



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 2367



Offered by:

REP. CANDELORA V., 86th Dist.

REP. ACKERT, 8th Dist.

REP. O'DEA, 125th Dist.

REP. ZUPKUS, 89th Dist.

REP. RUTIGLIANO, 123rd Dist.

REP. MASTROFRANCESCO, 80th Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 298

File No.

Cal. No.

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE REALLOCATION OF CERTAIN STATE FUNDS AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, GENERAL GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS, INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES AND WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS."

1 In line 2852, after "title" insert the following:

2 ". Prior to any such appointment, a prospective moderator shall sign
3 an affidavit, under penalty of perjury, attesting to the fact that such
4 prospective moderator has not been so convicted or has not so pled.
5 Additionally, for the purposes of complying with this subsection, the
6 registrars shall order the performance of a nation-wide criminal
7 background check on any prospective moderator, and the Secretary of
8 the State shall make funds available to the registrars to cover the costs
9 incurred therefor"

10 In line 2884, after "title" insert the following:

11 ". Prior to any such appointment, a prospective moderator shall sign
12 an affidavit, under penalty of perjury, attesting to the fact that such
13 prospective moderator has not been so convicted or has not so pled.
14 Additionally, for the purposes of complying with this subsection, the
15 registrars shall order the performance of a nation-wide criminal
16 background check on any prospective moderator, and the Secretary of
17 the State shall make funds available to the registrars to cover the costs
18 incurred therefor "

19 Strike section 88 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu
20 thereof:

21 "Sec. 88. Subsection (a) of section 9-140b of the general statutes is
22 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
23 *2026*):

24 (a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or
25 referendum only if: (1) It is mailed by (A) the ballot applicant, (B) a
26 designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot because of
27 illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the immediate family
28 of an applicant who is a student, so that it is received by the clerk of the
29 municipality in which the applicant is qualified to vote not later than the
30 close of the polls; (2) it is returned by the applicant in person to the clerk
31 by the day before [a regular election, special] the election or primary or
32 prior to the opening of the polls on the day of [a] the referendum; (3) it
33 is returned by a designee of an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant,
34 in person, to said clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of
35 the election, primary or referendum; (4) it is returned by a member of
36 the immediate family of the absentee voter, in person, to said clerk not
37 later than the close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or
38 referendum; (5) in the case of a presidential or overseas ballot, it is
39 mailed or otherwise returned pursuant to the provisions of section 9-
40 158g; or (6) it is returned with [the proper] a copy of the applicant's
41 photo identification [as required by the Help America Vote Act, P.L.
42 107-252, as amended from time to time, if applicable, inserted in the
43 outer envelope so such identification can be viewed without opening

44 the inner envelope] inserted in the outer envelope. A person returning
45 an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or
46 (4) of this subsection shall present identification and, on the outer
47 envelope of the absentee ballot, sign his name in the presence of the
48 municipal clerk, and indicate his address, his relationship to the voter
49 or his position, and the date and time of such return. As used in this
50 section, "immediate family" means a dependent relative who resides in
51 the individual's household or any spouse, child, parent or sibling of the
52 individual."

53 Strike section 90 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu
54 thereof:

55 "Sec. 90. Subsection (d) of section 9-150a of the general statutes is
56 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
57 *2026*):

58 (d) (1) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as
59 required by section 9-140a, as amended by this act, such inner envelope
60 shall not be opened or the ballot removed therefrom, and such inner
61 envelope shall be replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be
62 marked "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the
63 counters. The moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot
64 applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected" under this subdivision
65 and include thereon for each such applicant the reason for the rejection.
66 The moderator shall transmit such log to the Secretary of the State at the
67 same time and in the same manner as the duplicate list to be transmitted
68 to the Secretary by electronic means in accordance with section 9-314.

69 (2) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the
70 ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r, as
71 amended by this act, and has not met the requirements of subsection
72 [(e)] (d) of section 9-23r, as amended by this act, the counters shall
73 replace the ballot in the opened inner envelope, replace the inner
74 envelope in the opened outer envelope and mark "Rejected as an
75 Absentee Ballot" and endorse the reason for such rejection on the outer

76 envelope, and the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot for
77 federal offices only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive. The
78 moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot applicant whose
79 ballot was marked "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot" under this
80 subdivision and include thereon for each such applicant the reason for
81 the rejection. The moderator shall transmit such log to the Secretary of
82 the State at the same time and in the same manner as the duplicate list
83 to be transmitted to the Secretary by electronic means in accordance
84 with section 9-314."

85 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
86 internal references accordingly:

87 "Sec. 501. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 1-1h of the general statutes
88 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
89 *1, 2026*):

90 (a) Any person who does not possess a valid motor vehicle operator's
91 license may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for an identity
92 card. The application for an identity card shall be accompanied by the
93 birth certificate of the applicant or a certificate of identification of the
94 applicant issued and authorized for such use by the Department of
95 Correction and, except as provided in this subsection, a fee of twenty-
96 eight dollars. Such application shall include: (1) The applicant's name;
97 (2) the applicant's address; (3) whether the address is permanent or
98 temporary; (4) the applicant's date of birth; (5) notice to the applicant
99 that false statements on such application are punishable under section
100 53a-157b; and (6) such other pertinent information as the Commissioner
101 of Motor Vehicles deems necessary. The applicant shall sign the
102 application in the presence of an official of the Department of Motor
103 Vehicles. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any applicant who
104 does not have the means to pay such fee, including any applicant who
105 is a resident of a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons
106 or a certified homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The
107 commissioner may waive the fee for any applicant (A) who has
108 voluntarily surrendered such applicant's motor vehicle operator's

109 license, (B) whose license has been refused by the commissioner
110 pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of section 14-36, (C) who is
111 both a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and blind,
112 as defined in subsection (a) of section 1-1f. [, or (D) who is a resident of
113 a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons or a certified
114 homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The] Not later than
115 September 1, 2026, commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
116 with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish the procedure and
117 qualifications for the issuance of an identity card to any such [homeless]
118 applicant who does not have the means to pay the fee for such identity
119 card. For the purposes of this subsection, "certified homeless youth" and
120 "certified homeless young adult" have the same meanings as provided
121 in section 7-36.

122 (b) (1) An identity card shall indicate its date of expiration, contain a
123 picture of the applicant and specify the applicant's height, sex and eye
124 color.

125 (2) (A) An original identity card shall expire within a period not
126 exceeding seven years following the date of the applicant's next
127 birthday. Any person who holds an identity card may be notified by the
128 commissioner before its expiration and may renew such card in such
129 manner as the commissioner shall prescribe. Upon renewal of an
130 identity card, the commissioner may issue an identity card for a period
131 to be determined by the commissioner, provided such period does not
132 exceed eight years. [The] Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this
133 subdivision, the fee for the renewal of an identity card that expires eight
134 years from the date of issuance shall be thirty-two dollars. The
135 commissioner shall charge a prorated amount of such fee for an identity
136 card that expires less than eight years from the date of issuance. The
137 commissioner shall not provide notification by mail to the holder of an
138 identity card if the United States Postal Service has determined that mail
139 is undeliverable to such person at the address for such person that is in
140 the records of the department.

141 (B) The commissioner shall waive the fee for the renewal of an

142 identity card, or any prorated amount of such fee, for any person who
143 does not have the means to pay such fee or prorated amount.

144 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) At the request of any elector
145 who has applied for and received an absentee ballot, each library in the
146 state that is open to the public shall make available to such elector, free
147 of charge, a photocopier in such library for the purposes of producing a
148 copy of such elector's photo identification to be inserted in the outer
149 envelope of such elector's returned absentee ballot in accordance with
150 the provisions of section 9-140a of the general statutes, as amended by
151 this act.

152 (b) At the request of any person applying for a presidential ballot by
153 mail, each library in the state that is open to the public shall make
154 available to such person, free of charge, a photocopier in such library for
155 the purposes of producing a copy of such person's photo identification
156 to accompany such person's application for a presidential ballot in
157 accordance with the provisions of section 9-158e of the general statutes,
158 as amended by this act.

159 (c) Each library in the state that is open to the public may seek
160 reimbursement from the State Treasurer of all costs associated with
161 producing copies of photo identification for the purposes described in
162 subsections (a) and (b) of this section, upon submission of
163 documentation substantiating that such costs were incurred.

164 Sec. 503. Section 9-140a of the general statutes is repealed and the
165 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

166 Each absentee ballot applicant shall sign the form on the inner
167 envelope provided for in section 9-137, which shall constitute a
168 statement under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting.
169 Any absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write may cause his
170 name to be signed on the form by an authorized agent who shall, in the
171 space provided for the signature, write the name of the applicant
172 followed by the word "by" and his own signature. The failure of the

173 applicant or authorized agent to date the form shall not invalidate the
174 ballot. The ballot shall be inserted in the inner envelope, [and] the inner
175 envelope shall be inserted in the outer envelope [,] and a copy of the
176 applicant's photo identification shall also be inserted in the outer
177 envelope prior to the return of the ballot to the municipal clerk. [If an
178 applicant is required to return identification with the ballot pursuant to
179 the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time,
180 such identification shall be inserted in the outer envelope so such
181 identification can be viewed without opening the inner envelope.]

182 Sec. 504. Subsection (a) of section 9-158e of the general statutes is
183 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
184 *2026*):

185 (a) A person applying for a presidential ballot in person shall present
186 [:(1) A] a current and valid photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a
187 current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or
188 other government document that shows the name and address of the
189 voter.] The application for a presidential ballot by mail shall be
190 accompanied by [:(A) A] a copy of a current and valid photo
191 identification. [, or (B) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
192 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the
193 name and address of the voter.] Upon receipt of an application for a
194 presidential ballot under sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, the clerk,
195 if satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is
196 qualified to vote under said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the
197 applicant, as the case may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-
198 presidential electors for use at the election and instructions and
199 envelopes for its return.

200 Sec. 505. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the 2026 supplement to the
201 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
202 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

203 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has
204 entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street

205 address, if any, and the elector's name to the official checker or checkers
206 in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials
207 present to hear the same. Each elector [who registered to vote by mail
208 for the first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the
209 elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r,]
210 shall present to the official checker or checkers, before the elector votes,
211 [either] a current and valid photo identification that shows the elector's
212 name and address, [or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
213 government check, paycheck or other government document that shows
214 the name and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1) present
215 to the official checker or checkers the elector's Social Security card or any
216 other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector's name
217 and either the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a
218 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's
219 residential address and date of birth, print the elector's name and sign a
220 statement under penalty of false statement that the elector is the elector
221 whose name appears on the official checklist. Such form shall clearly
222 state the penalty of false statement. A separate form shall be used for
223 each elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of identification
224 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the official checker or checkers
225 shall check the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually
226 on paper or electronically. If the elector completes the form under
227 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the registrar of voters or the assistant
228 registrar of voters, as the case may be, shall examine the information on
229 such form and either instruct the official checker or checkers to check
230 the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually on paper or
231 electronically, or notify the elector that the form is incomplete or
232 inaccurate.]

233 Sec. 506. Section 9-23r of the general statutes is repealed and the
234 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

235 (a) On or after January 1, 2003, any person who is applying, by mail,
236 to register to vote for the first time in this state may submit as part of
237 such voter registration application: (1) A copy of a current and valid

238 photo identification, (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
239 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the
240 name and address of the voter, (3) a valid Connecticut motor vehicle
241 operator's license number, or (4) the last four digits of the individual's
242 Social Security number. Members of the armed forces and persons
243 entitled to use the federal post card application for absentee ballots
244 under section 9-153a are not required to provide identification when
245 registering by mail. No information submitted as part of a voter
246 registration application under this subsection shall be subject to
247 disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to chapter
248 14, except for the name, address, date of birth and telephone number of
249 the applicant.

250 [(b) If an individual submits such information pursuant to this section
251 as part of the individual's voter registration application and, with
252 respect to subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this section, the
253 registrars of voters are able to match the information submitted with an
254 existing Connecticut identification record bearing the same number,
255 name and date of birth as provided, such individual shall not be
256 required to produce identification when voting in person or by absentee
257 ballot and may sign a statement as described in subparagraph (B) of
258 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261 in lieu of presenting
259 identification when voting in person.]

260 [(c)] (b) Any additional documentation submitted as part of the voter
261 registration application pursuant to this section may be destroyed by
262 the registrars of voters after verification pursuant to the Help America
263 Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time.

264 [(d)] (c) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section
265 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this
266 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,
267 when the individual has entered the polling place in an election for
268 federal office, the individual shall present [(1) A] a current and valid
269 photo identification, [or (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank
270 statement, government check, paycheck or other government document

271 that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an individual does not
272 meet the requirements of this subsection in an election for federal office,
273 such individual may cast a provisional ballot prescribed under sections
274 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

275 [(e)] (d) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section
276 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this
277 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,
278 and if the individual votes by absentee ballot in an election for federal
279 office, the individual shall enclose in the outer absentee ballot envelope,
280 and not in the inner envelope with the ballot [:(1) A] a copy of a current
281 and valid photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill,
282 bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government
283 document that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an
284 individual does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an
285 election for federal office, such [individual's] individual's absentee
286 ballot shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of
287 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-150a, as amended by this
288 act, and treated as a provisional ballot for federal office only, pursuant
289 to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

290 Sec. 507. Subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of section 9-23g of the
291 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
292 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

293 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant
294 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present to
295 the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received through
296 the mail or an application receipt that was previously provided to the
297 applicant pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h,
298 subsection (b) of this section or section 9-23n. If an applicant presents
299 said notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original
300 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the
301 registrar, or assistant registrar upon notice to and approval by the
302 registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official check
303 list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if otherwise

304 eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the polling
 305 place a [preprinted form of identification pursuant to subparagraph (A)
 306 of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261] current and valid
 307 photo identification."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 88	July 1, 2026	9-140b(a)
Sec. 90	July 1, 2026	9-150a(d)
Sec. 501	July 1, 2026	1-1h(a) and (b)
Sec. 502	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 503	July 1, 2026	9-140a
Sec. 504	July 1, 2026	9-158e(a)
Sec. 505	July 1, 2026	9-261(a)
Sec. 506	July 1, 2026	9-23r
Sec. 507	July 1, 2026	9-23g(d)(4)