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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

apply to any challenged ballot cast under this subdivision.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

…. (Signature of voter)

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

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

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

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

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

described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

.... (Signature of voter)

(g) The elector shall forthwith mark the **[**election day**]** same-day election registration ballot in the presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars of voters shall not know how the **[**election day**]** same-day election registration ballot is marked. The elector shall place the **[**election day**]** same-day election registration ballot in the **[**election day**]** same-day election registration ballot envelope provided, and deposit such envelope in a secured **[**election day**]** same-day election registration ballot depository receptacle. At the conclusion of each day during the early voting period, the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle containing such day's same-day election registration ballots to the municipal clerk, who shall retain and securely store such ballots in as near a manner as possible to that for the retention and secure storage of absentee ballots, as provided in subsection (h) of this section, except that, if such manner is not practicable, such same-day election registration ballots shall be retained and securely stored as provided in an alternate plan submitted by the registrars of voters to the Secretary of the State and approved by the Secretary. On election day, the previously retained and securely stored same-day election registration ballots shall be delivered to the registrars of voters and, at the time designated by the registrars of voters and noticed to election officials, the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle containing the **[**election day**]** same-day election registration ballots received on such election day to the central location or polling place, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, where absentee ballots are counted and such **[**election day**]** same-day election registration ballots shall be counted by the election officials present at such central location or polling place. A section of the head moderator's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

each such warning.

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

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

(a) The warning of each municipal election shall specify the objects for which such election is to be held. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, notice of a town election shall be given by the town clerk or assistant town clerk, by publishing a warning (1) in a newspaper published in such town or having a general circulation therein, such publication to be not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to **[**holding**]** the commencement of the period of early voting at the election, and (2) on such town's Internet web site, such publication to be not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to **[**holding**]** the commencement of the period of early voting at the election. The town clerk in each town shall, in the warning for such election, give notice of (A) the time and the location of each polling place in the town, (B) in towns divided into voting districts, the time and the location of each polling place in each district, **[**and**]** (C) the time and the **[**location**]** site of each location designated for **[**election day**]** same-day election registration, and (D) the time and the site of each location designated for the conduct of early voting, in the town. The town clerk shall record each such warning. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, notice of an election of a city or borough shall be given by publishing a warning (i) in a newspaper published within the limits of such city or borough or having a general circulation therein, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to **[**holding**]** the commencement of the period of early voting at the election, and (ii) on the Internet web site of such city or borough, or the town having such city or borough within

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) The voter guide shall contain:

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

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

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

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

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

(5) An absentee ballot application in printable format;

(6) Instructions regarding voting by absentee ballot;

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

(8) A voter registration application in printable format;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2023):

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

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

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

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

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

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

2023):

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

Day	Hours
[Fourteenth**]** Eighteenth day before primary day …….	any two hours between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
[Seventh**]** Eighteenth day before election day …….	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40[2] 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 $696,000[3] 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 elections[4] 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 $10,500[5] 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

	Under Current Law	*Under the Bill*
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

Bill Section	Applicable Statutes	Description	Deadline
		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)