



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 581

January Session, 2021

House Bill No. 6650

House of Representatives, April 22, 2021

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. FOX of the 148th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTIONS OF TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-417 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [If] (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, if within
4 the time specified in section 9-405, no candidacy for nomination by a
5 political party to a municipal office has been filed by or on behalf of a
6 person other than a party-endorsed candidate or, in the case of election
7 as member of the town committee of such party, by persons other than
8 party-endorsed candidates numbering at least twenty-five per cent of
9 the number of town committee members to be elected by such party
10 either in the municipality or in the political subdivision, as the case may
11 be, in conformity with the provisions of sections 9-405 to 9-412,
12 inclusive, and 9-414, no primary shall be held by such party for such
13 office or for town committee members, as the case may be, and the
14 party-endorsed candidate or candidates for such office shall be deemed
15 to have been lawfully chosen as the nominee or nominees of such party

16 to such office, or, as the case may be, and the party-endorsed candidates
17 for election as members of the town committee shall be deemed to have
18 been lawfully elected to such positions at the times specified in section
19 9-392.

20 (b) In the case of any municipality having a population of one
21 hundred thousand or more and in which a party by its rules provides,
22 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 9-390, that the town committee
23 members of such party be chosen at direct primaries, if, by four o'clock
24 p.m. on the forty-first day preceding the day of the primary of such
25 party, the number of persons who have requested petition forms for
26 candidacies for election as members of such town committee and filed a
27 signed statement consenting to be a candidate for such position, in
28 accordance with subsection (c) of section 9-409, is equal to or less than
29 the number of town committee members to be elected by such party, but
30 at least twenty-five per cent of such number, in accordance with section
31 9-411, then (1) the requirements regarding such persons' filing of
32 candidacies for election under section 9-405 and signed petitions under
33 section 9-406 shall not apply, (2) the requirements regarding the
34 registrar's receipt of petition pages and certification of signatures on
35 such pages under section 9-412 shall not apply, and (3) no primary shall
36 be held by such party for town committee members and such persons
37 shall be deemed to have lawfully been elected to such positions at the
38 times specified in section 9-392.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-417

GAE *Joint Favorable*

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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

This bill, which establishes circumstances under which town committee members who are chosen in a direct primary in certain municipalities are deemed elected to the committee without a primary, has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6650*****AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTIONS OF TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes circumstances under which town committee members who are chosen in a direct primary in certain municipalities are deemed elected to the committee without a primary (see BACKGROUND).

Specifically, in municipalities with a population of 100,000 or more (the bill does not specify a population measure), the bill provides that no direct primary is held if, by 4:00 p.m. on the 41st day before the primary (i.e., seven days before the deadline for filing candidacy petitions), the number of people who have requested petition forms and filed a statement consenting to be a candidate (1) does not exceed the number of town committee members being elected but (2) is at least 25% of that number.

The bill instead exempts these candidates from the law's primary petition deadline and signature requirements and deems them elected to the town committee without a direct primary. (Generally, the law requires that these petitions be (1) filed with the registrar of voters by 4:00 p.m. on the 34th day before the primary; (2) signed by at least 5% of the enrolled party members in the town, or a lesser number if provided in the party rules; and (3) certified by the registrar of voters (CGS §§ 9-405 to -406 and -412).)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Town Committees***

Under existing law, major political parties must select a town committee in each town. They must choose party-endorsed candidates at a caucus unless the party rules provide for a direct primary (CGS §§ 9-390(c) and -392).

By law, a party's endorsed candidates for town committee are deemed elected to the committee unless candidates numbering at least 25% of the seats to be filled on the committee successfully petition for a primary (CGS §§ 9-415(d) & -417). If the party rules provide for a direct primary, then the party does not make any endorsements. Rather, all committee members are elected in the primary (CGS § 9-390(g)). Town committee primaries are held on the first Tuesday in March in even-numbered years (CGS § 9-425).

By law, a "major party" is one whose (1) candidate for governor received, under the party's designation, at least 20% of the votes cast for governor in the preceding gubernatorial election or (2) enrolled membership comprises at least 20% of the total number of enrolled members of all political parties in the state (as of the most recent gubernatorial election) (CGS § 9-372(5)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 7 (04/05/2021)