



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4478



Offered by:

REP. MASTROFRANCESCO, 80<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5001

File No. 528

Cal. No. 348

(As Amended)

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

1 Strike subsection (a) of section 6 in its entirety and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "(a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or  
4 referendum only if: (1) [It] Such ballot is mailed by (A) the ballot  
5 applicant, (B) a designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot  
6 because of illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the  
7 immediate family of an applicant who is a student, so that [it] the ballot  
8 is received by the clerk of the municipality in which the applicant is  
9 qualified to vote not later than the close of the polls; (2) [it] such ballot  
10 is returned by the applicant in person to [the] such clerk by the day  
11 before the election or primary or prior to the opening of the polls on the  
12 day of the referendum; (3) [it] such ballot is returned by a designee of  
13 an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant, in person, to [said] such

14 clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election,  
15 primary or referendum; (4) [it] such ballot is returned by a member of  
16 the immediate family of the [absentee voter] applicant, in person, to  
17 [said] such clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the  
18 election, primary or referendum; (5) in the case of a presidential or  
19 overseas ballot, [it] such ballot is mailed or otherwise returned pursuant  
20 to the provisions of section 9-158g, as amended by this act; or (6) [it] such  
21 ballot is returned with [the proper] a copy of the applicant's photo  
22 identification as required by the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252,  
23 as amended from time to time, if applicable, [inserted in the outer  
24 envelope so such identification can be viewed without opening the inner  
25 envelope] in accordance with the provisions of section 9-140a, as  
26 amended by this act. A person returning an absentee ballot to the  
27 municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or (4) of this subsection shall  
28 present identification and, on the [outer] return envelope of the absentee  
29 ballot, sign [his] such person's name in the presence of the municipal  
30 clerk [,] and indicate [his] such person's address [, his] and relationship  
31 to the voter or [his] position [,] and the date and time of such return. An  
32 absentee ballot shall be deemed cast when it is received and accepted by  
33 the municipal clerk in accordance with the provisions of this subsection,  
34 provided the statement on the return envelope for such absentee ballot  
35 is signed by the applicant. As used in this section, "immediate family"  
36 means a dependent relative who resides in the individual's household  
37 or any spouse, child, parent or sibling of the individual."

38 Strike subsection (d) of section 10 in its entirety and substitute the  
39 following in lieu thereof:

40 "(d) (1) (A) If the statement on the [inner] return envelope has not  
41 been signed as required by section 9-140a, as amended by this act, such  
42 [inner] return envelope shall not be opened [or] nor shall the ballot be  
43 removed therefrom. [, and such inner envelope shall be replaced in the  
44 opened outer envelope which shall be marked "Rejected" and the reason  
45 therefor endorsed thereon by the counters.] The return envelope shall  
46 be marked "Rejected" and the reason for such rejection shall be endorsed

47 on such return envelope by the counters.

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

55 (2) (A) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the  
56 ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r, as  
57 amended by this act, and has not met the requirements of subsection  
58 [(e)] (d) of section 9-23r, as amended by this act, the counters shall  
59 replace the ballot in the opened [inner envelope, replace the inner  
60 envelope in the opened outer] return envelope and shall mark "Rejected  
61 as an Absentee Ballot" and endorse the reason for such rejection on [the  
62 outer] such return envelope, and the ballot shall be treated as a  
63 provisional ballot for federal offices only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to  
64 9-232o, inclusive.

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

72 Strike section 16 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu  
73 thereof:

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

76 (a) (1) A person applying for a presidential ballot in person shall  
77 present [: (1) A] a current and valid photo identification, [, or (2) a copy

78 of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or  
79 other government document that shows the name and address of the  
80 voter. The application]

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

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

94 (b) Upon receipt of an application for an overseas ballot, the  
95 municipal clerk, if satisfied that the application is proper and that the  
96 applicant is qualified to vote at the federal election for which the  
97 application is made, pursuant to the provisions of sections 9-158b to 9-  
98 158m, inclusive, shall forthwith [mail] issue in the manner requested by  
99 the applicant, either by mail or by electronic means, a ballot containing  
100 the names and offices of the candidates for federal office and  
101 instructions and envelopes for [its return to the applicant] the return of  
102 such ballot."

103 Strike section 23 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu  
104 thereof:

105 "Sec. 23. Section 9-23r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
106 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

107 (a) On or after January 1, 2003, any person who is applying, by mail,  
108 to register to vote for the first time in this state may submit as part of

109 such voter registration application: (1) A copy of a current and valid  
110 photo identification, (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,  
111 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the  
112 name and address of the voter, (3) a valid Connecticut motor vehicle  
113 operator's license number, or (4) the last four digits of the individual's  
114 Social Security number. Members of the armed forces and persons  
115 entitled to use the federal post card application for absentee ballots  
116 under section 9-153a are not required to provide identification when  
117 registering by mail. No information submitted as part of a voter  
118 registration application under this subsection shall be subject to  
119 disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to chapter  
120 14, except for the name, address, date of birth and telephone number of  
121 the applicant.

122 [(b) If an individual submits such information pursuant to this section  
123 as part of the individual's voter registration application and, with  
124 respect to subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this section, the  
125 registrars of voters are able to match the information submitted with an  
126 existing Connecticut identification record bearing the same number,  
127 name and date of birth as provided, such individual shall not be  
128 required to produce identification when voting in person or by absentee  
129 ballot and may sign a statement as described in subparagraph (B) of  
130 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261 in lieu of presenting  
131 identification when voting in person.]

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

136 [(d)] (c) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section  
137 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this  
138 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,  
139 when the individual has entered the polling place in an election for  
140 federal office, the individual shall present [:(1) A] a current and valid  
141 photo identification, [, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank

142 statement, government check, paycheck or other government document  
143 that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an individual does not  
144 meet the requirements of this subsection in an election for federal office,  
145 such individual may cast a provisional ballot prescribed under sections  
146 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

147 [(e)] (d) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section  
148 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this  
149 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,  
150 and if the individual votes by absentee ballot in an election for federal  
151 office, the individual shall enclose in the [outer absentee ballot envelope,  
152 and not in the inner envelope with the ballot: (1) A] additional envelope  
153 provided by the municipal clerk pursuant to section 9-140a, as amended  
154 by this act, for the return of such applicant's identification, a copy of a  
155 current and valid photo identification, [, or (2) a copy of a current utility  
156 bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government  
157 document that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an  
158 individual does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an  
159 election for federal office, such [individual's] individual's absentee  
160 ballot shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of  
161 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-150a,  
162 as amended by this act, and treated as a provisional ballot for federal  
163 office only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive."

164 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
165 internal references accordingly:

166 "Sec. 501. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 1-1h of the general statutes  
167 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
168 *from passage*):

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

174 Correction and, except as provided in this subsection, a fee of twenty-  
175 eight dollars. Such application shall include: (1) The applicant's name;  
176 (2) the applicant's address; (3) whether the address is permanent or  
177 temporary; (4) the applicant's date of birth; (5) notice to the applicant  
178 that false statements on such application are punishable under section  
179 53a-157b; and (6) such other pertinent information as the Commissioner  
180 of Motor Vehicles deems necessary. The applicant shall sign the  
181 application in the presence of an official of the Department of Motor  
182 Vehicles. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any applicant who  
183 does not have the means to pay such fee, including any applicant who  
184 is a resident of a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons  
185 or a certified homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The  
186 commissioner may waive the fee for any applicant (A) who has  
187 voluntarily surrendered such applicant's motor vehicle operator's  
188 license, (B) whose license has been refused by the commissioner  
189 pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of section 14-36, or (C) who  
190 is both a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and  
191 blind, as defined in subsection (a) of section 1-1f, [ or (D) who is a  
192 resident of a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons or a  
193 certified homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The] Not  
194 later than September 1, 2026, the commissioner shall adopt regulations,  
195 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish the  
196 procedure and qualifications for the issuance of an identity card to any  
197 such [homeless] applicant who does not have the means to pay the fee  
198 for such identity card. For the purposes of this subsection, "certified  
199 homeless youth" and "certified homeless young adult" have the same  
200 meanings as provided in section 7-36.

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

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

207 commissioner before its expiration and may renew such card in such  
208 manner as the commissioner shall prescribe. Upon renewal of an  
209 identity card, the commissioner may issue an identity card for a period  
210 to be determined by the commissioner, provided such period does not  
211 exceed eight years. [The] Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this  
212 subdivision, the fee for the renewal of an identity card that expires eight  
213 years from the date of issuance shall be thirty-two dollars. The  
214 commissioner shall charge a prorated amount of such fee for an identity  
215 card that expires less than eight years from the date of issuance. The  
216 commissioner shall not provide notification by mail to the holder of an  
217 identity card if the United States Postal Service has determined that mail  
218 is undeliverable to such person at the address for such person that is in  
219 the records of the department.

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

223 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) At the request of any elector  
224 who has applied for and received an absentee ballot, each library in the  
225 state that is open to the public shall make available to such elector, free  
226 of charge, a photocopier in such library for the purposes of producing a  
227 copy of such elector's photo identification to be inserted in the outer  
228 envelope of such elector's returned absentee ballot in accordance with  
229 the provisions of section 9-140a of the general statutes, as amended by  
230 this act.

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

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

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

243 Sec. 503. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the 2026 supplement to the  
244 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
245 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

246 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has  
247 entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street  
248 address, if any, and the elector's name to the official checker or checkers  
249 in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials  
250 present to hear the same. Each elector [who registered to vote by mail  
251 for the first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the  
252 elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r,]  
253 shall present to the official checker or checkers, before the elector votes,  
254 [either] a current and valid photo identification that shows the elector's  
255 name and address, [or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,  
256 government check, paycheck or other government document that shows  
257 the name and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1) present  
258 to the official checker or checkers the elector's Social Security card or any  
259 other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector's name  
260 and either the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a  
261 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's  
262 residential address and date of birth, print the elector's name and sign a  
263 statement under penalty of false statement that the elector is the elector  
264 whose name appears on the official checklist. Such form shall clearly  
265 state the penalty of false statement. A separate form shall be used for  
266 each elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of identification  
267 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the official checker or checkers  
268 shall check the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually  
269 on paper or electronically. If the elector completes the form under  
270 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the registrar of voters or the assistant  
271 registrar of voters, as the case may be, shall examine the information on

272 such form and either instruct the official checker or checkers to check  
 273 the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually on paper or  
 274 electronically, or notify the elector that the form is incomplete or  
 275 inaccurate.]

276 Sec. 504. Subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of section 9-23g of the  
 277 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
 278 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	9-158e
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	9-23r
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	1-1h(a) and (b)
Sec. 502	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 503	<i>from passage</i>	9-261(a)
Sec. 504	<i>from passage</i>	9-23g(d)(4)