election or primary, or any candidate in  
2465 such an election or primary claiming that he is aggrieved by a violation  
2466 of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a,  
2467 as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such  
2468 election or primary, may bring a complaint to any judge of the Superior  
2469 Court for relief therefrom. In any action brought pursuant to the  
2470 provisions of this section, the complainant shall send a copy of the  
2471 complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the complaint by hand,  
2472 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is  
2473 made prior to such election or primary, such judge shall proceed  
2474 expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint and shall cause  
2475 notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the State and the  
2476 State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made  
2477 subsequent to such election or primary, it shall be brought not later than  
2478 fourteen days after such election or primary, except that if such  
2479 complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of paper  
2480 ballots, authorized] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as  
2481 amended by this act, or section 44 of this act, such complaint shall be  
2482 brought not later than seven days after the close of any such [manual  
2483 tabulation] audit, to any judge of the Superior Court, in which he shall  
2484 set out the claimed errors of the election official, the claimed errors in  
2485 the count or the claimed violations of said sections. Such judge shall  
2486 forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such complaint, upon a day  
2487 not more than five nor less than three days from the making of such  
2488 order, and shall cause notice of not less than three nor more than five  
2489 days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose election or  
2490 nomination may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to such  
2491 election official, the Secretary of the State, the State Elections

2492 Enforcement Commission and to any other party or parties whom such  
2493 judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing  
2494 upon such complaint. Such judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing  
2495 and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient  
2496 reason is shown, he may order any voting tabulators to be unlocked or  
2497 any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes cast, including  
2498 absentee ballots, to be made. Such judge shall thereupon, if he finds any  
2499 error in the rulings of the election official or any mistake in the count of  
2500 the votes, certify the result of his finding or decision to the Secretary of  
2501 the State before the tenth day succeeding the conclusion of the hearing.  
2502 Such judge may order a new election or primary or a change in the  
2503 existing election schedule. Such certificate of such judge of his finding  
2504 or decision shall be final and conclusive upon all questions relating to  
2505 errors in the ruling of such election officials, to the correctness of such  
2506 count, and, for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations,  
2507 and shall operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding  
2508 officers, so as to conform to such finding or decision, except that this  
2509 section shall not affect the right of appeal to the Supreme Court and it  
2510 shall not prevent such judge from reserving such questions of law for  
2511 the advice of the Supreme Court as provided in section 9-325. Such  
2512 judge may, if necessary, issue his writ of mandamus, requiring the  
2513 adverse party and those under him to deliver to the complainant the  
2514 appurtenances of such office, and shall cause his finding and decree to  
2515 be entered on the records of the Superior Court in the proper judicial  
2516 district.

2517 Sec. 51. Subsection (a) of section 9-329a of the general statutes is  
2518 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
2519 *1, 2027*):

2520 (a) Any (1) elector or candidate aggrieved by a ruling of an election  
2521 official in connection with any primary held pursuant to (A) section 9-  
2522 423, 9-425 or 9-464, or (B) a special act, (2) elector or candidate who  
2523 alleges that there has been a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such  
2524 primary, or (3) candidate in such a primary who alleges that he is

2525 aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-  
2526 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the  
2527 casting of absentee ballots at such primary, may bring his complaint to  
2528 any judge of the Superior Court for appropriate action. In any action  
2529 brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the complainant shall  
2530 file a certification attached to the complaint indicating that a copy of the  
2531 complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the State  
2532 Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to  
2533 such primary such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render  
2534 judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be  
2535 given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement  
2536 Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to such primary it  
2537 shall be brought, not later than fourteen days after such primary, or if  
2538 such complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of  
2539 paper ballots, described in] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-  
2540 320f, as amended by this act, or section 44 of this act, such complaint  
2541 shall be brought, not later than seven days after the close of any such  
2542 [manual tabulation] audit, to any judge of the Superior Court.

2543 Sec. 52. Subsection (b) of section 9-3 of the general statutes, as  
2544 amended by section 89 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following  
2545 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2546 (b) During any municipal, state or federal election, primary or  
2547 recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as  
2548 amended by this act, or section 44 of this act, the Secretary of the State  
2549 may issue an order, whether orally or in writing, to any registrar of  
2550 voters or moderator to correct any irregularity or impropriety in the  
2551 conduct of such election, primary or recanvass or audit. Any such order  
2552 shall be effective upon issuance. As soon as practicable after issuance of  
2553 an oral order pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall reduce such  
2554 order to writing, cite within such order any applicable provision of law  
2555 authorizing such order and cause a copy of such written order to be  
2556 delivered to the individual who is the subject of such order or, in the  
2557 case that such order was originally issued in writing, issue a subsequent

2558 written order that conforms to such requirements. The Superior Court,  
2559 on application of the Secretary or the Attorney General, may enforce by  
2560 appropriate decree or process any such order issued pursuant to this  
2561 subsection.

2562 Sec. 53. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 9-229 of the general  
2563 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
2564 (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2565 (3) The duties of each regional election advisor shall include, but not  
2566 be limited to: (A) Holding the instructional sessions described in  
2567 subdivision (2) of this subsection; (B) communicating with registrars of  
2568 voters to assist, to the extent permitted under law, in preparations for  
2569 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit  
2570 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section  
2571 44 of this act; and (C) transmitting any order issued by the Secretary of  
2572 the State, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-3, as amended by this  
2573 act.

2574 Sec. 54. Subsection (a) of section 9-229b of the general statutes is  
2575 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
2576 *1, 2027*):

2577 (a) Any regional council of governments organized under the  
2578 provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, may appoint a regional  
2579 election advisor, who shall represent, consult with and act on behalf of  
2580 such regional council of governments and any combination of regional  
2581 councils of governments or member towns of regional councils of  
2582 governments that may seek the assistance of such regional election  
2583 advisor. A regional election advisor shall consult and coordinate with  
2584 the Secretary of the State to provide such assistance in preparations for  
2585 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit  
2586 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section  
2587 44 of this act.

2588 Sec. 55. Section 9-320g of the general statutes is repealed and the

2589 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2590 Notwithstanding any provision of this title, the Secretary of the State,  
2591 in consultation and coordination with The University of Connecticut,  
2592 may authorize the use of electronic equipment for the purpose of  
2593 conducting any audit required pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended  
2594 by this act, [for any primary or general election held on or after January  
2595 1, 2016] or section 44 of this act, provided (1) the Secretary of the State  
2596 prescribes specifications for (A) the testing, set-up and operation of such  
2597 equipment, and (B) the training of election officials in the use of such  
2598 equipment; and (2) the Secretary of the State and The University of  
2599 Connecticut agree that such equipment is sufficient in quantity to  
2600 accommodate the total number of audits to be conducted. Nothing in  
2601 this section shall preclude any candidate or elector from seeking  
2602 additional remedies pursuant to chapter 149 as a result of any  
2603 information revealed by such process.

2604 Sec. 56. (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State shall establish  
2605 a pilot program for the conduct of risk-limiting audits at state elections  
2606 in 2026. The Secretary shall randomly select three municipalities for  
2607 participation in such pilot program, provided the Secretary shall select:  
2608 (1) One municipality with a population of less than twenty thousand;  
2609 (2) one municipality with a population of twenty thousand or greater,  
2610 but less than ninety thousand; and (3) one municipality with a  
2611 population of ninety thousand or greater. For the purposes of this  
2612 section, "risk-limiting audit" has the same meaning as provided in  
2613 section 44 of this act and "population" means the estimated number of  
2614 people according to the most recent version of the State Register and  
2615 Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90 of the general statutes.

2616 Sec. 57. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

2617 (1) "Election" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1 of the  
2618 general statutes;

2619 (2) "Elections site" means any (A) polling place on the day of an

2620 election, primary or referendum, (B) location designated for the conduct  
2621 of early voting during the period of early voting at an election or  
2622 primary, (C) location designated for same-day election registration  
2623 during the period of early voting at a regular election or on the day of a  
2624 regular election, (D) central location designated for the counting of  
2625 absentee ballots, early voting ballots or same-day election registration  
2626 ballots at an election, primary or referendum, as applicable, (E) place  
2627 where a recanvass is being conducted, or (F) drop box designated for  
2628 the deposit of absentee ballots during the period beginning on the first  
2629 day of issuance of absentee voting sets and ending at the close of the  
2630 polls at an election, primary or referendum;

2631 (3) "Primary" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-372 of  
2632 the general statutes; and

2633 (4) "Referendum" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1 of  
2634 the general statutes.

2635 (b) (1) No officer or agent of any organization or entity authorized by  
2636 the federal government or by any state to use force against, search,  
2637 detain or arrest individuals, and no person authorized by the federal  
2638 government or by any state to order, bring, keep or have under such  
2639 person's authority or control any such officer or agent, shall:

2640 (A) Knowingly be within two hundred fifty feet of any elections site,  
2641 unless (i) the Governor deems such force necessary to repel armed  
2642 enemies of the United States or of the state, (ii) in the case of any such  
2643 search, detention or arrest, such officer, agent or person (I) is acting in  
2644 an official capacity, (II) has given notice to the Secretary of the State and  
2645 the Attorney General not less than twenty-four hours prior to such  
2646 search, detention or arrest, and (III) is authorized by a judicial warrant  
2647 or judicial order of a court of competent jurisdiction to specifically  
2648 conduct such search, detention or arrest within two hundred fifty feet  
2649 of such elections site, and at the specific location at which such search,  
2650 detention or arrest is to be conducted, provided such officer, agent or  
2651 person is within such two hundred fifty feet only for as long as

2652 reasonably necessary to conduct such search, detention or arrest, (iii)  
2653 exigent circumstances reasonably require the presence of any such  
2654 officer, agent or person to protect against a serious threat to life or  
2655 property, provided such officer, agent or person is within such two  
2656 hundred fifty feet only for as long as reasonably necessary to protect  
2657 against such threat, or (iv) the Secretary of the State or moderator (I)  
2658 requests such force to suppress disorder, or (II) has given permission for  
2659 such an officer, agent or person to be present and such permission has  
2660 not been withdrawn;

2661 (B) Knowingly be within two hundred fifty feet of an elections site for  
2662 the purpose of attempting to examine the qualifications to vote of any  
2663 individual at such elections site;

2664 (C) Knowingly loiter or remain within two hundred fifty feet of an  
2665 elections site; or

2666 (D) Engage in any conduct that would constitute a violation of 18  
2667 USC 592, 593 or 595, as amended from time to time.

2668 (2) Nothing in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be construed to  
2669 (A) prevent any officer, agent or person described in said subdivision,  
2670 when off duty, from voting in accordance with the provisions of title 9  
2671 of the general statutes or otherwise engaging in protected political  
2672 expression, or (B) prohibit any such officer, agent or person from  
2673 passing within two hundred fifty feet of an elections site only for as long  
2674 as necessary to be within such two hundred fifty feet while on the way  
2675 to a place or location other than such elections site.

2676 (3) Any person who violates any provision of subdivision (1) of this  
2677 subsection shall be guilty of a class C felony and shall be disfranchised.

2678 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no  
2679 person shall wear any mask or other covering that obscures the face,  
2680 head or identity of such person within two hundred fifty feet of any  
2681 elections site.

2682 (2) A person may wear such a mask or other covering within such  
2683 two hundred fifty feet if the wearing of such mask or other covering (A)  
2684 is reasonable given the weather conditions, provided such person  
2685 complies with any request from the moderator to remove such mask or  
2686 other covering, or (B) is medically necessary or of religious significance.

2687 (3) Any person who wilfully violates the provisions of subdivision (1)  
2688 of this subsection, or refuses to comply with a request from the  
2689 moderator to remove such person's mask or other covering, shall be  
2690 guilty of a class D felony.

2691 (d) (1) No person shall be required to present any form of  
2692 identification within two hundred fifty feet of any elections site, unless  
2693 otherwise required under state law.

2694 (2) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
2695 subsection shall be guilty of a class D felony.

2696 (3) Any action taken by an officer or agent described in subsection (b)  
2697 of this section, pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii) of subdivision (1) of  
2698 said subsection, shall not constitute a violation of subdivision (1) of this  
2699 subsection.

2700 (4) Nothing in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be construed to  
2701 prevent any election, primary or referendum official from performing  
2702 any duty under title 9 of the general statutes.

2703 Sec. 58. Section 9-364a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2704 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

2705 (a) As used in this section, "election worker" means any municipal  
2706 clerk, assistant municipal clerk, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of  
2707 voters, election official described in section 9-258, as amended by this  
2708 act, primary official described in section 9-436 or recanvass official  
2709 described in section 9-311, as amended by this act, and "personal  
2710 identifying information" has the same meaning as provided in section  
2711 53a-129a.

2712 (b) Any person who influences or attempts to influence by force or  
2713 threat the vote, or by force, threat, bribery or corrupt means [,] the  
2714 speech, of any other person at a primary, caucus, referendum,  
2715 convention or election; any person who influences or attempts to  
2716 influence by force, threat or harassment any election worker in the  
2717 performance of any duty under the provisions of this title related to  
2718 election administration at a primary, referendum, election or recanvass;  
2719 any person who wilfully and fraudulently suppresses or destroys any  
2720 vote or ballot properly given or cast, whether so given or cast by mail,  
2721 by deposit in a secure drop box or in person at a polling place or  
2722 designated early voting or same-day election registration location, or  
2723 who, in counting such votes or ballots, wilfully miscounts or  
2724 misrepresents the number thereof; and any presiding or other officer of  
2725 a primary, caucus or convention who wilfully announces the result of a  
2726 ballot or vote of such primary, caucus or convention, untruly and  
2727 wrongfully, shall be guilty of a class C felony.

2728 (c) Any person who, with intent to harass, terrorize or alarm any  
2729 election worker, or to improperly influence any election worker in the  
2730 performance of any duty under this title related to election  
2731 administration at a primary, referendum, election or recanvass, publicly  
2732 discloses the personal identifying information of such election worker  
2733 shall be guilty of a (1) class A misdemeanor for a first offense, and (2)  
2734 class C felony for any subsequent offense.

2735 (d) Any election worker described in subsection (b) or (c) of this  
2736 section, as applicable, shall have a civil cause of action against the  
2737 person who, with respect to such election worker, violated said  
2738 subsection.

2739 Sec. 59. Section 9-352 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2740 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

2741 (a) Any election official who, with intent to cause or permit any  
2742 voting tabulator to fail to correctly register all votes cast thereon, (1)  
2743 tampers with or disarranges [such tabulator] in any way such tabulator

2744 or any part or appliance thereof, or (2) causes such tabulator to be used  
2745 or consents to its being used for voting at any election with knowledge  
2746 of the fact that the same is (A) not in order, or (B) not perfectly set and  
2747 adjusted to correctly register all votes cast thereon, [or] shall be guilty of  
2748 a class D felony.

2749 (b) Any election official who, for the purpose of (1) defrauding or  
2750 deceiving any elector, or [of] (2) causing it to (A) be doubtful for what  
2751 candidate or candidates or proposition any vote is cast, or [causing it to]  
2752 (B) appear upon such tabulator that votes cast for one candidate or  
2753 proposition were cast for another candidate or proposition, removes,  
2754 changes or mutilates any ballot shall be guilty of a class D felony.

2755 (c) Any election official who provides to any third party that has not  
2756 been authorized by the Secretary of the State any tabulator or any part  
2757 or appliance thereof shall be guilty of a class D felony.

2758 Sec. 60. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any person who knowingly (1)  
2759 tampers with, alters, destroys or unlawfully carries away a drop box  
2760 designated for the deposit of absentee ballots; (2) changes or destroys a  
2761 ballot after it has been deposited in such a drop box; (3) adds one or  
2762 more ballots to those which have been lawfully deposited in such a drop  
2763 box, whether before or after such ballots have been counted, by  
2764 fraudulently depositing such additional ballot or ballots into such drop  
2765 box in a manner not authorized by law and falsely claiming that such  
2766 additional ballot or ballots were lawfully deposited into such drop box,  
2767 with the intent to interrupt or invalidate an election, primary or  
2768 referendum; or (4) adds one or more ballots to those which have been  
2769 retrieved from such a drop box by fraudulently introducing such  
2770 additional ballot or ballots while such ballots are being counted or  
2771 recanvassed, with intent to affect the result of an election, primary or  
2772 referendum or to enter any ballot into evidence at any hearing held  
2773 pursuant to chapter 149 or 152 of the general statutes for the contest of  
2774 such election, primary or referendum, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

2775 Sec. 61. Subsection (a) of section 3-129g of the 2026 supplement to the

2776 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2777 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

2778 (a) The Attorney General may investigate, intervene in or bring a civil  
2779 or administrative action in the name of the state, seeking injunctive or  
2780 declaratory relief, damages, and any other relief that may be available  
2781 under law, whenever any person is or has engaged in a practice or  
2782 pattern of conduct, or has established a policy, that:

2783 (1) Subjects, or causes to be subjected, other persons to the  
2784 deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the  
2785 constitutions or laws of this state or the United States; or

2786 (2) Interferes, or attempts to interfere, by threats, intimidation, [or]  
2787 coercion or physical obstruction, with the exercise or enjoyment by other  
2788 persons of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the  
2789 constitutions or laws of this state or the United States.

2790 Sec. 62. Section 9-247 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
2791 73 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2792 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2793 The registrars of voters shall, before the commencement of the period  
2794 of early voting at each election, cause test ballots to be inserted in each  
2795 voting tabulator to ensure that each voting tabulator is prepared and  
2796 read and cause each other voting system approved by the Secretary of  
2797 the State for use in the election, including, but not limited to, voting  
2798 devices equipped for individuals with disabilities that comply with the  
2799 provisions of the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-25, as amended from  
2800 time to time, to be put in order in every way and set and adjust the same  
2801 so that it shall be ready for use in voting when delivered at the polling  
2802 place [,] or location designated for the conduct of early voting, [or]  
2803 location designated for the conduct of same-day election registration,]  
2804 as applicable. Such registrars of voters shall cause each voting system to  
2805 be in order and set and adjusted, to be delivered at the polling place [,]  
2806 or location designated for the conduct of early voting, [or location

2807 designated for the conduct of same-day election registration,] as  
2808 applicable, together with all necessary furniture and appliances that go  
2809 with the same, at the room where voting at such election is to take place,  
2810 and to be tested and operable not later than one hour prior to the  
2811 opening of the polling place [ ] or location designated for the conduct of  
2812 early voting, [or location designated for the conduct of same-day  
2813 election registration,] as applicable.

2814 Sec. 63. Section 9-192a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2815 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2816 (a) (1) The Secretary of the State shall, in consultation with the  
2817 advisory committee created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,  
2818 establish a program and criteria for the certification of registrars of  
2819 voters and deputy registrars of voters.

2820 (2) (A) All registrars taking such office on or before July 1, 2015, shall  
2821 complete such program and satisfy such criteria for certification not  
2822 later than July 1, 2017. Any registrar taking such office after July 1, 2015,  
2823 shall complete such program and satisfy such criteria for certification  
2824 [(A)] (i) in the case of a two-year term, not later than the conclusion of  
2825 such term, and [(B)] (ii) in the case of a four-year term, not later than two  
2826 years after the date of first holding such office, except [as provided in  
2827 subdivision (2) of this subsection] that any such registrar who  
2828 completed the program and satisfied the criteria described in  
2829 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for deputy registrars, and who  
2830 subsequently became registrar in accordance with the provisions of  
2831 section 9-192, shall be deemed to have completed the program and  
2832 satisfied the criteria described in this subparagraph for the applicable  
2833 term.

2834 (B) All deputy registrars taking such office on or before July 1, 2026,  
2835 shall complete such program and satisfy such criteria for certification  
2836 not later than July 1, 2028. Any deputy registrar taking such office after  
2837 July 1, 2026, shall complete such program and satisfy such criteria for  
2838 certification (i) in the case of a two-year term, not later than the

2839 conclusion of such term, and (ii) in the case of a four-year term, not later  
2840 than two years after the date of first holding such office.

2841 (C) Each municipality shall pay on behalf of such municipality's  
2842 [registrar of voters the cost of completing such program and satisfying  
2843 such] registrars of voters and deputy registrars of voters the costs of  
2844 completing the applicable programs and satisfying the applicable  
2845 criteria for certification under this subdivision.

2846 [(2) If a deputy registrar becomes registrar, in accordance with the  
2847 provisions of section 9-192, on or after the ninetieth day prior to a state  
2848 election, as defined in section 9-1, such new registrar shall complete an  
2849 abridged program prescribed by the Secretary of the State for a  
2850 provisional certification. Completion of such abridged program and  
2851 receipt of a provisional certification shall not be deemed to satisfy the  
2852 requirements for certification described in subdivision (1) of this  
2853 subsection.]

2854 (3) Once certified, pursuant to subdivision [(1)] (2) of this subsection,  
2855 each registrar and deputy registrar shall participate each year in not less  
2856 than eight hours of training, not including any training described under  
2857 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, in order to maintain such  
2858 certification. Such training shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the  
2859 State and shall be conducted by [said] the Secretary or a third party  
2860 approved by [said] the Secretary to conduct such training. On and after  
2861 January 1, 2024, such training shall include procedures for the conduct  
2862 of early voting at elections and primaries. Any registrar or deputy  
2863 registrar who fails to satisfy such annual training requirement shall be  
2864 directed by the Secretary of the State to take remedial measures  
2865 prescribed by said Secretary.

2866 (b) There is created an advisory committee for the purpose of  
2867 establishing programs and procedures for training, examining and  
2868 certifying registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters and assistant  
2869 registrars of voters, as described in section 9-192. The committee shall  
2870 consist of six members, one of whom shall be from the office of the

2871 Secretary of the State, one of whom shall be from the State Elections  
2872 Enforcement Commission, and four of whom shall be registrars of  
2873 voters. The Secretary of the State shall appoint the registrars of voters,  
2874 in consultation with the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut,  
2875 or its successor organization. The committee members shall serve  
2876 without pay. The Secretary of the State shall determine the length of the  
2877 terms of the initial members, in accordance with the following: Two of  
2878 such members shall serve for a one-year term; two of such members  
2879 shall serve for a two-year term; and two of such members shall serve for  
2880 a four-year term. Thereafter, all members shall serve for four-year terms.  
2881 The committee shall select a chairperson, who shall be one of the  
2882 registrars who is a member of the committee.

2883 (c) The Secretary of the State, in consultation with the advisory  
2884 committee created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, shall adopt  
2885 criteria for the training, examination and certification requirements of  
2886 registrars and deputy registrars pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
2887 section. In advising the Secretary of the State on the adoption of such  
2888 criteria, the committee (1) shall consider whether the prescribed training  
2889 leading to certification may, in part, be satisfied through participation  
2890 in the required two conferences a year called by the Secretary of the  
2891 State, pursuant to section 9-6, as amended by this act, for purposes of  
2892 discussing the election laws, procedures or matters related to election  
2893 laws and procedures, and (2) may recommend programs at one or more  
2894 institutions of higher education that satisfy such criteria. Any [deputy  
2895 or] assistant registrar of voters may participate in the course of training  
2896 prescribed by the Secretary for certification as a certified Connecticut  
2897 registrar of voters or deputy registrar of voters. The Secretary of the  
2898 State shall certify any individual who completes such training and  
2899 successfully completes any examination or examinations prescribed by  
2900 the Secretary as a certified Connecticut registrar of voters or deputy  
2901 registrar of voters, as applicable.

2902 (d) The advisory committee created pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
2903 section shall also (1) develop a training program in election procedures

2904 for poll workers, and (2) develop an election law and procedures  
2905 training program and guide for registrars, deputy registrars and  
2906 assistant registrars. The training program developed under subdivision  
2907 (2) of this subsection shall provide for training to be conducted by  
2908 trained registrars or former registrars hired for such purpose by the  
2909 Secretary of the State. The committee shall submit such training  
2910 programs and training guide to the Secretary of the State, who shall  
2911 approve or modify the programs and guide.

2912 Sec. 64. Section 9-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2913 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2914 Each registrar of voters, [or, in the absence of a registrar, the] each  
2915 deputy registrar of voters [.] and each municipal clerk, [or, in the  
2916 absence of a municipal clerk,] or one of the assistant municipal clerks in  
2917 the absence of the municipal clerk, shall be compensated by the  
2918 municipality which [the clerk] such official represents [, as provided for  
2919 in this section,] for attending two conferences a year for [town clerks  
2920 and] registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters and municipal  
2921 clerks which may be called by the Secretary of the State for the purpose  
2922 of discussing the election laws, procedures or matters related thereto.  
2923 Each such official shall be compensated by [the] such municipality at the  
2924 rate of thirty-five dollars per day for attending each such conference,  
2925 plus mileage to and from such conference at a rate per mile determined  
2926 by [the] such municipality, but not less than twenty cents per mile,  
2927 computed from the office of such official or, if [he] such official has no  
2928 office, from [his] such official's home to the place where such conference  
2929 is being held.

2930 Sec. 65. Section 9-388 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
2931 79 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2932 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2933 (a) Whenever a convention of a political party is held for the  
2934 endorsement of candidates for nomination to state or district office, each  
2935 candidate endorsed at such convention shall file with the Secretary of

2936 the State a certificate, signed by him, stating that he was endorsed by  
2937 such convention, his name as he authorizes it to appear on the ballot, his  
2938 full residence address and the title and district, if applicable, of the office  
2939 for which he was endorsed. Such certificate shall be attested by either  
2940 (1) the chairman or presiding officer, or (2) the secretary of such  
2941 convention and shall be received by the Secretary of the State not later  
2942 than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of such  
2943 convention. Such certificate shall either be mailed to the Secretary of the  
2944 State by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered in person,  
2945 in which case a receipt indicating the date and time of delivery shall be  
2946 provided by the Secretary of the State to the person making delivery. If  
2947 a certificate of a party's endorsement for a particular state or district  
2948 office is not received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such  
2949 certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections  
2950 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no endorsement of any  
2951 candidate for such office. If applicable, the chairman of a party's state  
2952 convention shall, forthwith upon the close of such convention, file with  
2953 the Secretary of the State the names and full residence addresses of  
2954 persons selected by such convention as the nominees of such party for  
2955 electors of President and Vice-President of the United States in  
2956 accordance with the provisions of section 9-175.

2957 (b) (1) In the case of a timely filed certificate of a party's endorsement  
2958 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, which contains an error or  
2959 omission that would operate to invalidate such endorsement, the  
2960 candidate so certified or an individual authorized to act on behalf of  
2961 such candidate may correct such error or omission by appearing in  
2962 person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a  
2963 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on  
2964 the nineteenth day after the close of the state or district convention, as  
2965 applicable, and amending such certificate to make such correction. If  
2966 such candidate or individual does not appear to so amend such  
2967 certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party,  
2968 for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have  
2969 made no such endorsement.

2970 (2) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in  
2971 subdivision (1) of this subsection, amend a timely filed certificate of a  
2972 party's endorsement to correct any such error or omission, and shall  
2973 keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this  
2974 subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require  
2975 the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission  
2976 in any such certificate, except that, if the Secretary identifies such an  
2977 error or omission, the Secretary shall use best efforts to notify the  
2978 candidate so certified, an individual authorized to act on behalf of such  
2979 candidate or the party that endorsed such candidate regarding such  
2980 error or omission.

2981 Sec. 66. Subsection (c) of section 9-391 of the general statutes, as  
2982 amended by section 80 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following  
2983 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2984 (c) (1) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the  
2985 nomination of candidates for a municipal office to be voted upon at a  
2986 state election shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not  
2987 earlier than the eighty-fourth day or later than the seventy-seventh day  
2988 preceding the day of such primary. Each certification to be filed under  
2989 this subsection shall be received by the Secretary of the State not later  
2990 than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of the town  
2991 committee meeting, caucus or convention, as the case may be. If such a  
2992 certificate of a party's endorsement is not received by the Secretary of  
2993 the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party,  
2994 for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418, shall be deemed to have  
2995 neither made nor certified any endorsement of any candidate for such  
2996 office. The candidate so endorsed for a municipal office to be voted upon  
2997 at a state election, other than the office of justice of the peace, shall file  
2998 with the Secretary of the State a certificate, signed by that candidate,  
2999 stating that such candidate was so endorsed, the candidate's name as  
3000 the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full  
3001 street address and the title and district of the office for which the  
3002 candidate was endorsed. Such certificate may be filed by a candidate

3003 whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment list of such  
3004 party within the senatorial district within which the candidate is  
3005 endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal office of  
3006 state senator, or the assembly district within which the candidate is  
3007 endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal office of  
3008 state representative, or the municipality or political subdivision within  
3009 which the candidate is to run for nomination for other municipal offices  
3010 to be voted on at a state election. Such certificate shall be attested by  
3011 either the chairperson or presiding officer or the secretary of the town  
3012 committee, caucus or convention which made such endorsement. The  
3013 endorsement of any candidate for the office of justice of the peace shall  
3014 be certified to the clerk of the municipality by either the chairperson or  
3015 presiding officer or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or  
3016 convention, and shall contain the name and street address of each  
3017 candidate so endorsed and the title of the office for which each such  
3018 candidate is endorsed. Such certification shall be made on a form  
3019 prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on such other form as may  
3020 comply with the provisions of this subsection.

3021 (2) (A) In the case of a timely filed certificate of a party's endorsement  
3022 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, which contains an error  
3023 or omission that would operate to invalidate such endorsement, the  
3024 candidate so certified or an individual authorized to act on behalf of  
3025 such candidate may correct such error or omission by appearing in  
3026 person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a  
3027 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on  
3028 the nineteenth day after the close of the town committee meeting,  
3029 caucus or convention, as applicable, and amending such certificate to  
3030 make such correction. If such candidate or individual does not appear  
3031 to so amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be  
3032 invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418,  
3033 shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified such endorsement.

3034 (B) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in  
3035 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, amend a timely filed certificate of

3036 a party's endorsement to correct any such error or omission, and shall  
3037 keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this  
3038 subparagraph. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to  
3039 require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or  
3040 omission in any such certificate, except that, if the Secretary identifies  
3041 such an error or omission, the Secretary shall use best efforts to notify  
3042 the candidate so certified, an individual authorized to act on behalf of  
3043 such candidate or the party that endorsed such candidate regarding  
3044 such error or omission.

3045 Sec. 67. Section 9-400 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
3046 81 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3047 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3048 (a) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a state office  
3049 may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon  
3050 the last-completed enrollment list of such party in any municipality  
3051 within the state and who has either (1) received at least fifteen per cent  
3052 of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-  
3053 call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a  
3054 candidate for such state office, whether or not the party-endorsed  
3055 candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on the last ballot,  
3056 or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of at least two  
3057 per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the state, in accordance  
3058 with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive. Candidacies  
3059 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be filed by  
3060 submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m.  
3061 on the fourteenth day following the close of the state convention, a  
3062 certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by either (A) the  
3063 chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the convention, that  
3064 such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of such votes, and that  
3065 such candidate consents to be a candidate in a primary of such party for  
3066 such state office. Such certificate shall specify the candidate's name as  
3067 the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full  
3068 residence address and the title of the office for which the candidacy is

3069 being filed. If such certificate for a state office is not received by the  
3070 Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and  
3071 such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be  
3072 deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy for nomination  
3073 by a political party to such state office. A single such certificate or  
3074 petition for state office may be filed on behalf of two or more candidates  
3075 for different state offices who consent to have their names appear on a  
3076 single row of the primary ballot under subsection (b) of section 9-437.  
3077 Candidacies described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be filed  
3078 by submitting said petition not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-  
3079 third day preceding the day of the primary for such office to the registrar  
3080 of voters of the towns in which the respective petition pages were  
3081 circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such petition with the  
3082 Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-404c.  
3083 A petition filed by or on behalf of a candidate for state office shall be  
3084 invalid for such candidate if such candidate is certified as the party-  
3085 endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by [this act]  
3086 public act 26-1 and this act, or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the  
3087 convention vote for such office pursuant to this subsection. Except as  
3088 provided in section 9-416a, upon the expiration of the time period for  
3089 party endorsement and circulation and tabulation of petitions and  
3090 signatures, if any, if one or more candidacies for such state office have  
3091 been filed pursuant to the provisions of this section, the Secretary of the  
3092 State shall notify all town clerks and registrars of voters in accordance  
3093 with the provisions of section 9-433, that a primary for such state office  
3094 shall be held in each municipality in accordance with the provisions of  
3095 section 9-415.

3096 (b) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a district office  
3097 may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon  
3098 the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the district the  
3099 person seeks to represent that is in the office of the Secretary of the State  
3100 at the end of the last day prior to the convention for the party from  
3101 which the person seeks nomination and who has either (1) received at  
3102 least fifteen per cent of the votes of the convention delegates present and

3103 voting on any roll-call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed  
3104 endorsement of a candidate for such district office, whether or not the  
3105 party-endorsed candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on  
3106 the last ballot, or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of  
3107 at least two per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the district  
3108 for the district office of representative in Congress, and at least five per  
3109 cent of the enrolled members of such party in the district for the district  
3110 offices of state senator, state representative and judge of probate, in  
3111 accordance with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive.  
3112 Candidacies described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be filed  
3113 by submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock  
3114 p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of the district convention,  
3115 a certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by either (A) the  
3116 chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the convention, that  
3117 such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of such votes, and that  
3118 the candidate consents to be a candidate in a primary of such party for  
3119 such district office. Such certificate shall specify the candidate's name as  
3120 the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full  
3121 residence address and the title and district of the office for which the  
3122 candidacy is being filed. If such certificate for a district office is not  
3123 received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall  
3124 be invalid and such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-  
3125 416a, shall be deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy  
3126 for nomination by a political party to such district office. Candidacies  
3127 described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be filed by  
3128 submitting said petition not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-  
3129 third day preceding the day of the primary for such office to the registrar  
3130 of voters of the towns in which the respective petition pages were  
3131 circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such petition with the  
3132 Secretary in accordance with the provisions of section 9-404c. A petition  
3133 may only be filed by or on behalf of a candidate for the district office of  
3134 state senator, state representative or judge of probate who is not certified  
3135 as the party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended  
3136 by [this act] public act 26-1 and this act, or as receiving at least fifteen  
3137 per cent of the convention vote for such office pursuant to this

3138 subsection. A petition filed by or on behalf of a candidate for the district  
3139 office of representative in Congress shall be invalid if said candidate is  
3140 certified as the party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as  
3141 amended by [this act] public act 26-1 and this act, or as receiving at least  
3142 fifteen per cent of the convention vote for such office pursuant to this  
3143 subsection. Except as provided in section 9-416a, upon the expiration of  
3144 the time period for party endorsement and circulation and tabulation of  
3145 petitions and signatures, if any, if one or more candidacies for such  
3146 district office have been filed pursuant to the provisions of this section,  
3147 the Secretary of the State shall notify all town clerks within the district,  
3148 in accordance with the provisions of section 9-433, that a primary for  
3149 such district office shall be held in each municipality and each part of a  
3150 municipality within the district in accordance with the provisions of  
3151 section 9-415.

3152 (c) (1) In the case of a timely filed certificate of candidacy for  
3153 nomination by a political party pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this  
3154 section, which contains an error or omission that would operate to  
3155 invalidate such candidacy for nomination, the person so certified or an  
3156 agent of such person may correct such error or omission by appearing  
3157 in person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a  
3158 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on  
3159 the nineteenth day after the close of the state or district convention, as  
3160 applicable, and amending such certificate to make such correction,  
3161 provided neither failure of such person to timely file such certificate  
3162 pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section nor failure of the  
3163 chairperson, presiding officer or secretary of the convention to attest  
3164 such certificate shall be an error or omission that may be corrected  
3165 pursuant to this subsection. If such person or agent does not appear to  
3166 so amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid  
3167 and such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be  
3168 deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy for nomination  
3169 by a political party. As used in this subsection, "agent" means an  
3170 individual authorized to act on behalf of a person.

3171 (2) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in  
3172 subdivision (1) of this subsection, amend a timely filed certificate of  
3173 candidacy for nomination to correct any such error or omission, and  
3174 shall keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this  
3175 subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require  
3176 the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission  
3177 in any such certificate, except that, if the Secretary identifies such an  
3178 error or omission, the Secretary shall use best efforts to notify the person  
3179 so certified, an agent of such person or the party whose nomination is  
3180 being sought by such candidate regarding such error or omission.

3181 (d) For the purposes of this section, the number of enrolled members  
3182 of a party shall be determined by the latest enrollment records in the  
3183 office of the Secretary of the State prior to the earliest date that primary  
3184 petitions were available. The names of electors on the inactive registry  
3185 list compiled under section 9-35 shall not be counted for purposes of  
3186 computing the number of petition signatures required under this  
3187 section, as provided in section 9-35c.

3188 (e) On the last day for filing primary petition candidacies in  
3189 accordance with the provisions of this section, the office or office  
3190 facilities of the registrars of voters shall open not later than one o'clock  
3191 p.m., and remain open until at least four o'clock p.m., and such  
3192 registrars or the deputy or assistant registrars shall be present.

3193 Sec. 68. Section 9-452 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
3194 82 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3195 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3196 (a) All minor parties nominating candidates for any elective office  
3197 shall make such nominations and certify and file a list of such  
3198 nominations, as required by this section, not later than the sixty-second  
3199 day prior to the day of the election at which such candidates are to be  
3200 voted for. A list of nominees in printed or typewritten form that includes  
3201 each candidate's name as authorized by each candidate to appear on the  
3202 ballot, the signature of each candidate, the full street address of each

3203 candidate and the title and district of the office for which each candidate  
3204 is nominated shall be certified by the presiding officer of the committee,  
3205 meeting or other authority making such nomination and shall be filed  
3206 by such presiding officer with the Secretary of the State, in the case of  
3207 any state, district or municipal office to be voted upon at a state election,  
3208 or with the clerk of the municipality, in the case of any municipal office  
3209 to be voted upon at a municipal election, not later than the sixty-second  
3210 day prior to the day of the election. The registrars of voters of such  
3211 municipality shall promptly verify and correct the names on any such  
3212 list filed with him, or the names of nominees forwarded to the clerk of  
3213 the municipality by the Secretary of the State, in accordance with the  
3214 registry list of such municipality and endorse the same as having been  
3215 so verified and corrected. For the purposes of this section, a list of  
3216 nominations shall be deemed to be filed when it is received by the  
3217 Secretary of the State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate. If such  
3218 certificate of a party's nomination is not received by the Secretary of the  
3219 State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate, by such time, such  
3220 certificate shall be invalid and such party, for purposes of sections 9-460,  
3221 9-461 and 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any  
3222 nomination of any candidate for such office. A candidacy for  
3223 nomination by a minor party to a district or municipal office may be  
3224 filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed  
3225 registry list of the district or municipality represented by such office, as  
3226 the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by a minor party to a state  
3227 office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the  
3228 last-completed registry list of the state.

3229 (b) (1) In the case of a timely filed certificate of nomination for any  
3230 state, district or municipal office to be voted upon at a state election  
3231 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, which contains an error or  
3232 omission that would operate to invalidate such nomination, the  
3233 candidate so certified or an individual authorized to act on behalf of  
3234 such candidate may correct such error or omission by appearing in  
3235 person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a  
3236 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on

3237 the fifty-seventh day prior to the day of the election and amending such  
3238 certificate to make such correction, provided neither failure of the  
3239 presiding officer of the committee, meeting or other authority to timely  
3240 file such certificate pursuant to subsection (a) of this section nor failure  
3241 of the candidate to sign such certificate shall be an error or omission that  
3242 may be corrected pursuant to this subsection. If such candidate or  
3243 individual does not appear to so amend such certificate by such time,  
3244 such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of  
3245 sections 9-460, 9-461 and 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made  
3246 nor certified any such nomination.

3247 (2) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in  
3248 subdivision (1) of this subsection, amend a timely filed certificate of  
3249 nomination to correct any such error or omission, and shall keep a  
3250 record of any such amendment made pursuant to this subdivision.  
3251 Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require the Secretary  
3252 to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission in any such  
3253 certificate, except that, if the Secretary identifies such an error or  
3254 omission, the Secretary shall use best efforts to notify the candidate so  
3255 certified, an individual authorized to act on behalf of such candidate or  
3256 the party that nominated such candidate regarding such error or  
3257 omission.

3258 Sec. 69. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) As used in this section,  
3259 "municipality", "elector", "election" and "referendum" have the same  
3260 meanings as provided in section 9-1 of the general statutes; and  
3261 "primary" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-372 of the  
3262 general statutes.

3263 (b) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality plan to use an  
3264 electronic list to check any elector appearing at the polling place or  
3265 location designated for the conduct of early voting at an election,  
3266 primary or referendum held in such municipality, such registrars shall  
3267 provide written notice of such planned use, not later than fourteen days  
3268 prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at such election  
3269 or primary and not later than fourteen days prior to such referendum,

3270 in a place readily accessible to the public at the town hall or municipal  
3271 building of such municipality and in a conspicuous place on the Internet  
3272 web site of such municipality. Except in the case of a device approved  
3273 by the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-261c of the general  
3274 statutes, any such electronic list shall not be used in lieu of the paper-  
3275 based official checklist to be used at such election, primary or  
3276 referendum and may only be used in addition to and in conjunction  
3277 with such paper-based official checklist.

3278       Sec. 70. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
3279 study absentee ballot access in certain cities and boroughs in the state  
3280 that are unconsolidated with the towns within which such cities or  
3281 boroughs are respectively located. The task force shall examine, for  
3282 elections, primaries and referenda held in such unconsolidated cities  
3283 and boroughs, (1) various forms and manners of application for  
3284 absentee ballots by voters, and (2) various forms and manners of  
3285 delivering absentee ballots to such voters, including, but not limited to,  
3286 providing the ability to cast votes on the same ballot for offices and  
3287 questions that pertain to both the unconsolidated city or borough and  
3288 the town within which such city or borough is located.

3289       (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

3290       (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
3291 who shall be the town clerk of a town within which all or part of an  
3292 unconsolidated city or borough is located;

3293       (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
3294 shall be the clerk of an unconsolidated city or borough;

3295       (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
3296 Representatives;

3297       (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
3298 a registrar of voters of a town within which all or part of an  
3299 unconsolidated city or borough is located;

3300 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
3301 Representatives;

3302 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
3303 a registrar of voters of a town within which all or part of an  
3304 unconsolidated city or borough is located;

3305 (7) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;

3306 (8) One appointed by the Secretary, who shall be an attorney with  
3307 expertise in the election laws of the state; and

3308 (9) The director of the Center for Voting Technology Research at The  
3309 University of Connecticut, or the director's designee.

3310 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (3) or  
3311 (5) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General  
3312 Assembly.

3313 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
3314 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
3315 be filled by the appointing authority.

3316 (e) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee, shall be the  
3317 chairperson of the task force. Such chairperson shall schedule the first  
3318 meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days  
3319 after the effective date of this section.

3320 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
3321 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections  
3322 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

3323 (g) Not later than January 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report  
3324 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
3325 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
3326 elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
3327 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
3328 submits such report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

3329 Sec. 71. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There is established a task force to  
3330 study (1) efforts to achieve one hundred per cent voter participation in  
3331 this state by January 1, 2030, (2) means of enhancing civic engagement  
3332 generally in this state, (3) experiences of jurisdictions that have enacted  
3333 policies to require citizens to vote as a civic duty, (4) potential  
3334 implementation options in pursuit of achieving such one hundred per  
3335 cent voter participation goal, (5) needs of registrars of voters, town  
3336 clerks and other municipal officials in administering elections in which  
3337 one hundred per cent of voters participate, and (6) state and municipal  
3338 budgetary resources that may be required to achieve such one hundred  
3339 per cent voter participation goal.

3340 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

3341 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

3342 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

3343 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
3344 Representatives;

3345 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

3346 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
3347 Representatives;

3348 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

3349 (7) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee; and

3350 (8) Two appointed by the Governor.

3351 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
3352 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
3353 of the General Assembly.

3354 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
3355 than August 1, 2026. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing

3356 authority.

3357 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
3358 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
3359 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
3360 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than  
3361 September 1, 2026.

3362 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
3363 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections  
3364 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

3365 (g) Not later than February 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report  
3366 on its findings and recommendations, including potential legislation to  
3367 appropriate funds or provide other resources to municipalities for the  
3368 purposes of increasing voter participation, to the joint standing  
3369 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
3370 relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
3371 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
3372 submits such report or February 1, 2027, whichever is later.

3373 Sec. 72. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Subject to the provisions of title  
3374 9 of the general statutes and section 7-192a of the general statutes, any  
3375 municipality may, within existing resources, establish a pilot program  
3376 to promote the goal of achieving one hundred per cent voter  
3377 participation in such municipality. Such pilot program may include  
3378 efforts to enhance civic engagement, including, but not limited to, the  
3379 development and conduct of a voter outreach and education campaign  
3380 within such municipality.

3381 Sec. 73. Sections 9-139, 9-159o and 9-192b of the general statutes are  
3382 repealed. (*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>	9-153e
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	9-153f
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	9-158e
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	9-158f
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	9-158g
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	9-158h
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	9-159p
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	9-159q(g) to (l)
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	9-7b(a)(1)
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	9-23r(e)
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	9-359a
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	9-369b(a)(1)(B)
Sec. 26	July 1, 2026	9-369a
Sec. 27	July 1, 2026	9-369c(b)
Sec. 28	July 1, 2026	9-163aa(a)(4)(B)
Sec. 29	October 1, 2026	9-164(a)(1)(A)
Sec. 30	<i>from passage</i>	9-19b(b)
Sec. 31	January 1, 2027	9-258
Sec. 32	January 1, 2027	9-190b
Sec. 33	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 34	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 35	July 1, 2026	9-311
Sec. 36	July 1, 2026	9-311a
Sec. 37	July 1, 2026	9-311b
Sec. 38	<i>from passage</i>	9-23l
Sec. 39	<i>from passage</i>	9-23m
Sec. 40	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 41	October 1, 2026	9-374

Sec. 42	October 1, 2026	9-409(a) and (b)
Sec. 43	July 1, 2026	7-22
Sec. 44	January 1, 2027	New section
Sec. 45	January 1, 2027	9-320(a)
Sec. 46	January 1, 2027	9-320f
Sec. 47	January 1, 2027	New section
Sec. 48	January 1, 2027	9-323
Sec. 49	January 1, 2027	9-324
Sec. 50	January 1, 2027	9-328
Sec. 51	January 1, 2027	9-329a(a)
Sec. 52	January 1, 2027	9-3(b)
Sec. 53	January 1, 2027	9-229(b)(3)
Sec. 54	January 1, 2027	9-229b(a)
Sec. 55	January 1, 2027	9-320g
Sec. 56	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 57	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 58	July 1, 2026	9-364a
Sec. 59	July 1, 2026	9-352
Sec. 60	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 61	July 1, 2026	3-129g(a)
Sec. 62	<i>from passage</i>	9-247
Sec. 63	<i>from passage</i>	9-192a
Sec. 64	<i>from passage</i>	9-6
Sec. 65	<i>from passage</i>	9-388
Sec. 66	<i>from passage</i>	9-391(c)
Sec. 67	<i>from passage</i>	9-400
Sec. 68	<i>from passage</i>	9-452
Sec. 69	January 1, 2027	New section
Sec. 70	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 71	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 72	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 73	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section