



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 713

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1051

Senate, April 16, 2015

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. CASSANO, S. of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE STATE'S ELECTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

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 Section 9-4b of the general statutes is repealed and the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

3 The Secretary of the State shall establish an elections training unit to
4 coordinate all training for registrars of voters, deputy registrars of
5 voters [, permanent assistant registrars of voters as described in section
6 9-192] and poll workers. Such unit shall employ at least one person
7 having field experience in the conduct of elections.

8 Sec. 2. Section 9-192a of the general statutes is repealed and the
9 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

10 (a) (1) The Secretary of the State shall, in consultation with the
11 advisory committee created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,
12 establish a program and criteria for the certification of registrars of

13 voters and deputy registrars of voters. All registrars and deputy
14 registrars holding office on July 1, 2015, shall complete such program
15 and satisfy such criteria for certification after July 1, 2017. Any registrar
16 or deputy registrar elected or appointed, as the case may be, after July
17 1, 2015, shall complete such program and satisfy such criteria for
18 certification (A) in the case of a two-year term, not later than the
19 conclusion of such term, and (B) in the case of a four-year term, not
20 later than two years after the date of first holding such office.

21 (2) Once certified, pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, all
22 registrars and deputy registrars shall participate each year in not less
23 than eight hours of training, not including any training described
24 under subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, in order to
25 maintain such certification. Such training shall be as prescribed by the
26 Secretary of the State and shall be conducted by said Secretary or a
27 third party approved by said Secretary to conduct such training. Any
28 registrar or deputy registrar who fails to satisfy such annual training
29 requirement shall be directed by the Secretary of the State to take
30 remedial measures prescribed by said Secretary.

31 [(a)] (b) There is created [a] an advisory committee for the purpose
32 of establishing programs and procedures for training, examining and
33 certifying registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters and
34 [permanent assistants] assistant registrars of voters, as described in
35 section 9-192. The committee shall consist of six members, one of
36 whom shall be from the office of the Secretary of the State, one of
37 whom shall be from the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and
38 four of whom shall be registrars of voters. The Secretary of the State
39 shall appoint the registrars of voters, in consultation with the
40 Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut, or its successor
41 organization. The committee members shall serve without pay. The
42 Secretary of the State shall determine the length of the terms of the
43 initial members, in accordance with the following: Two of such
44 members shall serve for a one-year term; two of such members shall
45 serve for a two-year term; and two of such members shall serve for a
46 four-year term. Thereafter, all members shall serve for four-year terms.

47 The committee shall select a chairperson, who shall be one of the
48 registrars who is a member of the committee.

49 [(b)] (c) The [committee] Secretary of the State, in consultation with
50 the advisory committee, shall adopt criteria for the training,
51 examination and certification requirements of registrars, deputies and
52 permanent assistants. In the adoption of such criteria, the committee
53 (1) shall consider whether the prescribed training leading to
54 certification may, in part, be satisfied through participation in the
55 required two conferences a year called by the Secretary of the State,
56 pursuant to section 9-6, for purposes of discussing the election laws,
57 procedures or matters related to election laws and procedures, and (2)
58 may recommend programs at one or more institutions of higher
59 education that satisfy such criteria. Any registrar of voters, deputy or
60 permanent assistant may participate in the course of training
61 prescribed by the committee and, upon completing such training and
62 successfully completing any examination or examinations prescribed
63 by the committee, shall be recommended by the committee to the
64 Secretary of the State as a candidate for certification as a certified
65 Connecticut registrar of voters. The Secretary of the State shall certify
66 any such qualified, recommended candidate as a certified Connecticut
67 registrar of voters. The Secretary of the State may rescind any such
68 certificate only upon a finding, by a majority of the committee, of
69 sufficient cause as defined by the criteria adopted pursuant to this
70 subsection. [No provision of this subsection shall require any registrar
71 of voters, deputy or permanent assistant to be a certified registrar of
72 voters.]

73 [(c)] (d) The advisory committee shall also (1) develop a training
74 program in election procedures for poll workers, and (2) develop an
75 election law and procedures training program and guide for registrars,
76 deputy registrars and assistant registrars. The training program
77 developed under subdivision (2) of this [section] subsection shall
78 provide for training to be conducted by trained registrars or former
79 registrars hired for such purpose by the Secretary of the State. The
80 committee shall submit such training programs and training guide to

81 the Secretary of the State, who shall approve or modify the programs
82 and guide.

83 Sec. 3. Section 9-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the
84 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

85 The Secretary of the State, by virtue of the office, shall be the
86 Commissioner of Elections of the state, with such powers and duties
87 relating to the conduct of elections as are prescribed by law and, unless
88 otherwise provided by state statute, the secretary's regulations,
89 declaratory rulings, instructions and opinions, if in written form, shall
90 be presumed as correctly interpreting and effectuating the
91 administration of elections and primaries under this title, except for
92 [chapter 155] chapters 155 to 158, inclusive, and shall be executed,
93 carried out or implemented, as the case may be, provided nothing in
94 this section shall be construed to alter the right of appeal provided
95 under the provisions of chapter 54. Any such written instruction or
96 opinion shall be labeled as an instruction or opinion issued pursuant to
97 this section, as applicable, and any such instruction or opinion shall
98 cite any authority that is discussed in such instruction or opinion.

99 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Whenever complaint in writing
100 is made to the state's attorney for any judicial district that the registrar
101 of voters of any town in such judicial district is guilty of misconduct,
102 wilful and material neglect of duty or incompetence in the conduct of
103 such registrar's office, such state's attorney shall make such
104 investigation of the charges as such state's attorney deems proper and
105 shall, if such state's attorney is of the opinion that the evidence
106 obtained warrants such action, prepare a statement in writing of the
107 charges against such registrar of voters, together with a citation in the
108 name of the state, commanding such registrar of voters to appear
109 before a judge of the Superior Court at a date named in the citation
110 and show cause, if any, why such registrar of voters should not be
111 removed from office as provided in this section. Such state's attorney
112 shall cause a copy of such statement and citation to be served by some
113 proper officer upon the defendant registrar of voters at least ten days

114 before the date of appearance named in such citation, and the original
115 statement and citation, with the return of the officer thereon, shall be
116 returned to the clerk of the superior court for the judicial district
117 within which such town is situated. To carry into effect the
118 proceedings authorized by this section, the state's attorney of any
119 judicial district shall have power to summon witnesses, require the
120 production of necessary books, papers and other documents and
121 administer oaths to witnesses; and upon the date named in such
122 citation for the appearance of such registrar of voters, or upon any
123 adjourned date fixed by the judge before whom such proceedings are
124 pending, the state's attorney shall appear and conduct the hearing on
125 behalf of the state. If, after a full hearing of all the evidence offered by
126 the state's attorney and by and on behalf of the defendant, such judge
127 is of the opinion that the evidence presented warrants the removal of
128 such registrar of voters from office, the judge shall cause to be
129 prepared a written order to that effect, which order shall be signed by
130 the judge and lodged with the clerk of the superior court for the
131 judicial district in which such defendant resides. Such clerk of the
132 superior court shall cause a certified copy of such order to be served
133 forthwith upon such registrar of voters, and upon such service the
134 office held by such registrar of voters shall become vacant and the
135 vacancy thereby created shall be filled at once in the manner provided
136 in section 9-220 of the general statutes. Any witnesses summoned and
137 any officer making service under the provisions of this section shall be
138 allowed and paid by the state the same fees as are allowed by law in
139 criminal prosecutions.

140 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) If a registrar of voters fails to
141 attain or maintain, whichever is applicable, certification required
142 under subsection (a) of section 9-192a of the general statutes, as
143 amended by this act, or is the subject of an investigation of any matter
144 related to the duties of such registrar's office resulting from a
145 complaint instituted by the Secretary of the State, said Secretary may
146 temporarily relieve such registrar of voters of his or her duties and
147 require the deputy registrar of voters to administer the operations of
148 such office until any such matter is resolved. Nothing in this section

149 shall prohibit a municipality from paying the salary of such registrar of
150 voters while resolution of any such matter is pending.

151 Sec. 6. Subsection (g) of section 9-7a of the general statutes is
152 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
153 *passage*):

154 (g) [In] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,
155 in the case of a written complaint filed with the commission pursuant
156 to section 9-7b on or after January 1, 1988, if the commission does not,
157 by the sixtieth day following receipt of the complaint, either issue a
158 decision or render its determination that probable cause or no probable
159 cause exists for one or more violations of state election laws, the
160 complainant or respondent may apply to the superior court for the
161 judicial district of Hartford for an order to show cause why the
162 commission has not acted upon the complaint and to provide evidence
163 that the commission has unreasonably delayed action. [Such
164 proceeding]

165 (2) In the case of a statement filed by the Secretary of the State with
166 the commission pursuant to section 9-7b on or after July 1, 2015, if the
167 commission does not, by the thirtieth day following such filing, make a
168 determination to investigate such statement and, by the ninetieth day
169 following such filing, complete any investigation of such statement,
170 the Secretary may apply to the superior court for the judicial district of
171 Hartford for an order to show cause why the commission has not acted
172 upon the statement and to provide evidence that the commission has
173 unreasonably delayed action.

174 (3) Any judicial proceeding pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this
175 subsection shall be privileged with respect to assignment for trial. The
176 commission shall appear and give appropriate explanation in the
177 matter. The court may, in its discretion, order the commission to: [(1)]
178 (A) Continue to proceed pursuant to section 9-7b, [(2)] (B) act by a date
179 certain, or [(3)] (C) refer the complaint or statement to the Chief State's
180 Attorney. Nothing in this subsection shall require the commission, in
181 any proceeding brought pursuant to this subsection, to disclose

182 records or documents which are not required to be disclosed pursuant
183 to subsection (b) of section 1-210. Nothing in this subsection shall
184 preclude the commission from continuing its investigation or taking
185 any action permitted by section 9-7b, unless otherwise ordered by the
186 court. The commission or any other party may, within seven days after
187 a decision by the court under this subsection, file an appeal of the
188 decision with the Appellate Court.

189 Sec. 7. Section 9-17a of the general statutes is repealed and the
190 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

191 As used in sections 9-17, 9-19b, as amended by this act, [9-19c(a)] 9-
192 19c, 9-20, 9-23a, 9-24, 9-31a, 9-31b and 9-31l, unless otherwise provided,
193 the term "admitting official" means a town clerk, assistant town clerk,
194 registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters [,] or assistant registrar of
195 voters [, special assistant registrar of voters] or the board for admission
196 of electors.

197 Sec. 8. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 9-19b of the
198 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
199 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

200 (b) Except during the period between the last session for the
201 admission of electors prior to an election and the day following that
202 election, either registrar of voters, or a deputy registrar [, assistant
203 registrar or special assistant registrar] or assistant registrar appointed
204 in accordance with the provisions of section 9-192 may examine the
205 qualifications of any person applying to be admitted as an elector in
206 the town and, except for applications submitted pursuant to
207 subdivision (4) of this subsection, approve such application submitted
208 in person (1) at the office of such official; (2) at any enrollment session
209 of the registrars of voters; (3) at any public place; (4) at any time and at
210 any place in the town, other than a public place; or (5) at any public
211 office of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Labor Department or
212 Department of Social Services which is located in the town in which
213 the registrar, deputy registrar [, assistant registrar or special assistant
214 registrar] or assistant registrar serves, if written notice of the date and

215 time is given seven days in advance thereof to the commissioner of
216 such department. Upon receipt of a written notice under subdivision
217 (5) of this subsection, the commissioner of the department may
218 designate a portion of the public office which shall be used for the
219 admission of electors. The other registrar, or any deputy [, assistant or
220 special assistant registrar] or assistant registrar, shall be permitted to
221 be present during the admission of any person pursuant to
222 subdivisions (4) and (5) of this subsection. Applications accepted and
223 examined prior to the last session for admission of electors prior to an
224 election pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection may be
225 approved after such last session. The admission of any person
226 pursuant to subdivision (4) shall be effective on the date when both
227 registrars approve such application. The registrar who receives such
228 application from the applicant shall give written notice to the other
229 registrar within one business day after such receipt and the registrars
230 shall forthwith act on such applications. No rejection of any
231 application under subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be effective
232 until the registrar has mailed to the other registrar and the applicant a
233 notice stating [the reasons] any reason for the rejection. Any applicant
234 whose application is rejected may appeal under the provisions of
235 section 9-31l.

236 (c) Such registrar, deputy [, assistant or special assistant registrar] or
237 assistant registrar accepting applications in accordance with
238 subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section shall provide the
239 applicant with a receipt. Upon approval or disapproval of the
240 application, the registrars shall send a notice thereof by first-class mail
241 with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable
242 at the address shown thereon. If such notice of approval is returned
243 undeliverable, the registrars shall take the necessary action in
244 accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43.

245 (d) During the period between the last session for the admission of
246 electors prior to an election and the opening of the limited session for
247 the admission of electors held on the last weekday before such election
248 under section 9-17, the town clerk or assistant town clerk during office

249 hours and at the office of such official and either registrar of voters or a
250 deputy or assistant registrar at the office of such official may examine
251 the qualifications of any person applying in person to be admitted in
252 such town and approve the application of such person whose
253 qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in the municipality
254 were attained after such last session and on or before the last weekday
255 prior to such election.

256 Sec. 9. Section 9-19k of the general statutes is amended by adding
257 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

258 (NEW) (g) Nothing in this section shall prevent the registrars of
259 voters or any election official appointed by such registrars of voters to
260 admit any applicant as an elector from utilizing the online voter
261 registration system established pursuant to this section for the purpose
262 of admitting such applicant on election day pursuant to section 9-19j.

263 Sec. 10. Subsections (a) to (f), inclusive, of section 9-23g of the
264 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
265 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

266 (a) In addition to the procedures for admission of electors under
267 sections 9-19b, as amended by this act, 9-19c, 9-19e, 9-20 and 9-31, any
268 person may apply to a registrar of voters of the town of his residence
269 for admission as an elector in accordance with the provisions of this
270 section and section 9-23h.

271 (b) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe, and provide to
272 registrars of voters, town clerks and voter registration agencies, as
273 defined in section 9-23n, application forms and other materials
274 necessary to complete such application and admission process. The
275 Secretary of the State, registrars of voters and town clerks shall provide
276 a reasonable number of such forms and materials to any elector who
277 requests such forms and materials. The secretary shall also, in the
278 course of the secretary's elections duties, prepare instructions and
279 related materials describing procedures for such application and
280 admission process and shall provide the materials to registrars of

281 voters and town clerks. The application shall contain the information
282 required under section 9-23h. All statements of the applicant shall be
283 made under the penalties of perjury. The application for admission as
284 an elector shall include a statement that (1) specifies each eligibility
285 requirement, (2) contains an attestation that the application meets each
286 such requirement, and (3) requires the signature of the applicant under
287 penalty of perjury. Nothing in this section or section 9-23h shall
288 require that the application be executed in the state. An applicant who
289 is unable to write may cause the applicant's name to be signed on the
290 application form by an authorized agent who shall, in the space
291 provided for the signature, write the name of the applicant followed
292 by the word "by" and the agent's own signature. The completed
293 application may be mailed or returned in person to the office of the
294 registrars of voters or the office of the town clerk of the applicant's
295 town of residence or a voter registration agency. If the applicant
296 entrusts the applicant's application to another person or to such a voter
297 registration agency for mailing or return to the registrars of voters,
298 such person or agency shall immediately mail or return the
299 application. Any such voter registration agency shall also provide the
300 applicant with an application receipt, on which the agency shall record
301 (A) the date that the agency received the application, using an official
302 date stamp bearing the name of the agency, and (B) the party
303 affiliation, if any, of the applicant. The agency shall provide such
304 receipt whether the application was submitted in person or by mail.
305 The town clerk shall promptly forward any application which the
306 town clerk receives to the registrars of voters. Such application form
307 shall be provided by or authorized by the Secretary of the State.

308 (c) Forthwith upon receipt of a registration application in the office
309 of the registrars of voters, the registrar shall mark such date on the
310 application and review the application to determine whether the
311 applicant has properly completed it and is legally qualified to register.
312 Forthwith upon completing his review, the registrar shall (1) indicate
313 on the application whether the application has been accepted or
314 rejected, (2) mail a notice to the applicant, (3) indicate on the
315 application the date on which such notice is mailed, and (4) provide a

316 copy of such notice to the other registrar. If the registrar determines
317 that the applicant has not properly completed the application or is not
318 legally qualified to register, the notice shall indicate that the
319 application has been rejected and shall state [the] any reason for
320 rejection. If the registrar determines that the applicant has properly
321 completed the application and is legally qualified to register, the notice
322 shall indicate that the application has been accepted. A notice of
323 acceptance or a notice of rejection shall be sent (A) [within four days
324 of] not later than four days after receipt of an application during the
325 period beginning on the forty-ninth day before an election and ending
326 on the twenty-first day before such election, (B) on the day of receipt of
327 an application if it is received (i) during the period beginning on the
328 twentieth day before such election and ending on the [fourteenth]
329 seventh day before such election, (ii) during the period beginning on
330 the [thirteenth] sixth day before an election and ending on election day
331 if the application has been received by the [fourteenth] seventh day
332 before an election by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a voter
333 registration agency, (iii) during the period beginning on the twenty-
334 first day before a primary and ending on the fifth day before a
335 primary, or (iv) during the period beginning on the fourth day before a
336 primary and ending at twelve o'clock noon on the last weekday before
337 a primary, if the application has been postmarked by the fifth day
338 before the primary and is received in the office of the registrars of
339 voters during such period or if the application is received by the fifth
340 day before a primary by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a
341 voter registration agency, and (C) within ten days of receipt of an
342 application at any other time. A notice of acceptance shall be sent by
343 first-class mail with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if
344 not deliverable at the address shown on the envelope. A notice of
345 acceptance shall indicate the effective date of the applicant's
346 registration and enrollment, the date of the next regularly scheduled
347 election or primary in which the applicant shall be eligible to vote and
348 the applicant's precinct and polling place. If a notice of acceptance of
349 an application is returned undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith
350 take the necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43,

351 notwithstanding the May first deadline in section 9-35. An applicant
352 for admission as an elector pursuant to this section and section 9-23h
353 may only be admitted as an elector by a registrar of voters of the town
354 of his residence. Not later than December thirty-first, annually, the
355 Secretary of the State shall establish an official calendar of all deadlines
356 set forth in this subsection for regularly scheduled elections and
357 primaries to be held in the following calendar year.

358 (d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the
359 privileges of an elector for any applicant for admission under this
360 section and section 9-23h shall attach immediately upon approval by
361 the registrar, and the registrars shall enter the name of the elector on
362 the registry list.

363 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, if a
364 mailed application is postmarked, or if a delivered application is
365 received in the office of the registrars of voters, after the [fourteenth]
366 seventh day before an election or after the fifth day before a primary,
367 the privileges of an elector shall not attach until the day after such
368 election or primary, as the case may be. In such event, the registrars of
369 voters may contact such applicant, either by telephone or mail, in
370 order to inform such applicant of the effect of such late received mail-
371 in application and any applicable deadline for applying for admission
372 in person.

373 (3) If an application is received after the [fourteenth] seventh day
374 before an election or after the fifth day before a primary by the
375 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, the
376 privileges of an elector shall not attach until the day after the election
377 or primary, as the case may be, or on the day the registrar approves it,
378 whichever is later.

379 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant
380 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present
381 to the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received
382 through the mail or an application receipt that was previously
383 provided to the applicant pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of

384 section 9-19h, subsection (b) of this section or section 9-23n. If an
385 applicant presents said notice or receipt, and either the registrars of
386 voters find the original application or the applicant submits a new
387 application at the polls, the registrar, or assistant registrar upon notice
388 to and approval by the registrar, shall add such person's name and
389 address to the official check list on such day and the person shall be
390 allowed to vote if otherwise eligible to vote and the person presents to
391 the checkers at the polling place a preprinted form of identification
392 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
393 section 9-261.

394 (e) A registration application filed under this section shall be
395 rejected if the application (1) has not been signed or dated by the
396 applicant or the authorized agent of the applicant pursuant to
397 subsection (b) of this section, (2) does not indicate the applicant's date
398 of birth or bona fide residence, (3) does not indicate United States
399 citizenship, provided the registrars of voters have contacted such
400 applicant to provide an opportunity to answer such question, or (4) is
401 determined by the Secretary of the State to be substantially defective.
402 No registration application filed under this section shall be rejected if
403 the application fails to provide the applicant's Social Security number
404 or the zip code of the applicant's bona fide residence.

405 (f) Upon admission of an applicant under subsection (d) of this
406 section, who indicated on his registration application that he changed
407 residence since voting last in Connecticut, the registrar of voters of the
408 town of such applicant's current residence shall notify the registrar of
409 any other town who accepted the voter's last registration [, and the
410 registrar in the voter's place of last residence, if different] and the
411 registrar of the town of the voter's last residence, if different.
412 Notification shall be made upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of
413 the State. A registrar receiving such a notification shall delete the
414 elector's name from the registry list.

415 Sec. 11. Section 9-391 of the general statutes is repealed and the
416 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

417 (a) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the
418 nomination of candidates for municipal office to be voted upon at a
419 municipal election, or for the election of town committee members
420 shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier than the
421 fifty-sixth day or later than the forty-ninth day preceding the day of
422 such primary. In the case of an endorsement of a candidate for a
423 municipal office of state senator or state representative, such
424 endorsement may be made of a candidate whose name appears upon
425 the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the
426 municipality or political subdivision within which such candidate is to
427 run for nomination. The endorsement shall be certified to the clerk of
428 the municipality by either (1) the chairman or presiding officer, or (2)
429 the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention, as the case
430 may be, not later than four o'clock p.m. on the forty-eighth day
431 preceding the day of such primary. Such certification shall be signed
432 by such candidate and contain the name and street address of each
433 person so endorsed, the title of the office or the position as committee
434 member and the name or number of the political subdivision or
435 district, if any, for which each such person is endorsed. Such
436 certification shall be made on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the
437 State or on such other form as may comply with the provisions of this
438 subsection. If such a certificate of a party's endorsement is not received
439 by the town clerk by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and
440 such party, for purposes of sections 9-417, 9-418 and 9-419, shall be
441 deemed to have neither made nor certified such endorsement of any
442 candidate for such office.

443 (b) Each selection of delegates to a state or district convention shall
444 be made in accordance with the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier
445 than the one-hundred-fortieth day and not later than the one-hundred-
446 thirty-third day preceding the day of the primary for such state or
447 district office. Such selection shall be certified to the clerk of the
448 municipality by the chairman or presiding officer and the secretary of
449 the town committee or caucus, as the case may be, not later than four
450 o'clock p.m. on the one-hundred-thirty-second day preceding the day
451 of such primary. Each such certification shall contain the name and

452 street address of each person so selected, the position as delegate, and
453 the name or number of the political subdivision or district, if any, for
454 which each such person is selected. If such a certificate of a party's
455 selection is not received by the town clerk by such time, such certificate
456 shall be invalid and such party, for purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-
457 420, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any selection
458 of any person for the position of delegate.

459 (c) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the
460 nomination of candidates for a municipal office to be voted upon at a
461 state election shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not
462 earlier than the eighty-fourth day or later than the seventy-seventh day
463 preceding the day of such primary. Any certification to be filed under
464 this subsection shall be received by the Secretary of the State [, in the
465 case of a candidate for the office of state senator or state representative,
466 or the town clerk, in the case of a candidate for any other municipal
467 office to be voted upon at a state election,] not later than four o'clock
468 p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of the town committee
469 meeting, caucus or convention, as the case may be. If such a certificate
470 of a party's endorsement is not received by the Secretary of the State
471 [or the town clerk, as the case may be,] by such time, such certificate
472 shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and
473 9-418, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any
474 endorsement of any candidate for such office. The candidate so
475 endorsed for a municipal office to be voted upon at a state election,
476 other than the office of justice of the peace, shall file with the Secretary
477 of the State [or the town clerk, as the case may be,] a certificate, signed
478 by that candidate, stating that such candidate was so endorsed, the
479 candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot,
480 the candidate's full street address and the title and district of the office
481 for which the candidate was endorsed. Such certificate may be filed by
482 a candidate whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment
483 list of such party within the senatorial district within which the
484 candidate is endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the
485 municipal office of state senator, or the assembly district within which
486 a person is endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal

487 office of state representative, or the municipality or political
488 subdivision within which a person is to run for nomination for other
489 municipal offices to be voted on at a state election. Such certificate
490 shall be attested by the [chairman] chairperson or presiding officer
491 [and] or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention
492 which made such endorsement. The endorsement of [candidates] any
493 candidate for the office of justice of the peace shall be certified to the
494 clerk of the municipality by the [chairman] chairperson or presiding
495 officer [and] or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or
496 convention, and shall contain the name and street address of each
497 person so endorsed and the title of the office for which each such
498 person is endorsed. Such certification shall be made on a form
499 prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on such other form as may
500 comply with the provisions of this subsection.

501 Sec. 12. Section 9-395 of the general statutes is repealed and the
502 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

503 (a) Forthwith upon the certification provided in section 9-391, as
504 amended by this act, the clerk of the municipality shall publish, in a
505 newspaper having a general circulation in such municipality, the fact
506 of such certification and that a list of the persons endorsed as
507 candidates is on file in his office and copies thereof are available for
508 public distribution. If, with respect to any office or position to be filled,
509 the clerk of the municipality has failed to receive the certification of the
510 name of any person as a party-endorsed candidate within the time
511 limited in section 9-391, as amended by this act, such fact shall be
512 published by the clerk of the municipality. Together with such
513 information, the clerk shall publish a notice that a primary will be held
514 for the nomination by such political party of a candidate for the offices
515 to be filled or for the election of members of the town committee, as the
516 case may be, if a candidacy is filed in accordance with the provisions of
517 sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive. Such notice shall specify the final
518 date for the filing of such candidacy and the date of the primary, shall
519 state where forms for petitions may be obtained and shall generally
520 indicate the method of procedure in the filing of such candidacy. The

521 Secretary of the State shall prescribe the form of such notice. The clerk
522 shall forthwith publish any change in the party-endorsed candidates,
523 listing such changes.

524 (b) In any year in which a state election is to be held, the notice
525 described in subsection (a) of this section shall: (1) Be published not
526 later than the seventy-sixth day preceding the day of the primary, (2)
527 indicate that the certification provided in section 9-391, as amended by
528 this act, can be made, and (3) indicate that a list of persons endorsed as
529 candidates will be on file [in the clerk's office, as provided in
530 subsection (a) of this section] with the Secretary of the State. The
531 requirement contained in subsection (a) of this section to publish the
532 fact that the clerk of the municipality has failed to receive the
533 certification of the name of any person as a party-endorsed candidate
534 within the time limit in section 9-391, as amended by this act, shall not
535 apply to the notice required by this subsection.

536 Sec. 13. Section 9-453b of the general statutes is repealed and the
537 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

538 The Secretary of the State shall not issue any nominating petition
539 forms for a candidate for an office to be filled at a regular election to be
540 held in any year prior to the first business day of such year. The
541 Secretary shall not issue any nominating petition forms unless the
542 person requesting the nominating petition forms makes a written
543 application for such forms, which application shall contain the
544 following: (1) The name or names of the candidates to appear on such
545 nominating petition, compared by the town clerk of the town of
546 residence of each candidate with the candidate's name as it appears on
547 the last-completed registry list of such town, and verified and
548 corrected by such town clerk or in the case of a newly admitted elector
549 whose name does not appear on the last-completed registry list, the
550 town clerk shall compare the candidate's name as it appears on the
551 candidate's application for admission and verify and correct it
552 accordingly; (2) a signed statement by each such candidate that the
553 candidate consents to the placing of the candidate's name on such

554 petition; and (3) the party designation, if any. An applicant for petition
555 forms who does not wish to specify a party designation shall so
556 indicate on the application for such forms and the application, if so
557 marked, shall not be amended in this respect. No application made
558 after November 3, 1981, shall contain any party designation unless a
559 reservation of such party designation with the Secretary is in effect for
560 all of the offices included in the application or unless the party
561 designation is the same as the name of a minor party which is qualified
562 for a different office or offices on the same ballot as the office or offices
563 included in the application. The Secretary shall not issue such forms
564 (A) unless the application for forms on behalf of a candidate for the
565 office of presidential elector is accompanied by the names of the
566 candidates for President and Vice-President whom the candidate for
567 the office of presidential elector represents and includes the consent of
568 such candidates for President and Vice-President; (B) unless the
569 application for forms on behalf of Governor or Lieutenant Governor is
570 accompanied by the name of the candidate for the other office and
571 includes the consent of both such candidates; (C) if petition forms have
572 previously been issued on behalf of the same candidate for the same
573 office unless the candidate files a written statement of withdrawal of
574 the candidate's previous candidacy with the Secretary; and (D) unless
575 the application meets the requirements of this section. A candidacy for
576 nomination by nominating petition to a district or municipal office
577 may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-
578 completed registry list of the district or municipality represented by
579 such office, as the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by
580 nominating petition to a state office may be filed on behalf of any
581 person whose name appears on the last-completed registry list of the
582 state.

583 Sec. 14. Section 9-373a of the general statutes is repealed and the
584 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

585 Any person desiring to be a write-in candidate for any state, district
586 or municipal office to be filled at any regular election shall register his
587 candidacy with the Secretary of the State on a form prescribed by the

588 secretary. The registration shall include the candidate's name and
589 address, the designation and term of the office sought, a statement of
590 consent to the candidacy, and any other information which the
591 secretary deems necessary. In the case of a write-in candidacy for the
592 office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor, the registration shall
593 include a candidate for each of those offices, or shall be void. The
594 registration shall not include a designation of any political party. The
595 registration shall be filed with the secretary not more than ninety days
596 prior to the election at which the office is to be filled and not later than
597 four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day preceding the election, or the
598 registration shall be void. No person nominated for an office by a
599 major or minor party or by nominating petition shall register as a
600 write-in candidate for that office under the provisions of this section,
601 and any registration of a write-in candidacy filed by such a person
602 shall be void. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
603 contrary, any person desiring to be a write-in candidate for the
604 municipal office of town meeting member in any town having a
605 representative town meeting which has seventy-five or more members
606 shall register his candidacy with the town clerk of such town not later
607 than the last business day preceding such election. A person may
608 register as a write-in candidate for a district or municipal office if such
609 person's name appears on the last-completed registry list of the district
610 or municipality represented by such office, as the case may be. A
611 person may register as a write-in candidate for a state office if such
612 person's name appears on the last-completed registry list of the state.

613 Sec. 15. Section 9-452 of the general statutes is repealed and the
614 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

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

622 candidate and the title and district of the office for which each
623 candidate is nominated shall be certified by the presiding officer of the
624 committee, meeting or other authority making such nomination and
625 shall be filed by such presiding officer with the Secretary of the State,
626 in the case of [state or district office or the municipal office of state
627 representative, state senator or judge of probate] any state, district or
628 municipal office to be voted upon at a state election, or with the clerk
629 of the municipality, in the case of any municipal office to be voted
630 upon at a municipal election, not later than the sixty-second day prior
631 to the day of the election. The registrars of voters of such municipality
632 shall promptly verify and correct the names on any such list filed with
633 him, or the names of nominees forwarded to the clerk of the
634 municipality by the Secretary of the State, in accordance with the
635 registry list of such municipality and endorse the same as having been
636 so verified and corrected. For purposes of this section, a list of
637 nominations shall be deemed to be filed when it is received by the
638 Secretary of the State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate. If
639 such certificate of a party's nomination is not received by the Secretary
640 of the State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate, by such time,
641 such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for purposes of sections
642 9-460, 9-461 and 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made nor
643 certified any nomination of any candidate for such office. A candidacy
644 for nomination by a minor party to a district or municipal office may
645 be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-
646 completed registry list of the district or municipality represented by
647 such office, as the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by a minor
648 party to a state office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name
649 appears on the last-completed registry list of the state.

650 Sec. 16. Section 9-412 of the general statutes is repealed and the
651 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

652 Upon the receipt of any page of a petition proposing a candidacy for
653 a municipal office or for member of a town committee, the registrar
654 shall forthwith sign and give to the person submitting the petition a
655 receipt in duplicate, stating the number of pages filed and the date and

656 time of filing and shall forthwith certify on each such page the number
657 of signers on the page who were enrolled on the last-completed
658 enrollment list of such party in the municipality or political
659 subdivision, as the case may be, and shall forthwith file such certified
660 page in person or by mail, as described in section 9-140b, with the clerk
661 of the municipality, together with the registrar's certificate as to the
662 whole number of names on the last-completed enrollment list of such
663 party in such municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be,
664 [within] not later than seven days after receipt of the page. If such page
665 involves a municipal office to be voted upon at a state election, such
666 registrar shall also file a certificate, on a form prescribed by the
667 Secretary of the State, that includes the name and full street address of
668 each candidate and the title and district of such office not later than
669 seven days after receipt of such page. In checking signatures on
670 primary petition pages, the registrar shall reject any name if such name
671 does not appear on the last-completed enrollment list in the
672 municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be. Such rejection
673 shall be indicated by placing a mark in a manner prescribed by the
674 Secretary before the name so rejected. The registrar may place a check
675 mark before each name appearing on the enrollment list to indicate
676 approval but shall place no other mark on the page except as provided
677 in this chapter. The registrar shall not reject any name for which the
678 street address on the petition is different from the street address on the
679 enrollment list, if (1) such person is eligible to vote for the candidate or
680 candidates named in the petition, and (2) the person's date of birth, as
681 shown on the petition page, is the same as the date of birth on the
682 person's registration record. The registrar shall reject any page of a
683 petition which does not contain the certifications provided in section 9-
684 410, or which the registrar determines to have been circulated in
685 violation of any other provision of section 9-410. Petitions filed with
686 the municipal clerk shall be preserved for a period of three years and
687 then may be destroyed.

688 Sec. 17. Section 9-235d of the general statutes is repealed and the
689 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

690 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of sections 9-233, 9-235 and 9-258
691 to the contrary, a United States citizen who is sixteen or seventeen
692 years of age and a bona fide resident of a town may be (1) appointed as a
693 challenger or unofficial checker in an election, or (2) appointed as a
694 checker, translator, ballot clerk or voting tabulator tender in an election
695 after (A) attending poll worker training, and (B) receiving the written
696 permission of a parent, guardian or the principal of the school that the
697 citizen attends if the citizen is a secondary school student and the
698 citizen is to be appointed to work on a day when such school is in
699 session.

700 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of section 9-436 or 9-436a to the
701 contrary, a United States citizen who is sixteen or seventeen years of
702 age and a bona fide resident of a town or political subdivision holding
703 a primary may be (1) appointed as a challenger or candidate checker in
704 the primary, or (2) appointed as a checker, translator, ballot clerk or
705 voting tabulator tender in a primary after (A) attending poll worker
706 training, and (B) receiving the written permission of a parent, guardian
707 or the principal of the school that the citizen attends if the citizen is a
708 secondary school student and the citizen is to be appointed to work on
709 a day when such school is in session.

710 Sec. 18. Section 9-236b of the general statutes is amended by adding
711 subsection (f) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

712 (NEW) (f) The provisions of section 9-261, describing requirements
713 for identification, shall be posted where the official checkers are
714 located in each polling location. Such posting shall be in a manner
715 prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

716 Sec. 19. Section 9-250 of the general statutes is repealed and the
717 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

718 Ballots shall be printed in plain clear type and on material of such
719 size as will fit the tabulator, and shall be furnished by the registrar of
720 voters. The size and style of the type used to print the name of a
721 political party on a ballot shall be identical with the size and style of

722 the type used to print the names of all other political parties appearing
723 on such ballot. The name of each major party candidate for a municipal
724 office, as defined in section 9-372, except for the municipal offices of
725 state senator and state representative, shall appear on the ballot [as it
726 appears on the registry list of the candidate's town of voting residence,
727 except as provided in section 9-42a] as authorized by each candidate.
728 The name of each major party candidate for a state or district office, as
729 defined in section 9-372, or for the municipal office of state senator or
730 state representative shall appear on the ballot as it appears on the
731 certificate or statement of consent filed under section 9-388, subsection
732 (b) of section 9-391, as amended by this act, or section 9-400 or 9-409.
733 The name of each minor party candidate shall appear on the ballot [as
734 it appears on the registry list in accordance with the provisions of
735 section 9-452] as authorized by each candidate. The name of each
736 nominating petition candidate shall appear on the ballot as it is
737 verified by the town clerk on the application filed under section 9-
738 453b, as amended by this act. The size and style of the type used to
739 print the name of a candidate on a ballot shall be identical with the size
740 and style of the type used to print the names of all other candidates
741 appearing on such ballot. Such ballot shall contain the names of the
742 offices and the names of the candidates arranged thereon. The names
743 of the political parties and party designations shall be arranged on the
744 ballots and followed by the word "party", either in columns or
745 horizontal rows as set forth in section 9-249a, immediately adjacent to
746 the column or row occupied by the candidate or candidates of such
747 political party or organization. The ballot shall be printed in such
748 manner as to indicate how many candidates the elector may vote for
749 each office, provided in the case of a town adopting the provisions of
750 section 9-204a, such ballot shall indicate the maximum number of
751 candidates who may be elected to such office from any party. If two or
752 more candidates are to be elected to the same office for different terms,
753 the term for which each is nominated shall be printed on the official
754 ballot as a part of the title of the office. If, at any election, one candidate
755 is to be elected for a full term and another to fill a vacancy, the official
756 ballot containing the names of the candidates in the foregoing order

757 shall, as a part of the title of the office, designate the term which such
758 candidates are severally nominated to fill. No column, under the name
759 of any political party or independent organization, shall be printed on
760 any official ballot, which contains more candidates for any office than
761 the number for which an elector may vote for that office.

762 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is
763 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
764 *passage*):

765 (a) At the top of each ballot shall be printed the name of the party
766 holding the primary, and each ballot shall contain the names of all
767 candidates to be voted upon at such primary, except the names of
768 justices of the peace. The vertical columns shall be headed by the
769 designation of the office or position and instructions as to the number
770 for which an elector may vote for such office or position, in the same
771 manner as a ballot used in a regular election. The name of each
772 candidate for town committee or municipal office, except for the
773 municipal offices of state senator and state representative, shall appear
774 on the ballot [as it appears on the registry list of such candidate's town
775 of voting residence, except as provided in section 9-42a] as authorized
776 by each candidate. The name of each candidate for state or district
777 office or for the municipal offices of state senator or state
778 representative shall appear on the ballot as it appears on the certificate
779 or statement of consent filed under section 9-388, 9-391, as amended by
780 this act, 9-400 or 9-409. On the first horizontal line, below the
781 designation of the office or position in each column, shall be placed the
782 name of the party-endorsed candidate for such office or position, such
783 name to be marked with an asterisk; provided, where more than one
784 person may be voted for any office or position, the names of the party-
785 endorsed candidates shall be arranged in alphabetical order from left
786 to right under the appropriate office or position designation and shall
787 continue, if necessary, from left to right on the next lower line or lines.
788 In the case of no party endorsement there shall be inserted the
789 designation "no party endorsement" at the head of the vertical column,
790 immediately beneath the designation of the office or position. On the

791 horizontal lines below the line for party-endorsed candidates shall be
792 placed, in the appropriate columns, the names of all other candidates
793 as hereinafter provided.

794 Sec. 21. Section 9-307 of the general statutes is repealed and the
795 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

796 [Immediately after the polls are closed] Not later than forty-eight
797 hours after the close of the polls, the official checker or checkers,
798 appointed under the provisions of section 9-234, shall make and
799 deliver to the moderator a certificate stating the whole number of
800 names on the registry list or enrollment list including, if applicable,
801 unaffiliated electors authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the
802 primary, and the number checked as having voted in that election or
803 primary. For the purpose of computing the whole number of names on
804 the registry list, the lists of persons who have applied for presidential
805 or overseas ballots prepared in accordance with section 9-158h shall be
806 included. If a paper registry list is used, the registrars or assistant
807 registrars, as the case may be, [acting at the respective polls,] shall
808 write and sign with ink, on the list or lists so used and checked, a
809 certificate of the whole number of names registered on the list eligible
810 to vote in the election or primary and the number checked as having
811 voted in that election or primary, and deposit it in the office of the
812 municipal clerk, [of their town on or before the following day.] If an
813 electronic version of the registry list is used, the electronic device upon
814 which such list is stored shall be returned to the registrars of voters
815 who shall cause the electronic registry list to be printed. Such printed
816 list shall be signed by each registrar, who shall deposit such list in the
817 office of the municipal clerk, [on the following day.] The municipal
818 clerk shall carefully preserve the paper registry list or printed
819 electronic registry list, as applicable, on file, with the marks on it
820 without alteration, for public inspection, and shall immediately enter a
821 certified copy of such certificate on the town records. Subject to the
822 provisions of section 7-109, the municipal clerk may destroy any
823 voting checklist four years after the date upon which it was used. The
824 moderator shall place the certificate which the moderator received

825 from the official checker or checkers in the office of the municipal clerk
826 [on or before the following day] not later than forty-eight hours after
827 the close of the polls.

828 Sec. 22. Section 9-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the
829 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

830 [As soon as the polls are closed] Upon the close of the polls, the
831 moderator, in the presence of the other election officials, shall
832 immediately lock the voting tabulator against voting and immediately
833 cause the vote totals for all candidates and questions to be produced.
834 The moderator shall, in the order of the offices as their titles are
835 arranged on the ballot, read and announce in distinct tones the result
836 as shown, giving the number indicated and indicating the candidate to
837 whom such total belongs, and shall read the votes recorded for each
838 office on the ballot. The moderator shall also, in the same manner,
839 announce the vote on each constitutional amendment, proposition or
840 other question voted on. The vote so announced by the moderator
841 shall be taken down by each checker and recorded on the tally sheets.
842 Each checker shall record the number of votes received for each
843 candidate on the ballot and also the number received by each person
844 for whom write-in ballots were cast. Once completed, the vote totals
845 produced by the tabulator shall be prepared for transmission to the
846 Secretary of the State. The result totals shall remain [in full] subject to
847 public view until the statement of canvass and all other reports have
848 been fully completed and signed by the moderator, checkers and
849 registrars, or assistant registrars, as the case may be. [The] Any other
850 remaining result of the votes cast shall be publicly announced by the
851 moderator [, who shall read] not later than forty-eight hours after the
852 close of the polls. Such public announcement shall consist of reading
853 (1) the name of each candidate, with the designating number and letter
854 on the ballot and the absentee vote as furnished the moderator by the
855 absentee ballot counters, [; also] and (2) the vote cast for and against
856 each question submitted. While such announcement is being made,
857 ample opportunity shall be given to any person lawfully present to
858 compare the results so announced with the result totals provided by

859 the tabulator and any necessary corrections shall then and there be
860 made by the moderator, checkers and registrars or assistant registrars,
861 after which the compartments of the voting tabulator shall be closed
862 and locked. In canvassing, recording and announcing the result, the
863 election officials shall be guided by any instructions furnished by the
864 Secretary of the State.

865 Sec. 23. Section 9-314 of the general statutes is repealed and the
866 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

867 (a) As used in this subsection, "moderator" means the moderator of
868 each state election in each town not divided into voting districts and
869 the head moderator in each town divided into voting districts. The
870 moderator shall make out a preliminary list of the votes given for each
871 of the following officers: Presidential electors, Governor, Lieutenant
872 Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney
873 General, United States senator, representative in Congress, state
874 senator, judge of probate, state representative and registrars of voters
875 when said officers are to be chosen, as reported solely by the tabulator,
876 as provided in section 9-309, as amended by this act, in the moderator's
877 municipality and shall immediately transmit such preliminary list to
878 the Secretary of the State not later than midnight on election day. Once
879 the preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State,
880 the moderator shall make out a duplicate list of the votes given in the
881 moderator's town for each of the following officers: Presidential
882 electors, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State,
883 Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, United States senator,
884 representative in Congress, state senator, judge of probate, state
885 representative and registrars of voters when said officers are to be
886 chosen. [Said] Such duplicate list shall include a statement of the total
887 number of names on the official check list of such town and the total
888 number checked as having voted. The moderator [may] shall transmit
889 such list to the Secretary of the State by [facsimile machine or other]
890 electronic means as prescribed by the Secretary of the State [, not later
891 than midnight on election day. If the moderator transmits such list by
892 such electronic means, the] not later than forty-eight hours after the

893 close of the polls on election day. The moderator shall also seal and
894 deliver one of such lists to the Secretary of the State not later than the
895 third day after the election. [If the moderator does not transmit such
896 list by such electronic means, the moderator shall seal and deliver one
897 of such lists by hand either (1) to the Secretary of the State not later
898 than six o'clock p.m. of the day after the election, or (2) to the state
899 police not later than four o'clock p.m. of the day after the election, in
900 which case the state police shall deliver it by hand to the Secretary of
901 the State not later than six o'clock p.m. of the day after the election.]
902 Any such moderator who fails to so deliver such list to [either] the
903 Secretary of the State [or the state police] by the time required shall
904 pay a late filing fee of fifty dollars. The moderator shall also deliver
905 one of such lists to the clerk of such town. [on or before the day after
906 such election.] The Secretary of the State shall enter the returns in
907 tabular form in books kept by the Secretary for that purpose and
908 present a printed report of the same, with the name of, and the total
909 number of votes received by, each of the candidates for said offices, to
910 the General Assembly at its next session.

911 (b) As used in this subsection, "moderator" means the moderator of
912 each municipal election in each town not divided into voting districts,
913 and the head moderator in each town divided into voting districts. The
914 moderator shall forthwith transmit to the Secretary of the State the
915 results of the vote for each office contested at such election by
916 [facsimile machine or other] electronic means as prescribed by the
917 Secretary of the State [.] not later than [midnight on election day. If the
918 moderator transmits such list by such electronic means, the] forty-eight
919 hours after the close of the polls on election day. The moderator shall
920 also seal and deliver one of such lists to the Secretary of the State not
921 later than the third day after the election. [If the moderator does not
922 transmit such list by such electronic means, the moderator shall seal
923 and deliver one of such lists by hand either (1) to the Secretary of the
924 State not later than six o'clock p.m. of the day after the election, or (2)
925 to the state police not later than four o'clock p.m. of the day after the
926 election, in which case the state police shall deliver it by hand to the
927 Secretary of the State not later than six o'clock p.m. of the day after the

928 election.] Any such moderator who fails to so deliver such list to
929 [either] the Secretary of the State [or the state police] by the time
930 required shall pay a late filing fee of fifty dollars. Such moderator shall
931 include in such return a statement of the total number of names on the
932 official check list of such town and the total number checked as having
933 voted. Such return shall be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the
934 State.

935 Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 9-322a of the general statutes is
936 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
937 *passage*):

938 (a) Not later than [seven days] forty-eight hours following each
939 regular state election, the head moderator, registrars of voters and
940 town clerk for each town divided into voting districts shall meet to
941 identify any error in the returns. Not later than [fourteen] three days
942 following each regular state election, the head moderator shall correct
943 any error identified and file an amended return with the Secretary of
944 the State and the registrars of voters.

945 Sec. 25. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any
946 provision of title 9 of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State, in
947 consultation and coordination with The University of Connecticut,
948 may authorize the use of electronic equipment for the purpose of
949 conducting any audit required pursuant to section 9-320f of the general
950 statutes, as amended by this act, for any primary or general election
951 held on or after January 1, 2016, provided (1) the Secretary of the State
952 prescribes specifications for (A) the testing, set-up and operation of
953 such equipment, and (B) the training of election officials in the use of
954 such equipment; and (2) the Secretary of the State and The University
955 of Connecticut agree that such equipment is sufficient in quantity to
956 accommodate the total number of audits to be conducted. Nothing in
957 this section shall preclude any candidate or elector from seeking
958 additional remedies pursuant to chapter 149 of the general statutes as a
959 result of any information revealed by such process.

960 Sec. 26. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the general statutes is

961 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
962 *passage*):

963 (a) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any election or primary
964 and not later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the
965 Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, for any federal or
966 state election or primary, or by the town clerk for any municipal
967 election or primary, the registrars of voters shall conduct, except as
968 provided in section 25 of this act, a manual audit of the votes recorded
969 in not less than ten per cent of the voting districts in the state, district
970 or municipality, whichever is applicable. Such manual audit shall be
971 noticed in advance and be open to public observation. Any election
972 official who participates in the administration and conduct of an audit
973 pursuant to this section shall be compensated by the municipality at
974 the standard rate of pay established by such municipality for elections
975 or primaries, as the case may be.

976 Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Two or more
977 municipalities may jointly perform any function that each municipality
978 is required to perform individually under title 9 of the general statutes
979 by entering into an agreement pursuant to this section. Any such
980 agreement shall be negotiated and shall contain all provisions upon
981 which each participating municipality agrees. Any such agreement
982 shall establish a process for amendment of, termination of and
983 withdrawal from such agreement. Any proposed agreement shall be
984 submitted to the legislative body of each participating municipality for
985 a vote to ratify or reject such agreement. The legislative body of each
986 participating municipality shall provide an opportunity for public
987 comment prior to any such vote. For purposes of this section,
988 providing an opportunity for public comment does not require a
989 legislative body to conduct a public hearing.

990 (b) For any municipality in which the legislative body is the town
991 meeting, such legislative body may, by resolution, vote to delegate its
992 authority to ratify or reject a proposed agreement to the board of
993 selectmen, provided such board of selectmen provides an opportunity

994 for public comment in accordance with this section.

995 Sec. 28. Section 9-192b of the general statutes is repealed and the
996 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

997 Each registrar of voters shall annually designate either said
998 registrar, the deputy registrar of voters or an assistant registrar of
999 voters to receive at least ten hours of instruction under the elections
1000 training program developed under subdivision (2) of subsection [(c)]
1001 (d) of section 9-192a, as amended by this act.

1002 Sec. 29. Subsection (b) of section 9-249 of the general statutes is
1003 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1004 *passage*):

1005 (b) The election officials of such voting districts shall attend the
1006 elections training program developed under subdivision (1) of
1007 subsection [(c)] (d) of section 9-192a, as amended by this act, and any
1008 other meeting or meetings as are called for the purpose of receiving
1009 such instructions concerning their duties as are necessary for the
1010 proper conduct of the election.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-4b
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-192a
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-3
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-7a(g)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-17a
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-19b(b) to (d)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-19k
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-23g(a) to (f)
Sec. 11	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	9-391
Sec. 12	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	9-395
Sec. 13	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	9-453b
Sec. 14	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	9-373a

Sec. 15	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	9-452
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	9-412
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	9-235d
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	9-236b
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	9-250
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	9-437(a)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	9-307
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	9-309
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	9-314
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	9-322a(a)
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 26	<i>from passage</i>	9-320f(a)
Sec. 27	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 28	<i>from passage</i>	9-192b
Sec. 29	<i>from passage</i>	9-249(b)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(a)(1), the "not later than" preceding and applying to both subparagraphs (A) and (B) was moved into both said subparagraphs for clarity; in Section 2(d), "subsection" was substituted for "section" for clarity and accuracy; and in Sections 9(g), 22 and 23(a), references to the singular forms of "registrar" and "registrar" were changed to the plural form for accuracy; in Section 10(c), "a registrar" was substituted for "the registrar" for accuracy; and in Section 26, subsections (b) to (o), inclusive, were removed because they were not amended.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Potential Cost	Less than \$200,000	Less than \$150,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
All Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill modifies various statutes concerning election administration and governance. The bill also creates a training and certification program for all registrars and deputy registrars to be administered by the Secretary of the State (SOTS) or a third-party approved by the SOTS.

The registrar training and certification program is mandatory for all registrars and deputy registrars in Connecticut's 169 towns. While the bill requires the SOTS to establish such a program, it does not require the department to actually run the program. Should the SOTS develop and run the program internally, it is anticipated to incur costs of less than \$200,000 in FY 16 and \$150,000 in FY 17 and annually thereafter.

The bill does not specify whether SOTS is able to charge tuition for the program or, if SOTS does elect to, who is responsible for the cost. To the extent that municipalities are responsible for the costs of their employee's certification and continuing education requirements, such

municipalities may incur costs associated with the certification program.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1051*****AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE STATE'S ELECTIONS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill modifies state election laws affecting, among other things, registrars of voters, the secretary of the state, voter registration, endorsements and nominations, election returns, and post-election audits. It also authorizes municipalities to enter into agreements to jointly perform election functions.

Principally, the bill:

1. requires that registrars of voters and deputy registrars be certified;
2. under certain circumstances, authorizes the (a) removal of a registrar from office, after an investigation and hearing or (b) secretary of the state to temporarily relieve a registrar of his or her duties;
3. specifies that the secretary of the state's written declaratory rulings, instructions, and opinions must be implemented, executed, or carried out;
4. requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to complete investigations resulting from complaints the secretary files concerning alleged election law violations within 90 days after receipt;
5. subject to certain conditions, allows the secretary to authorize the use of electronic equipment to conduct post-election audits;
6. establishes an in-district residency requirement for petitioning,

write-in, and minor party candidates;

7. changes several deadlines associated with canvassing election returns and submitting the official results to the secretary of the state; and
8. moves the mail-in voter registration deadline from 14 to seven days before an election.

The bill allows U.S. citizens age 16 or 17 to be appointed as ballot clerks after (1) attending poll worker training and (2) receiving written permission from a parent or guardian, or in some cases, school principal. Existing law allows them to also be appointed as checkers, translators, or voting tabulator tenders after satisfying these two requirements (§ 17).

The bill also requires that voter ID requirements be posted next to the official checkers in each polling place in a manner that the secretary of the state prescribes. However, it does not specify whether the state or municipalities must provide the posters (§ 18).

The bill makes several minor, technical, and conforming changes. For example, it eliminates certain obsolete references to “permanent assistant registrars of voters,” and “special assistant registrars of voters” (§§ 1, 2, 7 & 8). It also makes technical corrections to statutes governing how candidates’ names appear on the ballot so that they conform to changes made under PA 11-173, which authorized all candidates to determine how their names appear on the ballot (§§ 19 & 20).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions on candidate endorsements and nominations, which are effective January 1, 2016.

§§ 1–2 & 4–5 — REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

§§ 1 & 2 — *Training and Certification*

Under current law, registrars of voters and deputy registrars may

opt to become certified by voluntarily participating in a training course that a six-member committee develops. The committee consists of the secretary of the state, a representative from SEEC, and four registrars of voters whom the secretary appoints in consultation with the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut.

The bill (1) makes the committee advisory; (2) requires the secretary, in consultation with the committee, to establish a certification program; and (3) requires, rather than allows, registrars and deputy registrars to become certified.

Under the bill, registrars and deputies elected or appointed after July 1, 2015 must complete the program and satisfy the certification criteria no later than (1) the end of their term, in the case of a two-year term or (2) two years from their first day in office, in the case of a four-year term. However, registrars and deputies holding office on July 1, 2015, must complete the program and satisfy the certification criteria after July 1, 2017. Presumably, the requirement does not apply to a registrar elected to a two-year term in 2014 who will not be in office after July 1, 2017. It is unclear when a registrar elected to a four-year term in 2014 must become certified.

The bill requires registrars and deputies to complete at least eight hours of training per year to maintain their certification. The secretary of the state must prescribe the training, and either she or a third party she approves must conduct it. The secretary must direct a registrar or deputy who fails to fulfill the annual training requirement to “take remedial measures,” which she must prescribe.

The certification maintenance training is separate from, and in addition to, the existing election law and procedures training program for registrars, which the committee develops. By law, the secretary must hire registrars or former registrars to provide this training.

§ 4 — *Removal from Office*

The bill establishes the same process for removing registrars of voters from office as the law establishes for removing town clerks and

town treasurers from office (CGS §§ 7-22 and -81). Generally, under this process, any person may submit a written complaint to the state's attorney for the relevant judicial district alleging a registrar is guilty of misconduct, willful and material neglect of duty, or incompetence in office. The state's attorney must investigate as he or she deems proper and, if the evidence warrants it, prepare a written statement with charges and a citation requiring the registrar to appear in Superior Court. The registrar must be given at least 10 days' notice.

The registrar is entitled to a full hearing during which the state's attorney may require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence. If, after the hearing, the judge orders the registrar removed from office, the Superior Court clerk must cause the registrar to be served with the order. At that point, the office becomes vacant.

The bill requires that the vacancy be filled at the next municipal election or at a special municipal election called for that purpose. Existing law specifies separate procedures and requirements for filling a vacancy in the office of registrar, including one resulting from removal from office (see BACKGROUND).

§ 5 — *Temporary Relief of Duties*

The bill authorizes the secretary of the state to temporarily relieve a registrar of his or her duties if the registrar (1) fails to earn or maintain certification or (2) is the subject of an investigation related to his or her duties that results from a complaint instituted by the secretary. Presumably, the bill contemplates complaints the secretary initiates with either a state's attorney or SEEC. The bill does not appear to afford registrars an opportunity to contest the secretary's determination.

Under the bill, (1) the secretary may require the deputy registrar of voters to administer office operations until the matter is resolved and (2) a municipality may continue paying a registrar's salary while the matter is pending.

§§ 3 & 6 — THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE**§ 3 — Authority**

The bill specifies that the secretary of the state's written declaratory rulings, instructions, and opinions must (1) be implemented, executed, and carried out; (2) labeled as rulings, instructions, or opinions; and (3) cite the authority on which they are based. Current law presumes such written statements correctly interpret and effectuate the administration of elections and primaries, but does not require that they be implemented.

By law, these requirements do not apply to campaign finance laws. The bill specifies that campaign finance laws include those governing the citizen's election program, computerization of campaign financing statements and data, and public financing for municipal elections. These laws are under SEEC's purview.

§ 6 — Complaints to SEEC

By law, SEEC receives complaints from the secretary of the state, registrars of voters, town clerks, and individuals under oath concerning alleged election law violations. It investigates and holds hearings as it deems appropriate.

With respect to complaints the secretary files on or after July 1, 2015, the bill requires SEEC to (1) determine whether to investigate within 30 days after the filing and (2) complete an investigation within 90 days after the filing. If SEEC fails to meet these deadlines, the secretary may apply to Hartford Superior Court for an order to show cause why the commission has not acted on the complaint and provide evidence that the commission has unreasonably delayed action. The bill does not specify what constitutes the completion of an investigation.

Under existing law, SEEC has 60 days after receiving a complaint to issue a decision or determine if probable cause exists. This means the commission must issue (1) Findings and Conclusions (i.e., vote to dismiss); (2) a Consent Order and Agreement (i.e., settlement); or (3) a Notice of Hearing after making a probable cause determination.

After 60 days, the complainant or respondent may apply to Hartford Superior Court for an order to show cause why the commission has not acted and to provide evidence that the commission has unreasonably delayed action. With certain exceptions, current law does not establish a deadline by which SEEC must complete investigations (e.g., complaints related to alleged violations of the federal Help America Vote Act).

§§ 9–10 — VOTER REGISTRATION

§ 9 — *Online Voter Registration System*

The law requires the secretary of the state to maintain an online voter registration system. In addition to new registrations, the system must permit a registered voter to apply to make changes online to his or her registration information.

The bill specifies that registrars and other admitting officials may use the online system to register voters during Election Day Registration (EDR). By law, a person may register and vote on election day at a designated EDR location if he or she meets the eligibility requirements for voting in this state and is (1) not already an elector or (2) registered in one municipality but wants to change his or her registration because he or she currently resides in another municipality.

§ 10 — *Deadlines*

Current law establishes separate voter registration deadlines before an election for mail- and in-person applications. The bill makes these deadlines uniform by moving the mail-in voter registration deadline from 14 to seven days before an election, thus making it the same as the in-person deadline.

§§ 11–15 — ENDORSEMENTS AND NOMINATIONS

§§ 11 & 12 — *Major Party Municipal Office Endorsements*

The bill requires major parties to include the signatures of candidates they endorse to run in a primary for municipal office in the certificates they file with the town clerk. Existing law establishes the

signature requirement for (1) major party legislative and statewide office candidates and (2) minor party nominations of municipal, legislative, and statewide office candidates.

The bill eliminates the requirement that major parties file endorsement certificates for registrars of voters with town clerks. It instead requires that they file endorsements for all municipal office candidates elected at a state election with the secretary of the state. Thus, in state election years, town clerks must publish notice indicating that the list of endorsed candidates will be available in the secretary's office, not in the clerk's office as under current law.

The bill conforms the endorsement certificate attestation requirements for justices of the peace and municipal office candidates elected at a state election to the attestation requirements for other offices. Specifically, the bill eliminates the requirement that both the chairperson (or presiding officer) and the secretary of the endorsing town committee, caucus, or convention attest to the certifications. Instead, under the bill, only one must do so.

Forms. Under the bill, endorsements for municipal office candidates voted on at a state election may be on a form that the secretary of the state prescribes, or another form that complies with the certification requirements.

§§ 13-15 — Residency Requirements

The bill establishes an in-district residency requirement for petitioning, write-in, and minor party candidates for municipal or district office. The requirement already applies to major party candidates.

Under the bill, a petitioning or minor party candidate nomination is valid only when the candidate's name appears on the last-completed enrollment list for the district in which he or she will run. A write-in candidate registration is valid only when it meets the same standard. Under current law, these nominations and registrations are valid when the candidate is a registered voter in the state.

§ 15 — Invalid Nominations

By law, minor parties must certify their list of nominations to the secretary of the state or town clerk, whichever applies, by the 62nd day before the election. The bill deems invalid any certificate that the secretary or town clerk does not receive by this deadline. If invalidated, the party is deemed to have not nominated or certified any candidate for office. Similarly, under existing law, major parties are deemed to have not endorsed a candidate if they miss statutory deadlines for filing a certificate of endorsement with the secretary of the state or town clerk, as applicable.

§§ 21–24 — ELECTION RETURNS

The bill changes several deadlines associated with canvassing election returns and submitting the official results to the secretary of the state. Under current law, head moderators must lock the voting tabulators as soon as the polls close and announce the vote totals for each candidate and any ballot question. As the moderator announces the votes, the checkers record them on tally sheets. The vote totals remain in full public view until signed by the moderator, checkers, and registrars or assistant registrars. Upon completing the statement of canvass, the moderator must publicly announce the election results by reading (1) each candidate's name, including his or her absentee votes, and (2) votes for and against any ballot questions.

For candidates voted on in a state or federal election, moderators must prepare a "duplicate list," which includes candidate vote totals, together with a statement of the number of names on the official checklist and the number that voted. Duplicate lists are due by (1) midnight on election day to the secretary of the state, if submitted electronically; (2) 6:00 p.m. the day following the election to the secretary, if hand delivered; or (3) 4:00 p.m. to the State Police the day following the election, in which case the police must hand deliver the lists to the secretary by 6:00 p.m. that day. Moderators must similarly transmit the results of municipal elections in this manner.

The bill modifies several of these and associated deadlines.

Principally, it:

1. requires that moderators prepare the candidate vote totals for transmission to the secretary once the checkers have recorded them;
2. for state and federal elections, names this document the “preliminary” list and requires that moderators transmit them electronically to the secretary by midnight on election day;
3. for state and federal elections, requires, rather than allows, that moderators transmit duplicate lists electronically and makes the deadline 48 hours after the polls close; and
4. for municipal elections, requires, rather than allows, that moderators transmit election results electronically and makes the deadline 48 hours after the polls close.

Several of the changed deadlines conform to the bill’s deadline for submitting the duplicate lists. Table 1 shows the deadlines under current law and the bill.

Table 1: Election Returns and Recanvass Deadlines

<i>Bill §</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Deadline under Current Law</i>	<i>Deadline under the Bill</i>
§ 21	Official checkers deliver a certificate to the moderator with the number of names on the registry or enrollment list, including the number who voted	Immediately after the polls close	48 hours after the polls close
§ 21	Moderator deposits certificate from the official checkers with town clerk	Day following the primary or election	48 hours after the polls close
§ 21	Registrars deposit signed registry list with town clerk	Day following the primary or election	No deadline
§ 22	Moderator announces (1) name of each candidate, and his or her absentee votes, and (2) votes for and against any ballot questions	As soon as the polls close and count is complete	48 hours after the polls close
§ 23	Moderator submits “preliminary list” of election returns for offices voted on at a federal or state election	N/A	Midnight on election day by electronic means
§ 23	Moderator submits (1) “duplicate	-Midnight on election	48 hours after the

	list" of election returns for offices voted on at a federal or state election or (2) results of votes for offices voted on at a municipal election	day, if delivered by electronic means (hard copy must be delivered within three days after the election); -6:00 p.m. the day after the election, if delivered by hand; or -4:00 p.m. the day after the election, if delivered by hand to the State Police (in which case the police must meet the 6:00 p.m. deadline)	polls close by electronic means (hard copy must be delivered within three days after the election)
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Existing law, unchanged by the bill, (1) requires election officials to canvass the returns immediately after the polls close and (2) prohibits them from stopping until the canvass is complete (CGS § 9-308). It is unclear how the officials following the bill's procedure for announcing the result would comply with this requirement.

§ 24 — Meeting to Correct Returns in Multi-District Towns

By law, moderators, town clerks, and registrars in towns divided into voting districts must meet to identify any errors in the election night returns previously submitted to the secretary (i.e., "duplicate list"). The bill requires them to meet within 48 hours, rather than seven days, after a regular state election to identify any errors in the election night returns. It also requires moderators to correct any errors and file an amended return with the secretary and registrars no later than three, rather than 14, days after the election.

§§ 25 & 26 — AUDITS

The bill allows the secretary of the state, in consultation and coordination with UConn, to authorize the use of electronic equipment to conduct audits for any primary or general election held on or after January 1, 2016. Under the bill, the secretary must prescribe the specifications for (1) testing, setting up, and operating the equipment and (2) training election officials on its use. In addition, the secretary

and UConn must agree that there is enough equipment to accommodate all audits required by law (i.e., at least 10% of all voting districts). The bill specifies that it does not preclude a candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies, such as bringing a complaint in Superior Court, because of information revealed during the process.

By law, registrars of voters must audit the results between the 15th day after an election or primary and two business days before the canvass of votes. They must follow established procedures, including requirements for providing notice and selecting voting districts.

§ 27 — MUNICIPAL AGREEMENTS

The bill gives municipalities broad authorization to jointly perform functions required of them by state election law. Under the bill, two or more municipalities may enter into an agreement to jointly perform any election function that they currently perform individually. Each agreement must (1) be negotiated and contain all provisions that the participating municipalities agree to; (2) establish a process for amending, terminating, and withdrawing from it; and (3) be submitted to each municipality's legislative body for approval.

The bill establishes the same approval process for these agreements as the law establishes for interlocal agreements (CGS § 7-339c). Specifically, before voting to ratify or reject the proposed agreement, the legislative body must provide an opportunity for public comment, which does not have to be a public hearing. For municipalities where the legislative body is the town meeting, the town meeting may vote to delegate its authority to ratify or reject a proposed agreement to the board of selectmen, provided the board provides an opportunity for public comment.

It is unclear how the secretary of the state would learn of any such agreements as the bill does not require that municipalities submit them to her office.

BACKGROUND

Filling a Registrar of Voters Vacancy

Under existing law, the deputy registrar of voters succeeds a registrar who dies, resigns, or is removed from office. If a vacancy exists because the registrar fails or refuses to accept the office or fails to appoint a deputy, then the town committee or other appointing authority specified in local party rules must appoint a suitable person to fill the vacancy (CGS § 9-192).

Related Bill

HB 5300, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, requires the secretary of the state to administer, through regional councils of government, training programs for all election officials.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 2 (03/30/2015)