



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5379**

February Session, 2022



**AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS ELECTION ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES RELATED TO REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The registrars of voters in each town shall give notice of the time and  
4 place of each session for the admission of electors held pursuant to  
5 section 9-17 by publication in a newspaper published or circulated in  
6 such town, or on such town's Internet web site, if any, not more than  
7 fifteen nor less than five days before each such session. Nothing [herein]  
8 in this section shall require that such publication be in the form of a legal  
9 advertisement.

10 Sec. 2. Section 9-17a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
11 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

12 As used in sections [9-17, 9-19b,] 9-19c, 9-20, [9-23a, 9-24,] 9-31a [, 9-  
13 31b] and 9-31l, as amended by this act, unless otherwise provided, the  
14 term "admitting official" means a town clerk, assistant town clerk,  
15 registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters or assistant registrar of  
16 voters. [or the board for admission of electors.]

17 Sec. 3. Section 9-31l of the general statutes is repealed and the  
18 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

19 (a) (1) A person who is denied admission as an elector may appeal a  
20 decision of an admitting official of a town, other than a registrar of  
21 voters, concerning the right of such person to be or remain an elector.  
22 Any such appeal shall be made to the registrars of voters of such town,  
23 [ except that if the admitting official who made such decision is a  
24 registrar of voters, the appeal shall be made to the board for admission  
25 of electors of such town.]

26 (2) Notice of an appeal shall be in writing and delivered to the  
27 registrars, [or to the board for admission of electors. Within] Not later  
28 than seven days after receipt of a notice of appeal, the registrars [or the  
29 board, as the case may be,] shall give written notice of the time and place  
30 where such appeal will be heard to the appellant and to the admitting  
31 official whose decision is the subject of the appeal. Such appeal shall be  
32 heard [within] not later than twenty-one days after notice of the appeal  
33 is delivered to the registrars, [or the board. Neither a registrar whose  
34 decision is the subject of the appeal nor a registrar who is an appellant  
35 shall be a voting member of the board which hears the appeal.]

36 (3) The registrars [or the board] may receive sworn testimony and any  
37 other evidence relating to the qualifications of such person to be or  
38 remain an elector.

39 (4) [Within] Not later than seven days after hearing an appeal, the  
40 registrars [or the board] shall render a decision and shall send written  
41 notice of the decision to the appellant and the admitting official whose  
42 decision was the subject of the appeal.

43 (b) (1) The person whose right to be or remain an elector is in dispute  
44 may appeal the decision of the registrars [or the board for the admission  
45 of electors] under subsection (a) of this section to the State Elections  
46 Enforcement Commission. If an appeal is not made to the commission  
47 as provided in this subsection, the decision of the registrars [or the

48 board] shall be final.

49 (2) Any such appeal shall be in writing and filed with the State  
50 Elections Enforcement Commission at its principal offices not later than  
51 fourteen days [following] after the decision of the registrars, [or the  
52 board.] A copy of any such notice of appeal shall also be delivered  
53 within such time to the registrars [or the board that] who rendered the  
54 decision under subsection (a) of this section.

55 (3) The registrars [or the board] shall, not later than ten days after  
56 receipt of a copy of the notice of appeal, deliver the record of the hearing  
57 of the registrars [or board] under subsection (a) of this section to the  
58 commission.

59 (4) The commission shall hear such appeal not later than twenty-one  
60 days after notice of appeal is filed with the commission. Such hearing  
61 shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-176e  
62 to 4-180a, inclusive, and section 4-181a. The commission may consider  
63 the record of the hearing delivered by the registrars [or the board] and  
64 may examine witnesses, documents and any other evidence that it  
65 determines may have a bearing on the proper determination of the  
66 issues brought on appeal. The commission's hearing shall be recorded.

67 (5) The commission shall render its decision not later than sixty days  
68 after the close of its hearing, except that an extension of time may be  
69 granted by the commission upon application of any party that sets forth  
70 circumstances that the commission determines is appropriate to  
71 granting an extension of time. The commission may also initiate an  
72 extension of time for rendering its decision, after written notice to the  
73 parties, provided all of the parties before the commission give their prior  
74 written consent.

75 (6) The decision of the commission shall determine the person's right  
76 to be or remain an elector. If any such decision is adverse to such  
77 individual's right, the commission shall order both registrars to remove  
78 the elector's name from the town's active and inactive registry list and

79 any enrollment list. Any person whose name has been so removed may  
80 reapply for admission as an elector with the registrars of voters of the  
81 same town at any time. If such application is made within four years  
82 after the commission's decision, both registrars may approve such  
83 application only after they find that there has been a substantial change  
84 in the circumstances that provided the basis for the commission's  
85 decision and that the individual is eligible to be an elector. Registrars  
86 who approve an individual's application for admission within this time  
87 period without a substantial change in circumstances may be subject to  
88 a civil penalty imposed by the commission in accordance with  
89 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b if the commission  
90 determines, following a written complaint filed with the commission  
91 pursuant to [said] section 9-7b, that the registrars' action was without  
92 good cause and constitutes a wilful violation of a prior order of the  
93 commission.

94 Sec. 4. Section 9-358 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

96 Any person who, upon oath or affirmation, legally administered,  
97 wilfully and corruptly testifies or affirms, before any registrar of voters,  
98 any moderator of any election, primary or referendum [, any board for  
99 admission of electors] or the State Elections Enforcement Commission,  
100 falsely, to any material fact concerning the identity, age, residence or  
101 other qualifications of any person whose right to be registered or  
102 admitted as an elector or to vote at any election, primary or referendum  
103 is being passed upon and decided, shall be guilty of a class D felony and  
104 shall be disfranchised.

105 Sec. 5. Section 9-362 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
106 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

107 The decision [of the board for admission of electors or] of the  
108 registrars or of a moderator, as to a person's right to be admitted to the  
109 elector's oath, to registration or to cast his vote, shall, in no case, be a bar  
110 to a criminal prosecution for procuring himself to be made an elector or

111 to be registered or for voting, without the qualifications required by law.

112 Sec. 6. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-35 of the general statutes  
113 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
114 *from passage*):

115 (a) The registrars, [on the Tuesday of the fifth week] before each  
116 regular election, shall [be in session for the purpose of completing]  
117 complete a correct list of all electors who will be entitled to vote at such  
118 election. Such registry list shall consist of an active registry list and an  
119 inactive registry list. [Such session shall be held during such hours  
120 between nine o'clock a.m. and five o'clock p.m. as the registrars find  
121 necessary to complete the list. Notice of such session shall be given at  
122 least five days before the session by publication in a newspaper having  
123 a circulation in such municipality, if any, and by posting on the signpost  
124 therein, if any, or at some other exterior place near the office of the town  
125 clerk. Such publication shall not be required to be in the form of a legal  
126 advertisement.]

127 (b) [At such session and on] On any day except on the day of an  
128 election or primary, the registrars shall remove from the list the name of  
129 each elector who has died, who has been disfranchised or who has  
130 confirmed in writing that the elector has moved out of the municipality,  
131 except electors entitled to remain on such list under the provisions of  
132 this chapter. An elector shall be deemed to have confirmed in writing  
133 that the elector has moved out of the municipality if (1) the elector has  
134 submitted a change of address form for purposes of a state motor vehicle  
135 operator's license, unless the elector states on the form that the change  
136 of address is not for voter registration purposes, (2) the elector has  
137 submitted a change of address form to a voter registration agency, as  
138 defined in section 9-23n, and such agency has provided such change of  
139 address to the registrars of voters, or (3) the registrars of voters have  
140 received a cancellation of previous registration from any other election  
141 official indicating that such elector has registered as an elector outside  
142 such municipality.

143 Sec. 7. Section 9-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
144 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

145 Immediately after the [close of the session or immediately after the]  
146 sending of notice of intended removal provided for in section 9-35, as  
147 amended by this act, the registrars of voters shall post at the town hall  
148 or municipal building in the municipality in which they serve, in a place  
149 readily accessible to the public, a list of the names of the electors whose  
150 names were removed from the registry list [at such session] or will be  
151 removed on the date specified in section 9-35, as amended by this act,  
152 together with the address of each such elector as it appeared on the  
153 registry list at the time the name was so removed. Together with such  
154 list, and as a part thereof, such registrars shall also cause to be posted a  
155 statement that complete information as to such removal and as to the  
156 privileges and remedies of those whose names were removed from the  
157 registry list is available from such registrars, specifying when and where  
158 such registrars are available for such purpose and, in the case of  
159 registrars of voters having office hours, specifying such office hours.

160 Sec. 8. Section 9-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
161 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

162 [The] For the purposes of section 9-234, the registrars of voters of each  
163 municipality shall print copies of the final registry list for distribution  
164 [in such municipality and] in all the voting districts located [therein]  
165 within such municipality. The registrars shall, upon request, produce  
166 for any candidate for election the final registry list for each voting  
167 district for which such person is a candidate and shall maintain such list,  
168 either on paper or in electronic format, for a period of two years.

169 Sec. 9. Section 9-172b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
170 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

171 (a) In each municipality or political subdivision in which a special  
172 election or referendum is to be held, the registrars of voters shall prepare  
173 an updated list of the names and addresses of those persons who

174 acquired voting privileges after the completion of the revised registry  
175 list and prior to the day of such special election or referendum. In each  
176 such municipality or political subdivision, not later than the day before  
177 such special election or referendum, such registrars [of voters] shall  
178 cause to be completed [and printed] such list arranged as provided in  
179 section 9-35, as amended by this act, and certified by [them] such  
180 registrars to be correct, and shall [retain] print a sufficient number of  
181 copies to be used by [them] such registrars at such special election or  
182 referendum for the [purpose of checking the names of those who vote]  
183 purposes of section 9-234, provided the names of any persons who  
184 acquired such voting privileges within thirty days before such special  
185 election or referendum may be inserted in writing on such printed list.  
186 [in writing.]

187 (b) In the case of a special election or referendum, no person admitted  
188 as an elector on the day of [the] such special election or referendum shall  
189 be entitled to vote in [that] such special election or referendum.

190 Sec. 10. Subsection (d) of section 9-192a of the general statutes is  
191 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
192 *passage*):

193 (d) The advisory committee shall also [(1)] develop a training  
194 program in election procedures for poll workers. [, and (2) develop an  
195 election law and procedures training program and guide for registrars,  
196 deputy registrars and assistant registrars. The training program  
197 developed under subdivision (2) of this subsection shall provide for  
198 training to be conducted by trained registrars or former registrars hired  
199 for such purpose by the Secretary of the State.] The committee shall  
200 submit such training [programs and training guide] program to the  
201 Secretary of the State, who shall approve or modify [the programs and  
202 guide] such program.

203 Sec. 11. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 9-192a of the  
204 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
205 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

206 (3) Once certified, pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, each  
207 registrar shall participate each year in not less than eight hours of  
208 training [, not including any training described under subdivision (2) of  
209 subsection (d) of this section,] in order to maintain such certification.  
210 Such training shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the State and  
211 shall be conducted by [said] the Secretary or a third party approved by  
212 [said] the Secretary to conduct such training. Any registrar who fails to  
213 satisfy such annual training requirement shall be directed by the  
214 Secretary of the State to take remedial measures prescribed by [said] the  
215 Secretary.

216 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 9-249 of the general statutes is  
217 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
218 *passage*):

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

225 Sec. 13. Section 9-233 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
226 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

227 Prior to each election, the registrars of voters of each town shall  
228 appoint, for each voting tabulator to be used at such election, at least  
229 one and not more than two electors of [such town as a voting tabulator  
230 tender] this state to be voting tabulator tenders, unless the registrars of  
231 voters have established two shifts for election officials under the  
232 provisions of section 9-258a, in which case the registrars shall appoint at  
233 least one and not more than two such electors to be voting tabulator  
234 tenders, for each voting tabulator, for each shift.

235 Sec. 14. Sections 9-15a and 9-192b of the general statutes are repealed.  
236 (*Effective from passage*)



237 Sec. 15. Subsection (b) of section 9-1 of the 2022 supplement to the  
238 general statutes is repealed. (Effective from passage)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-16
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-17a
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-311
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-358
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-362
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-35(a) and (b)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-35a
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-39
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-172b
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-192a(d)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-192a(a)(3)
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	9-249(b)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	9-233
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 3(b)(6), "said section 9-7b" was changed to "[said] section 9-7b" for consistency; and in Section 11, "said Secretary" was changed to "[said] the Secretary" for consistency.

**GAE** Joint Favorable Subst.