



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4402



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 Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 [inner envelope, the outer] envelope provided for the  
67 return of the ballot to the municipal clerk, the instructions for the use of  
68 the absentee ballot and the envelope for mailing of such forms by the  
69 clerk to the absentee ballot applicant.

70        (b) The application for absentee ballot shall be in the form of a  
71 statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee  
72 balloting. Each application shall contain (1) spaces for the signature  
73 under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting of any person  
74 who assists the applicant in the completion of an application together  
75 with the information required in section 9-140, as amended by this act,

76 (2) spaces for the signature and the printed or typed name of the  
77 applicant, and (3) a clear and conspicuous notation of the year for which  
78 such application's use is authorized.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

260 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
261 subsection, upon receipt of an application under section 9-140e, as  
262 amended by this act, 9-153e, as amended by this act, 9-153f, as amended  
263 by this act, or 9-158c, the municipal clerk may issue to the applicant an  
264 absentee ballot by electronic means if such applicant requests such  
265 manner of issuance.

266 (h) No absentee ballot shall be issued on the day of an election or  
267 primary, or after the opening of the polls on the day of a referendum,

268 except in cases involving unforeseen illness or disability [or presidential  
269 or overseas ballots] as provided in section 9-150c and presidential or  
270 overseas ballots as provided in sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

364 Sec. 6. Section 9-140b of the general statutes, as amended by section  
365 88 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
366 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

731 Sec. 10. Section 9-150a of the general statutes, as amended by section  
732 90 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
733 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1008 State. If such ballot is issued by electronic means, the municipal clerk at  
1009 the time of such issuance shall include a certification, prescribed by the  
1010 Secretary of the State, [that] which the elector shall be required to  
1011 complete, sign and return with the completed ballot in order for such  
1012 ballot to be counted. If the military contingency no longer exists,  
1013 application for an additional ballot for all offices may be made pursuant  
1014 to the provisions of section 9-153b, as amended by this act.

1015 Sec. 15. Section 9-153f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1016 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1017 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-140, as amended by this  
1018 act, any elector who is living, or expects to be living or traveling before  
1019 and on [election] the day of an election or primary, outside the territorial  
1020 limits of the several states of the United States and the District of  
1021 Columbia and any member of the armed forces who is an elector or an  
1022 applicant for admission as an elector, or the member's spouse or  
1023 dependent if living where such member is stationed, may apply for a  
1024 blank absentee ballot to vote for all offices being contested at [an] such  
1025 election or primary. Application shall be made upon a form prescribed  
1026 by the Secretary of the State or on the federal postcard application form  
1027 provided pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee  
1028 Voting Act, 100 Stat. 924, 42 USC 1973ff et seq., as amended from time  
1029 to time, or any other applicable law. The municipal clerk receiving such  
1030 an application shall, as soon as a complete list of candidates and  
1031 questions to be voted upon at such election or primary becomes  
1032 available, issue [the ballot] in the manner requested by the elector, either  
1033 by mail or by electronic means, [as requested by the elector,] the ballot  
1034 which shall be the blank ballot prescribed and provided by the Secretary  
1035 of the State under section 9-153e, as amended by this act. The municipal  
1036 clerk shall include with the ballot a complete list of the offices to be  
1037 voted upon, the number of individuals for which each elector may vote,  
1038 the candidates, and, in the case of an election, the party designation of  
1039 each candidate and questions to be voted upon. If such ballot is issued  
1040 by electronic means, the municipal clerk at the time of such issuance

1041 shall include a certification, prescribed by the Secretary of the State,  
1042 [that] which the elector shall be required to complete, sign and return  
1043 with the completed ballot in order for such ballot to be counted. [If  
1044 application for an absentee ballot is made at the time of availability of  
1045 regular absentee ballots as provided in section 9-140, the provisions of  
1046 section 9-140 shall prevail.] Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
1047 the procedures governing the issuance of ballots under this section shall  
1048 conform as nearly as may be to the procedures provided in section 9-  
1049 140, as amended by this act.

1050 Sec. 16. Section 9-158e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1051 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1052 (a) (1) A person applying for a presidential ballot in person shall  
1053 present: [(1)] (A) A current and valid photo identification, or [(2)] (B) a  
1054 copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check,  
1055 paycheck or other government document that shows the name and  
1056 address of the voter. [The application]

1057 (2) A person applying for a presidential ballot by mail shall [be  
1058 accompanied by] include with such application: (A) A copy of a current  
1059 and valid photo identification, or (B) a copy of a current utility bill, bank  
1060 statement, government check, paycheck or government document that  
1061 shows the name and address of the voter.

1062 (3) Upon receipt of an application for a presidential ballot under  
1063 sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, the municipal clerk, if satisfied that  
1064 the application is proper and that the applicant is qualified to vote under  
1065 said sections, shall forthwith [give or mail to the applicant, as the case  
1066 may be] issue in the manner requested by the applicant, either by mail  
1067 or by electronic means, a ballot for presidential and vice-presidential  
1068 electors for use at the election and instructions and envelopes for [its]  
1069 the return of such ballot.

1070 (b) Upon receipt of an application for an overseas ballot, the  
1071 municipal clerk, if satisfied that the application is proper and that the

1072 applicant is qualified to vote at the federal election for which the  
1073 application is made, pursuant to the provisions of sections 9-158b to 9-  
1074 158m, inclusive, shall forthwith [mail] issue in the manner requested by  
1075 the applicant, either by mail or by electronic means, a ballot containing  
1076 the names and offices of the candidates for federal office and  
1077 instructions and envelopes for [its return to the applicant] the return of  
1078 such ballot.

1079 Sec. 17. Section 9-158f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1080 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1081 (a) The voter, after marking [his] such voter's presidential ballot so as  
1082 to express [his] such voter's choice, shall fold it so as to conceal the  
1083 markings, and enclose it in [an inner] a return envelope furnished by the  
1084 town clerk for such purpose. The envelope shall have imprinted upon  
1085 its back a statement which shall be signed by the voter. The failure of  
1086 the voter to date the statement shall not invalidate the ballot. Such  
1087 statement shall be substantially as follows:

1088 Certification of Presidential Voter

1089 I, the undersigned, do hereby state under the penalties of false  
1090 statement in absentee balloting that:

1091 (1) I am qualified to vote for Presidential and Vice-Presidential  
1092 electors in the town of .... Connecticut, at the presidential election to be  
1093 held on November ...., 20...

1094 (2) I have not applied, nor do I intend to apply, for a ballot to vote for  
1095 Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors at said election from any  
1096 other town, city, county or state, and

1097 (3) I have not voted, and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot  
1098 in said presidential election.

1099 Dated at ...., this .... day of .... 20...

1100 .... (Signature of voter)

1101 .... (Printed name of voter)

1102 (b) The overseas elector, after marking [his] such elector's overseas  
1103 ballot so as to express [his] such elector's choice, shall fold it so as to  
1104 conceal the markings and enclose it in [an inner] a return envelope  
1105 furnished by the town clerk for such purpose. The envelope shall have  
1106 imprinted upon its back a statement which shall be signed by the elector.  
1107 The failure of the elector to date the statement shall not invalidate the  
1108 ballot. The statement shall be substantially as follows:

1109 Certification of Overseas Elector

1110 I, the undersigned, do hereby state under the penalties of false  
1111 statement in absentee balloting that:

1112 (1) I am qualified to vote for candidates for federal office in the town  
1113 of ..., Connecticut, at the federal election to be held on ..., 20...

1114 (2) I have not applied, nor do I intend to apply, for a ballot to vote for  
1115 candidates for federal office at said election from any other town, city or  
1116 county in Connecticut or in any other state or election district of any  
1117 state or territory or any territory or possession of the United States.

1118 (3) I have not voted, and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot  
1119 in said federal election.

1120 Dated at ..., this ... day of ..., 20...

1121 .... (Signature of overseas elector)

1122 .... (Printed name of overseas elector)

1123 Sec. 18. Section 9-158g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1124 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1125 The voter shall sign the certification upon the [inner] return envelope,  
1126 [securely seal it, enclose it in an outer serially-numbered envelope]  
1127 insert the completed ballot in such return envelope, which shall bear a

1128 return label displaying the unique ballot identification number both in  
1129 text format and as a scannable barcode, and return it to the municipal  
1130 clerk of the town in which [he] such voter is qualified to vote. The clerk  
1131 shall keep it in [his] the clerk's office until delivered by [him] such clerk  
1132 to the registrars of voters at the same time and in the same manner as [is  
1133 provided for absentee ballots] provided in section 9-140c, as amended  
1134 by this act. If the ballot is returned by a person other than the voter or  
1135 the United States Postal Service, the person delivering the ballot shall  
1136 sign [his] such person's name and address and indicate the date and  
1137 time of [its] such ballot's delivery on the [outer] return envelope in the  
1138 clerk's presence. The ballot, to be cast, shall be returned so that [it] such  
1139 ballot is received by the [town] clerk not later than the close of the polls  
1140 on the day of the election.

1141 Sec. 19. Section 9-158h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1142 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1143 The clerk shall prepare and keep open to public inspection a list of all  
1144 persons who have applied under sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, to  
1145 vote as presidential voters or overseas electors with their names, voting  
1146 addresses and application dates together with the [serial number]  
1147 unique ballot identification numbers of the return envelopes issued, and  
1148 shall maintain an alphabetical index of the list for a period of one  
1149 hundred eighty days after the election or primary.

1150 Sec. 20. Section 9-159p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1151 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1152 (a) Any elector may challenge the right of any person offering to vote  
1153 by absentee ballot based upon false identity, disenfranchisement for  
1154 conviction of a felony or lack of bona fide residence. The failure of an  
1155 elector to challenge, pursuant to this section, the right of a person to vote  
1156 by absentee ballot shall not bar such elector from bringing an action to  
1157 contest the primary or election under section 9-323, as amended by this  
1158 act, 9-324, as amended by this act, 9-328, as amended by this act, or 9-  
1159 329a, as amended by this act, based on the alleged invalidity of the

1160 absentee ballot cast at such primary or election.

1161 (b) Challenges shall not be made indiscriminately and may only be  
1162 made if the challenger knows or reasonably believes that the right of the  
1163 person offering to vote by absentee ballot should be denied on one or  
1164 more of the grounds specified in subsection (a) of this section.

1165 (c) Challenges made concerning ballots that the municipal clerk has  
1166 not delivered to the registrars of voters for counting pursuant to sections  
1167 9-140c, as amended by this act, and 9-147a shall be made in writing to  
1168 the municipal clerk. Challenges made concerning ballots that the  
1169 municipal clerk has delivered to the registrars of voters for counting  
1170 pursuant to sections 9-140c, as amended by this act, and 9-147a shall be  
1171 made in writing to the central counting moderator or the moderator of  
1172 the polling place at which the ballot is to be counted pursuant to  
1173 subsection (b) of section 9-147a. All challenges shall be made under oath.

1174 (d) Immediately upon receipt of a challenge, the municipal clerk shall  
1175 send copies of the challenge to each registrar of voters and to the person  
1176 offering to vote by absentee ballot. The municipal clerk shall send the  
1177 copy of the challenge to the person offering to vote by first class certified  
1178 mail to the mailing address shown on the application for the absentee  
1179 ballot. The municipal clerk shall furnish copies of any written response  
1180 to the challenge to each registrar of voters. The municipal clerk shall  
1181 deliver the ballot in the [inner] return envelope, which shall not be  
1182 opened, [the serially-numbered envelope] and any other evidence  
1183 relevant to the challenge, to the registrars, who shall sign a receipt for  
1184 the same.

1185 (e) Immediately upon receipt of a challenge, the moderator shall  
1186 deliver copies of the challenge to each registrar of voters. The moderator  
1187 shall also deliver, or designate another election, primary or referendum  
1188 official to deliver, the ballot in the [inner] return envelope, which shall  
1189 not be opened, [the serially-numbered envelope] and any other  
1190 evidence relevant to the challenge to the registrars, who shall sign a  
1191 receipt for the same.

1192 (f) The registrars of voters shall examine the challenge, any written  
1193 response to the challenge and any other evidence or information they  
1194 deem relevant to the challenge, including the [inner] return envelope,  
1195 which shall not be opened, and shall determine whether the challenge  
1196 should be upheld. If the registrars fail to agree that the challenge should  
1197 be upheld, it shall be deemed to have been denied.

1198 (g) The registrars of voters shall make the determination not earlier  
1199 than noon of the day of the election, primary or referendum at which  
1200 the ballot is submitted and not later than the time when the counting of  
1201 all other absentee ballots at the election, primary or referendum has  
1202 been completed.

1203 (h) The registrars of voters shall notify, in writing, the municipal clerk  
1204 and the central counting moderator, or the moderator of the polling  
1205 place at which the ballot is to be counted pursuant to subsection (b) of  
1206 section 9-147a, of their determination. If the challenge is denied, the  
1207 absentee ballot shall be delivered by the registrars to the appropriate  
1208 location for counting pursuant to law. If the challenge is upheld, the  
1209 registrars shall mark the word "rejected" on the [serially-numbered  
1210 outer] return envelope and note the reasons for rejection, and shall  
1211 return it together with all other evidence received in connection with the  
1212 challenge to the municipal clerk who shall retain the same until  
1213 delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act,  
1214 except that a challenge to a ballot which the municipal clerk has  
1215 delivered to the registrars of voters for counting pursuant to sections 9-  
1216 140c, as amended by this act, and 9-147a shall be returned to the  
1217 moderator to whom the challenge was made.

1218 (i) Within five days after the election, primary or referendum the  
1219 municipal clerk shall send to the person whose offer to vote was  
1220 challenged a copy of the written determination of the registrars and a  
1221 statement as to the disposition of the absentee ballot.

1222 Sec. 21. Subsections (g) to (l), inclusive, of section 9-159q of the  
1223 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

1224 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1225 (g) The registrars or their designees, as the case may be, shall jointly  
1226 deliver the ballots to the respective applicants at the institution and shall  
1227 jointly supervise the voting of such ballots. The ballots shall be returned  
1228 to the registrars or their designees by the electors in the envelopes  
1229 provided and in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-137, as  
1230 amended by this act, [9-139] and 9-140a, as amended by this act. If any  
1231 elector asks for assistance in voting [his] such elector's ballot, two  
1232 registrars or their designees of different political parties or, for a  
1233 primary, their designees of different candidates, shall render such  
1234 assistance as they deem necessary and appropriate to enable such  
1235 elector to vote [his] the ballot. The registrars or their designees may  
1236 reject a ballot when (1) the elector declines to vote a ballot, or (2) the  
1237 registrars or their designees are unable to determine how the elector  
1238 who has requested their assistance desires to vote the ballot. When the  
1239 registrars or their designees reject a ballot, they shall mark the [serially-  
1240 numbered outer] return envelope "rejected" and note the reasons for  
1241 rejection. Nothing in this section shall limit the right of an elector to vote  
1242 [his] the ballot in secret.

1243 (h) After all ballots have been voted or marked "rejected" in  
1244 accordance with subsection (g) of this section, the registrars or their  
1245 designees shall jointly deliver or mail them in the envelopes, which shall  
1246 be sealed, to the appropriate town clerk, who shall retain them until  
1247 delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act.

1248 (i) When an institution is located in a town having a primary, the  
1249 registrar in that town of the party holding the primary shall appoint for  
1250 each such institution, one designee of the party-endorsed candidates  
1251 and one designee of the contestants from the lists, if any, submitted by  
1252 the party-endorsed candidates and contestants. Such registrar shall  
1253 notify all party-endorsed candidates and all contestants of their right to  
1254 submit a list of potential designees under this section. Each party-  
1255 endorsed candidate and each contestant may submit to such registrar in  
1256 writing a list of names of potential designees, provided any such list

1257 shall be submitted not later than ten days before the primary. If no such  
1258 lists are submitted within said period, such registrar shall appoint one  
1259 designee of the party-endorsed candidates and one designee of the  
1260 contestants. Each designee appointed pursuant to this section shall be  
1261 sworn to the faithful performance of [his] such designee's duties, and  
1262 the registrar shall file a certificate of each designation with [his] the town  
1263 clerk.

1264 (j) Any registrar of voters who has filed a request that the absentee  
1265 balloting at an institution be supervised and any registrar required to  
1266 conduct a supervision of voting under this section, who neglects to  
1267 perform any of the duties required of [him] such registrar by this section  
1268 so as to cause any elector to lose [his] such elector's vote shall be guilty  
1269 of a class A misdemeanor. Any registrar from the same town as a  
1270 registrar who has filed such a request may waive [his] the right to  
1271 participate in the supervision of absentee balloting.

1272 (k) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, if the spouse or a  
1273 child of a registrar of voters or a dependent relative residing in the  
1274 registrar's household is a candidate in the election or primary for which  
1275 supervised absentee voting is to occur, such registrar shall not supervise  
1276 such absentee voting but may designate the deputy registrar of voters  
1277 or an assistant registrar of voters, appointed by the registrar pursuant to  
1278 section 9-192, to supervise the absentee voting in [his] such registrar's  
1279 place.

1280 (l) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
1281 Secretary of the State may suspend the supervision of absentee balloting  
1282 under this section and section 9-159r, provided the Secretary (1)  
1283 suspends such supervision of absentee balloting in recognition of a  
1284 declaration by the Governor of a civil preparedness emergency,  
1285 pursuant to section 28-9, or a public health emergency, pursuant to  
1286 section 19-131a, and (2) submits a report, in accordance with section 11-  
1287 4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
1288 cognizance of matters relating to elections advising of such suspension  
1289 and specifying alternative actions to be taken to provide opportunities

1290 for absentee voting by electors described in this section and section 9-  
1291 159r.

1292 Sec. 22. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the 2026  
1293 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
1294 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1295 (1) To make investigations on its own initiative or with respect to  
1296 statements filed with the commission by the Secretary of the State, any  
1297 town clerk or any registrar of voters or upon written complaint under  
1298 oath by any individual, with respect to alleged violations of any  
1299 provision of the general statutes relating to any election or referendum,  
1300 any primary held pursuant to section 9-423, 9-425 or 9-464 or any  
1301 primary held pursuant to a special act, or alleged violations of any  
1302 regulation adopted under any such provision, and to hold hearings  
1303 when the commission deems necessary to investigate violations of any  
1304 provisions of the general statutes relating to any such election, primary  
1305 or referendum, or violations of any regulation adopted under any such  
1306 provisions, and for the purpose of such hearings the commission may  
1307 administer oaths, examine witnesses and receive oral and documentary  
1308 evidence, and shall have the power to subpoena witnesses under  
1309 procedural rules the commission shall adopt, to compel their attendance  
1310 and to require the production for examination of any books and papers  
1311 which the commission deems relevant to any matter under investigation  
1312 or in question. Until the commission determines that it is necessary to  
1313 investigate a violation, commission members and staff shall keep  
1314 confidential any information concerning a complaint or preliminary  
1315 investigation, except upon request of the treasurer, deputy treasurer,  
1316 chairperson or candidate affiliated with a committee that is the subject  
1317 of the complaint or preliminary investigation. In connection with its  
1318 investigation of any alleged violation of any provision of chapter 145, or  
1319 of any provision of section 9-359 or section 9-359a, as amended by this  
1320 act, the commission shall also have the power to subpoena any  
1321 municipal clerk and to require the production for examination of any  
1322 absentee ballot, [inner and outer] return envelope from which any such

1323 ballot has been removed, depository envelope containing any such  
1324 ballot or [inner or outer] return envelope as provided in sections 9-150a,  
1325 as amended by this act, and 9-150b, as amended by this act, and any  
1326 other record, form or document as provided in section 9-150b, as  
1327 amended by this act, in connection with the election, primary or  
1328 referendum to which the investigation relates. In case of a refusal to  
1329 comply with any subpoena issued pursuant to this subsection or to  
1330 testify with respect to any matter upon which that person may be  
1331 lawfully interrogated, the superior court for the judicial district of  
1332 Hartford, on application of the commission, may issue an order  
1333 requiring such person to comply with such subpoena and to testify;  
1334 failure to obey any such order of the court may be punished by the court  
1335 as a contempt thereof. In any matter under investigation which concerns  
1336 the operation or inspection of or outcome recorded on any voting  
1337 tabulator, the commission may issue an order to the registrars of voters  
1338 to impound such tabulator until the investigation is completed;

1339 Sec. 23. Subsection (e) of section 9-23r of the general statutes is  
1340 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
1341 *passage*):

1342 (e) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section does not  
1343 submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this section as  
1344 part of the individual's application for admission as an elector, and if the  
1345 individual votes by absentee ballot in an election for federal office, the  
1346 individual shall enclose in the [outer absentee ballot envelope, and not  
1347 in the inner envelope with the ballot] additional envelope provided by  
1348 the municipal clerk pursuant to section 9-140a, as amended by this act,  
1349 for the return of such applicant's identification: (1) A copy of a current  
1350 and valid photo identification, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank  
1351 statement, government check, paycheck, or other government  
1352 document that shows the name and address of the voter. If an individual  
1353 does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an election for  
1354 federal office, such [individual's] individual's absentee ballot shall be  
1355 processed in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (A) of

1356 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-150a, as amended by this  
1357 act, and treated as a provisional ballot for federal office only, pursuant  
1358 to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

1359 Sec. 24. Section 9-359a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1360 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1361 (a) A person is guilty of false statement in absentee balloting when  
1362 [he] such person intentionally makes a false written statement in or on,  
1363 or signs the name of another person to, the application for an absentee  
1364 ballot or the [inner] return envelope accompanying any such ballot,  
1365 which [he] such person does not believe to be true and which statement  
1366 or signature is intended to mislead a public servant in the performance  
1367 of [his] such public servant's official function.

1368 (b) False statement in absentee balloting is a class D felony.

1369 Sec. 25. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
1370 section 9-369b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
1371 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1372 (B) Each such explanatory text shall be prepared by the municipal  
1373 clerk and shall specify the intent and purpose of each such proposal or  
1374 question. Such explanatory text shall not advocate either the approval  
1375 or disapproval of the proposal or question. The municipal clerk shall  
1376 cause such question or proposal and such explanatory text to be printed  
1377 in sufficient supply for public dissemination and shall also provide for  
1378 the printing of such explanations of proposals or questions on posters  
1379 of a size to be determined by said clerk. At least three such posters shall  
1380 be posted at each polling place at which electors will be voting on such  
1381 proposals or questions. Any posters printed in excess of the number  
1382 required by this section to be posted may be displayed by said clerk at  
1383 the clerk's discretion at locations which are frequented by the public.  
1384 The explanatory text shall also be furnished to each absentee ballot  
1385 applicant pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 9-140,  
1386 as amended by this act. Each such explanatory text shall be subject to

1387 the approval of the municipal attorney.

1388 Sec. 26. Section 9-369a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1389 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1390 Whenever by law it is provided that a question may be submitted to  
1391 a vote of the electors of a municipality at an election, as that term is  
1392 defined in section 9-1:

1393 (a) The electors of the municipality [entitled to vote] voting by  
1394 absentee ballot at the election under the provisions of section 9-135, as  
1395 amended by this act, [shall be entitled to] may vote upon any such  
1396 question.

1397 (b) When the clerk of the municipality determines that the necessary  
1398 action has been taken for submission of the question, [he] the clerk shall,  
1399 at least forty-five days prior to the election, file in the office of the  
1400 Secretary of the State a statement setting forth the designation of the  
1401 question as it is to appear on the ballot at the election, the date upon  
1402 which the submitting action was taken and the reference to the law  
1403 under which the action was taken. Such designation shall be in the form  
1404 of a question, as provided in section 9-369. Whenever it is specifically  
1405 provided in the general statutes that any such question may be  
1406 approved for such submission within the period of forty-five days prior  
1407 to such an election, and action is taken to submit a question within such  
1408 period, the clerk of the municipality shall file the statement required by  
1409 this subsection with the Secretary of the State immediately upon the  
1410 taking of such action.

1411 (c) When action is taken for submission of a question, from the time  
1412 of such action through the day of the election, the clerk of the  
1413 municipality shall make the full text of the question and the designation  
1414 which is to appear upon the ballot available for public inspection. If the  
1415 designation is not prescribed by law, the clerk shall phrase the  
1416 designation of the question in a form suitable for printing on the ballot.  
1417 The warning of the election shall include a statement that the question

1418 is to be voted upon, the designation of the question to appear on the  
1419 ballot, and a statement that the full text of the question is available for  
1420 public inspection in the clerk's office.

1421 (d) The moderator or head moderator of the election shall file the  
1422 results of the vote on each such question and the returns of the election  
1423 with the Secretary of the State in the manner prescribed under the  
1424 provisions of section 9-314 or other applicable law.

1425 Sec. 27. Subsection (b) of section 9-369c of the general statutes is  
1426 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1427 *2026*):

1428 (b) At any such referendum, any person who [would be] is eligible to  
1429 vote on the question or proposal [if he appeared in person and is unable  
1430 to] and who will not appear in person [for one or more of the reasons  
1431 set forth in section 9-135,] may cast [his] such person's vote by absentee  
1432 ballot, in accordance with the requirements of this section.

1433 Sec. 28. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of  
1434 section 9-163aa of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as  
1435 amended by section 69 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following  
1436 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1437 (B) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an individual  
1438 who enrolls in a political party during a period of early voting at a  
1439 primary from voting by absentee ballot [, if eligible,] or in person on the  
1440 day of such primary.

1441 Sec. 29. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
1442 section 9-164 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
1443 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1444 (a) (1) (A) On and after January 1, [2022] 2027, and notwithstanding  
1445 any contrary provision of law, there shall be held in each municipality  
1446 [ ] biennially, or quadrennially if the charter of such municipality so  
1447 provides, a municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday of

1448 November of the odd-numbered years, except that such municipal  
1449 election may be held on the first Monday of May of the odd-numbered  
1450 years if the legislative body of such municipality so determines by a  
1451 three-fourths vote.

1452 Sec. 30. Subsection (b) of section 9-19b of the general statutes is  
1453 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
1454 *passage*):

1455 (b) Except during the period between the last session for the  
1456 admission of electors prior to an election and the day following that  
1457 election, either registrar of voters, or a deputy registrar or assistant  
1458 registrar appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 9-192  
1459 may examine the qualifications of any person applying to be admitted  
1460 as an elector in the town and, except for applications submitted  
1461 pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection, approve such application  
1462 submitted in person (1) at the office of such official; (2) at any enrollment  
1463 session of the registrars of voters; (3) at any public place; (4) at any time  
1464 and at any place in the town, other than a public place, that is mutually  
1465 agreed upon by such official and the person applying to be admitted as  
1466 an elector in the town; or (5) at any public office of the Department of  
1467 Motor Vehicles, Labor Department or Department of Social Services  
1468 which is located in the town in which the registrar, deputy registrar or  
1469 assistant registrar serves, if written notice of the date and time is given  
1470 seven days in advance thereof to the commissioner of such department.  
1471 Upon receipt of a written notice under subdivision (5) of this subsection,  
1472 the commissioner of the department may designate a portion of the  
1473 public office which shall be used for the admission of electors. The other  
1474 registrar, or any deputy or assistant registrar, shall be permitted to be  
1475 present during the admission of any person pursuant to subdivisions (4)  
1476 and (5) of this subsection. Applications accepted and examined prior to  
1477 the last session for admission of electors prior to an election pursuant to  
1478 subdivision (4) of this subsection may be approved after such last  
1479 session. The admission of any person pursuant to subdivision (4) shall  
1480 be effective on the date when both registrars approve such application.

1481 The registrar who receives such application from the applicant shall  
1482 give written notice to the other registrar within one business day after  
1483 such receipt and the registrars shall forthwith act on such applications.  
1484 No rejection of any application under subdivision (4) of this subsection  
1485 shall be effective until the registrar has mailed to the other registrar and  
1486 the applicant a notice stating any reason for the rejection. Any applicant  
1487 whose application is rejected may appeal under the provisions of section  
1488 9-311.

1489 Sec. 31. Section 9-258 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1490 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1491 (a) (1) For municipalities with more than one voting district, the  
1492 election officials of each polling place shall be electors of the state and  
1493 shall consist of [(1)] (A) one moderator, [(2)] (B) at least one but not more  
1494 than two official checkers, [(3)] (C) two assistant registrars of voters of  
1495 opposite political parties, each of whom shall be residents of the town,  
1496 [(4)] (D) at least one but not more than two ballot clerks, and [(5)] (E) at  
1497 least one but not more than two voting tabulator tenders for each voting  
1498 tabulator in use at the polling place. Head moderators, central counting  
1499 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law  
1500 shall also be deemed election officials.

1501 (2) A known candidate for any office shall not serve as an election  
1502 official on election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that  
1503 (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the  
1504 same office, may perform his or her official duties, [and] (B) a deputy  
1505 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,  
1506 may perform his or her official duties, and (C) an assistant municipal  
1507 clerk, who is a candidate for the office of municipal clerk, may perform  
1508 his or her official duties.

1509 (3) If, in the opinion of the registrar of voters, the public convenience  
1510 of the electors in any voting district so requires, provision shall be made  
1511 for an additional line or lines of electors at the polling place and, if more  
1512 than one line of electors is established, at least one but not more than

1513 two additional official checkers and at least one but not more than two  
1514 ballot clerks for each line of electors shall be appointed and, if more than  
1515 one tabulator is used in a polling place, at least one but not more than  
1516 two additional voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each  
1517 additional machine so used. [Head moderators, central counting  
1518 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law  
1519 shall also be deemed election officials.]

1520 (b) (1) For municipalities with one voting district, the election officials  
1521 of such polling place shall be electors of the state and shall consist of  
1522 [(1)] (A) one moderator, [(2)] (B) at least one but not more than two  
1523 official checkers, [(3)] (C) at least one but not more than two voting  
1524 tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in use at the polling place,  
1525 and [(4)] (D) at least one but not more than two ballot clerks.  
1526 Additionally, such election officials may consist of two registrars of  
1527 voters of opposite political parties, or two assistant registrars of voters  
1528 of opposite political parties, as the case may be, subject to the  
1529 requirements of sections 9-259 and 9-439, provided if the registrars of  
1530 voters are present in the polling place, they shall appoint at least one  
1531 designee to be present in their office. Head moderators, central counting  
1532 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law  
1533 shall also be deemed election officials.

1534 (2) A known candidate for any office shall not serve as an election  
1535 official on election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that  
1536 (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the  
1537 same office, may perform his or her official duties, [and] (B) a deputy  
1538 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,  
1539 may perform his or her official duties, and (C) an assistant municipal  
1540 clerk, who is a candidate for the office of municipal clerk, may perform  
1541 his or her official duties.

1542 (3) If, in the opinion of the registrar of voters, the public convenience  
1543 of the electors in any voting district so requires, provision shall be made  
1544 for an additional line or lines of electors at the polling place and, if more  
1545 than one line of electors is established, at least one but not more than

1546 two additional official checkers for each line of electors shall be  
1547 appointed and, if more than one tabulator is used in a polling place, at  
1548 least one but not more than two additional voting tabulator tenders shall  
1549 be appointed for each additional tabulator so used. [Head moderators,  
1550 central counting moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed  
1551 pursuant to law shall be deemed to be election officials.]

1552 (c) No election official shall perform services for any party or  
1553 candidate on election day nor appear at any political party headquarters  
1554 prior to eight o'clock p.m. on election day.

1555 Sec. 32. Section 9-190b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1556 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

1557 If [a registrar of voters fails] one or more registrars of voters or deputy  
1558 registrars of voters of a municipality fail to attain or maintain,  
1559 whichever is applicable, certification required under subsection (a) of  
1560 section 9-192a, as amended by this act, or [is the subject] are the subjects  
1561 of an investigation of any matter related to the duties of [such registrar's  
1562 office] the office of the registrars of voters of such municipality resulting  
1563 from a statement filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission  
1564 by the Secretary of the State, the Secretary may issue a written  
1565 instruction, pursuant to section 9-3, as amended by this act, to [such  
1566 registrar] any or all such registrars or deputy registrars to appear before  
1567 the Secretary on the date and at such time as provided in such  
1568 instruction. The Secretary shall cite the reasons for such instruction and  
1569 inform each such registrar or deputy registrar so appearing that such  
1570 appearance is for the purpose of determining whether to temporarily  
1571 relieve such registrar or deputy registrar of his or her duties as provided  
1572 in this section. [The registrar shall appear before the Secretary and] Each  
1573 such registrar or deputy registrar so appearing shall be given a fair  
1574 opportunity to show cause, if any, why such registrar or deputy  
1575 registrar should not be temporarily relieved of his or her duties. If, after  
1576 such opportunity, the Secretary determines that the public interest in the  
1577 orderly conduct of elections would be so served, the Secretary may  
1578 temporarily relieve any such registrar or deputy registrar of his or her

1579 duties and, in the case of a registrar so temporarily relieved, require the  
1580 deputy registrar [of voters] appointed by such registrar to administer  
1581 the operations of such office until such certification has been attained or  
1582 maintained or until the State Elections Enforcement Commission has  
1583 completed such investigation and taken final action on such matter. The  
1584 proceeding described in this section shall not be considered a contested  
1585 case under chapter 54. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a  
1586 municipality from paying the salary of any such registrar of voters or  
1587 deputy registrar of voters while such resolution is pending.

1588 Sec. 33. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) If any municipal official,  
1589 including any election worker, as defined in section 9-364a of the  
1590 general statutes, as amended by this act, receives from any private or  
1591 governmental entity, individual or official a subpoena, warrant or other  
1592 request for or to inspect any record or recording of or produced at, or  
1593 any tabulator, ballot box or other device used in the conduct of, any  
1594 election, primary or referendum, such municipal official shall, not later  
1595 than thirty-six hours after the receipt of such subpoena, warrant or other  
1596 request, provide a copy of such subpoena, warrant or other request to  
1597 the offices of the Attorney General and the Secretary of the State. The  
1598 offices of the Attorney General and the Secretary of the State shall post  
1599 notice, on each of said offices' Internet web sites, of the methods by  
1600 which a municipal official may provide such copy to said offices. In the  
1601 case of the Secretary of the State receiving such a subpoena, warrant or  
1602 other request, the Secretary shall immediately provide a copy of such  
1603 subpoena, warrant or other request to the office of the Attorney General.

1604 Sec. 34. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,  
1605 "election worker" means any municipal clerk, assistant municipal clerk,  
1606 registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters or election official  
1607 described in section 9-258 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

1608 (b) The Attorney General may seek preliminary or permanent  
1609 injunctive, declaratory or other appropriate equitable relief to prevent  
1610 or redress interference in connection with any election for presidential  
1611 electors, a senator in Congress or representative in Congress by bringing

1612 a complaint to any judge of the Supreme Court, in which the Attorney  
1613 General shall set out the claimed interference. The Attorney General  
1614 shall file a certification attached to the complaint indicating that a copy  
1615 of the complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the  
1616 Secretary of the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and  
1617 any other interested party. If such complaint is made prior to such  
1618 election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on  
1619 the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the  
1620 Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission.  
1621 If such complaint is made subsequent to the election, it shall be brought  
1622 not later than fourteen days after the election. Upon receipt of such  
1623 complaint, such judge shall forthwith order any injunctive or  
1624 declaratory relief necessary to preserve or restore the status quo,  
1625 including, but not limited to, ordering that an election worker retain  
1626 custody of any record or recording of or produced at, or any tabulator,  
1627 ballot box or other device used in the conduct of, such election. Upon a  
1628 showing of exigent circumstances, such judge may issue an immediate  
1629 ex parte order granting such relief as such judge deems appropriate.  
1630 Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such  
1631 complaint, upon a day not more than five or less than three days from  
1632 the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than three or  
1633 more than five days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose  
1634 election may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to any  
1635 election worker who may be affected by the decision upon such hearing,  
1636 to the Secretary of the State, to the State Elections Enforcement  
1637 Commission and to any other party or parties whom such judge deems  
1638 proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing upon such  
1639 complaint. Such judge, with two other judges of the Supreme Court to  
1640 be designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on the day fixed  
1641 for such hearing and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the  
1642 parties. If sufficient reason is shown, such judges may order that the  
1643 State Elections Enforcement Commission maintain custody of any  
1644 record or recording of or produced at, or any tabulator, ballot box or  
1645 other device used in the conduct of, such election. If sufficient reason is  
1646 shown, such judges may order permanent injunctive, declaratory or

1647 other appropriate equitable relief in connection with the State Elections  
1648 Enforcement Commission or election worker custody of any record or  
1649 recording of or produced at, or any tabulator, ballot box or other device  
1650 used in the conduct of, such election.

1651 Sec. 35. Section 9-311 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes,  
1652 as amended by sections 91 and 92 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the  
1653 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1654 (a) If, within three days after an election, it appears to the moderator  
1655 that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such  
1656 moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written  
1657 notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials, consisting of at least  
1658 two checkers of different political parties and at least two absentee ballot  
1659 counters of different political parties who served at such election, and  
1660 the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the election was  
1661 held and such other officials as may be required to conduct such  
1662 recanvass. Such written notice shall require the clerk or registrars of  
1663 voters, as the case may be, to bring with them the depository envelopes  
1664 required by section 9-150a, as amended by [this act] public act 26-1, the  
1665 package of write-in ballots provided for in section 9-310, the absentee  
1666 ballot applications, the list of absentee ballot applications, the registry  
1667 list and the moderators' returns and shall require such recanvass  
1668 officials to meet at a specified time not later than the fifth business day  
1669 after such election to recanvass the returns of each voting tabulator,  
1670 except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, and all absentee  
1671 ballots and write-in ballots used in the municipality in such election. If  
1672 any of such recanvass officials are unavailable at the time of the  
1673 recanvass, the registrar of voters of the same political party as that of the  
1674 recanvass official unable to attend shall designate another elector  
1675 having previous training and experience in the conduct of elections to  
1676 take such recanvass official's place. Before such recanvass is made, such  
1677 moderator shall give notice, in writing, to the chairperson of the town  
1678 committee of each political party which nominated candidates for the  
1679 election, and, in the case of a state election, not later than twenty-four

1680 hours after a determination is made regarding the need for a recanvass  
1681 to the Secretary of the State, of the time and place where such recanvass  
1682 is to be made; and each such chairperson may send party  
1683 representatives to be present at such recanvass. Such party  
1684 representatives may observe, but no one other than a recanvass official  
1685 may take part in the recanvass. If a party representative notes any  
1686 irregularity in the recanvass procedure, such party representative shall  
1687 be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in any contest  
1688 relating to the election.

1689 (b) The moderator shall determine the place or places, which may  
1690 include the office of the Secretary of the State, where the recanvass shall  
1691 be conducted and, if such recanvass is held before the tabulators are  
1692 boxed and collected in the manner required by section 9-266, the  
1693 moderator may require that such recanvass of such tabulators be  
1694 conducted in each place where the tabulators are located, or the  
1695 moderator may require that such tabulators be removed to one central  
1696 place where such recanvass shall be conducted. All recanvassing  
1697 procedures shall be open to public observation, subject to the provisions  
1698 of subsection (d) of this section. Such recanvass officials shall, in the  
1699 presence of such moderator and registrars of voters, make a record of  
1700 the number on the seal and the number on the protective counter, if one  
1701 is provided, on each voting tabulator specified by such moderator. Such  
1702 registrars of voters in the presence of such moderator shall turn over the  
1703 keys of each such tabulator to such recanvass officials, and such  
1704 recanvass officials, in the presence of such registrars of voters and  
1705 moderator, shall immediately proceed to recanvass the vote cast  
1706 thereon, and shall then open the package of absentee ballots and  
1707 recanvass the vote cast thereon. In the course of the recanvass of the  
1708 absentee ballot vote the recanvass officials shall check all [outer] return  
1709 envelopes for absentee ballots [against the inner envelopes for such  
1710 ballots and] against the registry list to verify postmarks, addresses and  
1711 registry list markings and also to determine whether the number of  
1712 envelopes from which absentee ballots have been removed is the same  
1713 as the number of persons checked as having voted by absentee ballot.

1714 The write-in ballots shall also be recanvassed at this time. Any party  
1715 representative present shall have a right to view each ballot as it is being  
1716 recanvassed by the recanvass officials, so as to be able to discern the  
1717 markings on such ballot. All of the recanvass officials shall use the same  
1718 forms for tallies and returns as were used at the original canvass and the  
1719 absentee ballot counters shall also sign the tallies.

1720 (c) The votes shall be announced and recorded in the manner  
1721 prescribed in section 9-309 on return forms provided by the registrars of  
1722 voters and appended thereto shall be a statement signed by the  
1723 moderator indicating the time and place of the recanvass and the names,  
1724 addresses, titles and party affiliations of the recanvass officials. The  
1725 write-in ballots shall be replaced in a properly secured sealed package.  
1726 Upon the completion of such recanvass, any tabulator used in such  
1727 recanvass shall be locked and sealed, the keys thereof shall immediately  
1728 be returned to such registrars of voters and such tabulator shall remain  
1729 so locked until the expiration of fourteen days after such election or for  
1730 such longer period as is ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.  
1731 The absentee ballots shall be replaced in their wrappers and be resealed  
1732 by the moderator in the presence of the recanvass officials. Upon the  
1733 completion of such recanvass, such moderator and at least two of the  
1734 recanvass officials of different political parties shall forthwith prepare  
1735 and sign such return forms which shall contain a written statement  
1736 giving the result of such recanvass for each tabulator and each package  
1737 of absentee ballots whose returns were so recanvassed, setting forth  
1738 whether or not the original canvass was correctly made and stating  
1739 whether or not the discrepancy still remains unaccounted for. Such  
1740 return forms containing such statement shall forthwith be filed by the  
1741 moderator in the office of such clerk. If such recanvass reveals that the  
1742 original canvass of returns was not correctly made, such return forms  
1743 containing such statement so filed with the clerk shall constitute a  
1744 corrected return. In the case of a state election, a recanvass return shall  
1745 be made in duplicate on a form prescribed and provided by the  
1746 Secretary of the State, and the moderator shall file one copy with the  
1747 Secretary of the State and one copy with the town clerk not later than

1748 ten days after the election. Such recanvass return shall be substituted for  
1749 the original return and shall have the same force and effect as an original  
1750 return.

1751 (d) (1) The moderator may, when any disorder arises that interferes  
1752 with the conduct of a recanvass, including any attempt by a person other  
1753 than a recanvass official to take part in such recanvass or by such a  
1754 person to communicate with a recanvass official, and the offender  
1755 refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful authority, order that the  
1756 offender be removed by the recanvass officials from such recanvass until  
1757 the offender conforms to order or, if need be, until such recanvass is  
1758 completed.

1759 (2) Each political party or, in the case of an office subject to recanvass  
1760 for which there is more than one candidate from a political party, each  
1761 candidate may appoint one representative to communicate directly with  
1762 the moderator during a recanvass.

1763 (e) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c),  
1764 inclusive, of this section, a recanvass under this section may be  
1765 conducted with, instead of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators  
1766 used at the election, either a different voting tabulator or a high-speed  
1767 voting tabulator whenever (A) such recanvass is conducted at the office  
1768 of the Secretary of the State, or (B) such recanvass is conducted in the  
1769 municipality in which such election was held and both (i) the moderator  
1770 requests to borrow from the Secretary of the State either a different  
1771 voting tabulator or a high-speed voting tabulator for such purpose, and  
1772 (ii) the Secretary agrees to such request.

1773 (2) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
1774 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this  
1775 subsection.

1776 [(e)] (f) As used in this section, (1) "moderator" means, in the case of  
1777 municipalities not divided into voting districts, the moderator of the  
1778 election and, in the case of municipalities divided into voting districts,

1779 the head moderator of the election, and (2) "registrars of voters", in a  
1780 municipality where there are different registrars of voters for different  
1781 voting districts, means the registrars of voters in the voting district in  
1782 which, at the last-preceding election, the presiding officer for the  
1783 purpose of declaring the result of the vote of the whole municipality was  
1784 moderator.

1785 Sec. 36. Section 9-311a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes,  
1786 as amended by section 93 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the  
1787 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1788 (a) For purposes of this section, state, district and municipal offices  
1789 shall be as defined in section 9-372 except that the office of presidential  
1790 elector shall be deemed a state office. Forthwith after a regular or special  
1791 election for municipal office, or forthwith upon tabulation of the vote  
1792 for state and district offices by the Secretary of the State, when at any  
1793 such election the plurality of an elected candidate for an office over the  
1794 vote for a defeated candidate receiving the next highest number of votes  
1795 was either (1) less than a vote equivalent to one-half of one per cent of  
1796 the total number of votes cast for the office but not more than two  
1797 thousand votes, or (2) less than twenty votes, there shall be a canvass  
1798 of the returns of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators and absentee  
1799 ballots used in such election for such office unless such defeated  
1800 candidate or defeated candidates, as the case may be, for such office file  
1801 a written statement waiving this right to such canvass with the  
1802 municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office, or with the Secretary of  
1803 the State in the case of a state or district office. In the case of state and  
1804 district offices, the Secretary of the State upon tabulation of the votes for  
1805 such offices shall notify the town clerks in the state or district, as the case  
1806 may be, of the state and district offices which qualify for an automatic  
1807 canvass and shall also notify each candidate for any such office. When  
1808 a canvass is to be held, the municipal clerk shall promptly notify the  
1809 moderator, as defined in section 9-311, as amended by [this act] public  
1810 act 26-1, who shall proceed forthwith to cause a canvass of such  
1811 returns of the office in question in the same manner as is provided in

1812 section 9-311, as amended by [this act] public act 26-1. In addition to the  
1813 notice required under section 9-311, as amended by [this act] public act  
1814 26-1, the moderator shall, before such recanvass is [made] conducted,  
1815 give notice in writing to each candidate for a municipal office that  
1816 qualifies for an automatic recanvass under this section of the time when  
1817 [ ] and place, which may include the office of the Secretary of the State,  
1818 where [ ] such recanvass is to be [made to each candidate for a municipal  
1819 office which qualifies for an automatic recanvass under this section]  
1820 conducted. Nothing in this section shall preclude the right to judicial  
1821 proceedings on behalf of a candidate under any provision of chapter  
1822 149. For the purposes of this section, "the total number of votes cast for  
1823 the office" means, in the case of multiple openings for the same office,  
1824 the total number of electors checked as having voted in the state, district,  
1825 municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be. When a  
1826 recanvass of the returns for an office for which there are multiple  
1827 openings is required by the provisions of this section, the returns for all  
1828 candidates for all openings for the office shall be recanvassed. If a  
1829 candidate notes any irregularity in the recanvass procedure, such  
1830 candidate shall be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in  
1831 any contest relating to the election.

1832 (b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
1833 section, a recanvass under this section may be conducted with, instead  
1834 of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators used at the election, either a  
1835 different voting tabulator or a high-speed voting tabulator whenever  
1836 (A) such recanvass is conducted at the office of the Secretary of the State,  
1837 or (B) such recanvass is conducted in the municipality in which such  
1838 election was held and both (i) the moderator requests to borrow from  
1839 the Secretary of the State either a different voting tabulator or a high-  
1840 speed voting tabulator for such purpose, and (ii) the Secretary agrees to  
1841 such request.

1842 (2) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
1843 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this  
1844 subsection.

1845 Sec. 37. Section 9-311b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1846 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1847 (a) If the electors fail to elect a candidate for any office by reason of  
1848 an equality of votes at any election, there shall be a canvass of the  
1849 returns for such office, in the same manner as is provided in section 9-  
1850 311, as amended by this act, unless, prior to the time of such canvass,  
1851 all but one of the candidates so receiving an equal number of votes dies,  
1852 withdraws his name or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold such  
1853 office.

1854 (b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
1855 section, a canvass under this section may be conducted with, instead  
1856 of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators used at the election, a  
1857 different voting tabulator or a high-speed voting tabulator whenever  
1858 (A) such canvass is conducted at the office of the Secretary of the State,  
1859 or (B) such canvass is conducted in the municipality in which such  
1860 election was held and both (i) the moderator requests to borrow from  
1861 the Secretary of the State either a different voting tabulator or a high-  
1862 speed voting tabulator for such purpose, and (ii) the Secretary agrees to  
1863 such request.

1864 (2) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
1865 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this  
1866 subsection.

1867 Sec. 38. Section 9-23l of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1868 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1869 Registrars of voters shall accept the mail voter registration  
1870 application form prescribed by the [Federal] Election Assistance  
1871 Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,  
1872 P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, as an application for  
1873 admission as an elector for all elections in Connecticut. The procedures  
1874 in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g which are not  
1875 inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-

1876 31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made  
1877 under this section.

1878 Sec. 39. Section 9-23m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1879 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1880 The Secretary of the State shall make available for distribution the  
1881 mail voter registration application form prescribed by the [Federal]  
1882 Election Assistance Commission pursuant to the National Voter  
1883 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time. The  
1884 secretary may make any changes in any forms required by this title  
1885 which, in the opinion of the secretary, are necessary to cause said forms  
1886 to conform to the provisions of applicable federal law.

1887 Sec. 40. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any citizen who has not yet  
1888 attained the age of eighteen years but who will have attained the age of  
1889 eighteen years on or before the day of an election, and who is otherwise  
1890 qualified to be an elector and has applied for admission as an elector,  
1891 may vote at such election during the period of early voting or by  
1892 absentee ballot.

1893 Sec. 41. Section 9-374 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1894 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1895 (a) No authority of the state or any political subdivision thereof  
1896 having jurisdiction over the conduct of any primary shall permit the  
1897 name of a party-endorsed candidate for an office or position to be  
1898 printed on the official ballot to be used at any such primary unless a  
1899 copy of the party rules regulating such party and its method of selecting  
1900 party-endorsed candidates for nomination to such office or for election  
1901 as town committee members, as the case may be, has been filed in the  
1902 office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before such  
1903 candidate is selected under such method of endorsement. The selection  
1904 of delegates to conventions shall not be valid unless at least one copy of  
1905 the party rules regulating the manner of making such selection has been  
1906 filed in the office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before

1907 such selection is made. A duplicate copy of such rules shall also be filed  
1908 with the state central committee of such party. A copy of the local party  
1909 rules, relating to a party in a municipality, shall be filed forthwith by the  
1910 town chairman or the secretary of the town committee of such party in  
1911 such municipality with the Secretary of the State. The state party rules  
1912 shall be filed by the state chairman or the secretary of the state central  
1913 committee of such party.

1914 (b) In the case of a minor party, no authority of the state or any  
1915 subdivision thereof having jurisdiction over the conduct of any election  
1916 shall permit the name of a candidate of such party for any office to be  
1917 printed on the official ballot unless at least one copy of the party rules  
1918 regulating the manner of nominating a candidate for such office has  
1919 been filed in the office of the Secretary of the State at least one hundred  
1920 eighty days before the nomination of such candidate. In the case of a  
1921 minor party, the selection of town committee members and delegates to  
1922 conventions shall not be valid unless at least one copy of the party rules  
1923 regulating the manner of making such selection has been filed in the  
1924 office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before such selection  
1925 is made. [A] In the case of a minor party, a copy of local party rules shall  
1926 forthwith be also filed with the town clerk of the municipality to which  
1927 they relate, except that for any municipality in which no town  
1928 committee of such minor party exists and no local party rules of such  
1929 minor party have been filed with the town clerk, the state party rules of  
1930 such minor party that have been filed with the office of the Secretary of  
1931 the State shall be deemed the party rules for purposes of enrolled  
1932 members and candidates of such minor party in such municipality.

1933 (c) Party rules shall not be effective until sixty days after the filing of  
1934 the same with the Secretary of the State. A party in any municipality for  
1935 which local party rules with respect to any office or position have not  
1936 been filed as provided in this section shall, as to such office or position,  
1937 be subject to the provisions of the effective state rules of such party  
1938 applicable in municipalities which do not have local party rules, until  
1939 such time as local party rules therefor are filed and become effective as

1940 provided in this section. The town chairman of a party in any  
1941 municipality for which local party rules have not been adopted and filed  
1942 as provided in this section shall forthwith file a statement with the  
1943 Secretary of the State to the effect that such party in such municipality  
1944 does not have local party rules. Any dispute arising under the party  
1945 rules of any party shall be referred to the state central committee of such  
1946 party.

1947 (d) The term "party rules" as used in this section includes any  
1948 amendment to such party rules. When any amendment is to be filed as  
1949 required by this section, complete party rules incorporating such  
1950 amendment shall be filed, together with a separate copy of such  
1951 amendment. All party rules and all amendments to such party rules  
1952 shall ensure such party's compliance with the federal Americans with  
1953 Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12101, et seq., as amended from time to time.

1954 Sec. 42. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-409 of the general statutes  
1955 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
1956 *October 1, 2026*):

1957 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, petition forms  
1958 for candidacies for nomination to municipal office or for election as  
1959 members of town committees shall be available from the registrar  
1960 [beginning on the day following the making of the party's endorsement  
1961 of a candidate or candidates for such office or position, or] beginning on  
1962 the day following the final day for the making of [such endorsement]  
1963 the party's endorsement of a candidate or candidates for such office or  
1964 position under the provisions of section 9-391, as amended by this act.  
1965 [whichever comes first.]

1966 (b) Petition forms for candidacies for nomination to the municipal  
1967 offices of state senator and state representative shall be available from  
1968 the registrar beginning on the seventy-seventh day preceding the day of  
1969 the primary for such office.

1970 Sec. 43. Section 7-22 of the general statutes is repealed and the

1971 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

1972 Whenever [complaint in writing is made to the Attorney General that  
1973 the town clerk of any town is guilty of misconduct, wilful and material  
1974 neglect of duty or incompetence in the conduct of such town clerk's  
1975 office, the Attorney General shall make such investigation of the  
1976 charges] the State Elections Enforcement Commission consults with the  
1977 Attorney General pursuant to subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section  
1978 9-7b as the result of an investigation made pursuant to subdivision (1)  
1979 of subsection (a) of section 9-7b, as amended by this act, with respect to  
1980 an alleged violation by a municipal clerk of any provision of the general  
1981 statutes relating to any election, primary or referendum described in  
1982 subdivision (1) of said subsection, or of any regulation adopted under  
1983 any such provision, the Attorney General may make such investigation  
1984 of the alleged violation as the Attorney General deems proper and shall,  
1985 if the Attorney General is of the opinion that the evidence obtained  
1986 warrants such action, prepare a statement in writing of [the charges  
1987 against such town clerk] such municipal clerk's alleged violations,  
1988 together with a citation in the name of the state, commanding such  
1989 [town] municipal clerk to appear before a judge of the Superior Court at  
1990 a date named in the citation and show cause, if any, why such [town]  
1991 municipal clerk should not be removed from office as provided in this  
1992 section. The Attorney General shall cause a copy of such statement and  
1993 citation to be served by some proper officer upon the defendant [town]  
1994 municipal clerk at least ten days before the date of appearance named  
1995 in such citation, and the original statement and citation, with the return  
1996 of the officer thereon, shall be returned to the clerk of the superior court  
1997 for the judicial district within which such [town] municipality is  
1998 situated. To carry into effect the proceedings authorized by this section,  
1999 the Attorney General shall have power to summon witnesses, require  
2000 the production of necessary books, papers and other documents and  
2001 administer oaths to witnesses; and upon the date named in such citation  
2002 for the appearance of such [town] municipal clerk, or upon any  
2003 adjourned date fixed by the judge before whom such proceedings are  
2004 pending, the Attorney General shall appear and conduct the hearing on

2005 behalf of the state. If, after a full hearing of all the evidence offered by  
2006 the Attorney General and by and on behalf of the defendant, such judge  
2007 is of the opinion that the evidence presented warrants the removal of  
2008 such [town] municipal clerk from office, the judge shall cause to be  
2009 prepared a written order to that effect, which order shall be signed by  
2010 the judge and lodged with the clerk of the superior court for the judicial  
2011 district in which such defendant resides. Such clerk of the superior court  
2012 shall cause a certified copy of such order to be served forthwith upon  
2013 such [town] municipal clerk, and upon such service the office held by  
2014 such [town] municipal clerk shall become vacant, notwithstanding the  
2015 pendency of any appeal of such written order, and the vacancy thereby  
2016 created shall be filled at once in the manner provided in section 9-220.  
2017 Any witnesses summoned and any officer making service under the  
2018 provisions of this section shall be allowed and paid by the state the same  
2019 fees as are allowed by law in criminal prosecutions.

2020 Sec. 44. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) Not earlier than the  
2021 fifteenth day after any state election and not later than two business  
2022 days before the canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer  
2023 and Comptroller, commencing on a day designated by the Secretary, the  
2024 registrars of voters shall conduct a risk-limiting audit of such election.  
2025 Each such audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public  
2026 observation. Any election official who participates in the administration  
2027 and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated  
2028 by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such  
2029 municipality for elections.

2030 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the  
2031 offices subject to a risk-limiting audit pursuant to this section shall be  
2032 (A) the office of presidential elector, if applicable, (B) all applicable state  
2033 offices, as defined in section 9-372 of the general statutes, (C) at least one  
2034 representative in Congress, selected in a random drawing by the  
2035 Secretary of the State, (D) at least five per cent, in the aggregate, of the  
2036 offices of state senator and state representative, selected in a random  
2037 drawing by the Secretary, and (E) any other office required to be audited

2038 by federal law. Whenever an office is randomly selected by the Secretary  
2039 under this subsection, the selection process shall be open to the public.

2040 (2) (A) If an office of representative in Congress is subject to  
2041 recanvass, other than under section 9-311a, as amended by this act, or 9-  
2042 311b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or to an election  
2043 contest pursuant to any provision of the general statutes, the Secretary  
2044 of the State shall ensure such office is included in the office or offices  
2045 selected under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

2046 (B) If an office of state senator or state representative is subject to  
2047 recanvass, other than under section 9-311a, as amended by this act, or 9-  
2048 311b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or to an election  
2049 contest pursuant to any provision of the general statutes, the Secretary  
2050 of the State shall ensure such office is included in the offices selected  
2051 under subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

2052 (C) If any office is subject to recanvass under section 9-311a, as  
2053 amended by this act, or 9-311b of the general statutes, as amended by  
2054 this act, or if a candidate was elected to an office without opposition by  
2055 another candidate for such office, the Secretary of the State shall ensure  
2056 such office is excluded from the offices selected under subdivision (1) of  
2057 this subsection.

2058 (c) Prior to the day designated by the Secretary of the State for the  
2059 commencement of the risk-limiting audit described in subsection (a) of  
2060 this section, the registrars of voters shall submit to the Secretary the  
2061 ballot manifests created under section 47 of this act.

2062 (d) The risk-limiting audit described in subsection (a) of this section  
2063 shall be conducted in accordance with instructions and procedures  
2064 prescribed by the Secretary of the State not later than January 1, 2027,  
2065 which instructions and procedures shall be consistent across all offices  
2066 subject to such audit. The risk limit for each such audit shall be not more  
2067 than five per cent. The results of each audit conducted pursuant to this  
2068 section, including any such audit that produces an outcome of

2069 "INCONCLUSIVE" as described in subsection (e) of this section, shall be  
2070 reported on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Secretary. Such  
2071 reported results shall be filed with the Secretary, who shall immediately  
2072 forward such reported results to The University of Connecticut for  
2073 analysis. The University of Connecticut shall submit to the Secretary a  
2074 written report regarding such analysis that describes any concerns  
2075 identified. After receipt of such written report, the Secretary shall  
2076 transmit a copy of such written report to the State Elections Enforcement  
2077 Commission.

2078 (e) In the event a risk-limiting audit conducted pursuant to this  
2079 section for a particular office produces an outcome of  
2080 "INCONCLUSIVE", the Secretary of the State shall order a manual  
2081 recount of all ballots cast for such office.

2082 (f) If the written report submitted by The University of Connecticut  
2083 under subsection (d) of this section indicates that a voting tabulator  
2084 failed to record votes accurately and in the manner provided by title 9  
2085 of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall require that the  
2086 voting tabulator be examined and recertified by the Secretary or the  
2087 Secretary's designee. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to  
2088 prohibit the Secretary from requiring that a voting tabulator be  
2089 examined and recertified.

2090 (g) The audit results reported to the Secretary of the State pursuant to  
2091 subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public inspection and may  
2092 be used as prima facie evidence of an irregularity in any contest arising  
2093 pursuant to chapter 149 of the general statutes or for any other cause of  
2094 action arising from such election.

2095 (h) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the results from an  
2096 audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the outcome of the  
2097 person declared elected by virtue of having received the greatest  
2098 number of votes, as determined by the paper ballots, the Secretary of the  
2099 State shall conduct such further investigation of the voting tabulator as  
2100 may be necessary for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to

2101 decertify the voting tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the  
2102 voting tabulator to be examined and recertified in accordance with  
2103 subsection (f) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary as a  
2104 result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections  
2105 Enforcement Commission, and the commission may initiate such  
2106 further investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection  
2107 (a) of section 9-7b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, as may  
2108 be required to determine if any violations of the general statutes  
2109 concerning election law have been committed.

2110 (i) The individual paper ballots used at an election shall be carefully  
2111 preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in accordance  
2112 with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310 of the general statutes,  
2113 as applicable.

2114 (j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any  
2115 candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to  
2116 chapter 149 of the general statutes.

2117 (k) After a state election, any voting tabulator may be kept locked for  
2118 a period longer than that prescribed by sections 9-266, 9-310 and 9-447  
2119 of the general statutes, if such an extended period is ordered by a court  
2120 of competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of the State or the State Elections  
2121 Enforcement Commission. Such court or the Secretary of the State may  
2122 order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted by such persons  
2123 as the court or the Secretary may designate, provided the State Elections  
2124 Enforcement Commission may order such an audit where the particular  
2125 office in question is that of the Secretary of the State. If the machine  
2126 utilized in such election is an optical scan voting system, such order to  
2127 lock such machine shall include the tabulator, memory card and all  
2128 other components and processes utilized in the programming of such  
2129 machine.

2130 (l) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
2131 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for the conduct  
2132 of risk-limiting audits described in subsection (a) of this section and to

2133 establish guidelines for expanded audits when the results from such a  
2134 risk-limiting audit cannot be reconciled with the outcome of the person  
2135 declared elected by virtue of having received the greatest number of  
2136 votes, as determined by the paper ballots.

2137 (m) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
2138 Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine  
2139 whenever any problem is discovered as a result of an audit described in  
2140 subsection (a) of this section.

2141 (n) As used in this section:

2142 (1) "Risk-limiting audit" means a publicly verifiable auditing  
2143 procedure that (A) manually examines a statistical sample of paper  
2144 ballots that reflect the intents of the voters having cast such ballots, (B)  
2145 produces an outcome of either "ACCEPTABLE" or "INCONCLUSIVE",  
2146 and (C) guarantees a specified risk limit;

2147 (2) "Risk limit" means the maximum probability that an audit would  
2148 produce an outcome of "ACCEPTABLE" when there is a disagreement  
2149 between the person declared elected and the person who received the  
2150 greatest number of votes as determined by the paper ballots; and

2151 (3) "State election" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1  
2152 of the general statutes.

2153 Sec. 45. Subsection (a) of section 9-320 of the general statutes is  
2154 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
2155 *1, 2027*):

2156 (a) The clerk of each municipality shall, [within ten days after the  
2157 municipal election] not later than the last day of the month in which the  
2158 municipal election was held, return to the Secretary of the State a  
2159 statement of the name, post-office address and term of each person  
2160 elected to office in such election. If an elected [town] municipal clerk is  
2161 registrar of vital statistics, ex officio, such return shall so indicate. Each  
2162 municipal clerk neglecting to make such return shall be fined not more

2163 than twenty-five dollars.

2164 Sec. 46. Section 9-320f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2165 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2166 (a) [(1)] Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any federal or state  
2167 [election or] primary or any municipal election or primary and not later  
2168 than two business days before the canvass of votes by the Secretary of  
2169 the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, [and (2) not earlier than the fifth  
2170 day after any municipal election or primary and not later than two  
2171 business days before the canvass of votes] or by the town clerk, as  
2172 applicable, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit, or an  
2173 electronic audit authorized under section 9-320g, as amended by this  
2174 act, of the votes recorded in not less than five per cent of the voting  
2175 districts in the state, district or municipality, whichever is applicable.  
2176 For the purposes of this section, any central location used in a  
2177 municipality for the counting of absentee ballots, early voting ballots or  
2178 same-day election registration ballots shall be deemed a voting district.  
2179 Such manual or electronic audit shall be noticed in advance and be open  
2180 to public observation. Any election official who participates in the  
2181 administration and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be  
2182 compensated by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established  
2183 by such municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

2184 (b) The voting districts subject to an audit described in subsection (a)  
2185 of this section shall be selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of  
2186 the State and such selection process shall be open to the public. The  
2187 offices subject to an audit pursuant to this section shall be, (1) [in the  
2188 case of an election where the office of presidential elector is on the ballot,  
2189 all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional  
2190 office selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State, but in  
2191 no case less than three offices, (2) in the case of an election where the  
2192 office of Governor is on the ballot, all offices required to be audited by  
2193 federal law, plus one additional office selected in a random drawing by  
2194 the Secretary of the State, but in no case less than three offices, (3)] in the  
2195 case of a municipal election, three offices or twenty per cent of the

2196 number of offices on the ballot, whichever is greater, selected at random  
2197 by the municipal clerk, and [(4)] (2) in the case of a primary, [election,]  
2198 all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional  
2199 office, if any, but in no event less than twenty per cent of the offices on  
2200 the ballot, selected in a random drawing by the municipal clerk.

2201 (c) If a selected voting district has an office that is subject to recanvass  
2202 or an election or primary contest pursuant to any provision of the  
2203 general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall select an alternative  
2204 district, pursuant to the process described in subsection (b) of this  
2205 section.

2206 (d) The manual or electronic audit described in subsection (a) of this  
2207 section shall consist of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper  
2208 ballots cast and counted by each voting tabulator subject to such audit.  
2209 Once complete, the vote totals established pursuant to such manual or  
2210 electronic tabulation shall be compared to the results reported by the  
2211 voting tabulator on the day of the election or primary. The results of  
2212 such manual or electronic tabulation shall be reported on a form  
2213 prescribed by the Secretary of the State which shall include the total  
2214 number of ballots counted, the total votes received by each candidate in  
2215 question, the total votes received by each candidate in question on  
2216 ballots that were properly completed by each voter and the total votes  
2217 received by each candidate in question on ballots that were not properly  
2218 completed by each voter. Such [report] reported results shall be filed  
2219 with the Secretary, [of the State] who shall immediately forward such  
2220 [report] reported results to The University of Connecticut for analysis.  
2221 The University of Connecticut shall [file] submit to the Secretary a  
2222 written report [with the Secretary of the State] regarding such analysis  
2223 that describes any discrepancies identified. After receipt of such written  
2224 report, the Secretary [of the State shall file such report with] shall  
2225 transmit a copy of such written report to the State Elections Enforcement  
2226 Commission.

2227 (e) For the purposes of this section, a ballot that has not been properly  
2228 completed will be deemed to be a ballot on which (1) votes have been

2229 marked by the voter outside the vote targets, (2) votes have been marked  
2230 by the voter using a manual marking device that cannot be read by the  
2231 voting tabulator, or (3) in the judgment of the registrars of voters, the  
2232 voter marked the ballot in such a manner that the voting tabulator may  
2233 not have read the marks as votes cast.

2234 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-311, as amended by  
2235 this act, the Secretary of the State shall order a discrepancy canvass of  
2236 the returns of an election or primary for any office if a discrepancy, as  
2237 defined in subsection (o) of this section, exists where the margin of  
2238 victory in the race for such office is less than the amount of the  
2239 discrepancy multiplied by the total number of voting districts where  
2240 such race appeared on the ballot, provided in a year in which the  
2241 Secretary of the State is a candidate for an office on the ballot and that  
2242 office is subject to an audit as provided by this section, the State  
2243 Elections Enforcement Commission shall order a discrepancy canvass  
2244 if a discrepancy, as defined by subsection (o) of this section, has  
2245 occurred that could affect the outcome of the election or primary for  
2246 such office.

2247 (g) If the written report submitted by The University of Connecticut  
2248 [report described in] under subsection (d) of this section indicates that a  
2249 voting tabulator failed to record votes accurately and in the manner  
2250 provided by [the general statutes] this title, the Secretary of the State  
2251 shall require that the voting tabulator be examined and recertified by  
2252 the Secretary, [of the State,] or the Secretary's designee. Nothing in this  
2253 subsection shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary [of the State] from  
2254 requiring that a voting tabulator be examined and recertified.

2255 (h) The audit [report filed] results reported to the Secretary of the  
2256 State pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public  
2257 inspection and may be used as prima facie evidence of a discrepancy in  
2258 any contest arising pursuant to chapter 149 or for any other cause of  
2259 action arising from such election or primary.

2260 (i) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the manual or electronic

2261 count from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the  
2262 electronic vote tabulation and discrepancies from the election or  
2263 primary, the Secretary of the State shall conduct such further  
2264 investigation of the voting tabulator malfunction as may be necessary  
2265 for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to decertify the voting  
2266 tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the voting tabulator to be  
2267 examined and recertified [pursuant to] in accordance with subsection  
2268 (g) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary [of the State] as  
2269 a result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections  
2270 Enforcement Commission and the commission may initiate such further  
2271 investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
2272 section 9-7b, as amended by this act, as may be required to determine if  
2273 any violations of the general statutes concerning election law have been  
2274 committed.

2275 (j) The individual paper ballots used at an election or primary shall  
2276 be carefully preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in  
2277 accordance with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310, [whichever  
2278 is] as applicable.

2279 (k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any  
2280 candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to  
2281 chapter 149.

2282 (l) After an election or primary, any voting tabulator may be kept  
2283 locked for a period longer than that prescribed by sections 9-266, 9-310  
2284 and 9-447, if such an extended period is ordered by [either] a court of  
2285 competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of the State or the State Elections  
2286 Enforcement Commission. [Either the] Such court or the Secretary of the  
2287 State may order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted by  
2288 such persons as the court or the Secretary [of the State] may designate,  
2289 provided the State Elections Enforcement Commission may order such  
2290 an audit under the circumstances prescribed in subsection (f) of this  
2291 section. If the machine utilized in such election or primary is an optical  
2292 scan voting system, such order to lock such machine shall include the  
2293 tabulator, memory card and all other components and processes utilized

2294 in the programming of such machine.

2295 (m) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
2296 with the provisions of chapter 54, [as may be necessary] for the conduct  
2297 of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper ballots described in  
2298 subsection (a) of this section and to establish guidelines for expanded  
2299 audits when there are differences between the manual or electronic  
2300 counts from the audit described in subsection (a) of this section and  
2301 tabulator counts from the election or primary.

2302 (n) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
2303 Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine  
2304 whenever any problem is discovered as a result of an audit described in  
2305 subsection (a) of this section.

2306 (o) As used in this section: [, "discrepancy"]

2307 (1) "Discrepancy" means any difference in vote totals between  
2308 tabulator counts from an election or primary and manual or electronic  
2309 counts from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section in a  
2310 voting district that exceeds one-half of one per cent of the lesser amount  
2311 of the vote totals between such tabulator counts and such manual or  
2312 electronic counts where such differences cannot be resolved through an  
2313 accounting of ballots that were not marked properly in accordance with  
2314 subsection (e) of this section; [, "state election" means "state election", as  
2315 defined in section 9-1, "municipal election"]

2316 (2) "Municipal election" means a municipal election held pursuant to  
2317 section 9-164, as amended by this act; [, "manual"]

2318 (3) "Manual" means by hand and without the assistance of electronic  
2319 equipment; and ["electronic"]

2320 (4) "Electronic" means through the use of equipment described in  
2321 section 9-320g, as amended by this act.

2322 Sec. 47. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) Except in the case of a

2323 recanvass subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, not  
2324 later than seventy-two hours after the close of the polls at each state  
2325 election, as defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes:

2326 (1) The election officials in each polling place shall create a ballot  
2327 manifest for such polling place in accordance with procedures  
2328 prescribed by the Secretary of the State; and

2329 (2) The absentee ballot counters in each central counting location shall  
2330 create a ballot manifest for such central counting location in accordance  
2331 with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

2332 (b) Not later than twenty-four hours after the completion of any  
2333 recanvass conducted at a state election in a voting district, the recanvass  
2334 officials shall create a ballot manifest for such district in accordance with  
2335 procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

2336 (c) All ballot manifest creation procedures shall be open to public  
2337 observation.

2338 (d) Immediately after a ballot manifest has been created pursuant to  
2339 this section, the moderator shall submit such ballot manifest to the  
2340 registrars of voters.

2341 Sec. 48. Section 9-323 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2342 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2343 Any elector or candidate who claims that he or she is aggrieved by  
2344 any ruling of any election official in connection with any election for  
2345 presidential electors and for a senator in Congress and for  
2346 representative in Congress or any of them, held in his or her town, or  
2347 that there was a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such election  
2348 for candidates for such electors, senator in Congress and representative  
2349 in Congress, or any of them, at any voting district in his or her town, or  
2350 any candidate for such an office who claims that he or she is aggrieved  
2351 by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive,  
2352 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the casting of absentee

2353 ballots at such election, may bring his or her complaint to any judge of  
2354 the Supreme Court, in which he or she shall set out the claimed errors  
2355 of such election official, the claimed errors in the count or the claimed  
2356 violations of said sections. In any action brought pursuant to the  
2357 provisions of this section, the complainant shall file a certification  
2358 attached to the complaint indicating that a copy of the complaint has  
2359 been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the State Elections  
2360 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such  
2361 election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on  
2362 the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the  
2363 Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission.  
2364 If such complaint is made subsequent to the election, it shall be brought  
2365 not later than fourteen days after the election or, if such complaint is  
2366 brought in response to [the manual tabulation of paper ballots  
2367 authorized] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended  
2368 by this act, or section 44 of this act, such complaint shall be brought not  
2369 later than seven days after the close of any such [manual tabulation]  
2370 audit, and in either such circumstance, the judge shall forthwith order a  
2371 hearing to be had upon such complaint, upon a day not more than five  
2372 or less than three days from the making of such order, and shall cause  
2373 notice of not less than three or more than five days to be given to any  
2374 candidate or candidates whose election may be affected by the decision  
2375 upon such hearing, to such election official, to the Secretary of the State,  
2376 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission and to any other party  
2377 or parties whom such judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time  
2378 and place for the hearing upon such complaint. Such judge, with two  
2379 other judges of the Supreme Court to be designated by the Chief Court  
2380 Administrator, shall, on the day fixed for such hearing and without  
2381 unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient reason is  
2382 shown, such judges may order any voting tabulators to be unlocked or  
2383 any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes cast, including  
2384 absentee ballots, to be made. Such judges shall thereupon, in the case  
2385 they, or any two of them, find any error in the rulings of the election  
2386 official, any mistake in the count of such votes or any violation of said  
2387 sections, certify the result of their finding or decision, or the finding or

2388 decision of a majority of them, to the Secretary of the State before the  
2389 first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December. Such judges  
2390 may order a new election or a change in the existing election schedule,  
2391 provided such order complies with Section 302 of the Help America  
2392 Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time. Such certificate of  
2393 such judges, or a majority of them, shall be final upon all questions  
2394 relating to the rulings of such election officials, to the correctness of such  
2395 count and, for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations,  
2396 and shall operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding  
2397 officers so as to conform to such finding or decision.

2398 Sec. 49. Section 9-324 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2399 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2400 Any elector or candidate who claims that such elector or candidate is  
2401 aggrieved by any ruling of any election official in connection with any  
2402 election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State  
2403 Treasurer, Attorney General, State Comptroller or judge of probate, held  
2404 in such elector's or candidate's town, or that there has been a mistake in  
2405 the count of the votes cast at such election for candidates for said offices  
2406 or any of them, at any voting district in such elector's or candidate's  
2407 town, or any candidate for such an office who claims that such candidate  
2408 is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-  
2409 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the  
2410 casting of absentee ballots at such election or any candidate for the office  
2411 of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State  
2412 Treasurer, Attorney General or State Comptroller, who claims that such  
2413 candidate is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-700  
2414 to 9-716, inclusive, may bring such elector's or candidate's complaint to  
2415 any judge of the Superior Court, in which such elector or candidate shall  
2416 set out the claimed errors of such election official, the claimed errors in  
2417 the count or the claimed violations of said sections. In any action  
2418 brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the complainant shall  
2419 send a copy of the complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the  
2420 complaint by hand, to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If

2421 such complaint is made prior to such election, such judge shall proceed  
2422 expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint and shall cause  
2423 notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the State and the  
2424 State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made  
2425 subsequent to the election, it shall be brought not later than fourteen  
2426 days after the election or, if such complaint is brought in response to  
2427 [the manual tabulation of paper ballots authorized] an audit conducted  
2428 pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section 44 of this  
2429 act, such complaint shall be brought not later than seven days after the  
2430 close of any such [manual tabulation] audit and, in either such  
2431 circumstance, such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon  
2432 such complaint, upon a day not more than five nor less than three days  
2433 from the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than  
2434 three nor more than five days to be given to any candidate or candidates  
2435 whose election may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to  
2436 such election official, the Secretary of the State, the State Elections  
2437 Enforcement Commission and to any other party or parties whom such  
2438 judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing  
2439 upon such complaint. Such judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing  
2440 and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient  
2441 reason is shown, such judge may order any voting tabulators to be  
2442 unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes  
2443 cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. Such judge shall thereupon,  
2444 in case such judge finds any error in the rulings of the election official,  
2445 any mistake in the count of the votes or any violation of said sections,  
2446 certify the result of such judge's finding or decision to the Secretary of  
2447 the State before the fifteenth day of the next succeeding December. Such  
2448 judge may order a new election or a change in the existing election  
2449 schedule. Such certificate of such judge of such judge's finding or  
2450 decision shall be final and conclusive upon all questions relating to  
2451 errors in the rulings of such election officials, to the correctness of such  
2452 count, and, for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations,  
2453 and shall operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding  
2454 officers, so as to conform to such finding or decision, unless the same is  
2455 appealed from as provided in section 9-325.

2456 Sec. 50. Section 9-328 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2457 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2458 Any elector or candidate claiming to have been aggrieved by any  
2459 ruling of any election official in connection with an election for any  
2460 municipal office or a primary for justice of the peace, or any elector or  
2461 candidate claiming that there has been a mistake in the count of votes  
2462 cast for any such office at such election or primary, or any candidate in  
2463 such an election or primary claiming that he is aggrieved by a violation  
2464 of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a,  
2465 as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such  
2466 election or primary, may bring a complaint to any judge of the Superior  
2467 Court for relief therefrom. In any action brought pursuant to the  
2468 provisions of this section, the complainant shall send a copy of the  
2469 complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the complaint by hand,  
2470 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is  
2471 made prior to such election or primary, such judge shall proceed  
2472 expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint and shall cause  
2473 notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the State and the  
2474 State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made  
2475 subsequent to such election or primary, it shall be brought not later than  
2476 fourteen days after such election or primary, except that if such  
2477 complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of paper  
2478 ballots, authorized] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as  
2479 amended by this act, or section 44 of this act, such complaint shall be  
2480 brought not later than seven days after the close of any such [manual  
2481 tabulation] audit, to any judge of the Superior Court, in which he shall  
2482 set out the claimed errors of the election official, the claimed errors in  
2483 the count or the claimed violations of said sections. Such judge shall  
2484 forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such complaint, upon a day  
2485 not more than five nor less than three days from the making of such  
2486 order, and shall cause notice of not less than three nor more than five  
2487 days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose election or  
2488 nomination may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to such  
2489 election official, the Secretary of the State, the State Elections

2490 Enforcement Commission and to any other party or parties whom such  
2491 judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing  
2492 upon such complaint. Such judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing  
2493 and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient  
2494 reason is shown, he may order any voting tabulators to be unlocked or  
2495 any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes cast, including  
2496 absentee ballots, to be made. Such judge shall thereupon, if he finds any  
2497 error in the rulings of the election official or any mistake in the count of  
2498 the votes, certify the result of his finding or decision to the Secretary of  
2499 the State before the tenth day succeeding the conclusion of the hearing.  
2500 Such judge may order a new election or primary or a change in the  
2501 existing election schedule. Such certificate of such judge of his finding  
2502 or decision shall be final and conclusive upon all questions relating to  
2503 errors in the ruling of such election officials, to the correctness of such  
2504 count, and, for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations,  
2505 and shall operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding  
2506 officers, so as to conform to such finding or decision, except that this  
2507 section shall not affect the right of appeal to the Supreme Court and it  
2508 shall not prevent such judge from reserving such questions of law for  
2509 the advice of the Supreme Court as provided in section 9-325. Such  
2510 judge may, if necessary, issue his writ of mandamus, requiring the  
2511 adverse party and those under him to deliver to the complainant the  
2512 appurtenances of such office, and shall cause his finding and decree to  
2513 be entered on the records of the Superior Court in the proper judicial  
2514 district.

2515 Sec. 51. Subsection (a) of section 9-329a of the general statutes is  
2516 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
2517 *1, 2027*):

2518 (a) Any (1) elector or candidate aggrieved by a ruling of an election  
2519 official in connection with any primary held pursuant to (A) section 9-  
2520 423, 9-425 or 9-464, or (B) a special act, (2) elector or candidate who  
2521 alleges that there has been a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such  
2522 primary, or (3) candidate in such a primary who alleges that he is

2523 aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-  
2524 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in the  
2525 casting of absentee ballots at such primary, may bring his complaint to  
2526 any judge of the Superior Court for appropriate action. In any action  
2527 brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the complainant shall  
2528 file a certification attached to the complaint indicating that a copy of the  
2529 complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the State  
2530 Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to  
2531 such primary such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render  
2532 judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be  
2533 given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement  
2534 Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to such primary it  
2535 shall be brought, not later than fourteen days after such primary, or if  
2536 such complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of  
2537 paper ballots, described in] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-  
2538 320f, as amended by this act, or section 44 of this act, such complaint  
2539 shall be brought, not later than seven days after the close of any such  
2540 [manual tabulation] audit, to any judge of the Superior Court.

2541 Sec. 52. Subsection (b) of section 9-3 of the general statutes, as  
2542 amended by section 89 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following  
2543 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2544 (b) During any municipal, state or federal election, primary or  
2545 recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as  
2546 amended by this act, or section 44 of this act, the Secretary of the State  
2547 may issue an order, whether orally or in writing, to any registrar of  
2548 voters or moderator to correct any irregularity or impropriety in the  
2549 conduct of such election, primary or recanvass or audit. Any such order  
2550 shall be effective upon issuance. As soon as practicable after issuance of  
2551 an oral order pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall reduce such  
2552 order to writing, cite within such order any applicable provision of law  
2553 authorizing such order and cause a copy of such written order to be  
2554 delivered to the individual who is the subject of such order or, in the  
2555 case that such order was originally issued in writing, issue a subsequent

2556 written order that conforms to such requirements. The Superior Court,  
2557 on application of the Secretary or the Attorney General, may enforce by  
2558 appropriate decree or process any such order issued pursuant to this  
2559 subsection.

2560 Sec. 53. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 9-229 of the general  
2561 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
2562 (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2563 (3) The duties of each regional election advisor shall include, but not  
2564 be limited to: (A) Holding the instructional sessions described in  
2565 subdivision (2) of this subsection; (B) communicating with registrars of  
2566 voters to assist, to the extent permitted under law, in preparations for  
2567 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit  
2568 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section  
2569 44 of this act; and (C) transmitting any order issued by the Secretary of  
2570 the State, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-3, as amended by this  
2571 act.

2572 Sec. 54. Subsection (a) of section 9-229b of the general statutes is  
2573 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
2574 *1, 2027*):

2575 (a) Any regional council of governments organized under the  
2576 provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, may appoint a regional  
2577 election advisor, who shall represent, consult with and act on behalf of  
2578 such regional council of governments and any combination of regional  
2579 councils of governments or member towns of regional councils of  
2580 governments that may seek the assistance of such regional election  
2581 advisor. A regional election advisor shall consult and coordinate with  
2582 the Secretary of the State to provide such assistance in preparations for  
2583 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit  
2584 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section  
2585 44 of this act.

2586 Sec. 55. Section 9-320g of the general statutes is repealed and the

2587 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

2588 Notwithstanding any provision of this title, the Secretary of the State,  
2589 in consultation and coordination with The University of Connecticut,  
2590 may authorize the use of electronic equipment for the purpose of  
2591 conducting any audit required pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended  
2592 by this act, [for any primary or general election held on or after January  
2593 1, 2016] or section 44 of this act, provided (1) the Secretary of the State  
2594 prescribes specifications for (A) the testing, set-up and operation of such  
2595 equipment, and (B) the training of election officials in the use of such  
2596 equipment; and (2) the Secretary of the State and The University of  
2597 Connecticut agree that such equipment is sufficient in quantity to  
2598 accommodate the total number of audits to be conducted. Nothing in  
2599 this section shall preclude any candidate or elector from seeking  
2600 additional remedies pursuant to chapter 149 as a result of any  
2601 information revealed by such process.

2602 Sec. 56. (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State shall establish  
2603 a pilot program for the conduct of risk-limiting audits at state elections  
2604 in 2026. The Secretary shall randomly select three municipalities for  
2605 participation in such pilot program, provided the Secretary shall select:  
2606 (1) One municipality with a population of less than twenty thousand;  
2607 (2) one municipality with a population of twenty thousand or greater,  
2608 but less than ninety thousand; and (3) one municipality with a  
2609 population of ninety thousand or greater. For the purposes of this  
2610 section, "risk-limiting audit" has the same meaning as provided in  
2611 section 44 of this act and "population" means the estimated number of  
2612 people according to the most recent version of the State Register and  
2613 Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90 of the general statutes.

2614 Sec. 57. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

2615 (1) "Election" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1 of the  
2616 general statutes;

2617 (2) "Elections site" means any (A) polling place on the day of an

2618 election, primary or referendum, (B) location designated for the conduct  
2619 of early voting during the period of early voting at an election or  
2620 primary, (C) location designated for same-day election registration  
2621 during the period of early voting at a regular election or on the day of a  
2622 regular election, (D) central location designated for the counting of  
2623 absentee ballots, early voting ballots or same-day election registration  
2624 ballots at an election, primary or referendum, as applicable, (E) place  
2625 where a recanvass is being conducted, or (F) drop box designated for  
2626 the deposit of absentee ballots during the period beginning on the first  
2627 day of issuance of absentee voting sets and ending at the close of the  
2628 polls at an election, primary or referendum;

2629 (3) "Primary" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-372 of  
2630 the general statutes; and

2631 (4) "Referendum" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1 of  
2632 the general statutes.

2633 (b) (1) No officer or agent of any organization or entity authorized by  
2634 the federal government or by any state to use force against, search,  
2635 detain or arrest individuals, and no person authorized by the federal  
2636 government or by any state to order, bring, keep or have under such  
2637 person's authority or control any such officer or agent, shall:

2638 (A) Knowingly be within two hundred fifty feet of any elections site,  
2639 unless (i) the Governor deems such force necessary to repel armed  
2640 enemies of the United States or of the state, (ii) in the case of any such  
2641 search, detention or arrest, such officer, agent or person (I) is acting in  
2642 an official capacity, (II) has given notice to the Secretary of the State and  
2643 the Attorney General not less than twenty-four hours prior to such  
2644 search, detention or arrest, and (III) is authorized by a judicial warrant  
2645 or judicial order of a court of competent jurisdiction to specifically  
2646 conduct such search, detention or arrest within two hundred fifty feet  
2647 of such elections site, and at the specific location at which such search,  
2648 detention or arrest is to be conducted, provided such officer, agent or  
2649 person is within such two hundred fifty feet only for as long as

2650 reasonably necessary to conduct such search, detention or arrest, (iii)  
2651 exigent circumstances reasonably require the presence of any such  
2652 officer, agent or person to protect against a serious threat to life or  
2653 property, provided such officer, agent or person is within such two  
2654 hundred fifty feet only for as long as reasonably necessary to protect  
2655 against such threat, or (iv) the Secretary of the State or moderator (I)  
2656 requests such force to suppress disorder, or (II) has given permission for  
2657 such an officer, agent or person to be present and such permission has  
2658 not been withdrawn;

2659 (B) Knowingly be within two hundred fifty feet of an elections site for  
2660 the purpose of attempting to examine the qualifications to vote of any  
2661 individual at such elections site;

2662 (C) Knowingly loiter or remain within two hundred fifty feet of an  
2663 elections site; or

2664 (D) Engage in any conduct that would constitute a violation of 18  
2665 USC 592, 593 or 595, as amended from time to time.

2666 (2) Nothing in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be construed to  
2667 (A) prevent any officer, agent or person described in said subdivision,  
2668 when off duty, from voting in accordance with the provisions of title 9  
2669 of the general statutes or otherwise engaging in protected political  
2670 expression, or (B) prohibit any such officer, agent or person from  
2671 passing within two hundred fifty feet of an elections site only for as long  
2672 as necessary to be within such two hundred fifty feet while on the way  
2673 to a place or location other than such elections site.

2674 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no  
2675 person shall wear any mask or other covering that obscures the face,  
2676 head or identity of such person within two hundred fifty feet of any  
2677 elections site.

2678 (2) A person may wear such a mask or other covering within such  
2679 two hundred fifty feet if the wearing of such mask or other covering (A)  
2680 is reasonable given the weather conditions, provided such person

2681 complies with any request from the moderator to remove such mask or  
2682 other covering, or (B) is medically necessary or of religious significance.

2683 (d) (1) No person shall be required to present any form of  
2684 identification within two hundred fifty feet of any elections site, unless  
2685 otherwise required under state law.

2686 (2) Nothing in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be construed to  
2687 prevent any election, primary or referendum official from performing  
2688 any duty under title 9 of the general statutes.

2689 (e) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be  
2690 guilty of a class C felony and shall be disfranchised.

2691 Sec. 58. Section 9-364a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2692 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

2693 (a) As used in this section, "election worker" means any municipal  
2694 clerk, assistant municipal clerk, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of  
2695 voters, election official described in section 9-258, as amended by this  
2696 act, primary official described in section 9-436 or recanvass official  
2697 described in section 9-311, as amended by this act, and "personal  
2698 identifying information" has the same meaning as provided in section  
2699 53a-129a.

2700 (b) Any person who influences or attempts to influence by force or  
2701 threat the vote, or by force, threat, bribery or corrupt means [,] the  
2702 speech, of any other person at a primary, caucus, referendum,  
2703 convention or election; any person who influences or attempts to  
2704 influence by force, threat or harassment any election worker in the  
2705 performance of any duty under the provisions of this title related to  
2706 election administration at a primary, referendum, election or recanvass;  
2707 any person who wilfully and fraudulently suppresses or destroys any  
2708 vote or ballot properly given or cast, whether so given or cast by mail,  
2709 by deposit in a secure drop box or in person at a polling place or  
2710 designated early voting or same-day election registration location, or  
2711 who, in counting such votes or ballots, wilfully miscounts or

2712 misrepresents the number thereof; and any presiding or other officer of  
2713 a primary, caucus or convention who wilfully announces the result of a  
2714 ballot or vote of such primary, caucus or convention, untruly and  
2715 wrongfully, shall be guilty of a class C felony.

2716 (c) Any person who, with intent to harass, terrorize or alarm any  
2717 election worker, or to improperly influence any election worker in the  
2718 performance of any duty under this title related to election  
2719 administration at a primary, referendum, election or recanvass, publicly  
2720 discloses the personal identifying information of such election worker  
2721 shall be guilty of a (1) class A misdemeanor for a first offense, and (2)  
2722 class C felony for any subsequent offense.

2723 (d) Any election worker described in subsection (b) or (c) of this  
2724 section, as applicable, shall have a civil cause of action against the  
2725 person who, with respect to such election worker, violated said  
2726 subsection.

2727 Sec. 59. Section 9-352 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2728 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

2729 (a) Any election official who, with intent to cause or permit any  
2730 voting tabulator to fail to correctly register all votes cast thereon, (1)  
2731 tampers with or disarranges [such tabulator] in any way such tabulator  
2732 or any part or appliance thereof, or (2) causes such tabulator to be used  
2733 or consents to its being used for voting at any election with knowledge  
2734 of the fact that the same is (A) not in order, or (B) not perfectly set and  
2735 adjusted to correctly register all votes cast thereon, [or] shall be guilty of  
2736 a class D felony.

2737 (b) Any election official who, for the purpose of (1) defrauding or  
2738 deceiving any elector, or [of] (2) causing it to (A) be doubtful for what  
2739 candidate or candidates or proposition any vote is cast, or [causing it to]  
2740 (B) appear upon such tabulator that votes cast for one candidate or  
2741 proposition were cast for another candidate or proposition, removes,  
2742 changes or mutilates any ballot shall be guilty of a class D felony.

2743        (c) Any election official who provides to any third party that has not  
2744 been authorized by the Secretary of the State any tabulator or any part  
2745 or appliance thereof shall be guilty of a class D felony.

2746        Sec. 60. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any person who knowingly (1)  
2747 tampers with, alters, destroys or unlawfully carries away a drop box  
2748 designated for the deposit of absentee ballots; (2) changes or destroys a  
2749 ballot after it has been deposited in such a drop box; (3) adds one or  
2750 more ballots to those which have been lawfully deposited in such a drop  
2751 box, whether before or after such ballots have been counted, by  
2752 fraudulently depositing such additional ballot or ballots into such drop  
2753 box in a manner not authorized by law and falsely claiming that such  
2754 additional ballot or ballots were lawfully deposited into such drop box,  
2755 with the intent to interrupt or invalidate an election, primary or  
2756 referendum; or (4) adds one or more ballots to those which have been  
2757 retrieved from such a drop box by fraudulently introducing such  
2758 additional ballot or ballots while such ballots are being counted or  
2759 recanvassed, with intent to affect the result of an election, primary or  
2760 referendum or to enter any ballot into evidence at any hearing held  
2761 pursuant to chapter 149 or 152 of the general statutes for the contest of  
2762 such election, primary or referendum, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

2763        Sec. 61. Subsection (a) of section 3-129g of the 2026 supplement to the  
2764 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2765 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

2766        (a) The Attorney General may investigate, intervene in or bring a civil  
2767 or administrative action in the name of the state, seeking injunctive or  
2768 declaratory relief, damages, and any other relief that may be available  
2769 under law, whenever any person is or has engaged in a practice or  
2770 pattern of conduct, or has established a policy, that:

2771        (1) Subjects, or causes to be subjected, other persons to the  
2772 deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the  
2773 constitutions or laws of this state or the United States; or

2774 (2) Interferes, or attempts to interfere, by threats, intimidation, [or]  
2775 coercion or physical obstruction, with the exercise or enjoyment by other  
2776 persons of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the  
2777 constitutions or laws of this state or the United States.

2778 Sec. 62. Section 9-247 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
2779 73 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2780 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2781 The registrars of voters shall, before the commencement of the period  
2782 of early voting at each election, cause test ballots to be inserted in each  
2783 voting tabulator to ensure that each voting tabulator is prepared and  
2784 read and cause each other voting system approved by the Secretary of  
2785 the State for use in the election, including, but not limited to, voting  
2786 devices equipped for individuals with disabilities that comply with the  
2787 provisions of the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-25, as amended from  
2788 time to time, to be put in order in every way and set and adjust the same  
2789 so that it shall be ready for use in voting when delivered at the polling  
2790 place [ ] or location designated for the conduct of early voting, [or  
2791 location designated for the conduct of same-day election registration,]  
2792 as applicable. Such registrars of voters shall cause each voting system to  
2793 be in order and set and adjusted, to be delivered at the polling place [ ]  
2794 or location designated for the conduct of early voting, [or location  
2795 designated for the conduct of same-day election registration,] as  
2796 applicable, together with all necessary furniture and appliances that go  
2797 with the same, at the room where voting at such election is to take place,  
2798 and to be tested and operable not later than one hour prior to the  
2799 opening of the polling place [ ] or location designated for the conduct of  
2800 early voting, [or location designated for the conduct of same-day  
2801 election registration,] as applicable.

2802 Sec. 63. Section 9-192a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2803 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2804 (a) (1) The Secretary of the State shall, in consultation with the  
2805 advisory committee created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,

2806 establish a program and criteria for the certification of registrars of  
2807 voters and deputy registrars of voters.

2808 (2) (A) All registrars taking such office on or before July 1, 2015, shall  
2809 complete such program and satisfy such criteria for certification not  
2810 later than July 1, 2017. Any registrar taking such office after July 1, 2015,  
2811 shall complete such program and satisfy such criteria for certification  
2812 [(A)] (i) in the case of a two-year term, not later than the conclusion of  
2813 such term, and [(B)] (ii) in the case of a four-year term, not later than two  
2814 years after the date of first holding such office, except [as provided in  
2815 subdivision (2) of this subsection] that any such registrar who  
2816 completed the program and satisfied the criteria described in  
2817 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for deputy registrars, and who  
2818 subsequently became registrar in accordance with the provisions of  
2819 section 9-192, shall be deemed to have completed the program and  
2820 satisfied the criteria described in this subparagraph for the applicable  
2821 term.

2822 (B) All deputy registrars taking such office on or before July 1, 2026,  
2823 shall complete such program and satisfy such criteria for certification  
2824 not later than July 1, 2028. Any deputy registrar taking such office after  
2825 July 1, 2026, shall complete such program and satisfy such criteria for  
2826 certification (i) in the case of a two-year term, not later than the  
2827 conclusion of such term, and (ii) in the case of a four-year term, not later  
2828 than two years after the date of first holding such office.

2829 (C) Each municipality shall pay on behalf of such municipality's  
2830 [registrar of voters the cost of completing such program and satisfying  
2831 such] registrars of voters and deputy registrars of voters the costs of  
2832 completing the applicable programs and satisfying the applicable  
2833 criteria for certification under this subdivision.

2834 [(2) If a deputy registrar becomes registrar, in accordance with the  
2835 provisions of section 9-192, on or after the ninetieth day prior to a state  
2836 election, as defined in section 9-1, such new registrar shall complete an  
2837 abridged program prescribed by the Secretary of the State for a

2838 provisional certification. Completion of such abridged program and  
2839 receipt of a provisional certification shall not be deemed to satisfy the  
2840 requirements for certification described in subdivision (1) of this  
2841 subsection.]

2842 (3) Once certified, pursuant to subdivision [(1)] (2) of this subsection,  
2843 each registrar and deputy registrar shall participate each year in not less  
2844 than eight hours of training, not including any training described under  
2845 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, in order to maintain such  
2846 certification. Such training shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the  
2847 State and shall be conducted by [said] the Secretary or a third party  
2848 approved by [said] the Secretary to conduct such training. On and after  
2849 January 1, 2024, such training shall include procedures for the conduct  
2850 of early voting at elections and primaries. Any registrar or deputy  
2851 registrar who fails to satisfy such annual training requirement shall be  
2852 directed by the Secretary of the State to take remedial measures  
2853 prescribed by said Secretary.

2854 (b) There is created an advisory committee for the purpose of  
2855 establishing programs and procedures for training, examining and  
2856 certifying registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters and assistant  
2857 registrars of voters, as described in section 9-192. The committee shall  
2858 consist of six members, one of whom shall be from the office of the  
2859 Secretary of the State, one of whom shall be from the State Elections  
2860 Enforcement Commission, and four of whom shall be registrars of  
2861 voters. The Secretary of the State shall appoint the registrars of voters,  
2862 in consultation with the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut,  
2863 or its successor organization. The committee members shall serve  
2864 without pay. The Secretary of the State shall determine the length of the  
2865 terms of the initial members, in accordance with the following: Two of  
2866 such members shall serve for a one-year term; two of such members  
2867 shall serve for a two-year term; and two of such members shall serve for  
2868 a four-year term. Thereafter, all members shall serve for four-year terms.  
2869 The committee shall select a chairperson, who shall be one of the  
2870 registrars who is a member of the committee.

2871 (c) The Secretary of the State, in consultation with the advisory  
2872 committee created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, shall adopt  
2873 criteria for the training, examination and certification requirements of  
2874 registrars and deputy registrars pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
2875 section. In advising the Secretary of the State on the adoption of such  
2876 criteria, the committee (1) shall consider whether the prescribed training  
2877 leading to certification may, in part, be satisfied through participation  
2878 in the required two conferences a year called by the Secretary of the  
2879 State, pursuant to section 9-6, as amended by this act, for purposes of  
2880 discussing the election laws, procedures or matters related to election  
2881 laws and procedures, and (2) may recommend programs at one or more  
2882 institutions of higher education that satisfy such criteria. Any [deputy  
2883 or] assistant registrar of voters may participate in the course of training  
2884 prescribed by the Secretary for certification as a certified Connecticut  
2885 registrar of voters or deputy registrar of voters. The Secretary of the  
2886 State shall certify any individual who completes such training and  
2887 successfully completes any examination or examinations prescribed by  
2888 the Secretary as a certified Connecticut registrar of voters or deputy  
2889 registrar of voters, as applicable.

2890 (d) The advisory committee created pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
2891 section shall also (1) develop a training program in election procedures  
2892 for poll workers, and (2) develop an election law and procedures  
2893 training program and guide for registrars, deputy registrars and  
2894 assistant registrars. The training program developed under subdivision  
2895 (2) of this subsection shall provide for training to be conducted by  
2896 trained registrars or former registrars hired for such purpose by the  
2897 Secretary of the State. The committee shall submit such training  
2898 programs and training guide to the Secretary of the State, who shall  
2899 approve or modify the programs and guide.

2900 Sec. 64. Section 9-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2901 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2902 Each registrar of voters, [or, in the absence of a registrar, the] each  
2903 deputy registrar of voters [,] and each municipal clerk, [or, in the

2904 absence of a municipal clerk,] or one of the assistant municipal clerks in  
2905 the absence of the municipal clerk, shall be compensated by the  
2906 municipality which [the clerk] such official represents [, as provided for  
2907 in this section,] for attending two conferences a year for [town clerks  
2908 and] registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters and municipal  
2909 clerks which may be called by the Secretary of the State for the purpose  
2910 of discussing the election laws, procedures or matters related thereto.  
2911 Each such official shall be compensated by [the] such municipality at the  
2912 rate of thirty-five dollars per day for attending each such conference,  
2913 plus mileage to and from such conference at a rate per mile determined  
2914 by [the] such municipality, but not less than twenty cents per mile,  
2915 computed from the office of such official or, if [he] such official has no  
2916 office, from [his] such official's home to the place where such conference  
2917 is being held.

2918 Sec. 65. Section 9-388 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
2919 79 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2920 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2921 (a) Whenever a convention of a political party is held for the  
2922 endorsement of candidates for nomination to state or district office, each  
2923 candidate endorsed at such convention shall file with the Secretary of  
2924 the State a certificate, signed by him, stating that he was endorsed by  
2925 such convention, his name as he authorizes it to appear on the ballot, his  
2926 full residence address and the title and district, if applicable, of the office  
2927 for which he was endorsed. Such certificate shall be attested by either  
2928 (1) the chairman or presiding officer, or (2) the secretary of such  
2929 convention and shall be received by the Secretary of the State not later  
2930 than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of such  
2931 convention. Such certificate shall either be mailed to the Secretary of the  
2932 State by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered in person,  
2933 in which case a receipt indicating the date and time of delivery shall be  
2934 provided by the Secretary of the State to the person making delivery. If  
2935 a certificate of a party's endorsement for a particular state or district  
2936 office is not received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such

2937 certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections  
2938 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no endorsement of any  
2939 candidate for such office. If applicable, the chairman of a party's state  
2940 convention shall, forthwith upon the close of such convention, file with  
2941 the Secretary of the State the names and full residence addresses of  
2942 persons selected by such convention as the nominees of such party for  
2943 electors of President and Vice-President of the United States in  
2944 accordance with the provisions of section 9-175.

2945 (b) (1) In the case of a timely filed certificate of a party's endorsement  
2946 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, which contains an error or  
2947 omission that would operate to invalidate such endorsement, the  
2948 candidate so certified or an individual authorized to act on behalf of  
2949 such candidate may correct such error or omission by appearing in  
2950 person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a  
2951 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on  
2952 the nineteenth day after the close of the state or district convention, as  
2953 applicable, and amending such certificate to make such correction. If  
2954 such candidate or individual does not appear to so amend such  
2955 certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party,  
2956 for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have  
2957 made no such endorsement.

2958 (2) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in  
2959 subdivision (1) of this subsection, amend a timely filed certificate of a  
2960 party's endorsement to correct any such error or omission, and shall  
2961 keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this  
2962 subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require  
2963 the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission  
2964 in any such certificate, except that, if the Secretary identifies such an  
2965 error or omission, the Secretary shall use best efforts to notify the  
2966 candidate so certified, an individual authorized to act on behalf of such  
2967 candidate or the party that endorsed such candidate regarding such  
2968 error or omission.

2969 Sec. 66. Subsection (c) of section 9-391 of the general statutes, as

2970 amended by section 80 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following  
2971 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

2972 (c) (1) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the  
2973 nomination of candidates for a municipal office to be voted upon at a  
2974 state election shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not  
2975 earlier than the eighty-fourth day or later than the seventy-seventh day  
2976 preceding the day of such primary. Each certification to be filed under  
2977 this subsection shall be received by the Secretary of the State not later  
2978 than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of the town  
2979 committee meeting, caucus or convention, as the case may be. If such a  
2980 certificate of a party's endorsement is not received by the Secretary of  
2981 the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party,  
2982 for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418, shall be deemed to have  
2983 neither made nor certified any endorsement of any candidate for such  
2984 office. The candidate so endorsed for a municipal office to be voted upon  
2985 at a state election, other than the office of justice of the peace, shall file  
2986 with the Secretary of the State a certificate, signed by that candidate,  
2987 stating that such candidate was so endorsed, the candidate's name as  
2988 the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full  
2989 street address and the title and district of the office for which the  
2990 candidate was endorsed. Such certificate may be filed by a candidate  
2991 whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment list of such  
2992 party within the senatorial district within which the candidate is  
2993 endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal office of  
2994 state senator, or the assembly district within which the candidate is  
2995 endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal office of  
2996 state representative, or the municipality or political subdivision within  
2997 which the candidate is to run for nomination for other municipal offices  
2998 to be voted on at a state election. Such certificate shall be attested by  
2999 either the chairperson or presiding officer or the secretary of the town  
3000 committee, caucus or convention which made such endorsement. The  
3001 endorsement of any candidate for the office of justice of the peace shall  
3002 be certified to the clerk of the municipality by either the chairperson or  
3003 presiding officer or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or

3004 convention, and shall contain the name and street address of each  
3005 candidate so endorsed and the title of the office for which each such  
3006 candidate is endorsed. Such certification shall be made on a form  
3007 prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on such other form as may  
3008 comply with the provisions of this subsection.

3009 (2) (A) In the case of a timely filed certificate of a party's endorsement  
3010 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, which contains an error  
3011 or omission that would operate to invalidate such endorsement, the  
3012 candidate so certified or an individual authorized to act on behalf of  
3013 such candidate may correct such error or omission by appearing in  
3014 person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a  
3015 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on  
3016 the nineteenth day after the close of the town committee meeting,  
3017 caucus or convention, as applicable, and amending such certificate to  
3018 make such correction. If such candidate or individual does not appear  
3019 to so amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be  
3020 invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418,  
3021 shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified such endorsement.

3022 (B) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in  
3023 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, amend a timely filed certificate of  
3024 a party's endorsement to correct any such error or omission, and shall  
3025 keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this  
3026 subparagraph. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to  
3027 require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or  
3028 omission in any such certificate, except that, if the Secretary identifies  
3029 such an error or omission, the Secretary shall use best efforts to notify  
3030 the candidate so certified, an individual authorized to act on behalf of  
3031 such candidate or the party that endorsed such candidate regarding  
3032 such error or omission.

3033 Sec. 67. Section 9-400 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
3034 81 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3035 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3036 (a) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a state office  
3037 may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon  
3038 the last-completed enrollment list of such party in any municipality  
3039 within the state and who has either (1) received at least fifteen per cent  
3040 of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-  
3041 call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a  
3042 candidate for such state office, whether or not the party-endorsed  
3043 candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on the last ballot,  
3044 or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of at least two  
3045 per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the state, in accordance  
3046 with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive. Candidacies  
3047 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be filed by  
3048 submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m.  
3049 on the fourteenth day following the close of the state convention, a  
3050 certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by either (A) the  
3051 chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the convention, that  
3052 such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of such votes, and that  
3053 such candidate consents to be a candidate in a primary of such party for  
3054 such state office. Such certificate shall specify the candidate's name as  
3055 the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full  
3056 residence address and the title of the office for which the candidacy is  
3057 being filed. If such certificate for a state office is not received by the  
3058 Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and  
3059 such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be  
3060 deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy for nomination  
3061 by a political party to such state office. A single such certificate or  
3062 petition for state office may be filed on behalf of two or more candidates  
3063 for different state offices who consent to have their names appear on a  
3064 single row of the primary ballot under subsection (b) of section 9-437.  
3065 Candidacies described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be filed  
3066 by submitting said petition not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-  
3067 third day preceding the day of the primary for such office to the registrar  
3068 of voters of the towns in which the respective petition pages were  
3069 circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such petition with the  
3070 Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-404c.

3071 A petition filed by or on behalf of a candidate for state office shall be  
3072 invalid for such candidate if such candidate is certified as the party-  
3073 endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by [this act]  
3074 public act 26-1 and this act, or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the  
3075 convention vote for such office pursuant to this subsection. Except as  
3076 provided in section 9-416a, upon the expiration of the time period for  
3077 party endorsement and circulation and tabulation of petitions and  
3078 signatures, if any, if one or more candidacies for such state office have  
3079 been filed pursuant to the provisions of this section, the Secretary of the  
3080 State shall notify all town clerks and registrars of voters in accordance  
3081 with the provisions of section 9-433, that a primary for such state office  
3082 shall be held in each municipality in accordance with the provisions of  
3083 section 9-415.

3084 (b) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a district office  
3085 may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon  
3086 the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the district the  
3087 person seeks to represent that is in the office of the Secretary of the State  
3088 at the end of the last day prior to the convention for the party from  
3089 which the person seeks nomination and who has either (1) received at  
3090 least fifteen per cent of the votes of the convention delegates present and  
3091 voting on any roll-call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed  
3092 endorsement of a candidate for such district office, whether or not the  
3093 party-endorsed candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on  
3094 the last ballot, or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of  
3095 at least two per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the district  
3096 for the district office of representative in Congress, and at least five per  
3097 cent of the enrolled members of such party in the district for the district  
3098 offices of state senator, state representative and judge of probate, in  
3099 accordance with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive.  
3100 Candidacies described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be filed  
3101 by submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock  
3102 p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of the district convention,  
3103 a certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by either (A) the  
3104 chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the convention, that

3105 such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of such votes, and that  
3106 the candidate consents to be a candidate in a primary of such party for  
3107 such district office. Such certificate shall specify the candidate's name as  
3108 the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full  
3109 residence address and the title and district of the office for which the  
3110 candidacy is being filed. If such certificate for a district office is not  
3111 received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall  
3112 be invalid and such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-  
3113 416a, shall be deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy  
3114 for nomination by a political party to such district office. Candidacies  
3115 described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be filed by  
3116 submitting said petition not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-  
3117 third day preceding the day of the primary for such office to the registrar  
3118 of voters of the towns in which the respective petition pages were  
3119 circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such petition with the  
3120 Secretary in accordance with the provisions of section 9-404c. A petition  
3121 may only be filed by or on behalf of a candidate for the district office of  
3122 state senator, state representative or judge of probate who is not certified  
3123 as the party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended  
3124 by [this act] public act 26-1 and this act, or as receiving at least fifteen  
3125 per cent of the convention vote for such office pursuant to this  
3126 subsection. A petition filed by or on behalf of a candidate for the district  
3127 office of representative in Congress shall be invalid if said candidate is  
3128 certified as the party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as  
3129 amended by [this act] public act 26-1 and this act, or as receiving at least  
3130 fifteen per cent of the convention vote for such office pursuant to this  
3131 subsection. Except as provided in section 9-416a, upon the expiration of  
3132 the time period for party endorsement and circulation and tabulation of  
3133 petitions and signatures, if any, if one or more candidacies for such  
3134 district office have been filed pursuant to the provisions of this section,  
3135 the Secretary of the State shall notify all town clerks within the district,  
3136 in accordance with the provisions of section 9-433, that a primary for  
3137 such district office shall be held in each municipality and each part of a  
3138 municipality within the district in accordance with the provisions of  
3139 section 9-415.

3140 (c) (1) In the case of a timely filed certificate of candidacy for  
3141 nomination by a political party pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this  
3142 section, which contains an error or omission that would operate to  
3143 invalidate such candidacy for nomination, the person so certified or an  
3144 agent of such person may correct such error or omission by appearing  
3145 in person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a  
3146 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on  
3147 the nineteenth day after the close of the state or district convention, as  
3148 applicable, and amending such certificate to make such correction,  
3149 provided neither failure of such person to timely file such certificate  
3150 pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section nor failure of the  
3151 chairperson, presiding officer or secretary of the convention to attest  
3152 such certificate shall be an error or omission that may be corrected  
3153 pursuant to this subsection. If such person or agent does not appear to  
3154 so amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid  
3155 and such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be  
3156 deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy for nomination  
3157 by a political party. As used in this subsection, "agent" means an  
3158 individual authorized to act on behalf of a person.

3159 (2) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in  
3160 subdivision (1) of this subsection, amend a timely filed certificate of  
3161 candidacy for nomination to correct any such error or omission, and  
3162 shall keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this  
3163 subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require  
3164 the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission  
3165 in any such certificate, except that, if the Secretary identifies such an  
3166 error or omission, the Secretary shall use best efforts to notify the person  
3167 so certified, an agent of such person or the party whose nomination is  
3168 being sought by such candidate regarding such error or omission.

3169 (d) For the purposes of this section, the number of enrolled members  
3170 of a party shall be determined by the latest enrollment records in the  
3171 office of the Secretary of the State prior to the earliest date that primary  
3172 petitions were available. The names of electors on the inactive registry

3173 list compiled under section 9-35 shall not be counted for purposes of  
3174 computing the number of petition signatures required under this  
3175 section, as provided in section 9-35c.

3176 (e) On the last day for filing primary petition candidacies in  
3177 accordance with the provisions of this section, the office or office  
3178 facilities of the registrars of voters shall open not later than one o'clock  
3179 p.m., and remain open until at least four o'clock p.m., and such  
3180 registrars or the deputy or assistant registrars shall be present.

3181 Sec. 68. Section 9-452 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
3182 82 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3183 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3184 (a) All minor parties nominating candidates for any elective office  
3185 shall make such nominations and certify and file a list of such  
3186 nominations, as required by this section, not later than the sixty-second  
3187 day prior to the day of the election at which such candidates are to be  
3188 voted for. A list of nominees in printed or typewritten form that includes  
3189 each candidate's name as authorized by each candidate to appear on the  
3190 ballot, the signature of each candidate, the full street address of each  
3191 candidate and the title and district of the office for which each candidate  
3192 is nominated shall be certified by the presiding officer of the committee,  
3193 meeting or other authority making such nomination and shall be filed  
3194 by such presiding officer with the Secretary of the State, in the case of  
3195 any state, district or municipal office to be voted upon at a state election,  
3196 or with the clerk of the municipality, in the case of any municipal office  
3197 to be voted upon at a municipal election, not later than the sixty-second  
3198 day prior to the day of the election. The registrars of voters of such  
3199 municipality shall promptly verify and correct the names on any such  
3200 list filed with him, or the names of nominees forwarded to the clerk of  
3201 the municipality by the Secretary of the State, in accordance with the  
3202 registry list of such municipality and endorse the same as having been  
3203 so verified and corrected. For the purposes of this section, a list of  
3204 nominations shall be deemed to be filed when it is received by the  
3205 Secretary of the State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate. If such

3206 certificate of a party's nomination is not received by the Secretary of the  
3207 State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate, by such time, such  
3208 certificate shall be invalid and such party, for purposes of sections 9-460,  
3209 9-461 and 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any  
3210 nomination of any candidate for such office. A candidacy for  
3211 nomination by a minor party to a district or municipal office may be  
3212 filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed  
3213 registry list of the district or municipality represented by such office, as  
3214 the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by a minor party to a state  
3215 office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the  
3216 last-completed registry list of the state.

3217 (b) (1) In the case of a timely filed certificate of nomination for any  
3218 state, district or municipal office to be voted upon at a state election  
3219 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, which contains an error or  
3220 omission that would operate to invalidate such nomination, the  
3221 candidate so certified or an individual authorized to act on behalf of  
3222 such candidate may correct such error or omission by appearing in  
3223 person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a  
3224 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on  
3225 the fifty-seventh day prior to the day of the election and amending such  
3226 certificate to make such correction, provided neither failure of the  
3227 presiding officer of the committee, meeting or other authority to timely  
3228 file such certificate pursuant to subsection (a) of this section nor failure  
3229 of the candidate to sign such certificate shall be an error or omission that  
3230 may be corrected pursuant to this subsection. If such candidate or  
3231 individual does not appear to so amend such certificate by such time,  
3232 such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of  
3233 sections 9-460, 9-461 and 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made  
3234 nor certified any such nomination.

3235 (2) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in  
3236 subdivision (1) of this subsection, amend a timely filed certificate of  
3237 nomination to correct any such error or omission, and shall keep a  
3238 record of any such amendment made pursuant to this subdivision.

3239 Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require the Secretary  
3240 to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission in any such  
3241 certificate, except that, if the Secretary identifies such an error or  
3242 omission, the Secretary shall use best efforts to notify the candidate so  
3243 certified, an individual authorized to act on behalf of such candidate or  
3244 the party that nominated such candidate regarding such error or  
3245 omission.

3246 Sec. 69. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) As used in this section,  
3247 "municipality", "elector", "election" and "referendum" have the same  
3248 meanings as provided in section 9-1 of the general statutes; and  
3249 "primary" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-372 of the  
3250 general statutes.

3251 (b) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality plan to use an  
3252 electronic list to check any elector appearing at the polling place or  
3253 location designated for the conduct of early voting at an election,  
3254 primary or referendum held in such municipality, such registrars shall  
3255 provide written notice of such planned use, not later than fourteen days  
3256 prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at such election  
3257 or primary and not later than fourteen days prior to such referendum,  
3258 in a place readily accessible to the public at the town hall or municipal  
3259 building of such municipality and in a conspicuous place on the Internet  
3260 web site of such municipality. Except in the case of a device approved  
3261 by the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-261c of the general  
3262 statutes, any such electronic list shall not be used in lieu of the paper-  
3263 based official checklist to be used at such election, primary or  
3264 referendum and may only be used in addition to and in conjunction  
3265 with such paper-based official checklist.

3266 Sec. 70. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
3267 study absentee ballot access in certain cities and boroughs in the state  
3268 that are unconsolidated with the towns within which such cities or  
3269 boroughs are respectively located. The task force shall examine, for  
3270 elections, primaries and referenda held in such unconsolidated cities  
3271 and boroughs, (1) various forms and manners of application for

3272 absentee ballots by voters, and (2) various forms and manners of  
3273 delivering absentee ballots to such voters, including, but not limited to,  
3274 providing the ability to cast votes on the same ballot for offices and  
3275 questions that pertain to both the unconsolidated city or borough and  
3276 the town within which such city or borough is located.

3277 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

3278 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
3279 who shall be the town clerk of a town within which all or part of an  
3280 unconsolidated city or borough is located;

3281 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
3282 shall be the clerk of an unconsolidated city or borough;

3283 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
3284 Representatives;

3285 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
3286 a registrar of voters of a town within which all or part of an  
3287 unconsolidated city or borough is located;

3288 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
3289 Representatives;

3290 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
3291 a registrar of voters of a town within which all or part of an  
3292 unconsolidated city or borough is located;

3293 (7) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;

3294 (8) One appointed by the Secretary, who shall be an attorney with  
3295 expertise in the election laws of the state; and

3296 (9) The director of the Center for Voting Technology Research at The  
3297 University of Connecticut, or the director's designee.

3298 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (3) or

3299 (5) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General  
3300 Assembly.

3301 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
3302 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
3303 be filled by the appointing authority.

3304 (e) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee, shall be the  
3305 chairperson of the task force. Such chairperson shall schedule the first  
3306 meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days  
3307 after the effective date of this section.

3308 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
3309 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections  
3310 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

3311 (g) Not later than January 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report  
3312 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
3313 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
3314 elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
3315 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
3316 submits such report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

3317 Sec. 71. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There is established a task force to  
3318 study (1) efforts to achieve one hundred per cent voter participation in  
3319 this state by January 1, 2030, (2) means of enhancing civic engagement  
3320 generally in this state, (3) experiences of jurisdictions that have enacted  
3321 policies to require citizens to vote as a civic duty, (4) potential  
3322 implementation options in pursuit of achieving such one hundred per  
3323 cent voter participation goal, (5) needs of registrars of voters, town  
3324 clerks and other municipal officials in administering elections in which  
3325 one hundred per cent of voters participate, and (6) state and municipal  
3326 budgetary resources that may be required to achieve such one hundred  
3327 per cent voter participation goal.

3328 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- 3329 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 3330 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 3331 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
3332 Representatives;
- 3333 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 3334 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
3335 Representatives;
- 3336 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 3337 (7) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee; and
- 3338 (8) Two appointed by the Governor.
- 3339 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
3340 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
3341 of the General Assembly.
- 3342 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
3343 than August 1, 2026. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing  
3344 authority.
- 3345 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
3346 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
3347 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
3348 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than  
3349 September 1, 2026.
- 3350 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
3351 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections  
3352 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 3353 (g) Not later than February 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report  
3354 on its findings and recommendations, including potential legislation to

3355 appropriate funds or provide other resources to municipalities for the  
 3356 purposes of increasing voter participation, to the joint standing  
 3357 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 3358 relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
 3359 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
 3360 submits such report or February 1, 2027, whichever is later.

3361 Sec. 72. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Subject to the provisions of title  
 3362 9 of the general statutes and section 7-192a of the general statutes, any  
 3363 municipality may, within existing resources, establish a pilot program  
 3364 to promote the goal of achieving one hundred per cent voter  
 3365 participation in such municipality. Such pilot program may include  
 3366 efforts to enhance civic engagement, including, but not limited to, the  
 3367 development and conduct of a voter outreach and education campaign  
 3368 within such municipality.

3369 Sec. 73. Sections 9-139, 9-159o and 9-192b of the general statutes are  
 3370 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	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 58	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-364a
Sec. 59	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-352
Sec. 60	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 61	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	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	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 70	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 71	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 72	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 73	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section