



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6578

LCO No. 3555



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTORAL
PROCESS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-46a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

3 (a) A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to
4 confinement in a federal or other state correctional institution or facility
5 or community residence shall have such person's electoral privileges
6 restored [upon the payment of all fines in conjunction with the
7 conviction and] once such person has been [discharged] released from
8 confinement. [, and, if applicable, parole.]

9 (b) Upon the release from confinement in a correctional institution or
10 facility or a community residence of a person who has been convicted
11 of a felony and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of
12 Correction, [and, if applicable, the discharge of such person from
13 parole,] (1) the person shall have the right to become an elector, (2) the
14 Commissioner of Correction shall give the person a document certifying

15 that the person has been released from such confinement, [and, if
16 applicable, has been discharged from parole,] (3) if the person was an
17 elector at the time of such felony conviction and, after such release, [and
18 any such discharge,] is residing in the same municipality in which the
19 person resided at the time of such felony conviction, the person's
20 electoral privileges shall be restored, and (4) if the person was an elector
21 at the time of such felony conviction and, after such release, [and any
22 such discharge,] is residing in a different municipality or if the person
23 was not an elector at the time of such felony conviction, the person's
24 electoral privileges shall be restored or granted upon submitting to an
25 admitting official satisfactory proof of the person's qualifications to be
26 admitted as an elector. The provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4),
27 inclusive, of this subsection shall not apply to any person convicted of a
28 felony for a violation of any provision of this title until such person has
29 been discharged from any parole or probation for such felony.

30 (c) The registrars of voters of the municipality in which a person is
31 admitted as an elector pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section,
32 within thirty days after the date on which such person is admitted, shall
33 notify the registrars of voters of the municipality wherein such person
34 resided at the time of such person's conviction that such person's
35 electoral rights have been so restored.

36 (d) The Commissioner of Correction shall establish procedures to
37 inform those persons who have been convicted of a felony and
38 committed to the custody of said commissioner for confinement in a
39 correctional institution or facility or a community residence, and are
40 eligible to have their electoral privileges restored or granted pursuant to
41 subsection (b) of this section, of the right and procedures to have such
42 privileges restored. The Office of Adult Probation shall, within available
43 appropriations, inform such persons who are on probation on January
44 1, 2002, of their right to become electors and procedures to have their
45 electoral privileges restored, which shall be in accordance with
46 subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

47 (e) The Commissioner of Correction shall, on or before the fifteenth

48 day of each month, transmit to the Secretary of the State a list of all
49 persons convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of said
50 commissioner who, during the preceding calendar month, have been
51 released from confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a
52 community residence. [and, if applicable, discharged from parole.] Such
53 lists shall include the names, birth dates and addresses of such persons,
54 with the dates of their convictions and the crimes of which such persons
55 have been convicted. The Secretary of the State shall transmit such lists
56 to the registrars of the municipalities in which such convicted persons
57 resided at the time of their convictions and to the registrars of any
58 municipalities where the secretary believes such persons may be
59 electors.

60 Sec. 2. Section 9-19h of the general statutes is repealed and the
61 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

62 (a) The Department of Social Services, the Labor Department and the
63 Department of Motor Vehicles shall make voter registration information
64 and materials available to the public. Such information and materials
65 shall be placed in public areas of the offices of such departments. The
66 State Library and the libraries of the state's public institutions of higher
67 education shall also make such information and materials available to
68 users of the libraries. The Secretary of the State shall provide such
69 departments, such libraries and any libraries open to the public with
70 suitable nonpartisan literature, materials and voter registration
71 application forms authorized under sections 9-23g and 9-23h. [The
72 secretary shall also provide to the Department of Social Services, the
73 Labor Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles any furniture
74 needed to display such literature, materials and forms.]

75 (b) (1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,
76 and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
77 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, not later than January 1, 1994, shall
78 include an application for the admission of an elector with each
79 application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a
80 motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under

81 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form
82 provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such
83 application form for the admission of an elector [(1)] (A) shall be subject
84 to the approval of the Secretary of the State, [(2)] (B) shall not include
85 any provisions for the witnessing of the application, and [(3)] (C) shall
86 contain a statement that [(A)] (i) specifies each eligibility requirement,
87 [(B)] (ii) contains an attestation that the applicant meets each such
88 requirement, and [(C)] (iii) requires the signature of the applicant under
89 penalty of perjury. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept
90 any such completed application for admission which is submitted in
91 person, [or by mail. The] by mail or through an electronic system
92 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. Except as provided in said
93 subdivision, the applicant shall state on such form, under penalty of
94 perjury, the applicant's name, bona fide residence address, date of birth,
95 whether the applicant is a United States citizen, party enrollment, if any,
96 prior voting address, if registered previously, and that the applicant's
97 privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction of a
98 felony. No Social Security number on any such application form for the
99 admission of an elector filed prior to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed
100 to the public or to any governmental agency. The commissioner shall
101 indicate on each such form the date of receipt of such application to
102 ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it
103 is received by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles by the last day for
104 registration to vote in an election. The commissioner shall provide the
105 applicant with an application receipt, on a form approved by the
106 Secretary of the State and on which the commissioner shall record the
107 date that the commissioner received the application, using an official
108 date stamp bearing the words "Department of Motor Vehicles". The
109 commissioner shall provide such receipt whether the application was
110 submitted in person, [or] by mail or through an electronic system
111 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. The commissioner shall
112 forthwith transmit the application to the registrars of voters of the
113 applicant's town of residence. If a registration application is accepted
114 within five days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular
115 election, the application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters

116 of the town of voting residence of the applicant not later than five days
117 after the date of acceptance. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f)
118 and (g) of section 9-23g which are not inconsistent with the National
119 Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to
120 time, shall apply to applications made under this section. The
121 commissioner is not an admitting official and may not restore, under the
122 provisions of section 9-46a, as amended by this act, electoral privileges
123 of persons convicted of a felony.

124 (2) (A) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide an
125 electronic system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to
126 effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding
127 application for admission of an elector, except that the condition that an
128 applicant state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may be
129 waived for any such eligibility requirement verified independently by
130 said commissioner through a federally approved identity verification
131 program or other evidence acceptable to said commissioner. Such
132 electronic system may provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an
133 applicant's signature on file with said commissioner. The use of any
134 such electronic system shall comply with the National Voter
135 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

136 (B) (i) Unless otherwise provided in this subparagraph, if the
137 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles determines that a person applying for
138 a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license
139 renewal or an identity card meets each eligibility requirement for
140 admission as an elector, said commissioner shall forthwith transmit an
141 application for such person's admission as an elector to the registrars of
142 voters of such person's residence through an electronic system pursuant
143 to this subdivision, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1)
144 of this subsection, except that no such application shall be transmitted if
145 such person declines to apply for such admission.

146 (ii) If said commissioner determines that a person applying for a
147 motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license
148 renewal or an identity card is not a United States citizen, said

149 commissioner shall not provide such person an opportunity to apply for
150 admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this
151 subdivision and shall not transmit any application for such admission
152 on behalf of such person.

153 (iii) If said commissioner cannot determine whether a person
154 applying for a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle
155 operator's license renewal or an identity card is a United States citizen,
156 such person shall attest to his or her United States citizenship as a
157 precondition of said commissioner processing such person's application
158 for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this
159 subdivision.

160 Sec. 3. Section 9-19i of the general statutes is repealed and the
161 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

162 (a) Any change of address form submitted by a person in accordance
163 with law for purposes of a motor vehicle operator's license shall serve
164 as notification of change of address for voter registration for the person
165 unless the person states on the form that the change of address is not for
166 voter registration purposes. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
167 forthwith transmit such change of address information to the registrars
168 of voters of the town of the former address of the person. If the name of
169 the person appears on the registry list of the town, and if the new
170 address is also within such town, the registrars shall enter the name of
171 such elector on the registry list at the place where he then resides. If the
172 name of the person appears on the registry list of the town and if the
173 new address is outside such town, the registrars shall remove the name
174 of such elector from the registry list and send the elector the notice,
175 information and application required by subsection (c) of section 9-35,
176 except that if said commissioner is using an electronic system pursuant
177 to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of the State may prescribe
178 alternative procedures for sending such notice and information and
179 may waive the requirement to send such application.

180 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide an electronic
181 system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to effectuate

182 the purposes of subsection (a) of this section regarding notifications of
183 change of address for voter registration. Such electronic system may
184 provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an applicant's signature
185 on file with said commissioner. The use of any such electronic system
186 shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-
187 31, as amended from time to time.

188 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-232 of the general statutes is
189 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
190 *passage*):

191 (a) [Each registrar may appoint one or more challengers in his town
192 or district, one of whom may be present at the offering of any vote; and
193 any such challenger or any] Any elector may challenge the right of any
194 person offering to vote, on the ground of want of identity with the
195 person on whose name the vote is offered, or disfranchisement or lack
196 of bona fide residence, and the moderator shall decide upon the right of
197 the person so challenged to vote.

198 Sec. 5. Section 9-235d of the general statutes is repealed and the
199 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

200 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of sections 9-233, 9-235 and 9-258,
201 as amended by this act, [to the contrary,] a United States citizen who is
202 sixteen or seventeen years of age and a bona fide resident of a town may
203 be [(1)] appointed as [a challenger or] (1) an unofficial checker in an
204 election, or (2) [appointed as] a checker, translator, ballot clerk or voting
205 tabulator tender in an election after (A) attending poll worker training,
206 and (B) receiving the written permission of a parent, guardian or the
207 principal of the school that the citizen attends if the citizen is a secondary
208 school student and the citizen is to be appointed to work on a day when
209 such school is in session.

210 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of section 9-436, as amended by
211 this act, or 9-436a, [to the contrary,] a United States citizen who is sixteen
212 or seventeen years of age and a bona fide resident of a town or political
213 subdivision holding a primary may be [(1)] appointed as [a challenger

214 or] (1) a candidate checker in the primary, or (2) [appointed as] a
215 checker, translator, ballot clerk or voting tabulator tender in a primary
216 after (A) attending poll worker training, and (B) receiving the written
217 permission of a parent, guardian or the principal of the school that the
218 citizen attends if the citizen is a secondary school student and the citizen
219 is to be appointed to work on a day when such school is in session.

220 Sec. 6. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-258 of the general statutes
221 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
222 *from passage*):

223 (a) For municipalities with more than one voting district, the election
224 officials of each polling place shall be electors of the state and shall
225 consist of (1) one moderator, (2) at least one but not more than two
226 official checkers, (3) two assistant registrars of voters of opposite
227 political parties, each of whom shall be residents of the town, (4) [not
228 more than two challengers if the registrars of voters have appointed
229 challengers pursuant to section 9-232, (5)] at least one but not more than
230 two ballot clerks, and [(6)] (5) at least one but not more than two voting
231 tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in use at the polling place. A
232 known candidate for any office shall not serve as an election official on
233 election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that (A) a
234 municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same
235 office, may perform his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar
236 of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, may
237 perform his or her official duties. If, in the opinion of the registrar of
238 voters, the public convenience of the electors in any voting district so
239 requires, provision shall be made for an additional line or lines of
240 electors at the polling place and, if more than one line of electors is
241 established, at least one but not more than two additional official
242 checkers and at least one but not more than two ballot clerks for each
243 line of electors shall be appointed and, if more than one tabulator is used
244 in a polling place, at least one but not more than two additional voting
245 tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each additional machine so
246 used. Head moderators, central counting moderators and absentee
247 ballot counters appointed pursuant to law shall also be deemed election

248 officials.

249 (b) For municipalities with one voting district, the election officials of
250 such polling place shall be electors of the state and shall consist of (1)
251 one moderator, (2) at least one but not more than two official checkers,
252 (3) [not more than two challengers if the registrars of voters have
253 appointed challengers pursuant to section 9-232, (4)] at least one but not
254 more than two voting tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in use
255 at the polling place, and [(5)] (4) at least one but not more than two ballot
256 clerks. Additionally, such election officials may consist of two registrars
257 of voters of opposite political parties, or two assistant registrars of voters
258 of opposite political parties, as the case may be, subject to the
259 requirements of sections 9-259 and 9-439, provided if the registrars of
260 voters are present in the polling place, they shall appoint at least one
261 designee to be present in their office. A known candidate for any office
262 shall not serve as an election official on election day or serve at the polls
263 in any capacity, except that (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters,
264 who is a candidate for the same office, may perform his or her official
265 duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the
266 office of registrar of voters, may perform his or her official duties. If, in
267 the opinion of the registrar of voters, the public convenience of the
268 electors in any voting district so requires, provision shall be made for an
269 additional line or lines of electors at the polling place and, if more than
270 one line of electors is established, at least one but not more than two
271 additional official checkers for each line of electors shall be appointed
272 and, if more than one tabulator is used in a polling place, at least one
273 but not more than two additional voting tabulator tenders shall be
274 appointed for each additional tabulator so used. Head moderators,
275 central counting moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed
276 pursuant to law shall be deemed to be election officials.

277 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 9-436 of the general statutes is
278 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
279 *passage*):

280 (c) The registrar shall appoint from among the enrolled party

281 members in the state, to serve in each polling place, the primary polling
 282 place officials, who shall consist of (1) one moderator, (2) at least one [,]
 283 but not more than two official checkers, [not more than two challengers
 284 if the registrar deems it necessary, and] (3) at least one [and] but not
 285 more than two ballot clerks, [and] (4) at least one but not more than two
 286 voting tabulator tenders for each tabulator in use at such primary, and
 287 [,] (5) in towns with two or more voting districts, at least one [and] but
 288 not more than two assistant registrars, provided [(1)] (A) in the case of
 289 either a municipality or a political subdivision holding a primary, if no
 290 enrolled party member can be found or no such person consents to serve
 291 as a moderator, the registrar may appoint any elector who resides in the
 292 state and is a certified moderator to be moderator, [(2)] (B) in the case of
 293 a political subdivision holding a primary, if an insufficient number of
 294 enrolled party members who reside in the state consent to serve as
 295 checkers, [challengers,] voting tabulator tenders or assistant registrars,
 296 the registrar may appoint any elector who resides in the state to be a
 297 checker, [challenger,] voting tabulator tender or assistant registrar, and
 298 [(3)] (C) in the case of either a municipality or a political subdivision
 299 holding more than one primary on the same day for different political
 300 parties, one certified moderator may serve as moderator for both
 301 primaries, if the registrars of voters so agree. If unaffiliated electors are
 302 authorized under section 9-431 to vote for some but not all of the offices
 303 to be contested at the primary, the registrar shall appoint two additional
 304 checkers to check the list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to
 305 vote on the separate tabulators. If unaffiliated electors are authorized
 306 under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties in the
 307 same polling place, whether for some or for all offices to be contested at
 308 the primary, each such registrar shall appoint two additional checkers
 309 to check the list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to vote in
 310 either such primary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	9-46a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-19h

Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-19i
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-232(a)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-235d
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-258(a) and (b)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-436(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) restore, without the payment of certain fines, the electoral privileges of convicted felons who are on parole, (2) codify existing practice, under a memorandum of understanding, regarding voter registration procedures at the Department of Motor Vehicles, and (3) eliminate registrar-appointed challengers from who may be present in the polling place during a primary or election.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]