



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 2349



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

3 "Sec. 88. Subsection (a) of section 9-140b of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
5 *2026*):

6 (a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or
7 referendum only if: (1) It is mailed by (A) the ballot applicant, (B) a
8 designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot because of
9 illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the immediate family
10 of an applicant who is a student, so that it is received by the clerk of the
11 municipality in which the applicant is qualified to vote not later than the

12 close of the polls; (2) it is returned by the applicant in person to the clerk
13 by the day before [a regular election, special] the election or primary or
14 prior to the opening of the polls on the day of [a] the referendum; (3) it
15 is returned by a designee of an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant,
16 in person, to said clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of
17 the election, primary or referendum; (4) it is returned by a member of
18 the immediate family of the absentee voter, in person, to said clerk not
19 later than the close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or
20 referendum; (5) in the case of a presidential or overseas ballot, it is
21 mailed or otherwise returned pursuant to the provisions of section 9-
22 158g; or (6) it is returned with [the proper] a copy of the applicant's
23 photo identification [as required by the Help America Vote Act, P.L.
24 107-252, as amended from time to time, if applicable, inserted in the
25 outer envelope so such identification can be viewed without opening
26 the inner envelope] inserted in the outer envelope. A person returning
27 an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or
28 (4) of this subsection shall present identification and, on the outer
29 envelope of the absentee ballot, sign his name in the presence of the
30 municipal clerk, and indicate his address, his relationship to the voter
31 or his position, and the date and time of such return. As used in this
32 section, "immediate family" means a dependent relative who resides in
33 the individual's household or any spouse, child, parent or sibling of the
34 individual."

35 Strike section 90 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu
36 thereof:

37 "Sec. 90. Subsection (d) of section 9-150a of the general statutes is
38 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
39 *2026*):

40 (d) (1) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as
41 required by section 9-140a, as amended by this act, such inner envelope
42 shall not be opened or the ballot removed therefrom, and such inner
43 envelope shall be replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be
44 marked "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the

45 counters. The moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot
46 applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected" under this subdivision
47 and include thereon for each such applicant the reason for the rejection.
48 The moderator shall transmit such log to the Secretary of the State at the
49 same time and in the same manner as the duplicate list to be transmitted
50 to the Secretary by electronic means in accordance with section 9-314.

51 (2) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the
52 ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r, as
53 amended by this act, and has not met the requirements of subsection
54 [(e)] (d) of section 9-23r, as amended by this act, the counters shall
55 replace the ballot in the opened inner envelope, replace the inner
56 envelope in the opened outer envelope and mark "Rejected as an
57 Absentee Ballot" and endorse the reason for such rejection on the outer
58 envelope, and the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot for
59 federal offices only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive. The
60 moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot applicant whose
61 ballot was marked "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot" under this
62 subdivision and include thereon for each such applicant the reason for
63 the rejection. The moderator shall transmit such log to the Secretary of
64 the State at the same time and in the same manner as the duplicate list
65 to be transmitted to the Secretary by electronic means in accordance
66 with section 9-314."

67 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
68 internal references accordingly:

69 "Sec. 501. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 1-1h of the general statutes
70 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
71 *1, 2026*):

72 (a) Any person who does not possess a valid motor vehicle operator's
73 license may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for an identity
74 card. The application for an identity card shall be accompanied by the
75 birth certificate of the applicant or a certificate of identification of the
76 applicant issued and authorized for such use by the Department of

77 Correction and, except as provided in this subsection, a fee of twenty-
78 eight dollars. Such application shall include: (1) The applicant's name;
79 (2) the applicant's address; (3) whether the address is permanent or
80 temporary; (4) the applicant's date of birth; (5) notice to the applicant
81 that false statements on such application are punishable under section
82 53a-157b; and (6) such other pertinent information as the Commissioner
83 of Motor Vehicles deems necessary. The applicant shall sign the
84 application in the presence of an official of the Department of Motor
85 Vehicles. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any applicant who
86 does not have the means to pay such fee, including any applicant who
87 is a resident of a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons
88 or a certified homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The
89 commissioner may waive the fee for any applicant (A) who has
90 voluntarily surrendered such applicant's motor vehicle operator's
91 license, (B) whose license has been refused by the commissioner
92 pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of section 14-36, (C) who is
93 both a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and blind,
94 as defined in subsection (a) of section 1-1f,], or (D) who is a resident of
95 a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons or a certified
96 homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The] Not later than
97 September 1, 2026, commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
98 with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish the procedure and
99 qualifications for the issuance of an identity card to any such [homeless]
100 applicant who does not have the means to pay the fee for such identity
101 card. For the purposes of this subsection, "certified homeless youth" and
102 "certified homeless young adult" have the same meanings as provided
103 in section 7-36.

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

107 (2) (A) An original identity card shall expire within a period not
108 exceeding seven years following the date of the applicant's next
109 birthday. Any person who holds an identity card may be notified by the

110 commissioner before its expiration and may renew such card in such
111 manner as the commissioner shall prescribe. Upon renewal of an
112 identity card, the commissioner may issue an identity card for a period
113 to be determined by the commissioner, provided such period does not
114 exceed eight years. [The] Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this
115 subdivision, the fee for the renewal of an identity card that expires eight
116 years from the date of issuance shall be thirty-two dollars. The
117 commissioner shall charge a prorated amount of such fee for an identity
118 card that expires less than eight years from the date of issuance. The
119 commissioner shall not provide notification by mail to the holder of an
120 identity card if the United States Postal Service has determined that mail
121 is undeliverable to such person at the address for such person that is in
122 the records of the department.

123 (B) The commissioner shall waive the fee for the renewal of an
124 identity card, or any prorated amount of such fee, for any person who
125 does not have the means to pay such fee or prorated amount.

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

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

141 (c) Each library in the state that is open to the public may seek

142 reimbursement from the State Treasurer of all costs associated with
143 producing copies of photo identification for the purposes described in
144 subsections (a) and (b) of this section, upon submission of
145 documentation substantiating that such costs were incurred.

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

148 Each absentee ballot applicant shall sign the form on the inner
149 envelope provided for in section 9-137, which shall constitute a
150 statement under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting.
151 Any absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write may cause his
152 name to be signed on the form by an authorized agent who shall, in the
153 space provided for the signature, write the name of the applicant
154 followed by the word "by" and his own signature. The failure of the
155 applicant or authorized agent to date the form shall not invalidate the
156 ballot. The ballot shall be inserted in the inner envelope, [and] the inner
157 envelope shall be inserted in the outer envelope [,] and a copy of the
158 applicant's photo identification shall also be inserted in the outer
159 envelope prior to the return of the ballot to the municipal clerk. [If an
160 applicant is required to return identification with the ballot pursuant to
161 the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time,
162 such identification shall be inserted in the outer envelope so such
163 identification can be viewed without opening the inner envelope.]

164 Sec. 504. Subsection (a) of section 9-158e of the general statutes is
165 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
166 *2026*):

167 (a) A person applying for a presidential ballot in person shall present
168 [:(1) A] a current and valid photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a
169 current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or
170 other government document that shows the name and address of the
171 voter.] The application for a presidential ballot by mail shall be
172 accompanied by [:(A) A] a copy of a current and valid photo
173 identification. [, or (B) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,

174 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the
175 name and address of the voter.] Upon receipt of an application for a
176 presidential ballot under sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, the clerk,
177 if satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is
178 qualified to vote under said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the
179 applicant, as the case may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-
180 presidential electors for use at the election and instructions and
181 envelopes for its return.

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

185 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has
186 entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street
187 address, if any, and the elector's name to the official checker or checkers
188 in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials
189 present to hear the same. Each elector [who registered to vote by mail
190 for the first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the
191 elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r,]
192 shall present to the official checker or checkers, before the elector votes,
193 [either] a current and valid photo identification that shows the elector's
194 name and address, [or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
195 government check, paycheck or other government document that shows
196 the name and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1) present
197 to the official checker or checkers the elector's Social Security card or any
198 other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector's name
199 and either the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a
200 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's
201 residential address and date of birth, print the elector's name and sign a
202 statement under penalty of false statement that the elector is the elector
203 whose name appears on the official checklist. Such form shall clearly
204 state the penalty of false statement. A separate form shall be used for
205 each elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of identification
206 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the official checker or checkers

207 shall check the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually
208 on paper or electronically. If the elector completes the form under
209 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the registrar of voters or the assistant
210 registrar of voters, as the case may be, shall examine the information on
211 such form and either instruct the official checker or checkers to check
212 the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually on paper or
213 electronically, or notify the elector that the form is incomplete or
214 inaccurate.]

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

217 (a) On or after January 1, 2003, any person who is applying, by mail,
218 to register to vote for the first time in this state may submit as part of
219 such voter registration application: (1) A copy of a current and valid
220 photo identification, (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
221 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the
222 name and address of the voter, (3) a valid Connecticut motor vehicle
223 operator's license number, or (4) the last four digits of the individual's
224 Social Security number. Members of the armed forces and persons
225 entitled to use the federal post card application for absentee ballots
226 under section 9-153a are not required to provide identification when
227 registering by mail. No information submitted as part of a voter
228 registration application under this subsection shall be subject to
229 disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to chapter
230 14, except for the name, address, date of birth and telephone number of
231 the applicant.

232 [(b) If an individual submits such information pursuant to this section
233 as part of the individual's voter registration application and, with
234 respect to subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this section, the
235 registrars of voters are able to match the information submitted with an
236 existing Connecticut identification record bearing the same number,
237 name and date of birth as provided, such individual shall not be
238 required to produce identification when voting in person or by absentee
239 ballot and may sign a statement as described in subparagraph (B) of

240 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261 in lieu of presenting
241 identification when voting in person.]

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

246 [(d)] (c) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section
247 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this
248 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,
249 when the individual has entered the polling place in an election for
250 federal office, the individual shall present [: (1) A] a current and valid
251 photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank
252 statement, government check, paycheck or other government document
253 that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an individual does not
254 meet the requirements of this subsection in an election for federal office,
255 such individual may cast a provisional ballot prescribed under sections
256 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

257 [(e)] (d) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section
258 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this
259 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,
260 and if the individual votes by absentee ballot in an election for federal
261 office, the individual shall enclose in the outer absentee ballot envelope,
262 and not in the inner envelope with the ballot [: (1) A] a copy of a current
263 and valid photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill,
264 bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government
265 document that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an
266 individual does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an
267 election for federal office, such [individual's] individual's absentee
268 ballot shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of
269 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-150a, as amended by this
270 act, and treated as a provisional ballot for federal office only, pursuant
271 to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

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

275 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant
 276 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present to
 277 the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received through
 278 the mail or an application receipt that was previously provided to the
 279 applicant pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h,
 280 subsection (b) of this section or section 9-23n. If an applicant presents
 281 said notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original
 282 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the
 283 registrar, or assistant registrar upon notice to and approval by the
 284 registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official check
 285 list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if otherwise
 286 eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the polling
 287 place a [preprinted form of identification pursuant to subparagraph (A)
 288 of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261] current and valid
 289 photo identification."

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