



House of Representatives

File No. 756

General Assembly

January Session, 2023 **(Reprint of File No. 350)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5004
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 8, 2023

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) (1) (A) Any eligible elector
2 may vote prior to the day of a regular election, in accordance with the
3 provisions of this section, during a period of early voting at each regular
4 election held on or after January 1, 2024.

5 (B) The period of early voting under subparagraph (A) of this
6 subdivision shall (i) notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2 of the
7 general statutes, commence on the fifteenth day prior to and conclude
8 on the second day prior to such regular election, and (ii) consist of such
9 days between and inclusive of such commencement and conclusion,
10 except any legal holiday designated, appointed or recommended under
11 section 1-4 of the general statutes, and at such times as provided in
12 subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-174 of the general statutes,
13 as amended by this act.

14 (2) (A) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection,
15 any eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a primary, other than a
16 presidential preference primary, in accordance with the provisions of
17 this section, during a period of early voting at each primary, other than
18 a presidential preference primary, held on or after January 1, 2024.

19 (B) The period of early voting under subparagraph (A) of this
20 subdivision shall (i) notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2 of the
21 general statutes, commence on the eighth day prior to and conclude on
22 the second day prior to such primary, other than a presidential
23 preference primary, and (ii) consist of such days between and inclusive
24 of such commencement and conclusion, except any legal holiday
25 designated, appointed or recommended under section 1-4 of the general
26 statutes, and at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection
27 (c) of section 9-174 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

28 (3) (A) Any eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a special
29 election, in accordance with the provisions of this section, during a
30 period of early voting at each special election held on or after January 1,
31 2024.

32 (B) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection, any
33 eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a presidential preference
34 primary, in accordance with the provisions of this section, during a
35 period of early voting at each presidential preference primary held on
36 or after January 1, 2024.

37 (C) The period of early voting under subparagraph (A) or (B) of this
38 subdivision shall (i) notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2 of the
39 general statutes, commence on the fifth day prior to and conclude on the
40 second day prior to such special election or such presidential preference
41 primary, except that such commencing and concluding days shall be
42 adjusted to exclude from such period March 31, 2024, and any legal
43 holiday designated, appointed or recommended under section 1-4 of the
44 general statutes, and (ii) consist of four total days between and inclusive
45 of such commencement and conclusion, as may be adjusted pursuant to

46 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, and at such times as provided in
47 subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 9-174 of the general statutes,
48 as amended by this act.

49 (4) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 9-19e, 9-23a, 9-26,
50 9-31a, 9-55, as amended by this act, 9-56 and 9-57 of the general statutes:

51 (i) In the case of an unaffiliated elector who wishes to vote during the
52 period of early voting at a primary, such elector shall be eligible to so
53 vote if such elector's application for enrollment with the political party
54 holding such primary is filed with the registrars of voters by twelve
55 o'clock noon on the business day immediately preceding the day on
56 which such period of early voting commences.

57 (ii) In the case of a person who is not admitted as an elector and who
58 wishes to vote during the period of early voting at a primary, such
59 person shall be eligible to so vote if such person's application for
60 admission as an elector and enrollment with the political party holding
61 such primary is filed with the registrars of voters by twelve o'clock noon
62 on the business day immediately preceding the day during such period
63 of early voting on which such person offers to vote at such primary.

64 (B) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an individual
65 who enrolls in a political party during a period of early voting at a
66 primary from voting by absentee ballot, if eligible, or in person on the
67 day of such primary.

68 (b) (1) The registrars of voters of each municipality shall designate a
69 location for the conduct of early voting, which location shall be the same
70 for the duration of the period of early voting except as otherwise
71 specified in this subdivision, provided (A) the registrars of voters have
72 access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such
73 location, and (B) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of
74 the State not later than one hundred twenty days prior to the day of a
75 regular election or a primary, other than a presidential preference
76 primary, or not later than twenty days prior to the day of a special
77 election or a presidential preference primary. The written certification

78 under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall provide (i) the name,
79 street address and relevant contact information associated with such
80 location, (ii) the number of election or primary officials to be appointed
81 by the registrars of voters to serve at such location and the roles of such
82 officials, and (iii) a description of the design of such location and a plan
83 for effective conduct of such early voting. The Secretary shall approve
84 or disapprove such written certification not later than ninety days prior
85 to the day of a regular election or a primary, other than a presidential
86 preference primary, or not later than fifteen days prior to the day of a
87 special election or a presidential preference primary. If the Secretary
88 disapproves such certification, the Secretary shall provide, in writing,
89 the reasons for such disapproval and shall issue an order for such
90 corrective action as the Secretary deems necessary, including, but not
91 limited to, the appointment of additional election or primary officials or
92 the alteration of such design or plan. After having received approval of
93 such certification or having complied with any order for corrective
94 action to the Secretary's satisfaction, as applicable, the registrars of
95 voters shall determine the site of such location designated for the
96 conduct of early voting at least thirty-one days prior to a regular election
97 or a primary, other than a presidential preference primary, or at least
98 eleven days prior to a special election or a presidential preference
99 primary. Such location shall not be changed within such period, except,
100 if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters unanimously find that
101 such location has been rendered unusable within such period, such clerk
102 and registrars shall forthwith designate another location for the conduct
103 of early voting to be used in place of the location so rendered unusable
104 and shall give adequate notice that such location has been so changed.
105 The provisions of sections 9-168d and 9-168e of the general statutes shall
106 apply to such location designated for the conduct of early voting.

107 (2) In any municipality with a population of at least twenty thousand,
108 the legislative body may hold a public hearing on whether to designate
109 any additional location in such municipality for the conduct of early
110 voting, which public hearing, if any, shall be held not later than fifteen
111 days prior to the time for designating any such location set forth in

112 subdivision (1) of this subsection. Any legislative body holding such a
113 public hearing shall properly notice such public hearing not later than
114 ten days prior to such public hearing in a newspaper having general
115 circulation in such municipality and on the Internet web site of the
116 municipality. For any such municipality in which such a public hearing
117 was not held, the legislative body thereof shall determine whether to
118 designate any such additional location and shall notify the Secretary of
119 the State with a detailed explanation for such determination. For any
120 municipality in which such a public hearing was held, not later than
121 three days after the conclusion of such public hearing, the legislative
122 body thereof shall determine whether to designate any such additional
123 location and shall notify the Secretary with a detailed explanation for
124 such determination. If the legislative body determines that any such
125 additional location be designated, the registrars of voters shall so
126 designate such additional location and the provisions of subdivision (1)
127 of this subsection shall apply to such additional location. The Secretary
128 shall take no action on any detailed explanation submitted under this
129 subdivision with regard to the number of additional locations
130 designated in such a municipality, and shall preserve each such detailed
131 explanation as a public record open to public inspection. For the
132 purposes of this subdivision, "population" means the estimated number
133 of people according to the most recent version of the State Register and
134 Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90 of the general statutes.

135 (3) At each location designated for the conduct of early voting, the
136 registrars of voters shall provide to prospective electors during the early
137 voting period the opportunity to apply for same-day election
138 registration, in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 9-19j
139 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for such application and
140 for the completion and processing of any such application.

141 (4) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on which early
142 voting is conducted, a moderator and such other election or primary
143 officials to serve at each location designated for such conduct. The
144 moderator so appointed shall perform any duty required, and may
145 exercise any power authorized, under title 9 of the general statutes

146 related to such location. The registrars of voters may delegate to each
147 other election or primary official so appointed any of the responsibilities
148 assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall
149 supervise each such official and train each such official to be an early
150 voting election or primary official.

151 (c) Any elector who wishes to vote during a period of early voting at
152 an election or primary, and is eligible to so vote at such election or
153 primary, shall (1) appear in person at such times as provided in
154 subsection (c) of section 9-174 of the general statutes, as amended by this
155 act, at the location designated by the registrars of voters for early voting,
156 (2) identify such elector as required by subsection (a) of section 9-261 of
157 the general statutes, and (3) declare under oath that such elector has not
158 previously voted in such election or primary, as provided in subsection
159 (e) of this section.

160 (d) If the registrars of voters determine that an elector is eligible to
161 vote in the election or primary, the registrars of voters shall check the
162 state-wide centralized voter registration system before allowing such
163 elector to cast an early voting ballot as provided in subsection (e) of this
164 section.

165 (1) If the registrars of voters determine that the elector has not already
166 voted, or if there is no report that the elector has already voted, the
167 registrars shall allow such elector to vote.

168 (2) If the registrars of voters believe that the elector may have already
169 voted, such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters. After
170 completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter cannot be made
171 and such elector claims to have neither in fact voted nor offered to vote
172 in person or by absentee ballot, such elector may request a challenged
173 ballot in accordance with section 9-232d of the general statutes and may
174 cast such challenged ballot in accordance with section 9-232e of the
175 general statutes. Such matter shall be reported to the State Elections
176 Enforcement Commission, which shall conduct an investigation of the
177 matter. The provisions of section 9-232f of the general statutes shall

178 apply to any challenged ballot cast under this subdivision.

179 (e) If the elector is allowed to vote, the registrars of voters shall
180 provide such elector with an early voting ballot and early voting
181 envelope and shall make a record of such issuance. The elector shall
182 complete an affirmation printed upon the back of the early voting
183 envelope and shall declare under oath that the voter has not previously
184 voted in the election or primary. The affirmation shall be in the form
185 substantially as follows and signed by the voter:

186 AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty
187 of false statement (perjury), that:

188 1. I am the elector appearing in person to vote at an election or
189 primary prior to the day of such election or primary.

190 2. I am eligible to vote in the election or primary indicated for today.

191 3. I have identified myself to the satisfaction of the registrars of voters.

192 4. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote
193 otherwise than by this ballot at this election or primary.

194 5. I have received an early voting ballot for the purpose of so voting.

195 (Signature of voter)

196 (f) The elector shall forthwith mark the early voting ballot in the
197 presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars
198 of voters shall not know how the early voting ballot is marked. The
199 elector shall place the early voting ballot in the early voting ballot
200 envelope provided and deposit such envelope in a secured early voting
201 ballot depository receptacle. At the conclusion of each day during the
202 early voting period, the registrars of voters shall transport such
203 receptacle containing such day's early voting ballots to the municipal
204 clerk, who shall retain and securely store such ballots in as near a
205 manner as possible to that for the retention and secure storage of
206 absentee ballots, as provided in subsection (g) of this section, except

207 that, if such manner is not practicable, then such early voting ballots
208 shall be retained and securely stored as provided in an alternate plan
209 submitted by the registrars of voters to the Secretary of the State and
210 approved by the Secretary. On the day of the election or primary, the
211 early voting ballots shall be delivered to the registrars of voters for the
212 purpose of counting such ballots. A section of the head moderator's
213 return shall show the number of early voting ballots received from
214 electors. The registrars of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for
215 early voting ballots in a depository envelope with the early voting
216 ballots and store such early voting depository envelope with the other
217 election or primary results materials. The early voting depository
218 envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the period of
219 time required to preserve counted ballots for elections or primaries.

220 (g) Except as provided in section 2 of this act, the provisions of title 9
221 of the general statutes and any regulation adopted under said title
222 concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of
223 absentee ballots shall apply, as nearly as possible, to the custody, control
224 and counting of early voting ballots under this section.

225 (h) (1) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any
226 candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being
227 submitted at the election or primary, or loiter or peddle or offer any
228 advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius
229 of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any
230 location designated by the registrars of voters for early voting or in any
231 corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside
232 entrance to any such location or in any room opening upon any such
233 corridor, passageway or approach.

234 (2) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party
235 employee or volunteer, may be within such radius of seventy-five feet
236 (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such person's official
237 duties or to the conduct of government business within such radius, (B)
238 only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or conduct such
239 business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in any conduct

240 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

241 (i) The provisions of subsections (a) to (h), inclusive, of this section
242 shall not apply to any primary held for the purpose of choosing town
243 committee members.

244 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Early voting ballots received
245 by the municipal clerk prior to the day of an election or primary, and
246 same-day election registration ballots received by the municipal clerk
247 prior to the day of a regular election, shall be delivered by the municipal
248 clerk to the registrars between six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on
249 the day of the election or primary.

250 (b) The ballot counters for such early voting ballots and same-day
251 election registration ballots shall proceed to the central counting
252 location or to the respective polling places when counting is to take
253 place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a of the general statutes
254 at the time, between six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on the day of
255 the election or primary, designated by the registrars of voters. At the
256 time such ballots are delivered to the ballot counters pursuant to
257 subsection (a) of this section, the ballot counters shall perform any
258 checking of such ballots and proceed, as nearly as possible, as provided
259 in section 9-150a of the general statutes.

260 Sec. 3. Section 9-174 of the general statutes is repealed and the
261 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

262 (a) Notwithstanding [the provisions of any general statute,] any
263 provision of the general statutes or any special act or municipal charter,
264 at any regular election, or at any special election held to fill a vacancy in
265 a state, district or municipal office, the polls on the day of such election
266 shall remain open for voting from six o'clock a.m. until eight o'clock p.m.
267 No elector shall be permitted to cast such elector's vote after the hour
268 prescribed for the closing of the polls in any election unless such elector
269 is in line at eight o'clock p.m. An election official or a police officer of the
270 municipality, who is designated by the moderator, shall be placed at the
271 end of the line at eight o'clock p.m. Such official or officer shall not allow

272 any electors who were not in such line at eight o'clock p.m. to enter such
273 line.

274 (b) Notwithstanding [the provisions of any general statute,] any
275 provision of the general statutes or any special act or municipal charter,
276 at any regular election, each location designated for [election day] same-
277 day election registration pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-19j, as
278 amended by this act, shall, on election day, as defined in said section,
279 remain open for [election day] registration and voting from six o'clock
280 a.m. until eight o'clock p.m. No applicant for [election day] same-day
281 election registration shall be admitted as an elector or permitted to cast
282 such applicant's vote after the hour prescribed for the closing of the
283 location designated for such purposes [in any regular] on election day
284 unless such applicant is in line at eight o'clock p.m. An election official
285 or a police officer of the municipality, who is appointed by the registrars
286 of voters, shall be placed at the end of the line at eight o'clock p.m. Such
287 official or officer shall not allow any applicants who were not in such
288 line at eight o'clock p.m. to enter such line.

289 (c) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
290 special act or municipal charter, at any regular election and any primary,
291 other than a presidential preference primary, held on or after January 1,
292 2024, each location designated for the conduct of early voting pursuant
293 to subsection (b) of section 1 of this act or for same-day election
294 registration pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-19j, as amended by
295 this act, shall, during the early voting period, remain open from ten
296 o'clock a.m. to six o'clock p.m., except that such location shall remain
297 open from eight o'clock a.m. to eight o'clock p.m. on the last Tuesday
298 and Thursday prior to the election or primary.

299 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
300 special act or municipal charter, at any special election and any
301 presidential preference primary held on or after January 1, 2024, each
302 location designated for the conduct of early voting pursuant to
303 subsection (b) of section 1 of this act shall, during the early voting
304 period, remain open from ten o'clock a.m. to six o'clock p.m.

305 (3) No voter shall be permitted to cast such voter's vote after the hour
306 prescribed for the closing of the location designated for early voting at
307 any election or primary under subdivision (1) or subdivision (2) of this
308 subsection unless such voter is in line at such prescribed hour. An
309 election or primary official or a police officer of the municipality, who is
310 appointed by the registrars of voters, shall be placed at the end of the
311 line at such prescribed hour. Such official or officer shall not allow any
312 voters who were not in such line at such prescribed hour to enter such
313 line.

314 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-174a of the general statutes is
315 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
316 *2023*):

317 (a) For each municipality, the registrars of voters, in consultation with
318 the municipal clerk, shall create an emergency contingency plan for
319 elections, primaries and referenda to be held within such municipality,
320 including the conduct of early voting, as provided in section 1 of this
321 act, at such elections and primaries held on or after January 1, 2024. Such
322 plan shall include, but not be limited to, (1) solutions for ballot or
323 envelope shortages, and (2) strategies to implement in the event of (A) a
324 shortage or absence of [poll workers] election or primary officials at the
325 polling place or the location designated for early voting, as applicable,
326 (B) a loss of power, (C) a fire or the sounding of an alarm within a polling
327 place or a location designated for early voting, (D) voting machine
328 malfunctions, (E) a weather or other natural disaster, (F) the need to
329 remove [a poll worker or moderator] an election or primary official and
330 to replace such [worker or moderator] official, and (G) disorder in and
331 around the polling place or the location designated for early voting.

332 Sec. 5. Section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed and the
333 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

334 (a) As used in [this subsection and subsections (b) to (i), inclusive, of]
335 this section: [, "election day"]

336 (1) "Election day" means the day on which a regular election, as

337 defined in section 9-1, as amended by this act, is held; and

338 (2) "Same-day election registration" means admission as an elector
339 during the period of early voting at a regular election, as provided in
340 section 1 of this act, or on election day.

341 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, a person who (1)
342 is (A) not an elector, or (B) an elector registered in a municipality who
343 wishes to change such elector's registration to another municipality
344 pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this
345 section, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a)
346 of section 9-12, may apply for [admission as an elector on election day]
347 same-day election registration pursuant to the provisions [of
348 subsections (a) to (i), inclusive,] of this section.

349 (c) (1) The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the
350 completion and processing of [election day registration applications on
351 election day] same-day election registrations on election day, provided
352 (A) the registrars of voters [shall] have access to the state-wide
353 centralized voter registration system from such location, and (B) such
354 location [shall be] is certified in writing to the Secretary of the State not
355 later than [thirty-one] forty-five days before election day. The written
356 certification under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall (i) include
357 the name, street address and relevant contact information associated
358 with such location, (ii) list the name and address of each election official
359 who shall be appointed by the registrars of voters to serve at such
360 location, if any, and (iii) provide a description of the design of such
361 location and a plan for effective completion and processing of such
362 applications. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written
363 certification not later than [fifteen] twenty-nine days before election day
364 and may require the registrars of voters to appoint one or more
365 additional election officials or alter such design or plan.

366 (2) The [registrars of voters] legislative body of the municipality may
367 apply to the Secretary of the State not later than [sixty] seventy-four
368 days before election day, in a form and manner prescribed by the

369 Secretary, to designate any additional location for the completion and
370 processing of [election day] same-day election registration applications
371 on election day. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such
372 application not later than [forty-five] fifty-nine days before election day.
373 If the Secretary approves such application, the registrars of voters may
374 so designate any such additional location. The provisions of subdivision
375 (1) of this subsection shall apply to any such additional location.

376 (3) The registrars of voters may delegate to each election official
377 appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection [, if any,] any
378 of the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars
379 of voters shall supervise each such election official and train each such
380 [election] official to be [an election day registration election] a same-day
381 election official.

382 (d) Any person applying [to register on election day] for same-day
383 election registration under the provisions [of subsections (a) to (i),
384 inclusive,] of this section shall make application in accordance with the
385 provisions of section 9-20, provided (1) (A) on election day, the applicant
386 shall appear in person not later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance
387 with subsection (b) of section 9-174, as amended by this act, at the
388 location designated by the registrars of voters for [election day
389 registration] same-day election registration, and (B) during the period
390 of early voting prior to election day, the applicant shall appear in person
391 at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section
392 9-174, as amended by this act, at such location, (2) an applicant who is a
393 student enrolled at an institution of higher education may submit a
394 current photo identification card issued by such institution in lieu of the
395 identification required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall
396 declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the
397 election, as provided in subsection (f) of this section. If the information
398 that the applicant is required to provide under section 9-20 and
399 [subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of] this section does not include proof
400 of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall also submit
401 identification that shows the applicant's bona fide residence address,
402 including, but not limited to, a learner's permit issued under section 14-

403 36 or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and current address and
404 that has a due date that is not later than thirty days after the election or,
405 in the case of a student enrolled at an institution of higher education, a
406 registration or fee statement from such institution that has the
407 applicant's name and current address.

408 (e) If the registrars of voters determine that an applicant satisfies the
409 application requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the
410 registrars of voters shall check the state-wide centralized voter
411 registration system before admitting such applicant as an elector.

412 (1) If the registrars of voters determine that the applicant is not
413 already an elector, the registrars of voters shall admit the applicant as
414 an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

415 (2) If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an
416 elector in another municipality and such applicant [states that he or she]
417 wants to change the municipality in which the applicant is an elector,
418 notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters
419 of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register shall
420 immediately notify the registrars of voters in such other municipality
421 that such elector is changing the municipality in which the applicant is
422 an elector. The registrars of voters in such other municipality shall notify
423 the election officials in such municipality to remove such elector from
424 the official voter list of such municipality. Such election officials shall
425 cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and mark "off"
426 next to such elector's name on such official voter list.

427 (A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other
428 municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall
429 immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which
430 such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not
431 receive [an election day] a same-day election registration ballot from the
432 registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks
433 to register. For any such elector, the [election day] same-day election
434 registration process shall cease in the municipality in which such elector

435 now seeks to register and such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars
436 of voters in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register.
437 After completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter [can not]
438 cannot be made, such matter shall be reported to the State Elections
439 Enforcement Commission which shall conduct an investigation of the
440 matter.

441 (B) If there is no such report that such applicant already voted in the
442 other municipality, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which
443 the applicant seeks to register shall admit the applicant as an elector and
444 the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

445 (f) If the applicant is admitted as an elector, the registrars of voters
446 shall provide the elector with [an election day] a same-day election
447 registration ballot and [election day] same-day election registration
448 envelope and shall make a record of such issuance. The elector shall
449 complete an affirmation imprinted upon the back of the same-day
450 election registration envelope [for an election day registration ballot]
451 and shall declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted
452 in the election. The affirmation shall be in the form substantially as
453 follows and signed by the voter:

454 AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty
455 of false statement, (perjury) that:

456 1. I am the person admitted here as an elector in the town indicated.

457 2. I am eligible to vote in the election indicated for today in the town
458 indicated.

459 3. The information on my voter registration card is correct and
460 complete.

461 4. I reside at the address that I have given to the registrars of voters.

462 5. If previously registered at another location, I have provided such
463 address to the registrars of voters and hereby request cancellation of
464 such prior registration.

465 6. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote
466 otherwise than by this ballot at this election.

467 7. I completed an application for [an election day] a same-day election
468 registration ballot and received [an election day] a same-day election
469 registration ballot.

470 (Signature of voter)

471 (g) The elector shall forthwith mark the [election day] same-day
472 election registration ballot in the presence of the registrars of voters in
473 such a manner that the registrars of voters shall not know how the
474 [election day] same-day election registration ballot is marked. The
475 elector shall place the [election day] same-day election registration
476 ballot in the [election day] same-day election registration ballot
477 envelope provided, and deposit such envelope in a secured [election
478 day] same-day election registration ballot depository receptacle. At the
479 conclusion of each day during the early voting period, the registrars of
480 voters shall transport such receptacle containing such day's same-day
481 election registration ballots to the municipal clerk, who shall retain and
482 securely store such ballots in as near a manner as possible to that for the
483 retention and secure storage of absentee ballots, as provided in
484 subsection (h) of this section, except that, if such manner is not
485 practicable, such same-day election registration ballots shall be retained
486 and securely stored as provided in an alternate plan submitted by the
487 registrars of voters to the Secretary of the State and approved by the
488 Secretary. On election day, the previously retained and securely stored
489 same-day election registration ballots shall be delivered to the registrars
490 of voters and, at the time designated by the registrars of voters and
491 noticed to election officials, the registrars of voters shall transport such
492 receptacle containing the [election day] same-day election registration
493 ballots received on such election day to the central location or polling
494 place, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, where absentee
495 ballots are counted and such [election day] same-day election
496 registration ballots shall be counted by the election officials present at
497 such central location or polling place. A section of the head moderator's

498 return shall show the number of [election day] same-day election
499 registration ballots received from electors. The registrars of voters shall
500 seal a copy of the vote tally for [election day] same-day election
501 registration ballots in a depository envelope with the [election day]
502 same-day election registration ballots and store such [election day]
503 same-day election registration depository envelope with the other
504 election results materials. The [election day] same-day election
505 registration depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of
506 voters for the period of time required to preserve counted ballots for
507 elections.

508 (h) [The] Except as provided in section 2 of this act, the provisions of
509 [the general statutes and regulations] title 9 and any regulation adopted
510 under said title concerning procedures relating to the custody, control
511 and counting of absentee ballots shall apply, as nearly as possible, to the
512 custody, control and counting of [election day] same-day election
513 registration ballots under [subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of] this
514 section.

515 (i) After the acceptance of [an election day] a same-day election
516 registration, the registrars of voters shall forthwith send a registration
517 confirmation notice to the residential address of each applicant who [is]
518 was admitted as an elector on election day [under subsections (a) to (i),
519 inclusive, of] or during the period of early voting prior to election day
520 under this section. Such confirmation shall be sent by first class mail
521 with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable
522 at the address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation notice is
523 returned undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the necessary
524 action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable,
525 notwithstanding the May first deadline in section 9-35.

526 (j) (1) No person shall solicit [in] on behalf of or in opposition to [the
527 candidacy of another or himself or herself or in] any candidate or on
528 behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the
529 election, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or
530 circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any

531 outside entrance in use as an entry to any location designated by the
532 registrars of voters for [election day] same-day election registration
533 balloting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from
534 any such outside entrance to any such location or in any room opening
535 upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

536 (2) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party
537 employee or volunteer, may be within such radius of seventy-five feet
538 (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such person's official
539 duties or to the conduct of government business within such radius, (B)
540 only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or conduct such
541 business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in any conduct
542 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

543 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-225 of the general statutes is
544 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
545 *2023*):

546 (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
547 town clerk or assistant town clerk of each town shall warn the electors
548 therein to meet on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November
549 in the even-numbered years, at six o'clock a.m., which warning shall be
550 given by publication (A) in a newspaper having a general circulation in
551 such town, or towns in the case of a joint publication under subsection
552 (b) of this section, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous
553 to [holding] the commencement of the period of early voting at such
554 election, and (B) on such town's Internet web site, not more than fifteen
555 nor less than five days previous to [holding] the commencement of the
556 period of early voting at such election. The clerk in each town shall, in
557 the warning for such election, give notice of (i) the time and the location
558 of each polling place in the town, (ii) in towns divided into voting
559 districts, the time and the location of each polling place in each district,
560 [and] (iii) the time and the [location] site of each location designated for
561 [election day] same-day election registration in the town, and (iv) the
562 time and the site of each location designated for the conduct of early
563 voting, at which such election will be held. The town clerk shall record

564 each such warning.

565 (2) For the state election in 2020, and any election held pursuant to
566 section 9-211, 9-212, 9-215 or 9-218 on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to
567 November 3, 2021, the warning under subsection (a) of this section shall
568 be given not more than seven nor less than four days previous to
569 holding such election.

570 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-226 of the general statutes is
571 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
572 *2023*):

573 (a) The warning of each municipal election shall specify the objects
574 for which such election is to be held. Except as provided in subsection
575 (b) of this section, notice of a town election shall be given by the town
576 clerk or assistant town clerk, by publishing a warning (1) in a newspaper
577 published in such town or having a general circulation therein, such
578 publication to be not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous
579 to [holding] the commencement of the period of early voting at the
580 election, and (2) on such town's Internet web site, such publication to be
581 not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to [holding] the
582 commencement of the period of early voting at the election. The town
583 clerk in each town shall, in the warning for such election, give notice of
584 (A) the time and the location of each polling place in the town, (B) in
585 towns divided into voting districts, the time and the location of each
586 polling place in each district, [and] (C) the time and the [location] site of
587 each location designated for [election day] same-day election
588 registration, and (D) the time and the site of each location designated for
589 the conduct of early voting, in the town. The town clerk shall record
590 each such warning. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,
591 notice of an election of a city or borough shall be given by publishing a
592 warning (i) in a newspaper published within the limits of such city or
593 borough or having a general circulation therein, not more than fifteen
594 nor less than five days previous to [holding] the commencement of the
595 period of early voting at the election, and (ii) on the Internet web site of
596 such city or borough, or the town having such city or borough within

597 such town's limits, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous
598 to [holding] the commencement of the period of early voting at the
599 election, which warning shall include notice of (I) the time and the
600 location of each polling place in such city or borough, (II) in cities and
601 boroughs divided into voting districts, the time and the location of each
602 polling place in each district, [and] (III) the time and the [location] site
603 of each location designated for [election day registration] same-day
604 election registration in such city or borough, and (IV) the time and the
605 site of each location designated for the conduct of early voting in such
606 city or borough.

607 Sec. 8. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 9-255a of the general
608 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
609 (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

610 (a) The registrars of voters and municipal clerk from each
611 municipality shall jointly certify, in writing, to the Secretary of the State
612 the number of ballots for each polling place in the municipality that have
613 been ordered for each election or primary to be held within such
614 municipality. Such registrars and clerk shall also so certify the number
615 of ballots for each location designated for the conduct of early voting in
616 the municipality that have been ordered for each election or primary
617 held on or after January 1, 2024. Such certification shall be on a form
618 provided by the Secretary that shall have questions, including, but not
619 limited to, those pertaining to the historical turnout for each such
620 polling place or location, as applicable, in the municipality for the past
621 four elections or primaries of similar nature to the election or primary
622 to be held. The registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall include as
623 part of any such certification any other relevant factors that may be
624 unique to each such polling place or location in their municipality. Such
625 certification shall be provided to the Secretary not later than thirty-one
626 days prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at an
627 election or twenty-one days prior to the commencement of the period of
628 early voting at a primary.

629 (b) If the registrars of voters and municipal clerk of a municipality do

630 not jointly submit the certification as set forth in subsection (a) of this
631 section, such registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall order a
632 number of ballots equal to the total number of registered voters in their
633 municipality for such election or primary.

634 (c) The registrars of voters and municipal clerk may jointly apply to
635 the Secretary of the State for a waiver of the requirements of subsections
636 (a) and (b) of this section. Such waiver request shall be submitted to the
637 Secretary of the State, in writing, not later than the forty-fifth day before
638 the commencement of the period of early voting at the election or the
639 thirtieth day before the commencement of the period of early voting at
640 the primary to be held and shall demonstrate good cause for such
641 waiver. Not later than five days after receipt of such waiver request, the
642 Secretary shall notify, in writing, the municipal clerk requesting a
643 waiver, of the Secretary's response.

644 Sec. 9. Section 9-373a of the general statutes is repealed and the
645 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

646 Any person desiring to be a write-in candidate for any state, district
647 or municipal office to be filled at any regular election shall register his
648 candidacy with the Secretary of the State on a form prescribed by the
649 Secretary. The registration shall include the candidate's name and
650 address, the designation and term of the office sought, a statement of
651 consent to the candidacy, and any other information which the Secretary
652 deems necessary. In the case of a write-in candidacy for the office of
653 Governor or Lieutenant Governor, the registration shall include a
654 candidate for each of those offices, or shall be void. The registration shall
655 not include a designation of any political party. The registration shall be
656 filed with the Secretary not more than ninety days prior to the election
657 at which the office is to be filled and not later than four o'clock p.m. on
658 the fourteenth day preceding the commencement of the period of early
659 voting at the election, or the registration shall be void. No person
660 nominated for an office by a major or minor party or by nominating
661 petition shall register as a write-in candidate for that office under the
662 provisions of this section, and any registration of a write-in candidacy

663 filed by such a person shall be void. Notwithstanding any provision of
664 this section to the contrary, any person desiring to be a write-in
665 candidate for the municipal office of town meeting member in any town
666 having a representative town meeting which has seventy-five or more
667 members shall register his candidacy with the town clerk of such town
668 not later than the last business day preceding the commencement of the
669 period of early voting at such election. A person may register as a write-
670 in candidate for a district or municipal office if such person's name
671 appears on the last-completed registry list of the district or municipality
672 represented by such office, as the case may be. A person may register as
673 a write-in candidate for a state office if such person's name appears on
674 the last-completed registry list of the state.

675 Sec. 10. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-224b of the general statutes
676 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
677 *January 1, 2024*):

678 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, in order to be
679 a valid write-in candidate in a special election called to fill a vacancy in
680 a state, district or municipal office, a person shall register with the
681 Secretary of the State not earlier than ninety days before such election
682 and not later than the end of the business day on the fourteenth day
683 preceding the commencement of the period of early voting at such
684 election.

685 (b) In order to be a valid write-in candidate in a special election called
686 to fill a vacancy in the municipal office of town meeting member in any
687 town having a representative town meeting which has seventy-five or
688 more members, a person shall register with the town clerk of such town
689 not earlier than ninety days preceding such election and not later than
690 the last business day preceding the commencement of the period of
691 early voting at the election.

692 Sec. 11. Section 9-329b of the general statutes is repealed and the
693 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

694 (a) At any time prior to a primary held before January 1, 2024, and

695 pursuant to sections 9-423, 9-425 and 9-464, or a special act, or prior to
696 any election held before January 1, 2024, the Superior Court may issue
697 an order removing a candidate from a ballot where it is shown that
698 [said] such candidate is improperly on the ballot.

699 (b) At any time prior to the commencement of the period of early
700 voting at a primary held on or after January 1, 2024, and pursuant to
701 sections 9-423, 9-425 and 9-464, or a special act, or prior to the
702 commencement of the period of early voting at any election held on or
703 after January 1, 2024, the Superior Court may issue an order removing
704 a candidate from a ballot where it is shown that such candidate is
705 improperly on the ballot.

706 Sec. 12. Section 9-460 of the general statutes is repealed and the
707 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

708 If any party has nominated a candidate for office, or, on and after
709 November 4, 1981, if a candidate has qualified to appear on any ballot
710 by nominating petition under a reserved party designation, in
711 accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and such nominee
712 thereafter, but prior to forty-six days before the opening of the polls on
713 the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, dies,
714 withdraws such nominee's name or for any reason becomes disqualified
715 to hold the office for which such nominee has been nominated (1) such
716 party or, on and after November 4, 1981, the party designation
717 committee may make a nomination to fill such vacancy or provide for
718 the making of such nomination as its rules prescribe, and (2) if another
719 party that is qualified to nominate a candidate for such office does not
720 have a nominee for such office, such party may also nominate a
721 candidate for such office as its rules prescribe. No withdrawal, and no
722 nomination to replace a candidate who has withdrawn, under this
723 section shall be valid unless the candidate who has withdrawn has filed
724 a letter of withdrawal signed by such candidate with the Secretary of the
725 State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator
726 or state representative from any district, or with the municipal clerk in
727 the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state

728 representative. A copy of such candidate's letter of withdrawal to the
729 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. No
730 nomination to fill a vacancy under this section shall be valid unless it is
731 certified to the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office
732 or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or
733 to the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state
734 senator or state representative, by the organization or committee
735 making such nomination, at least forty-two days before the opening of
736 the polls on the day of the election, except as otherwise provided by this
737 section. If a nominee dies within forty-six days before the election, but
738 prior to twenty-four hours before the [opening of the polls on the day
739 of] commencement of the period of early voting at the election for which
740 such nomination has been made, the vacancy may be filled in the
741 manner prescribed in this section by two o'clock p.m. of the day before
742 the [election] first day of such period of early voting with the municipal
743 clerk or the Secretary of the State, as the case may be. If a nominee dies
744 within twenty-four hours before the [opening of the polls]
745 commencement of the period of early voting at the election and prior to
746 the close of the polls on the day of the election for which such
747 nomination has been made, such nominee shall not be replaced and the
748 votes cast for such nominee shall be canvassed and counted, and if such
749 nominee receives a plurality of the votes cast, a vacancy shall exist in the
750 office for which the nomination was made. The vacancy shall then be
751 filled in a manner prescribed by law. A copy of such certification to the
752 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. Such
753 nomination to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification shall
754 include a statement setting forth the reason for such vacancy. If at the
755 time such nomination is certified to the Secretary of the State or to the
756 municipal clerk, as the case may be, the ballots have already been
757 printed, the Secretary of the State shall direct the municipal clerk in each
758 municipality affected to (A) have the ballots reprinted with the
759 nomination thus made included thereon, (B) cause printed stickers to be
760 affixed to the ballots so that the name of any candidate who has died,
761 withdrawn or been disqualified is deleted and the name of any
762 candidate chosen to fill such vacancy appears in the same position as

763 that in which the vacated candidacy appeared, or (C) cause blank
764 stickers to be so affixed if the vacancy is not filled.

765 Sec. 13. Section 9-426 of the general statutes is repealed and the
766 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

767 (a) If only one candidacy has been filed by a person other than a
768 party-endorsed candidate for the nomination by a political party to a
769 particular office and the candidate whose candidacy has been so filed
770 thereafter, but prior to the [opening of the polls] commencement of the
771 period of early voting at such primary, dies, withdraws his name from
772 nomination or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for
773 which he is a candidate, no primary shall be held for the nomination of
774 such party to that office and the party-endorsed candidate for such
775 office shall be deemed to have been lawfully chosen in the same manner
776 and to the same extent as is provided in sections 9-382 to 9-450,
777 inclusive, in the case where no candidacy other than a party-endorsed
778 candidacy has been filed.

779 (b) If candidacies have been filed by only one group of persons other
780 than party-endorsed candidates for election to a town committee, and
781 the candidates whose candidacies have been so filed thereafter, but
782 prior to the opening of the polls at such primary, die, withdraw their
783 names from nomination or for any reason become disqualified to hold
784 the positions for which they are candidates, so as to render the number
785 of candidacies so filed less than twenty-five per cent of the number of
786 town committee members to be elected by such party either in the
787 municipality or in the political subdivision, as the case may be, no
788 primary shall be held for those positions and the party-endorsed
789 candidates for such positions shall be deemed to have been lawfully
790 chosen in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided in
791 sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, in the case where no candidacies other
792 than party-endorsed candidacies have been filed.

793 (c) If any person on a slate, prior to the [opening of the polls]
794 commencement of the period of early voting at such primary, dies,

795 withdraws his name from nomination or for any reason becomes
796 disqualified to hold the position for which he is a candidate, such partial
797 slate shall appear on the ballot at the primary and, if such partial slate
798 wins, then the remaining members may fill the vacancy. If only one such
799 slate other than a slate of party-endorsed candidates has been filed for
800 election and prior to the [opening of the polls] commencement of the
801 period of early voting at such primary each of the persons on such slate
802 dies, withdraws or becomes disqualified, no primary shall be held for
803 those positions and the party-endorsed candidates for those positions
804 shall be deemed to have been lawfully chosen in the same manner and
805 to the same extent as is provided in sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, in
806 the case where no candidacies other than party-endorsed candidacies
807 have been filed.

808 Sec. 14. Section 9-428 of the general statutes is repealed and the
809 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

810 (a) If a party-endorsed candidate [for nomination to an office or] for
811 election to the position of town committee member, prior to twenty-four
812 hours before the opening of the polls at the primary, dies or, prior to ten
813 days before the day of such primary, withdraws his name from
814 nomination or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the [office
815 or] position for which he is a candidate, the state central committee, the
816 town committee or other authority of the party which endorsed such
817 candidate may make an endorsement to fill such vacancy or provide for
818 the making of such endorsement, in such manner as is prescribed in the
819 rules of such party, and certify to the registrar and municipal clerk or to
820 the Secretary of the State, as the case may be, the name of the person so
821 endorsed. If such certification is made at least twenty-four hours prior
822 to the opening of the polls at the primary, in the case of such an
823 endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, or at least seven days
824 before the day of such primary, in the case of such an endorsement to
825 replace a candidate who has withdrawn or become disqualified, such
826 person so endorsed shall run in the primary as the party-endorsed
827 candidate, except as provided in sections 9-416 and 9-417. If such
828 certification of another party-endorsed candidate has been made within

829 the time specified in this section, and if the ballots have already been
830 printed and the names of the candidates for such [office or] position
831 appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the registrar, as the
832 case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality holding such
833 primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the person so
834 certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an endorsement
835 to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification has been made
836 less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours prior to the
837 opening of the polls at the primary, such Secretary or registrar shall
838 direct such clerk to have stickers printed and inserted upon the ballots,
839 having the name of the person so certified appearing thereon, and the
840 moderator in each polling place shall cause such stickers to be pasted on
841 the ballots before the opening of the polls at such primary.

842 (b) If a party-endorsed candidate for nomination to an office, prior to
843 twenty-four hours before the commencement of the period of early
844 voting at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the first day of
845 such period of early voting, withdraws his name from nomination or for
846 any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for which he is a
847 candidate, the state central committee, the town committee or other
848 authority of the party which endorsed such candidate may make an
849 endorsement to fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such
850 endorsement, in such manner as is prescribed in the rules of such party,
851 and certify to the registrar and municipal clerk or to the Secretary of the
852 State, as the case may be, the name of the person so endorsed. If such
853 certification is made at least twenty-four hours prior to the
854 commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, in the case
855 of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, or at least
856 seven days before the first day of such period of early voting, in the case
857 of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has withdrawn or
858 become disqualified, such person so endorsed shall run in the primary
859 as the party-endorsed candidate, except as provided in sections 9-416
860 and 9-417. If such certification of another party-endorsed candidate has
861 been made within the time specified in this section, and if the ballots
862 have already been printed and the names of the candidates for such

863 office appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the registrar, as
864 the case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality holding such
865 primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the person so
866 certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an endorsement
867 to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification has been made
868 less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours prior to the
869 commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, such
870 Secretary or registrar shall direct such clerk to have stickers printed and
871 inserted upon the ballots, having the name of the person so certified
872 appearing thereon, and the moderator in each polling place shall cause
873 such stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the opening of the polls
874 at such primary.

875 Sec. 15. Section 9-429 of the general statutes is repealed and the
876 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

877 (a) If, prior to the opening of the polls at a primary [for nomination to
878 an office or] for election of town committee members, such a number of
879 candidates have died, withdrawn their names or become ineligible, and
880 have not been replaced as permitted in sections 9-426, as amended by
881 this act, and 9-428, as amended by this act, as to render the total number
882 of candidates for such [office or] position no greater than the number to
883 be [nominated to such office or] elected to such positions, the primary
884 shall not be held, and each of the party-endorsed and other candidates
885 shall be deemed to have been lawfully [nominated to such office or]
886 elected to such positions.

887 (b) If, prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at a
888 primary for nomination to an office, such a number of candidates have
889 died, withdrawn their names or become ineligible, and have not been
890 replaced as permitted in sections 9-426, as amended by this act, and 9-
891 428, as amended by this act, as to render the total number of candidates
892 for such office no greater than the number to be nominated to such
893 office, the primary shall not be held, and each of the party-endorsed and
894 other candidates shall be deemed to have been lawfully nominated to
895 such office.

896 Sec. 16. Subsection (b) of section 9-55 of the general statutes is
897 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
898 *1, 2024*):

899 (b) If a political party authorizes unaffiliated electors to vote in a
900 primary, under section 9-431, and a notice of primary is published, the
901 registrars shall cause a list of all unaffiliated electors eligible to vote in
902 the primary to be printed before the commencement of the period of
903 early voting at such primary. If unaffiliated electors are authorized to
904 vote in only one party's primary and are authorized to vote for all offices
905 to be contested at the primary, the registrars may print the list of
906 unaffiliated electors in combination with such party's enrollment list,
907 indicating party affiliation where applicable.

908 Sec. 17. Section 9-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the
909 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

910 The Secretary of the State shall provide to the clerk of the
911 municipality in which such election is to be held a list of the candidates
912 of each party for such office by the thirty-fourth day before the
913 commencement of the period of early voting at such special election.

914 Sec. 18. Subsection (b) of section 9-4a of the general statutes is
915 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
916 *2023*):

917 (b) The voter guide shall contain:

918 (1) The date of the state election and the hours the polls will be open,
919 and the dates of the period of early voting at such state election and the
920 hours the locations designated for the conduct of early voting will be
921 open;

922 (2) The name, party affiliation and contact information of each
923 candidate who is nominated or qualifies as a petitioning candidate for
924 election to the office of President of the United States, Vice-President of
925 the United States, senator in Congress, representative in Congress,

926 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer,
927 State Comptroller, Secretary of the State, state senator or state
928 representative at the state election. As used in this section, "contact
929 information" means any or all of the following information received by
930 the Secretary of the State in the course of the secretary's elections duties
931 or by the Federal Election Commission: A candidate's campaign mailing
932 address, telephone number, facsimile number, electronic mail address
933 and web site. The voter guide may provide contact information for a
934 candidate for the office of President of the United States, Vice-President
935 of the United States, senator in Congress or representative in Congress
936 by an electronic link to such information on the Federal Election
937 Commission's web site;

938 (3) The following three maps produced pursuant to the most recent
939 decennial reapportionment of General Assembly and Connecticut
940 congressional districts: One map showing the boundaries of state
941 senatorial districts, one map showing the boundaries of state house of
942 representatives districts and one map showing the boundaries of state
943 congressional districts;

944 (4) A description of each office to be filled at the state election;

945 (5) An absentee ballot application in printable format;

946 (6) Instructions regarding voting by absentee ballot;

947 (7) Information on the procedure for registering to vote;

948 (8) A voter registration application in printable format;

949 (9) The full text of each proposed constitutional amendment that will
950 appear on the ballot at the state election;

951 (10) The explanatory text as to the content and purpose of each such
952 proposed constitutional amendment, which is prepared by the Office of
953 Legislative Research pursuant to section 2-30a; and

954 (11) The text of the Voter's Bill of Rights set forth in section 9-236b.

955 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the State
956 shall develop and conduct a state-wide public awareness campaign to
957 educate the public regarding the availability of early voting at elections
958 and primaries and to provide information to the public concerning such
959 early voting, including, but not limited to, the number of days of early
960 voting prior to an election or primary, the hours for early voting during
961 such days and the procedures for casting a ballot at locations designated
962 for the conduct of early voting.

963 (b) The Secretary of the State shall develop an early voting procedure
964 manual, which shall include, but need not be limited to, a model plan
965 for the designation and staffing of locations for the conduct of early
966 voting, and shall revise such procedure manual as necessary in
967 accordance with changes in the law relating to the conduct of early
968 voting. The Secretary shall distribute such procedure manual, and any
969 revision to such procedure manual, to each registrar of voters and
970 municipal clerk and shall publish such procedure manual, and any such
971 revision, on the Internet web site of the office of the Secretary of the
972 State.

973 Sec. 20. Section 9-235e of the general statutes is repealed and the
974 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

975 Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary of the
976 State, or the Secretary's designee, shall be allowed access to each polling
977 place or location designated for the conduct of early voting within the
978 state during any municipal, state or federal election, primary or
979 recanvass for the purpose of reviewing [each] any such polling place or
980 location and any such recanvass for compliance with state and federal
981 law. If the Secretary is a candidate on the ballot for any election or
982 primary at a polling place or location designated for the conduct of early
983 voting, only the Secretary's designee may access such polling place or
984 location pursuant to the provisions of this section.

985 Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 9-6c of the general statutes is
986 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

987 2023):

988 (a) Two or more municipalities may jointly perform any function that
989 each municipality is required to perform individually under this title,
990 except conduct early voting pursuant to section 1 of this act, by entering
991 into an agreement pursuant to this section. Any such agreement shall be
992 negotiated and shall contain all provisions upon which each
993 participating municipality agrees. Any such agreement shall establish a
994 process for amendment of, termination of and withdrawal from such
995 agreement. Any proposed agreement shall be submitted to the
996 legislative body of each participating municipality for a vote to ratify or
997 reject such agreement. The legislative body of each participating
998 municipality shall provide an opportunity for public comment prior to
999 any such vote. For purposes of this section, providing an opportunity
1000 for public comment does not require a legislative body to conduct a
1001 public hearing.

1002 Sec. 22. Subsection (c) of section 9-50b of the general statutes is
1003 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1004 *2023*):

1005 (c) Not later than sixty days after each election or primary, the
1006 registrars of voters shall update the state-wide centralized voter
1007 registration system and indicate whether the eligible voters on the
1008 official registry list for such election or primary voted and, if so, if they
1009 voted in person on the day of such election or primary, in person during
1010 the period of early voting at such election or primary or by absentee
1011 ballot.

1012 Sec. 23. Subsection (y) of section 9-1 of the general statutes is repealed
1013 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1014 (y) "The last session for admission of electors prior to an election"
1015 means the day which is the [seventh] eighteenth day prior to an election.

1016 Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 9-17 of the general statutes are
1017 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

1018 2023):

1019 (a) For the purposes of this section, "primary day" means the day that
1020 a primary for state, district and municipal offices is being held in
1021 accordance with section 9-423, and "election day" means the day of each
1022 regular election. (1) The registrars of voters of each town shall hold
1023 sessions to examine the qualifications of electors and admit those found
1024 qualified on the dates and at the times set forth in this section. Such
1025 sessions shall be held on the following days during the hours indicated,
1026 except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection:

T1	Day	Hours
T2	[Fourteenth] <u>Eighteenth</u> day	
T3	before primary day	any two hours between
T4		5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
T5	[Seventh] <u>Eighteenth</u> day	
T6	before election day	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

1027 The session of the registrars of voters on the [~~seventh~~] eighteenth day
1028 before election day shall be the last session for admission of electors
1029 prior to an election, as defined in subsection (y) of section 9-1, as
1030 amended by this act. (2) No town having a population of less than
1031 twenty-five thousand persons shall be required to hold sessions for
1032 admission of electors on the [~~fourteenth~~] eighteenth day before primary
1033 day.

1034 Sec. 25. Subsection (f) of section 9-19k of the general statutes is
1035 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1036 *2023*):

1037 (f) If an applicant registers to vote pursuant to the provisions of this
1038 section after the [~~seventh~~] eighteenth day before an election or after the
1039 [~~fifth~~] eighteenth day before a primary, the privileges of an elector shall
1040 not attach until the day after such election or primary, as the case may
1041 be. In such event, the registrars of voters may contact such applicant,
1042 either by telephone or mail, in order to inform such applicant of the

1043 effect of such late received application and any applicable deadline for
1044 applying for admission in person. Nothing in this subsection shall be
1045 construed to prevent an individual from (1) applying to be admitted as
1046 an elector pursuant to section 9-19j, as amended by this act, during a
1047 period of early voting at an election, or (2) subject to the provisions of
1048 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 1 of this act, applying to be
1049 enrolled in a political party during a period of early voting at a primary.

1050 Sec. 26. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 9-23g of the general statutes
1051 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1052 *1, 2023*):

1053 (c) Forthwith upon receipt of a registration application in the office of
1054 the registrars of voters, the registrar shall mark such date on the
1055 application and review the application to determine whether the
1056 applicant has properly completed it and is legally qualified to register.
1057 Forthwith upon completing his review, the registrar shall (1) indicate on
1058 the application whether the application has been accepted or rejected,
1059 (2) mail a notice to the applicant, (3) indicate on the application the date
1060 on which such notice is mailed, and (4) provide a copy of such notice to
1061 the other registrar. If the registrar determines that the applicant has not
1062 properly completed the application or is not legally qualified to register,
1063 the notice shall indicate that the application has been rejected and shall
1064 state any reason for rejection. If the registrar determines that the
1065 applicant has properly completed the application and is legally
1066 qualified to register, the notice shall indicate that the application has
1067 been accepted. A notice of acceptance or a notice of rejection shall be
1068 sent (A) not later than four days after receipt of an application during
1069 the period beginning on the [forty-ninth] sixtieth day before an election
1070 and ending on the [twenty-first] thirty-second day before such election,
1071 (B) on the day of receipt of an application if it is received (i) during the
1072 period beginning on the [twentieth] thirty-first day before such election
1073 and ending on the [seventh] eighteenth day before such election, (ii)
1074 during the period beginning on the [sixth] seventeenth day before an
1075 election and ending on election day if the application has been received
1076 by the [seventh] eighteenth day before an election by the Commissioner

1077 of Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, (iii) during the
1078 period beginning on the [twenty-first] thirty-fourth day before a
1079 primary and ending on the [fifth] eighteenth day before a primary, or
1080 (iv) during the period beginning on the [fourth] seventeenth day before
1081 a primary and ending at twelve o'clock noon on the last weekday before
1082 a primary, if the application has been postmarked by the [fifth]
1083 eighteenth day before the primary and is received in the office of the
1084 registrars of voters during such period or if the application is received
1085 by the [fifth] eighteenth day before a primary by the Commissioner of
1086 Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, and (C) within ten
1087 days of receipt of an application at any other time. A notice of
1088 acceptance shall be sent by first-class mail with instructions on the
1089 envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the address shown on
1090 the envelope. A notice of acceptance shall indicate the effective date of
1091 the applicant's registration and enrollment, the date of the next regularly
1092 scheduled election or primary in which the applicant shall be eligible to
1093 vote and the applicant's precinct and polling place. If a notice of
1094 acceptance of an application is returned undelivered, the registrars shall
1095 forthwith take the necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-
1096 43, notwithstanding the May first deadline in section 9-35. An applicant
1097 for admission as an elector pursuant to this section and section 9-23h
1098 may only be admitted as an elector by a registrar of voters of the town
1099 of his residence. Not later than December thirty-first, annually, the
1100 Secretary of the State shall establish an official calendar of all deadlines
1101 set forth in this subsection for regularly scheduled elections and
1102 primaries to be held in the following calendar year.

1103 (d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the privileges
1104 of an elector for any applicant for admission under this section and
1105 section 9-23h shall attach immediately upon approval by the registrar,
1106 and the registrars shall enter the name of the elector on the registry list.

1107 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, if a mailed
1108 application is postmarked, or if a delivered application is received in the
1109 office of the registrars of voters, after the [seventh] eighteenth day before
1110 an election or after the [fifth] eighteenth day before a primary, the

1111 privileges of an elector shall not attach until the day after such election
1112 or primary, as the case may be. In such event, the registrars of voters
1113 may contact such applicant, either by telephone or mail, in order to
1114 inform such applicant of the effect of such late received mail-in
1115 application and any applicable deadline for applying for admission in
1116 person. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent an
1117 individual from (A) applying to be admitted as an elector pursuant to
1118 section 9-19j, as amended by this act, during a period of early voting at
1119 an election, or (B) subject to the provisions of subdivision (4) of
1120 subsection (a) of section 1 of this act, applying to be enrolled in a political
1121 party during a period of early voting at a primary.

1122 (3) If an application is received after the [seventh] eighteenth day
1123 before an election or after the [fifth] eighteenth day before a primary by
1124 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency,
1125 the privileges of an elector shall not attach until the day after the election
1126 or primary, as the case may be, or on the day the registrar approves it,
1127 whichever is later. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to
1128 prevent an individual from (A) applying to be admitted as an elector
1129 pursuant to section 9-19j, as amended by this act, during a period of
1130 early voting at an election, or (B) subject to the provisions of subdivision
1131 (4) of subsection (a) of section 1 of this act, applying to be enrolled in a
1132 political party during a period of early voting at a primary.

1133 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant
1134 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present to
1135 the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received through
1136 the mail or an application receipt that was previously provided to the
1137 applicant pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h,
1138 subsection (b) of this section or section 9-23n. If an applicant presents
1139 said notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original
1140 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the
1141 registrar, or assistant registrar upon notice to and approval by the
1142 registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official check
1143 list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if otherwise
1144 eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the polling

1145 place a preprinted form of identification pursuant to subparagraph (A)
1146 of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261.

1147 Sec. 27. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 9-192a of the
1148 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1149 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1150 (3) Once certified, pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, each
1151 registrar shall participate each year in not less than eight hours of
1152 training, not including any training described under subdivision (2) of
1153 subsection (d) of this section, in order to maintain such certification.
1154 Such training shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the State and
1155 shall be conducted by said Secretary or a third party approved by said
1156 Secretary to conduct such training. On and after January 1, 2024, such
1157 training shall include procedures for the conduct of early voting at
1158 elections and primaries. Any registrar who fails to satisfy such annual
1159 training requirement shall be directed by the Secretary of the State to
1160 take remedial measures prescribed by said Secretary.

1161 Sec. 28. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the general statutes is
1162 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1163 *2023*):

1164 (a) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any election or primary and
1165 not later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the
1166 Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, for any federal or
1167 state election or primary, or by the town clerk for any municipal election
1168 or primary, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit or, for
1169 an election or primary held on or after January 1, 2016, an electronic
1170 audit authorized under section 9-320g of the votes recorded in not less
1171 than five per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or
1172 municipality, whichever is applicable. For the purposes of this section,
1173 any central location used in a municipality for the counting of absentee
1174 ballots, early voting ballots or same-day election registration ballots
1175 shall be deemed a voting district. Such manual or electronic audit shall
1176 be noticed in advance and be open to public observation. Any election

1177 official who participates in the administration and conduct of an audit
1178 pursuant to this section shall be compensated by the municipality at the
1179 standard rate of pay established by such municipality for elections or
1180 primaries, as the case may be.

1181 Sec. 29. Subsection (a) of section 9-229 of the general statutes is
1182 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1183 *2023*):

1184 (a) The registrars of voters in the several towns and, in towns where
1185 there are different registrars for different voting districts, the registrars
1186 of voters in such districts shall appoint the moderators of regular and
1187 special state and municipal elections in their respective towns or
1188 districts. For the purpose of providing a reserve group of persons who
1189 may serve as moderators, the registrars shall designate alternate
1190 moderators from among those persons chosen as official checkers, or
1191 tabulator tenders, in the following minimum numbers: In towns with
1192 one or more but not exceeding three voting districts, one alternate
1193 moderator; in towns with four or more but not exceeding eight voting
1194 districts, two alternate moderators; in towns with more than eight
1195 voting districts, a number of alternate moderators equal to one-fourth
1196 of the number of voting districts rounded off to the nearest multiple of
1197 four. In case the registrars fail to agree in the choice of a moderator or
1198 alternate moderator, the choice shall be determined between such
1199 registrars by lot. In the case of a primary, the registrar, as defined in
1200 section 9-372, shall so appoint such moderators and alternate
1201 moderators. Moderators and alternate moderators shall be appointed at
1202 least twenty days before the commencement of the period of early
1203 voting at such election or primary. The registrars shall submit a list of
1204 the names of such moderators and alternate moderators to the
1205 municipal clerk, which list shall be made available for public inspection
1206 by such clerk. Each person appointed to serve as moderator or alternate
1207 moderator shall be certified by the Secretary of the State in accordance
1208 with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, except as provided
1209 in subsection (d) of this section or section 9-436.

1210 Sec. 30. Section 9-256 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1211 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1212 The registrars of voters of each municipality shall, not less than ten
1213 days prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at an
1214 election, file with the Secretary of the State a sample ballot identical with
1215 those to be provided for each polling place under section 9-255. The
1216 Secretary of the State shall examine the sample ballot required to be filed
1217 under this section, and if such sample ballot contains an error, the
1218 Secretary of the State shall order the registrars of voters to reprint a
1219 corrected sample ballot or to take other such action as the Secretary may
1220 deem appropriate.

1221 Sec. 31. Section 9-264 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1222 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1223 An elector who requires assistance to vote, by reason of blindness,
1224 disability or inability to write or to read the ballot, may be given
1225 assistance by a person of the elector's choice, other than (1) the elector's
1226 employer, (2) an agent of such employer, (3) an officer or agent of the
1227 elector's union, or (4) a candidate for any office on the ballot, unless the
1228 elector is a member of the immediate family of such candidate. The
1229 person assisting the elector may accompany the elector into the voting
1230 booth at the polling place, [or] the location designated for [election day]
1231 same-day election registration or the location designated for the conduct
1232 of early voting, as applicable. Such person shall register such elector's
1233 vote upon the ballot as such elector directs. Any person accompanying
1234 an elector into the voting booth at the polling place or the location
1235 designated for election day registration who deceives any elector in
1236 registering the elector's vote under this section or seeks to influence any
1237 elector while in the act of voting, or who registers any vote for any
1238 elector or on any question other than as requested by such elector, or
1239 who gives information to any person as to what person or persons such
1240 elector voted for, or how such elector voted on any question, shall be
1241 guilty of a class D felony. As used in this section, "immediate family"
1242 means "immediate family" as defined in section 9-140b.

1243 Sec. 32. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the general
1244 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1245 (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1246 (2) To levy a civil penalty not to exceed (A) two thousand dollars per
1247 offense against any person the commission finds to be in violation of
1248 any provision of chapter 145, part V of chapter 146, part I of chapter 147,
1249 chapter 148, section 7-9, section 9-12, subsection (a) of section 9-17, as
1250 amended by this act, section 9-19b, 9-19e, 9-19g to 9-19k, inclusive, as
1251 amended by this act, 9-20, 9-21, 9-23a, 9-23g, as amended by this act, 9-
1252 23h, 9-23j to 9-23o, inclusive, 9-23r, 9-26, 9-31a, 9-32, 9-35, 9-35b, 9-35c,
1253 9-40a, 9-42, 9-43, 9-50a, 9-56, 9-59, 9-168d, 9-170, 9-171, 9-172, 9-232i to 9-
1254 232o, inclusive, 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive, 9-409, 9-410, 9-412, 9-436, 9-
1255 436a, 9-453e to 9-453h, inclusive, 9-453k or 9-453o or section 1 of this act,
1256 (B) two thousand dollars per offense against any town clerk, registrar of
1257 voters, an appointee or designee of a town clerk or registrar of voters, or
1258 any other election or primary official whom the commission finds to
1259 have failed to discharge a duty imposed by any provision of chapter 146
1260 or 147, (C) two thousand dollars per offense against any person the
1261 commission finds to have (i) improperly voted in any election, primary
1262 or referendum, and (ii) not been legally qualified to vote in such election,
1263 primary or referendum, or (D) two thousand dollars per offense or twice
1264 the amount of any improper payment or contribution, whichever is
1265 greater, against any person the commission finds to be in violation of
1266 any provision of chapter 155 or 157. The commission may levy a civil
1267 penalty against any person under subparagraph (A), (B), (C) or (D) of
1268 this subdivision only after giving the person an opportunity to be heard
1269 at a hearing conducted in accordance with sections 4-176e to 4-184,
1270 inclusive. In the case of failure to pay any such penalty levied pursuant
1271 to this subsection within thirty days of written notice sent by certified
1272 or registered mail to such person, the superior court for the judicial
1273 district of Hartford, on application of the commission, may issue an
1274 order requiring such person to pay the penalty imposed and such court
1275 costs, state marshal's fees and attorney's fees incurred by the
1276 commission as the court may determine. Any civil penalties paid,

1277 collected or recovered under subparagraph (D) of this subdivision for a
 1278 violation of any provision of chapter 155 applying to the office of the
 1279 Treasurer shall be deposited on a pro rata basis in any trust funds, as
 1280 defined in section 3-13c, affected by such violation.

1281 Sec. 33. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) Not later than January 15, 2024,
 1282 and annually thereafter, the chief executive officer of each municipality
 1283 that, pursuant to its municipal charter, conducts referenda for the
 1284 purpose of adopting such municipality's budgets shall submit to the
 1285 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 1286 matters relating to elections a report detailing the provisions of such
 1287 municipal charter concerning the conduct of referenda for such purpose
 1288 and the procedures for such conduct.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-174
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-174a(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-19j
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-225(a)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-226(a)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-255a(a) to (c)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-373a
Sec. 10	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	9-224b(a) and (b)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-329b
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-460
Sec. 13	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	9-426
Sec. 14	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	9-428
Sec. 15	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	9-429
Sec. 16	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	9-55(b)
Sec. 17	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	9-217
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-4a(b)
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-235e
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-6c(a)
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-50b(c)

Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-1(y)
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-17(a)
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-19k(f)
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-23g(c) and (d)
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-192a(a)(3)
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-320f(a)
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-229(a)
Sec. 30	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-256
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-264
Sec. 32	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	9-7b(a)(2)
Sec. 33	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	Approximately \$1,300,000	Approximately \$1,320,000	Approximately \$700,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
All Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Cost	N/A	Approximately \$2,600,000	Approximately \$1,350,000

Explanation

The bill would result in significant ongoing labor cost to the state and municipalities. To implement the bill as described the state would need to acquire additional technology such as CVRS software updates and to install new lines in any secondary location for early voting. It is anticipated that approximately

40² additional sites would be opened across the state generally in

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

² This calculation assumes that no town less than 45,000 will have a second location, half of all locations between 45,001-75,000; all locations between 75,001-100,000 will have two locations; all locations between 101,001-125,000 will have three locations; and any greater than 125,001 will have four. Each town may not meet this criterion, but we estimate this will roughly be the number of additional polling locations.

proportion to the population of each town. The state costs would include the public information campaign specifically for early voting and registrar's training materials. The bill makes no mention of labor costs, so it is assumed by default to fall to the municipalities. The state's share of the costs begins in FY 24 and continues to grow into FY 25 with roughly \$600,000 in onetime costs falling in each year in addition to \$696,000³ in ongoing expenses beginning in FY 25. There could be a differential of roughly \$500,000 in state costs depending on whether the voter public information campaign is included within the FY 24 and FY 25 biennium budget.

Municipal costs would see the largest periodic fluctuation with the cost of municipal elections⁴ being significantly less expensive than those of primary and general state elections. This leaves the weight heavily on even fiscal years for municipal election costs. The net cost per municipality would also not be evenly distributed depending heavily on the number of polling places each town chooses to utilize. The initial polling place is assumed to be a central location with existing CVRS access and staffed by existing registrar and town staff. If a municipality were to only use this location, they could expect an approximate increase in odd fiscal years of \$10,500⁵ and on even fiscal years of \$8,400 when no state general and primary elections are held.

Any municipality increasing beyond one polling location would require additional staff at that location with poll workers instead of overtime, which would increase the estimated total cost for that municipality. Any town planning three additional polling locations (the

³ Specific cost information for this section has come from data provided by the Secretary of State's Office in the form of estimates from existing vendors to provide the services rendered.

⁴ Municipal elections as a figure were estimated based on the % of towns expected to hold schoolboard elections in CT in 2023 and extrapolated with the remainder from that point in future years. Municipal elections are presumed to have only one EV polling place per town for each town. The same is assumed for municipal primaries.

⁵ The staffing for this location being existing employees mitigates cost for towns and leaves the differential to overtime hours varying depending on the number of EV hours and whether that day falls on a weekend. This estimate assumes an average overtime hour is valued at \$29.12 per hour.

maximum number in the estimate) would see an odd fiscal year price increase of around \$100,000. This is largely due to the increased labor cost of poll workers and the need to fully staff early voting locations that may be potentially added because of the bill. Costs would vary widely on a town-by-town basis.

House Amendment "A" (1) reduces the primary times for most primaries to seven and four days respectively; (2) reduces the special election early voting days to four; and (3) shifts the start date of early voting as week as making changes concerning election day registration.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, participation, and the number of polling places utilized across the state.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5004 (as amended by House “A”)******AN ACT IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a framework for early, in-person voting for all general elections, primaries, and special elections, held on or after January 1, 2024. Specifically, it requires a 14-day early voting period for general elections, a seven-day period for most primaries, and a four-day early voting period for special elections and presidential preference primaries.

Under the bill, every municipality must establish at least one early voting location and may establish more. The bill also sets various requirements and procedures for early voting including voter eligibility, ballot custody, staffing and training, and materials.

The bill replaces the current election-day registration (EDR) option with same-day election registration (SDR), which covers the entire early voting period and the election for general elections. Additionally, the bill modifies the deadlines for those who wish to vote in a primary to register to vote or enroll in a political party.

To accommodate the early voting period, the bill generally changes several election-related deadlines by either (1) moving the deadline 14 days earlier or (2) moving the deadline to the required number of days before the early voting period begins instead of before the election begins. The bill also sets specific deadlines for special elections.

The bill also applies various existing election provisions to early voting such as voting assistance and enforcement by the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC).

Separately, the bill requires certain municipalities to annually report

information on budget referenda to the Government Administration and Elections Committee, beginning by January 15, 2024.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

*House Amendment "A" strikes the underlying bill (File 350) and replaces it with generally similar provisions. Among other things, it (1) removes early voting requirements for referenda, (2) establishes a seven-day early voting period for primaries other than presidential preference primaries, (3) applies early voting provisions for special elections to presidential preference primaries, (4) allows for adjustment of the early voting period for holidays and certain other days, (5) removes same-day primary registration and sets new deadlines for party enrollment and voter registration in relation to the early voting period, (6) requires a municipality's legislative body, rather than registrars, to take certain actions to add more early voting locations or establish SDR locations, (7) makes holding a public hearing optional when determining whether to adopt more early voting locations, (8) requires all early voting locations to allow for SDR for general elections, (9) requires registrars to appoint a moderator for early voting locations, (10) allows voters to cast challenged ballots in cases where the voter may have already cast a vote, (11) creates an exception for provisions on voter solicitation near early voting and SDR locations, (12) aligns requirements for storage of early voting and SDR ballots with those for absentee ballots, (13) changes the day early voting locations must be open late, (14) changes certain deadlines for general voter registration, (15) applies existing voter assistance provisions to early voting and SDR locations, (16) gives SEEC authority to levy civil fines for people violating certain provisions of the bill, (17) adds a new provision requiring municipalities to submit certain charter provisions to the Government Administration and Elections Committee, and (18) removes language applying early voting provisions to 2023 elections.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except that provisions (1) that change deadlines for (a) registering write-in candidates, (b) automatic nomination of certain candidates, (c) replacing candidates for most

offices, (d) canceling a primary due to candidate vacancy, (e) printing unaffiliated voter lists, and (f) giving the clerk party candidate lists for special elections for vacancies are effective on January 1, 2024, and (2) on a statewide early voting awareness campaign, the early voting procedure manual, and changing a deadline for removing a candidate by judicial order are effective upon passage.

COVERED ELECTIONS (§ 1)

The bill requires the implementation of early voting for general elections, primaries, and special elections held on or after January 1, 2024. The bill exempts primaries for town committee members from these requirements.

EARLY VOTING PERIOD (§§ 1 & 3)

For general elections, the early voting period must be 14 days long, beginning 15 days before the election and ending two days prior. For primaries (except for presidential preference primaries) the early voting period must be seven days long, beginning eight days before the election and ending two days prior. Under the bill, early voting would not be offered on legal state holidays within the required periods. Early voting locations must be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., including weekends, except that on the last Tuesday and Thursday before the election, the locations must be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For special elections and presidential preference primaries, the bill adopts a four-day early voting period and sets alternative timelines for these elections. Specifically, the early voting period must begin five days before the election and end two days prior. In the total number of required days, the early voting period must be adjusted to not include (1) March 31, 2024, or (2) legal state holidays. Early voting locations must be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for these elections.

Each day, a location official or a municipal police officer, appointed by the registrar, must be placed at the end of the line at the designated closing time. The official or officer must prevent any voter from getting in line to cast a ballot after the designated closing time.

EARLY VOTING PREPARATION

Staffing and Training (§ 1)

Under the bill, the registrars (1) must appoint a moderator and other officials to serve at each early voting location and (2) may delegate any responsibility to an official designated in the municipality's early voting certification to the secretary (see below). The registrars must supervise and train these officials. The bill requires any appointed moderator to perform duties required under the election statutes related to the early voting location and allows them to exercise any power authorized under these statutes for this purpose.

Ballot Designation (§ 8)

The bill requires registrars and clerks to certify the number of ballots designated as early voting ballots for each early voting location. It also moves the deadline for certifying all ballots (both early voting and election day ballots) to 31 days before the early voting period (21 days for a primary) instead of the same number of days before the election or primary itself. Similarly, the bill moves up the deadline to request a waiver from this provision to 45 days before the early voting period (30 days for a primary) instead of the same number of days before the election or primary itself. The bill also requires registrars and clerks to certify the number of ballots designated as early voting ballots in special elections, but it does not set separate deadlines specific to special elections.

VOTER REGISTRATION

General Voter Registration (§§ 23-26)

The bill moves up the regular voter registration deadline to 18 days before an election or primary (rather than the seventh day before the election and the fifth day before the primary). It also makes several conforming changes including moving up several related deadlines. For example, the bill correspondingly shifts the time frames during which registrars must send notice of an application's acceptance or rejection on the day it is received, as shown in the table below.

Table: Periods When Registrars Must Send Notice of Acceptance or Rejection on the Day an Application Is Received

	<i>Under Current Law</i>	<i>Under the Bill</i>
Regular Applications	From 20 days to seven days before an election	From 31 days to 18 days before an election
	From 21 days to five days before a primary	From 34 days to 18 days before a primary
Applications first received by the Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner or voter registration agency	For applications received by seven days before an election, from six days before an election to election day	For applications received by 18 days before an election, from 17 days before an election to election day
	For applications postmarked or received five days before a primary, from four days before a primary to noon the last weekday before a primary	For applications postmarked or received 18 days before a primary, from 17 days before a primary to noon the last weekday before a primary

The bill also similarly shifts the period when registrars must send notice of acceptance or rejection within four days after receiving it. Under current law, this period is 49 days to 21 days before an election. Under the bill, this period is 60 days to 32 days before an election.

Same-Day Registration (§ 5)

Under current law, electors may register to vote on election day through EDR during regular state and municipal elections. Under EDR, a person may register to vote and cast a ballot on election day if he or she meets the eligibility requirements for voting in Connecticut and is (1) not already an elector or (2) registered in one municipality but wants to change his or her registration because he or she currently resides in another municipality (CGS § 9-19j).

The bill expands this opportunity to the entire early voting period by establishing same-day election registration (SDR, i.e., voter registration during the early voting period for a general election or on election day) and generally applying the existing EDR provisions to SDR. Current law requires the registrars of voters to designate a location and allows them to designate additional locations. The bill allows the municipality's legislative body, rather than the registrars of voters, to apply to designate additional SDR locations. Additionally, all early voting

locations must offer SDR.

Deadlines for Same-Day Registration (§ 5)

To accommodate the increased window of SDR, the bill moves up several deadlines by 14 days to include the early voting period for regular elections and primaries. This applies to deadlines for the following actions:

1. certifying the location for SDR (changed from 31 days to 45 days before the election),
2. the Secretary of the State's (SOTS) response to a certification request (changed from 15 days to 29 days before the election),
3. certifying additional locations for SDR (changed from 60 days to 74 days before the election), and
4. SOTS response to a certification request for additional locations (changed from 45 days to 59 days before the election).

Registration and Enrollment for Primaries (§ 1)

The bill allows a person to enroll in a political party by filing an application for enrollment with the registrars by noon on the preceding business day before the early voting period. Individuals who are not registered to vote may register and enroll in a political party during the early voting period, but must wait one day before casting a vote in a primary.

The bill also makes conforming changes.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Main Location (§ 1)

The bill requires that the registrars of voters of each municipality certify one location within the town to serve as an early voting location. The location must (1) be used for the entire early voting period, (2) have access to the centralized voter registration system (CVRS), (3) be certified by SOTS, (4) be accessible to voters with physical disabilities,

and (5) have parking spaces for handicapped and elderly persons.

A municipality's certification must include:

1. the location's name, address, and contact information;
2. the number of officials appointed to serve and their roles;
3. the location's design; and
4. a plan to conduct early voting effectively.

A municipality must certify its chosen location to SOTS no later than 120 days before a general election or primary, other than a presidential preference primary. The secretary must approve or deny certification no later than 90 days before a general election or primary. If SOTS denies the certification, she must give the municipality a written reason for the disapproval and an order for corrective action.

Once a municipality has received SOTS approval or complied with any corrective action to the secretary's satisfaction, the registrars must make a final determination on the main early voting location no later than 31 days before a general election or primary. After this determination, the location may not be changed unless all registrars and the municipal clerk unanimously agree that the location is unusable. If this happens, the registrars and clerk must designate a new location and provide adequate notice.

The bill implements a separate timeline for special elections and presidential preference primaries. For these, the certification of the main early voting location must be submitted no later than 20 days prior and the secretary must respond no later than 15 days before the election. The location must be finalized 11 days before the election.

Additional Locations (§ 1)

Under the bill, for municipalities with a population of at least 20,000, the municipality's legislative body may hold a public hearing on increasing the number of early voting locations at least 15 days before

designating them. At least 10 days' notice must be given through a newspaper with general circulation in the town and on the municipality's website. For this requirement, "population" means the estimated number of people according to the most recent version of the State Register and Manual. If the municipality chooses to hold a hearing, the municipality's legislative body must notify SOTS with a detailed explanation of its determination on any additional locations within three days after the hearing.

For municipalities that choose not to hold a hearing, the legislative body must determine whether to designate an additional location and must notify the secretary with a detailed explanation of its determination.

The registrars of voters must designate any additional location for early voting as determined by the municipality's legislative body. Adoption of additional locations is subject to the same requirements as the main location. The bill prohibits SOTS from taking any action on the explanation, but she must preserve it for public inspection.

SOTS Access (§ 20)

Current law requires that the secretary, or her designee, have access to each polling place during elections to review for consistency with state and federal law. The bill extends this provision to any early voting location.

ELECTION WARNING (§§ 6 & 7)

The bill moves up the warning for state and municipal elections to five to 15 days before the early voting period starts, rather than before election day. Additionally, the warning must announce the times and locations designated for early voting.

CASTING AN EARLY VOTE

Voter Eligibility (§ 1)

Under the bill, an elector must do the following to vote early:

1. appear in person at an early voting location within the designated times,
2. comply with election day identification requirements by either (a) showing adequate identification or (b) signing an affidavit attesting to his or her identity, and
3. swear an oath that he or she has not previously voted in the election.

If an elector has established his or her eligibility, the registrars must check the CVRS to see if the elector has already voted. If not, the elector must be given an early voting ballot and envelope and the registrar must record the issuance.

If the registrars of voters believe that the elector may have already voted in the election, they must review the matter. If they cannot resolve it, the elector may request and cast a challenged ballot (see BACKGROUND) and the registrars must report the incident to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, which must investigate.

Casting a Ballot (§ 1)

Under the bill, if an elector is eligible, they must mark the ballot in the registrars' presence, but not in a way that reveals how the ballot was marked. After completing the ballot, the elector must (1) secure it within an early voting envelope, (2) sign an affirmation printed on the back of the envelope, and (3) deposit the envelope into a secured early voting ballot depository receptacle.

The signed affirmation attests that the elector:

1. is an elector appearing in person to vote early,
2. is eligible to vote in the election or primary,
3. has sufficiently identified themselves to the registrars,
4. has not otherwise voted in the election and will not otherwise do

so, and

5. received an early voting ballot.

Voting Assistance (§ 31)

Existing law allows electors who need assistance to vote due to blindness, disability, or inability to write or read to be given assistance from a person chosen by the elector. The bill expands this authorization to include providing assistance at early voting locations.

BALLOT CHAIN OF CUSTODY (§§ 1-2 & 5)

Under the bill, when each day ends, the registrars must transport the receptacles for SDR and early voting ballots to the municipal clerk for storage, if necessary, in as near a manner as possible to the required methods for securing absentee ballots. If the clerk cannot practicably secure the ballots in such a manner, they must be secured as outlined in an alternate plan submitted by the registrars of voters to SOTS for approval. The clerk must keep the ballots until they are delivered to the registrars on election day. A section of the head moderator's return must show the number of early voting and SDR ballots received, separately.

The registrars of voters must also seal a copy of the vote tally for early voting ballots and a copy of the vote tally for SDR ballots in a depository envelope with their respective ballots and store them with the other election or primary results materials. The depository envelopes must be preserved for the same amount of time as required by law to keep counted ballots.

Ballot counters must proceed to the location where the early voting and SDR ballots will be counted, as designated by the registrars, between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on election day. The bill requires the municipal clerk to deliver all early voting and SDR ballots received before election day to the registrars within the same timeframe. Once the clerks deliver the ballots, the bill requires that the ballot counters process these ballots as nearly as possible in the same way as required under existing law for absentee ballots.

Except as otherwise required by the bill, SDR and early voting ballots are subject to all procedures relating to absentee ballot custody, control, and counting under existing elections law, as nearly as possible.

ELECTION DEADLINES (§§ 9-17 & 29-30)

Current law sets several election-related deadlines in preparation for election day. The bill sets these deadlines in relation to the early voting period instead of the election, generally making them earlier. The table below summarizes deadlines that are subject to this change.

Table: Certain Election-Related Deadlines Affected by the Bill

Bill Section	Applicable Statutes	Description	Deadline
§ 9	CGS § 9-373a	Registration as a write-in candidate for a regular election	14 days prior
		Registration as a write-in candidate for town meeting member in certain towns at a regular election	Last business day prior
§ 10	CGS § 9-224b	Registration as a write-in candidate for a special election	14 days prior
		Registration as a write-in candidate for town meeting member in certain towns at a special election	Last business day prior
§ 11	CGS § 9-329b	Removal of a candidate by judicial order	Before the period/election day begins
§ 12	CGS § 9-460	Replacement of a vacant candidacy	2:00 pm the day prior
		Period during which a candidate's death may result in the candidate being replaced	24 hours prior
§ 13	CGS § 9-426	Automatic nomination of party-endorsed candidate, group, or slate for a primary if the only other candidate, group, or slate of candidates in that primary die, withdraw, or are disqualified	Before the period/election day begins
		Partial slate appearing on the ballot when a slate member dies, withdraws, or is disqualified	Before the period/election day begins
§ 14	CGS § 9-428	Candidate replacement	Various
§ 15	CGS § 9-429	Cancellation of a primary when due to candidate death, withdrawal, or	Before the period/election

<i>Bill Section</i>	<i>Applicable Statutes</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
		disqualification	day begins
§ 16	CGS § 9-55	Printing a list of unaffiliated voters if these voters become authorized to vote in a political party's primary	Before the period/election day begins
§ 17	CGS § 9-217	Giving the municipal clerk a list of candidates for each party by the office for special elections for vacancies	34 days prior
§ 29	CGS § 9-229	Appointing moderators and alternate moderators	20 days prior
§ 30	CGS § 9-256	Filing a sample ballot with the secretary	At least 10 days prior

EARLY VOTING MATERIALS

Emergency Contingency Plan (§ 4)

Under existing law, registrars must consult with the town clerk and create an emergency contingency plan for elections, primaries, and referenda in the municipality. The bill adds a requirement that the plan consider early voting and related logistics including (1) solutions for envelope shortages, (2) strategies to address staffing shortages for early voting, (3) a fire or alarm within an early voting location, and (4) disorder in or around an early voting location.

Secretary Materials and Duties (§§ 18-19 & 27)

The bill requires the secretary to:

1. include early voting days and times for state elections in the voter guide published by her office;
2. conduct a state-wide public awareness campaign on early voting availability at elections and primaries, including the dates, hours, and voting procedures; and
3. update the existing annual registrar training by January 1, 2024, to include early voting procedures.

The secretary must also develop and distribute an early voting procedure manual including a model plan for designating and staffing

locations. The manual must be (1) revised as needed to reflect changes in state law and (2) distributed through the SOTS website as well as to all registrars of voters and town clerks.

UPDATING CVRS (§ 22)

Current law requires registrars of voters, when updating the CVRS after an election or primary, to indicate whether someone voted in-person or by absentee ballot. The bill also requires them to indicate whether an in-person elector voted on election day or during the early voting period.

POST-ELECTION AUDITS AND RECANVASS PROCEDURES (§ 28)

The bill subjects early voting and SDR central counting locations to existing post-election audit requirements. These requirements generally establish a process to select locations to participate in a manual or electronic audit that compares vote totals to results reported by voting tabulators.

CHARTER PROVISIONS ON BUDGET REFERENDA (§ 33)

For those municipalities that adopt their budgets through referenda, the bill requires the municipality's chief executive officer to annually report to the Government Administration and Elections Committee, beginning by January 15, 2024, on its municipal charter provisions on these referenda, including procedures for conducting them.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Solicitation and Related Activities (§ 1)

Similar to existing requirements for polling locations, the bill prohibits anyone from soliciting, peddling, loitering, or offering certain materials within 75 feet of an entrance to an early voting or SDR location, an indoor path leading to the location, or any room along the path. The bill provides an exception for individuals doing their official duties or conducting government business within this radius, unless the person is engaging in conduct that violates these provisions.

Joint Municipal Agreements (§ 21)

Existing law generally allows two or more municipalities to jointly perform election-related functions. The bill prohibits municipalities from entering into joint agreements to conduct early voting.

SEEC Enforcement Powers (§ 32)

The bill extends to early voting a provision in existing law authorizing SEEC to level a civil penalty of not more than \$2,000 per offense for a person who violates certain election-related laws. Existing law additionally allows SEEC to level a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per offense against any town clerk, registrar of voters, or any other election or primary official found to have failed to discharge a duty required under elections laws, including the bill's provisions.

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

sSB 1064 (File 388), favorably reported by the Appropriations and Government Administration and Elections committees, establishes a (1) 14-day early voting period for all general elections and referenda held in conjunction with a general election held on or after July 1, 2023, and (2) four-day early voting period primaries, special elections, and generally all other referenda held on or after January 1, 2024.

sSB 1057 (File 386), favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, establishes a (1) 10-day early voting period for all general elections held on or after July 1, 2023, and (2) four-day early voting period primaries and special elections held on or after January 1, 2024.

Challenged Ballots

Under existing law, a voter's right to cast a ballot may be challenged if a challenger knows, suspects, or reasonably believes that a person is not qualified or entitled to vote (CGS § 9-232 et. seq.). A moderator must review these challenges and, if a moderator's decision is not favorable to the challenged voter, the voter may apply for a challenged ballot. As part of the application, the voter must complete an affidavit attesting to the voter's qualifications and entitlement to vote at the election.

The town clerk must preserve the ballots for at least 180 days after an election. In the case of a contested election, the court may order that challenged ballots be delivered to the board of admissions. The board, if ordered, must review all challenged ballots and determine which ones may be counted in the election and added to the vote totals.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/15/2023)