



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5262

February Session, 2022



AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN ABSENTEE VOTING ELIGIBILITY STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-135 of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) Any elector eligible to vote at a primary or an election and any
5 person eligible to vote at a referendum may vote by absentee ballot if
6 such elector or person is unable to appear at such elector's or person's
7 polling place during the hours of voting for any of the following reasons:
8 (1) Such elector's or person's active service with the armed forces of the
9 United States; (2) such elector's or person's absence from the town of
10 such elector's or person's voting residence; [during all of the hours of
11 voting; (3) such elector's or person's illness; (4) such elector's or person's]
12 (3) sickness; (4) physical disability; (5) the tenets of such elector's or
13 person's religion forbid secular activity on the day of the primary,
14 election or referendum; or (6) the required performance of such elector's
15 or person's duties as a primary, election or referendum official,
16 including as a town clerk or registrar of voters or as staff of the clerk or
17 registrar, at a polling place other than such elector's or person's own
18 during all of the hours of voting at such primary, election or

19 referendum. [; or (7) for the state election in 2020, and any election,
20 primary or referendum held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to
21 November 3, 2021, the sickness of COVID-19. As used in this section,
22 "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World
23 Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any
24 related mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a
25 communicable respiratory disease.]

26 (b) No person shall misrepresent the eligibility requirements for
27 voting by absentee ballot prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, to
28 any elector or prospective absentee ballot applicant.

29 Sec. 2. Section 9-137 of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is
30 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
31 *passage*):

32 [(a)] Each absentee ballot shall be returned to the municipal clerk,
33 inserted in an inner envelope which shall be capable of being sealed and
34 which shall have printed on its face a form containing the following
35 statements:

36 "I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee
37 balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum
38 in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I
39 expect to be unable to appear at my polling place during the hours of
40 voting at such primary, election or referendum for one or more of the
41 following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my
42 absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote; [during all of the
43 hours of voting; (3) my illness] (3) sickness or physical disability; (4) the
44 tenets of my religion which forbid secular activity on the day of the
45 primary, election or referendum; or (5) my duties as a primary, election
46 or referendum official.

47 Date

48 (Signature)"

49 [(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
50 for the state election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum
51 held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, each inner
52 envelope in which an absentee ballot is returned to the municipal clerk
53 shall have printed on its face a form containing the following statements:

54 "I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee
55 balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum
56 in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I
57 expect to be unable to appear at my polling place during the hours of
58 voting at such primary, election or referendum for one or more of the
59 following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my
60 absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote during all of the
61 hours of voting; (3) my illness or physical disability; (4) the tenets of my
62 religion which forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election
63 or referendum; (5) my duties as a primary, election or referendum
64 official; or (6) the sickness of COVID-19.

65 Date

66 (Signature)"]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-135
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-137

GAE Joint Favorable Subst.