



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6325

January Session, 2021



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE,
ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND ELECTION AUDITS.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study the feasibility of implementing procedures whereby an
3 absentee ballot applicant uses a single envelope, instead of two, for the
4 return of such applicant's absentee ballot. Such study shall include an
5 examination and identification of each section of the general statutes
6 that would require amending in order to implement such procedures.

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

8 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

9 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

10 (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
11 Representatives;

12 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

13 (5) One appointed by the House of Representatives chairperson of the
14 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
15 matters relating to elections;

16 (6) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing
17 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
18 relating to elections;

19 (7) One appointed by the House of Representatives ranking member
20 of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
21 cognizance of matters relating to elections;

22 (8) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing
23 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
24 relating to elections;

25 (9) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;

26 (10) Two appointed by the president of the Registrars of Voters
27 Association of Connecticut, each of whom shall be enrolled in a different
28 political party from the other; and

29 (11) One appointed by the president of the Connecticut Town Clerks
30 Association.

31 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
32 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a
33 member of the General Assembly.

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

37 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
38 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
39 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
40 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
41 days after the effective date of this section.

42 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
43 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections

44 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

45 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report
46 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
47 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
48 elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
49 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
50 submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

51 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group
52 to (1) examine employing risk-limiting audits to determine the accuracy
53 of election results, including (A) the feasibility of implementing such
54 audits, (B) the different methods used in such audits and the practical
55 considerations for implementation of each such method within the
56 existing statutory framework, (C) any potential equipment necessary to
57 implement one or more of such methods, (D) the procedures necessary
58 to implement one or more of such methods, and (E) any changes to such
59 statutory framework necessary to implement one or more of such
60 methods, and (2) within available appropriations, oversee a pilot
61 program in not less than five and not more than ten municipalities of
62 one or more of such methods for the municipal elections held in such
63 municipalities in 2021.

64 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

65 (1) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee, who shall
66 be the chairperson of such working group;

67 (2) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

68 (3) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

69 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
70 Representatives;

71 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

72 (6) Two appointed by the chairpersons and ranking members of the
73 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
74 matters relating to elections, each of whom shall be enrolled in a
75 different political party from the other;

76 (7) Two appointed by the Secretary of the State, one of whom shall be
77 admitted to the practice of law in this state and have expertise in the
78 election laws of this state, and the other of whom shall be a statistician;

79 (8) Two appointed by the president of the Registrars of Voters
80 Association of Connecticut, each of whom shall be enrolled in a different
81 political party from the other; and

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

84 (c) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision
85 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
86 of the General Assembly.

87 (d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
88 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
89 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

90 (e) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee, as
91 chairperson of the working group, shall schedule the first meeting of
92 such working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after
93 the effective date of this section.

94 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
95 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections
96 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

97 (g) Not later than January 31, 2022, the working group shall submit a
98 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
99 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
100 relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a

101 of the general statutes, and to the Secretary of the State. The working
102 group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January
103 31, 2022, whichever is later.

104 Sec. 3. Section 9-374 of the general statutes is repealed and the
105 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

106 No authority of the state or any political subdivision thereof having
107 jurisdiction over the conduct of any primary shall permit the name of a
108 party-endorsed candidate for an office or position to be printed on the
109 official ballot to be used at any such primary unless a copy of the party
110 rules regulating such party and its method of selecting party-endorsed
111 candidates for nomination to such office or for election as town
112 committee members, as the case may be, has been filed in the office of
113 the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before such candidate is
114 selected under such method of endorsement. The selection of delegates
115 to conventions shall not be valid unless at least one copy of the party
116 rules regulating the manner of making such selection has been filed in
117 the office of the Secretary of the State at least sixty days before such
118 selection is made. A duplicate copy of such rules shall also be filed with
119 the state central committee of such party. A copy of the local party rules,
120 relating to a party in a municipality, shall be filed forthwith by the town
121 chairman or the secretary of the town committee of such party in such
122 municipality with the Secretary of the State. The state party rules shall
123 be filed by the state chairman or the secretary of the state central
124 committee of such party. In the case of a minor party, no authority of
125 the state or any subdivision thereof having jurisdiction over the conduct
126 of any election shall permit the name of a candidate of such party for
127 any office to be printed on the official ballot unless at least one copy of
128 the party rules regulating the manner of nominating a candidate for
129 such office has been filed in the office of the Secretary of the State at least
130 [sixty] one hundred eighty days before the nomination of such
131 candidate. In the case of a minor party, the selection of town committee
132 members and delegates to conventions shall not be valid unless at least
133 one copy of the party rules regulating the manner of making such

134 selection has been filed in the office of the Secretary of the State at least
 135 sixty days before such selection is made. A copy of local party rules shall
 136 forthwith be also filed with the town clerk of the municipality to which
 137 they relate. Party rules shall not be effective until sixty days after the
 138 filing of the same with the Secretary of the State. A party in any
 139 municipality for which local party rules with respect to any office or
 140 position have not been filed as provided in this section shall, as to such
 141 office or position, be subject to the provisions of the effective state rules
 142 of such party applicable in municipalities which do not have local party
 143 rules, until such time as local party rules therefor are filed and become
 144 effective as provided in this section. The town chairman of a party in
 145 any municipality for which local party rules have not been adopted and
 146 filed as provided in this section shall forthwith file a statement with the
 147 Secretary of the State to the effect that such party in such municipality
 148 does not have local party rules. The term "party rules" as used in this
 149 section includes any amendment to such party rules. When any
 150 amendment is to be filed as required by this section, complete party
 151 rules incorporating such amendment shall be filed, together with a
 152 separate copy of such amendment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-374

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*