



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 386**

January Session, 2023

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1057

*Senate, April 3, 2023*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE AND EARLY VOTING.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) (1) Any eligible elector may  
2 vote prior to the day of a regular election or primary, in accordance with  
3 the provisions of this section, during a period of early voting at each  
4 such regular election held on or after July 1, 2023, and at each primary  
5 held on or after January 1, 2024. Such period of early voting shall (A)  
6 notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2 of the general statutes,  
7 commence on the eleventh day prior to and conclude on the second day  
8 prior to such regular election or primary, and (B) consist of ten total  
9 days, at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of  
10 section 9-174 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

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

14 Such period of early voting shall (A) notwithstanding the provisions of  
15 section 9-2 of the general statutes, commence on the fifth day prior to  
16 and conclude on the second day prior to such special election, and (B)  
17 consist of four total days, at such times as provided in subdivision (2) of  
18 subsection (c) of section 9-174 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
19 act.

20 (b) (1) The registrars of voters of each municipality shall designate a  
21 location for the conduct of early voting, which location shall be the same  
22 for the duration of the period of early voting except as otherwise  
23 specified in this subdivision, provided (A) the registrars of voters have  
24 access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such  
25 location, and (B) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of  
26 the State not later than one hundred twenty days prior to the day of a  
27 regular election or primary, or not later than twenty days prior to the  
28 day of a special election. The written certification under subparagraph  
29 (B) of this subdivision shall provide (i) the name, street address and  
30 relevant contact information associated with such location, (ii) the  
31 number of election or primary officials who shall be appointed by the  
32 registrars of voters to serve at such location and the roles of such  
33 officials, and (iii) a description of the design of such location and a plan  
34 for effective conduct of such early voting. The Secretary shall approve  
35 or disapprove such written certification not later than ninety days prior  
36 to the day of a regular election or primary, or not later than fifteen days  
37 prior to the day of a special election. If the Secretary disapproves such  
38 certification, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, the reasons for such  
39 disapproval and shall issue an order for such corrective action as the  
40 Secretary deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the  
41 appointment of additional election or primary officials or the alteration  
42 of such design or plan. After having received approval of such  
43 certification or having complied with any order for corrective action to  
44 the Secretary's satisfaction, as applicable, the registrars of voters shall  
45 determine the site of such location designated for the conduct of early  
46 voting at least thirty-one days prior to a regular election or primary, or  
47 at least eleven days prior to a special election. Such location shall not be  
48 changed within such period, except, if the municipal clerk and registrars

49 of voters unanimously find that such location has been rendered  
50 unusable within such period, such clerk and registrars shall forthwith  
51 designate another location for the conduct of early voting to be used in  
52 place of the location so rendered unusable and shall give adequate  
53 notice that such location has been so changed. The provisions of sections  
54 9-168d and 9-168e of the general statutes shall apply to such location  
55 designated for the conduct of early voting.

56 (2) In any municipality with a population of at least twenty thousand,  
57 the registrars of voters shall hold a public hearing on whether to  
58 designate any additional location in such municipality for the conduct  
59 of early voting, which hearing shall be held not later than fifteen days  
60 prior to the time for designating any such location set forth in  
61 subdivision (1) of this subsection. The registrars shall properly notice  
62 such public hearing not later than ten days prior to such public hearing  
63 in a newspaper having general circulation in such municipality and on  
64 the Internet web site of the municipality. Not later than three days after  
65 the conclusion of such public hearing, the registrars shall determine  
66 whether to designate any such additional location and shall notify the  
67 Secretary of the State of such determination. If the registrars determine  
68 that any such additional location be designated, the provisions of  
69 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to any such additional  
70 location. If the registrars determine that no additional location be  
71 designated, such registrars shall include in such notification to the  
72 Secretary a detailed explanation for such determination. For the  
73 purposes of this subdivision, "population" means the estimated number  
74 of people according to the most recent version of the State Register and  
75 Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90 of the general statutes.

76 (3) The registrars of voters may delegate to each election or primary  
77 official appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection any of  
78 the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of  
79 voters shall supervise each such official and train each such official to be  
80 an early voting election or primary official.

81 (c) Any elector who wishes to vote during a period of early voting at

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

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

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

98 (2) If the registrars of voters determine that the elector has already  
99 voted, such elector shall not be allowed to vote and such matter shall be  
100 reviewed by the registrars of voters. After completion of such review, if  
101 a resolution of the matter cannot be made, such matter shall be reported  
102 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, which shall conduct an  
103 investigation of the matter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

120 .... (Signature of voter)

121 (f) The elector shall forthwith mark the early voting ballot in the  
122 presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars  
123 of voters shall not know how the early voting ballot is marked. The  
124 elector shall place the early voting ballot in the early voting ballot  
125 envelope provided and deposit such envelope in a secured early voting  
126 ballot depository receptacle. At the conclusion of each day during the  
127 early voting period, the registrars of voters shall transport such  
128 receptacle containing such day's early voting ballots to the municipal  
129 clerk, who shall retain such ballots, if necessary, in the fire-resistive  
130 vault or safe provided for in section 7-27 of the general statutes, until  
131 delivery of such ballots to the registrars of voters on the day of the  
132 election or primary for the purpose of counting such ballots. A section  
133 of the head moderator's return shall show the number of early voting  
134 ballots received from electors. The registrars of voters shall seal a copy  
135 of the vote tally for early voting ballots in a depository envelope with  
136 the early voting ballots and store such early voting depository envelope  
137 with the other election or primary results materials. The early voting  
138 depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the  
139 period of time required to preserve counted ballots for elections or  
140 primaries.

141 (g) Except as provided in section 2 of this act, the provisions of title 9  
142 of the general statutes and any regulation adopted under said title  
143 concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of

144 absentee ballots shall apply, as nearly as possible, to the custody, control  
145 and counting of early voting ballots under this section.

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

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

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

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

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

176 (a) Notwithstanding [the provisions of any general statute,] any  
177 provision of the general statutes or any special act or municipal charter,  
178 at any regular election, or at any special election held to fill a vacancy in  
179 a state, district or municipal office, the polls on the day of such election  
180 shall remain open for voting from six o'clock a.m. until eight o'clock p.m.  
181 No elector shall be permitted to cast such elector's vote after the hour  
182 prescribed for the closing of the polls in any election unless such elector  
183 is in line at eight o'clock p.m. An election official or a police officer of the  
184 municipality, who is designated by the moderator, shall be placed at the  
185 end of the line at eight o'clock p.m. Such official or officer shall not allow  
186 any electors who were not in such line at eight o'clock p.m. to enter such  
187 line.

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

205 (c) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any  
206 special act or municipal charter, at any regular election held on or after  
207 July 1, 2023, and at any primary held on or after January 1, 2024, each  
208 location designated for the conduct of early voting pursuant to  
209 subsection (b) of section 1 of this act or for same-day election or same-

210 day primary registration pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-19j, as  
211 amended by this act, shall, during the early voting period, remain open  
212 from ten o'clock a.m. to six o'clock p.m., except that such location shall  
213 remain open from eight o'clock a.m. to eight o'clock p.m. on the last  
214 Wednesday and Thursday prior to the election or primary.

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

220 (3) No elector shall be permitted to cast such elector's vote after the  
221 hour prescribed for the closing of the location designated for early  
222 voting at such election or primary unless such elector is in line at such  
223 prescribed hour. An election or primary official or a police officer of the  
224 municipality, who is appointed by the registrars of voters, shall be  
225 placed at the end of the line at such prescribed hour. Such official or  
226 officer shall not allow any electors who were not in such line at such  
227 prescribed hour to enter such line.

228 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-174a of the general statutes is  
229 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
230 *2023*):

231 (a) For each municipality, the registrars of voters, in consultation with  
232 the municipal clerk, shall create an emergency contingency plan for  
233 elections, primaries and referenda to be held within such municipality,  
234 including the conduct of early voting, as provided in section 1 of this  
235 act, at such regular elections held on or after July 1, 2023, and at such  
236 primaries and special elections held on or after January 1, 2024. Such  
237 plan shall include, but not be limited to, (1) solutions for ballot or  
238 envelope shortages, and (2) strategies to implement in the event of (A) a  
239 shortage or absence of [poll workers] election, primary or referendum  
240 officials at the polling place or the location designated for early voting,  
241 as applicable, (B) a loss of power, (C) a fire or the sounding of an alarm  
242 within a polling place or a location designated for early voting, (D)



243 voting machine malfunctions, (E) a weather or other natural disaster, (F)  
244 the need to remove [a poll worker or moderator] an election, primary or  
245 referendum official and to replace such [worker or moderator] official,  
246 and (G) disorder in and around the polling place or the location  
247 designated for early voting.

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

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

252 (1) "Election day" means the day on which a regular election, as  
253 defined in section 9-1, as amended by this act, is held;

254 (2) "Primary day" means the day on which a primary, as defined in  
255 section 9-372 or 9-463, as applicable, is held;

256 (3) "Same-day election registration" means admission as an elector  
257 during the period of early voting at a regular election, as provided in  
258 section 1 of this act, or on election day; and

259 (4) "Same-day primary registration" means both admission as an  
260 elector and enrollment in a political party holding a primary during the  
261 period of early voting at a primary, as provided in section 1 of this act,  
262 or on primary day.

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

272 (c) (1) The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the

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

290 (2) The registrars of voters may apply to the Secretary of the State not  
291 later than [sixty] seventy days before election day or primary day, in a  
292 form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, to designate any  
293 additional location for the completion and processing of [election day]  
294 same-day election or same-day primary registration applications. [on  
295 election day.] The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such  
296 application not later than [forty-five] fifty-five days before election day  
297 or primary day. If the Secretary approves such application, the registrars  
298 of voters may so designate any such additional location. The provisions  
299 of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to any such additional  
300 location.

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

307 registration official.

308 (d) Any person applying [to register on election day] for same-day  
309 election or same-day primary registration under the provisions [of  
310 subsections (a) to (i), inclusive,] of this section shall make application in  
311 accordance with the provisions of section 9-20, provided (1) (A) on  
312 election day or primary day, the applicant shall appear in person not  
313 later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance with subsection (b) of section  
314 9-174, as amended by this act, at the location designated by the registrars  
315 of voters for [election day registration] same-day election or same-day  
316 primary registration, and (B) during the period of early voting prior to  
317 election day or primary day, the applicant shall appear in person at such  
318 times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-174, as  
319 amended by this act, at such location, (2) an applicant who is a student  
320 enrolled at an institution of higher education may submit a current  
321 photo identification card issued by such institution in lieu of the  
322 identification required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall  
323 declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the  
324 election or primary, as provided in subsection (f) of this section. If the  
325 information that the applicant is required to provide under section 9-20  
326 and [subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of] this section does not include  
327 proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall also  
328 submit identification that shows the applicant's bona fide residence  
329 address, including, but not limited to, a learner's permit issued under  
330 section 14-36 or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and current  
331 address and that has a due date that is not later than thirty days after  
332 the election or primary or, in the case of a student enrolled at an  
333 institution of higher education, a registration or fee statement from such  
334 institution that has the applicant's name and current address.

335 (e) If the registrars of voters determine that an applicant satisfies the  
336 application requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the  
337 registrars of voters shall check the state-wide centralized voter  
338 registration system before admitting such applicant as an elector or  
339 enrolling such applicant in a political party holding a primary.

340 (1) If the registrars of voters determine that the applicant is not  
341 already an elector, the registrars of voters shall admit the applicant as  
342 an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.  
343 Subject to the provisions of section 9-59, if the registrars of voters  
344 determine that the applicant is not already enrolled in a political party,  
345 the registrars of voters shall enroll the applicant in the political party  
346 holding a primary of such applicant's preference and the privileges of  
347 party enrollment shall attach immediately.

348 (2) If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an  
349 elector in another municipality and such applicant [states that he or she]  
350 wants to change the municipality in which the applicant is an elector,  
351 notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters  
352 of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register shall  
353 immediately notify the registrars of voters in such other municipality  
354 that such elector is changing the municipality in which the applicant is  
355 an elector. The registrars of voters in such other municipality shall notify  
356 the election officials or primary officials in such municipality to remove  
357 such elector from the official voter list and, if applicable, any enrollment  
358 list of such municipality. Such election officials or primary officials shall  
359 cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and, if  
360 applicable, enrollment list and mark "off" next to such elector's name on  
361 any such [official voter] list.

362 (A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other  
363 municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall  
364 immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which  
365 such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not  
366 receive [an election day] a same-day election or same-day primary  
367 registration ballot from the registrars of voters of the municipality in  
368 which such elector now seeks to register. For any such elector, the  
369 [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration  
370 process shall cease in the municipality in which such elector now seeks  
371 to register and such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters  
372 in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. After  
373 completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter [can not] cannot

374 be made, such matter shall be reported to the State Elections  
375 Enforcement Commission which shall conduct an investigation of the  
376 matter.

377 (B) If there is no such report that such applicant already voted in the  
378 other municipality, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which  
379 the applicant seeks to register shall admit the applicant as an elector and  
380 the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately. Subject to the  
381 provisions of section 9-59, the registrars of voters shall also enroll the  
382 applicant in the political party holding a primary of such applicant's  
383 preference and the privileges of party enrollment shall attach  
384 immediately.

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

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

- 397 1. I am the person admitted here as an elector in the town indicated.
- 398 2. I am eligible to vote in the election or primary indicated for today  
399 in the town indicated.
- 400 3. The information on my voter registration card is correct and  
401 complete.
- 402 4. I reside at the address that I have given to the registrars of voters.
- 403 5. If previously registered at another location, I have provided such

404 address to the registrars of voters and hereby request cancellation of  
405 such prior registration.

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

408 7. I completed an application for [an election day] a same-day election  
409 registration or same-day primary registration ballot and received [an  
410 election day] a same-day election registration or same-day primary  
411 registration ballot.

412 .... (Signature of voter)

413 (g) The elector shall forthwith mark the [election day] same-day  
414 election or same-day primary registration ballot in the presence of the  
415 registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars of voters shall  
416 not know how the [election day] same-day election or same-day  
417 primary registration ballot is marked. The elector shall place the  
418 [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration ballot  
419 in the [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration  
420 ballot envelope provided, and deposit such envelope in a secured  
421 [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration ballot  
422 depository receptacle. At the conclusion of each day during the early  
423 voting period, the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle  
424 containing such day's same-day election or same-day primary  
425 registration ballots to the municipal clerk, who shall retain such ballots,  
426 if necessary, in the fire-resistive vault or safe provided for in section 7-  
427 27, until delivery of such ballots to the registrars of voters on election  
428 day or primary day for the purpose of counting such ballots. On election  
429 day or primary day, at the time designated by the registrars of voters  
430 and noticed to election officials or primary officials, the registrars of  
431 voters shall transport such receptacle containing the [election day]  
432 same-day election or same-day primary registration ballots received on  
433 such election day or primary day to the central location or polling place,  
434 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, where absentee ballots are  
435 counted and such [election day] same-day election or same-day primary  
436 registration ballots shall be counted by the election officials or primary

437 officials present at such central location or polling place. A section of the  
438 head moderator's return shall show the number of [election day] same-  
439 day election or same-day primary registration ballots received from  
440 electors. The registrars of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for  
441 [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration  
442 ballots in a depository envelope with the [election day] same-day  
443 election or same-day primary registration ballots and store such  
444 [election day] same-day election or same-day primary registration  
445 depository envelope with the other election or primary results  
446 materials. The [election day] same-day election or same-day primary  
447 registration depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of  
448 voters for the period of time required to preserve counted ballots for  
449 elections.

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

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

470 (j) No person shall solicit [in] on behalf of or in opposition to [the  
471 candidacy of another or himself or herself or in] any candidate or on  
472 behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the  
473 election, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or  
474 circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any  
475 outside entrance in use as an entry to any location designated by the  
476 registrars of voters for [election day] same-day election or same-day  
477 primary registration balloting or in any corridor, passageway or other  
478 approach leading from any such outside entrance to any such location  
479 or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or  
480 approach.

481 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-225 of the general statutes is  
482 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
483 *2023*):

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



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

508 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-226 of the general statutes is  
509 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
510 *2023*):

511 (a) The warning of each municipal election shall specify the objects  
512 for which such election is to be held. Except as provided in subsection  
513 (b) of this section, notice of a town election shall be given by the town  
514 clerk or assistant town clerk, by publishing a warning (1) in a newspaper  
515 published in such town or having a general circulation therein, such  
516 publication to be not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous  
517 to [holding] the commencement of the period of early voting at the  
518 election, and (2) on such town's Internet web site, such publication to be  
519 not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to [holding] the  
520 commencement of the period of early voting at the election. The town  
521 clerk in each town shall, in the warning for such election, give notice of  
522 (A) the time and the location of each polling place in the town, (B) in  
523 towns divided into voting districts, the time and the location of each  
524 polling place in each district, [and] (C) the time and the [location] site of  
525 each location designated for [election day] same-day election  
526 registration, and (D) the time and the site of each location designated for  
527 the conduct of early voting, in the town. The town clerk shall record  
528 each such warning. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,  
529 notice of an election of a city or borough shall be given by publishing a  
530 warning (i) in a newspaper published within the limits of such city or  
531 borough or having a general circulation therein, not more than fifteen  
532 nor less than five days previous to [holding] the commencement of the  
533 period of early voting at the election, and (ii) on the Internet web site of  
534 such city or borough, or the town having such city or borough within  
535 such town's limits, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous  
536 to [holding] the commencement of the period of early voting at the

537 election, which warning shall include notice of (I) the time and the  
538 location of each polling place in such city or borough, (II) in cities and  
539 boroughs divided into voting districts, the time and the location of each  
540 polling place in each district, [and] (III) the time and the [location] site  
541 of each location designated for [election day registration] same-day  
542 election registration in such city or borough, and (IV) the time and the  
543 site of each location designated for the conduct of early voting in such  
544 city or borough.

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

548 (a) The registrars of voters and municipal clerk from each  
549 municipality shall jointly certify, in writing, to the Secretary of the State  
550 the number of ballots for each polling place in the municipality that have  
551 been ordered for each election or primary to be held within such  
552 municipality. Such registrars and clerk shall also so certify the number  
553 of ballots for each location designated for the conduct of early voting in  
554 the municipality that have been ordered for each regular election held  
555 on or after July 1, 2023, and for each primary or special election held on  
556 or after January 1, 2024. Such certification shall be on a form provided  
557 by the Secretary that shall have questions, including, but not limited to,  
558 those pertaining to the historical turnout for each such polling place or  
559 location, as applicable, in the municipality for the past four elections or  
560 primaries of similar nature to the election or primary to be held. The  
561 registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall include as part of any such  
562 certification any other relevant factors that may be unique to each such  
563 polling place or location in their municipality. Such certification shall be  
564 provided to the Secretary not later than thirty-one days prior to the  
565 commencement of the period of early voting at an election or twenty-  
566 one days prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at a  
567 primary.

568 (b) If the registrars of voters and municipal clerk of a municipality do  
569 not jointly submit the certification as set forth in subsection (a) of this

570 section, such registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall order a  
571 number of ballots equal to the total number of registered voters in their  
572 municipality for such election or primary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

633 (a) At any time prior to a primary held before January 1, 2024, and  
634 pursuant to sections 9-423, 9-425 and 9-464, or a special act, or prior to

635 any regular election held before July 1, 2023, or any special election held  
636 before January 1, 2024, the Superior Court may issue an order removing  
637 a candidate from a ballot where it is shown that [said] such candidate is  
638 improperly on the ballot.

639 (b) At any time prior to the commencement of the period of early  
640 voting at a primary held on or after January 1, 2024, and pursuant to  
641 sections 9-423, 9-425 and 9-464, or a special act, or prior to the  
642 commencement of the period of early voting at any regular election held  
643 on or after July 1, 2023, or at any special election held on or after January  
644 1, 2024, the Superior Court may issue an order removing a candidate  
645 from a ballot where it is shown that such candidate is improperly on the  
646 ballot.

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

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

668 the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state  
669 representative. A copy of such candidate's letter of withdrawal to the  
670 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. No  
671 nomination to fill a vacancy under this section shall be valid unless it is  
672 certified to the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office  
673 or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or  
674 to the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state  
675 senator or state representative, by the organization or committee  
676 making such nomination, at least forty-two days before the opening of  
677 the polls on the day of the election, except as otherwise provided by this  
678 section. If a nominee dies within forty-six days before the election, but  
679 prior to twenty-four hours before the [opening of the polls on the day  
680 of] commencement of the period of early voting at the election for which  
681 such nomination has been made, the vacancy may be filled in the  
682 manner prescribed in this section by two o'clock p.m. of the day before  
683 the [election] first day of such period of early voting with the municipal  
684 clerk or the Secretary of the State, as the case may be. If a nominee dies  
685 within twenty-four hours before the [opening of the polls]  
686 commencement of the period of early voting at the election and prior to  
687 the close of the polls on the day of the election for which such  
688 nomination has been made, such nominee shall not be replaced and the  
689 votes cast for such nominee shall be canvassed and counted, and if such  
690 nominee receives a plurality of the votes cast, a vacancy shall exist in the  
691 office for which the nomination was made. The vacancy shall then be  
692 filled in a manner prescribed by law. A copy of such certification to the  
693 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. Such  
694 nomination to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification shall  
695 include a statement setting forth the reason for such vacancy. If at the  
696 time such nomination is certified to the Secretary of the State or to the  
697 municipal clerk, as the case may be, the ballots have already been  
698 printed, the Secretary of the State shall direct the municipal clerk in each  
699 municipality affected to (A) have the ballots reprinted with the  
700 nomination thus made included thereon, (B) cause printed stickers to be  
701 affixed to the ballots so that the name of any candidate who has died,  
702 withdrawn or been disqualified is deleted and the name of any

703 candidate chosen to fill such vacancy appears in the same position as  
704 that in which the vacated candidacy appeared, or (C) cause blank  
705 stickers to be so affixed if the vacancy is not filled.

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

708 If only one candidacy has been filed by a person other than a party-  
709 endorsed candidate for the nomination by a political party to a  
710 particular office and the candidate whose candidacy has been so filed  
711 thereafter, but prior to the [opening of the polls] commencement of the  
712 period of early voting at such primary, dies, withdraws his name from  
713 nomination or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for  
714 which he is a candidate, no primary shall be held for the nomination of  
715 such party to that office and the party-endorsed candidate for such  
716 office shall be deemed to have been lawfully chosen in the same manner  
717 and to the same extent as is provided in sections 9-382 to 9-450,  
718 inclusive, in the case where no candidacy other than a party-endorsed  
719 candidacy has been filed. If candidacies have been filed by only one  
720 group of persons other than party-endorsed candidates for election to a  
721 town committee, and the candidates whose candidacies have been so  
722 filed thereafter, but prior to the [opening of the polls] commencement of  
723 the period of early voting at such primary, die, withdraw their names  
724 from nomination or for any reason become disqualified to hold the  
725 positions for which they are candidates, so as to render the number of  
726 candidacies so filed less than twenty-five per cent of the number of town  
727 committee members to be elected by such party either in the  
728 municipality or in the political subdivision, as the case may be, no  
729 primary shall be held for those positions and the party-endorsed  
730 candidates for such positions shall be deemed to have been lawfully  
731 chosen in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided in  
732 sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, in the case where no candidacies other  
733 than party-endorsed candidacies have been filed. If any person on a  
734 slate, prior to the [opening of the polls] commencement of the period of  
735 early voting at such primary, dies, withdraws his name from  
736 nomination or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the position

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

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

750 If a party-endorsed candidate for nomination to an office or for  
751 election to the position of town committee member, prior to twenty-four  
752 hours before the [opening of the polls] commencement of the period of  
753 early voting at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the first  
754 of such [primary] period of early voting, withdraws his name from  
755 nomination or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office or  
756 position for which he is a candidate, the state central committee, the  
757 town committee or other authority of the party which endorsed such  
758 candidate may make an endorsement to fill such vacancy or provide for  
759 the making of such endorsement, in such manner as is prescribed in the  
760 rules of such party, and certify to the registrar and municipal clerk or to  
761 the Secretary of the State, as the case may be, the name of the person so  
762 endorsed. If such certification is made at least twenty-four hours prior  
763 to the [opening of the polls] commencement of the period of early voting  
764 at the primary, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate  
765 who has died, or at least seven days before the first day of such  
766 [primary] period of early voting, in the case of such an endorsement to  
767 replace a candidate who has withdrawn or become disqualified, such  
768 person so endorsed shall run in the primary as the party-endorsed  
769 candidate, except as provided in sections 9-416 and 9-417. If such  
770 certification of another party-endorsed candidate has been made within



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

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

787 If, prior to the [opening of the polls] commencement of the period of  
788 early voting at a primary for nomination to an office or for election of  
789 town committee members, such a number of candidates have died,  
790 withdrawn their names or become ineligible, and have not been  
791 replaced as permitted in sections 9-426, as amended by this act, and 9-  
792 428, as amended by this act, as to render the total number of candidates  
793 for such office or position no greater than the number to be nominated  
794 to such office or elected to such positions, the primary shall not be held,  
795 and each of the party-endorsed and other candidates shall be deemed to  
796 have been lawfully nominated to such office or elected to such positions.

797 Sec. 16. Subsection (b) of section 9-55 of the general statutes is  
798 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
799 *1, 2024*):

800 (b) If a political party authorizes unaffiliated electors to vote in a  
801 primary, under section 9-431, and a notice of primary is published, the  
802 registrars shall cause a list of all unaffiliated electors eligible to vote in  
803 the primary to be printed before the commencement of the period of

804 early voting at such primary. If unaffiliated electors are authorized to  
805 vote in only one party's primary and are authorized to vote for all offices  
806 to be contested at the primary, the registrars may print the list of  
807 unaffiliated electors in combination with such party's enrollment list,  
808 indicating party affiliation where applicable.

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

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

815 Sec. 18. Subsection (b) of section 9-4a of the general statutes is  
816 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
817 *2023*):

818 (b) The voter guide shall contain:

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

823 (2) The name, party affiliation and contact information of each  
824 candidate who is nominated or qualifies as a petitioning candidate for  
825 election to the office of President of the United States, Vice-President of  
826 the United States, senator in Congress, representative in Congress,  
827 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer,  
828 State Comptroller, Secretary of the State, state senator or state  
829 representative at the state election. As used in this section, "contact  
830 information" means any or all of the following information received by  
831 the Secretary of the State in the course of the secretary's elections duties  
832 or by the Federal Election Commission: A candidate's campaign mailing  
833 address, telephone number, facsimile number, electronic mail address  
834 and web site. The voter guide may provide contact information for a

835 candidate for the office of President of the United States, Vice-President  
836 of the United States, senator in Congress or representative in Congress  
837 by an electronic link to such information on the Federal Election  
838 Commission's web site;

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

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

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

847 (6) Instructions regarding voting by absentee ballot;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

886 Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 9-6c of the general statutes is  
887 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
888 *2023*):

889 (a) Two or more municipalities may jointly perform any function that  
890 each municipality is required to perform individually under this title,  
891 except conduct early voting pursuant to section 1 of this act, by entering  
892 into an agreement pursuant to this section. Any such agreement shall be  
893 negotiated and shall contain all provisions upon which each  
894 participating municipality agrees. Any such agreement shall establish a  
895 process for amendment of, termination of and withdrawal from such  
896 agreement. Any proposed agreement shall be submitted to the

897 legislative body of each participating municipality for a vote to ratify or  
898 reject such agreement. The legislative body of each participating  
899 municipality shall provide an opportunity for public comment prior to  
900 any such vote. For purposes of this section, providing an opportunity  
901 for public comment does not require a legislative body to conduct a  
902 public hearing.

903 Sec. 22. Subsection (c) of section 9-50b of the general statutes is  
904 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
905 *2023*):

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

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

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

917 Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 9-17 of the general statutes are  
918 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
919 *2023*):

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

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

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

934 Sec. 25. Subsection (f) of section 9-19k of the general statutes is  
 935 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
 936 *2023*):

937 (f) If an applicant registers to vote pursuant to the provisions of this  
 938 section after the [seventh] fourteenth day before an election or after the  
 939 [fifth] fourteenth day before a primary, the privileges of an elector shall  
 940 not attach until the day after such election or primary, as the case may  
 941 be. In such event, the registrars of voters may contact such applicant,  
 942 either by telephone or mail, in order to inform such applicant of the  
 943 effect of such late received application and any applicable deadline for  
 944 applying for admission in person.

945 Sec. 26. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 9-23g of the general statutes  
 946 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
 947 *1, 2023*):

948 (c) Forthwith upon receipt of a registration application in the office of  
 949 the registrars of voters, the registrar shall mark such date on the  
 950 application and review the application to determine whether the  
 951 applicant has properly completed it and is legally qualified to register.  
 952 Forthwith upon completing his review, the registrar shall (1) indicate on

953 the application whether the application has been accepted or rejected,  
954 (2) mail a notice to the applicant, (3) indicate on the application the date  
955 on which such notice is mailed, and (4) provide a copy of such notice to  
956 the other registrar. If the registrar determines that the applicant has not  
957 properly completed the application or is not legally qualified to register,  
958 the notice shall indicate that the application has been rejected and shall  
959 state any reason for rejection. If the registrar determines that the  
960 applicant has properly completed the application and is legally  
961 qualified to register, the notice shall indicate that the application has  
962 been accepted. A notice of acceptance or a notice of rejection shall be  
963 sent (A) not later than four days after receipt of an application during  
964 the period beginning on the forty-ninth day before an election and  
965 ending on the twenty-first day before such election, (B) on the day of  
966 receipt of an application if it is received (i) during the period beginning  
967 on the [twentieth] twenty-seventh day before such election and ending  
968 on the [seventh] fourteenth day before such election, (ii) during the  
969 period beginning on the [sixth] thirteenth day before an election and  
970 ending on election day if the application has been received by the  
971 [seventh] fourteenth day before an election by the Commissioner of  
972 Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, (iii) during the period  
973 beginning on the [twenty-first] thirtieth day before a primary and  
974 ending on the [fifth] fourteenth day before a primary, or (iv) during the  
975 period beginning on the [fourth] thirteenth day before a primary and  
976 ending at twelve o'clock noon on the last weekday before a primary, if  
977 the application has been postmarked by the [fifth] fourteenth day before  
978 the primary and is received in the office of the registrars of voters during  
979 such period or if the application is received by the [fifth] fourteenth day  
980 before a primary by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a voter  
981 registration agency, and (C) within ten days of receipt of an application  
982 at any other time. A notice of acceptance shall be sent by first-class mail  
983 with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable  
984 at the address shown on the envelope. A notice of acceptance shall  
985 indicate the effective date of the applicant's registration and enrollment,  
986 the date of the next regularly scheduled election or primary in which the  
987 applicant shall be eligible to vote and the applicant's precinct and

988 polling place. If a notice of acceptance of an application is returned  
989 undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in  
990 accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, notwithstanding the May first  
991 deadline in section 9-35. An applicant for admission as an elector  
992 pursuant to this section and section 9-23h may only be admitted as an  
993 elector by a registrar of voters of the town of his residence. Not later  
994 than December thirty-first, annually, the Secretary of the State shall  
995 establish an official calendar of all deadlines set forth in this subsection  
996 for regularly scheduled elections and primaries to be held in the  
997 following calendar year.

998 (d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the privileges  
999 of an elector for any applicant for admission under this section and  
1000 section 9-23h shall attach immediately upon approval by the registrar,  
1001 and the registrars shall enter the name of the elector on the registry list.

1002 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, if a mailed  
1003 application is postmarked, or if a delivered application is received in the  
1004 office of the registrars of voters, after the [seventh] fourteenth day before  
1005 an election or after the [fifth] fourteenth day before a primary, the  
1006 privileges of an elector shall not attach until the day after such election  
1007 or primary, as the case may be. In such event, the registrars of voters  
1008 may contact such applicant, either by telephone or mail, in order to  
1009 inform such applicant of the effect of such late received mail-in  
1010 application and any applicable deadline for applying for admission in  
1011 person.

1012 (3) If an application is received after the [seventh] fourteenth day  
1013 before an election or after the [fifth] fourteenth day before a primary by  
1014 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency,  
1015 the privileges of an elector shall not attach until the day after the election  
1016 or primary, as the case may be, or on the day the registrar approves it,  
1017 whichever is later.

1018 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant  
1019 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present to  
1020 the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received through



1021 the mail or an application receipt that was previously provided to the  
1022 applicant pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h,  
1023 subsection (b) of this section or section 9-23n. If an applicant presents  
1024 said notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original  
1025 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the  
1026 registrar, or assistant registrar upon notice to and approval by the  
1027 registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official check  
1028 list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if otherwise  
1029 eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the polling  
1030 place a preprinted form of identification pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
1031 of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261.

1032 Sec. 27. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 9-192a of the  
1033 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1034 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1035 (3) Once certified, pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, each  
1036 registrar shall participate each year in not less than eight hours of  
1037 training, not including any training described under subdivision (2) of  
1038 subsection (d) of this section, in order to maintain such certification.  
1039 Such training shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the State and  
1040 shall be conducted by said Secretary or a third party approved by said  
1041 Secretary to conduct such training. On and after July 1, 2023, such  
1042 training shall include procedures for the conduct of early voting at  
1043 elections and primaries. Any registrar who fails to satisfy such annual  
1044 training requirement shall be directed by the Secretary of the State to  
1045 take remedial measures prescribed by said Secretary.

1046 Sec. 28. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the general statutes is  
1047 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1048 *2023*):

1049 (a) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any election or primary and  
1050 not later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the  
1051 Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, for any federal or  
1052 state election or primary, or by the town clerk for any municipal election  
1053 or primary, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit or, for

1054 an election or primary held on or after January 1, 2016, an electronic  
1055 audit authorized under section 9-320g of the votes recorded in not less  
1056 than five per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or  
1057 municipality, whichever is applicable. For the purposes of this section,  
1058 any central location used in a municipality for the counting of absentee  
1059 ballots, early voting ballots or same-day election or same-day primary  
1060 registration ballots shall be deemed a voting district. Such manual or  
1061 electronic audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public  
1062 observation. Any election official who participates in the administration  
1063 and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated  
1064 by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such  
1065 municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

1066 Sec. 29. Subsection (a) of section 9-229 of the general statutes is  
1067 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1068 *2023*):

1069 (a) The registrars of voters in the several towns and, in towns where  
1070 there are different registrars for different voting districts, the registrars  
1071 of voters in such districts shall appoint the moderators of regular and  
1072 special state and municipal elections in their respective towns or  
1073 districts. For the purpose of providing a reserve group of persons who  
1074 may serve as moderators, the registrars shall designate alternate  
1075 moderators from among those persons chosen as official checkers, or  
1076 tabulator tenders, in the following minimum numbers: In towns with  
1077 one or more but not exceeding three voting districts, one alternate  
1078 moderator; in towns with four or more but not exceeding eight voting  
1079 districts, two alternate moderators; in towns with more than eight  
1080 voting districts, a number of alternate moderators equal to one-fourth  
1081 of the number of voting districts rounded off to the nearest multiple of  
1082 four. In case the registrars fail to agree in the choice of a moderator or  
1083 alternate moderator, the choice shall be determined between such  
1084 registrars by lot. In the case of a primary, the registrar, as defined in  
1085 section 9-372, shall so appoint such moderators and alternate  
1086 moderators. Moderators and alternate moderators shall be appointed at  
1087 least twenty days before the commencement of the period of early

1088 voting at such election or primary. The registrars shall submit a list of  
 1089 the names of such moderators and alternate moderators to the  
 1090 municipal clerk, which list shall be made available for public inspection  
 1091 by such clerk. Each person appointed to serve as moderator or alternate  
 1092 moderator shall be certified by the Secretary of the State in accordance  
 1093 with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, except as provided  
 1094 in subsection (d) of this section or section 9-436.

1095 Sec. 30. Section 9-256 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 1096 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1097 The registrars of voters of each municipality shall, not less than ten  
 1098 days prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at an  
 1099 election, file with the Secretary of the State a sample ballot identical with  
 1100 those to be provided for each polling place under section 9-255. The  
 1101 Secretary of the State shall examine the sample ballot required to be filed  
 1102 under this section, and if such sample ballot contains an error, the  
 1103 Secretary of the State shall order the registrars of voters to reprint a  
 1104 corrected sample ballot or to take other such action as the Secretary may  
 1105 deem appropriate.

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

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a)(1)(B), "subdivision (1) of" was added for accuracy; in Section 1(a)(2), "voter" was changed to "elector" for consistency, and "subdivision (2) of" was added in Subpara. (B) for accuracy; in Section 1(b)(1), "before" was changed to "prior to" for consistency, and Subpara. (B)(ii) was rewritten for internal consistency and clarity; in Section 1(b)(3), "section" was changed to "subsection" for accuracy; Section 2(a) was rewritten for internal consistency; in Section 3, references to "same-day election or same-day primary registration" were added in Subsecs. (b) and (c)(1) for internal consistency; in Section 5(a)(3), "an election" was changed to "a regular election" for internal consistency; Section 5(c)(1)(B)(ii) was rewritten for internal consistency and clarity; in Section 5(d), "subsection (c) of section 9-174" was changed to "subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-174" for accuracy; in Section 5(e)(2), "or primary officials" was added for consistency; in Section 5(g), "if necessary, in the fire-resistive vault or safe provided for in section 7-27" was added for internal consistency; in Section 7(a)(2)(D)(ii)(III), "in such city or borough" was added for consistency; in Section 20, references to "location designated for the conduct of early voting" were added for consistency; in Section 21, "pursuant to section 1 of this act" was added for accuracy; and in Section 28, "same-day registration" was changed to "same-day election or same-day primary registration" for consistency.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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	Between \$1.8 and 2.3 million	Between \$0.8-1.3 million	Between \$0.7-1.2 million

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
All Municipalities	STATE MANDATE <sup>1</sup> - Cost	About \$700,000	About \$2,200,000	About \$700,000

**Explanation**

The bill would result in significant labor cost for both municipalities, as well as the state. Additionally, 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 roughly

40<sup>2</sup> additional sites would be opened across the state generally in

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 the town. The costs would also be borne by the state in addition to the cost for the public information campaign specifically for early voting and registrar's training materials. The bill places the onus of all labor costs on the municipalities individually, so the state's share of the costs mostly take effect in FY 24 as one-time expenses of roughly \$1,000,000<sup>3</sup> in year one and are reduced from year two onward. The largest differential in the range is the cost of the public information campaign for early voting. The Secretary of State's Office has indicated there would be about a \$500,000 range in costs depending upon implementation decisions.

Municipal costs would see the largest periodic fluctuation with the cost of municipal elections<sup>4</sup> being significantly less expensive than those of primary and general state elections. This leaves the weight heavily on even FYs for municipalities. The net cost per municipality will 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 a rough increase on odd fiscal years of \$9,500<sup>5</sup> and on even years of \$4,700 when no state general and primary elections are held.

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

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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. This estimate does not include municipal primaries.

<sup>5</sup> 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 \$70,000. 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 will vary on a town-by-town basis.

The bill varies from the other two early voting proposals (SB-1064, and HB-5004) in the length of early voting 10 days in this proposal and 14 days in the others; as well as the inclusion of town referendums in early voting in the other two. The difference between costs for all three relates to the length of early voting and the elections covered on the municipal side. There is no distinction in state costs.

### ***The Out Years***

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

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 1057*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE AND EARLY VOTING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a framework for early, in-person voting for all general elections held on or after July 1, 2023, and primaries and special elections held on or after January 1, 2024. Specifically, it requires a 10-day early voting period for general elections and primaries and a four-day early voting period for special elections.

Under the bill, every municipality must establish one early voting location and may establish additional locations. 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 registration (SDR), which covers the entire early voting period and the election. Additionally, the bill authorizes SDR for primaries and allows a voter who is not already registered to vote with any political party to register with a party and immediately vote in that party's primary.

To accommodate the early voting period, the bill generally modifies several election-related deadlines by either (1) moving the deadline 10 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 establishes specific deadlines for special elections.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except that provisions (1) that



modify deadlines for (a) registering write-in candidates, (b) automatic nomination of certain candidates, (c) replacing town committee candidates, (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 modifying a deadline for removing a candidate by judicial order are effective upon passage.

### **COVERED ELECTIONS (§ 1)**

The bill requires implementation of early voting for (1) general elections held on or after July 1, 2023, and (2) 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 and primaries, the early voting period must be 10 days long, beginning 11 days before the election and ending two days prior. Early voting locations must be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., including weekends, except that on the last Wednesday and Thursday before the election, the locations must be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For special elections, the bill adopts a four-day early voting period and establishes alternative timelines for the elections. Specifically, the early voting period for special elections must begin five days before the election and end two days prior. 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 may delegate any responsibility to an election or primary official designated in the municipality’s early voting certification to the secretary (see below). The registrars must supervise and train these officials.

**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 the bill 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 14 days before an election or primary (rather than the seventh day before the election and the fifth day before the primary). It also makes several conforming changes including moving up several related deadlines. For example, the bill correspondingly shifts the time frames during which registrars must send notice of an application’s acceptance or rejection on the day it is received, as shown in the table below.

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

	<i>Under Current Law</i>	<i>Under the Bill</i>
Regular Applications	From 20 days to seven days before an election	From 27 days to 14 days before an election
	From 21 days to five days before a primary	From 30 days to 14 days before a primary
Applications first	For applications received by	For applications received by 14

	<i>Under Current Law</i>	<i>Under the Bill</i>
received by the Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner or voter registration agency	seven days before an election, from six days before an election to election day	days before an election, from 13 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 14 days before a primary, from 13 days before a primary to noon the last weekday before a primary

**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 two types of SDR and generally applying the existing EDR provisions to SDR: (1) same-day election registration (i.e., voter registration during the early voting period for a general or special election or on election day) and (2) same-day primary registration (i.e., voter registration and enrollment in a political party during a primary’s early voting period or on a primary day).

Additionally, the bill allows a voter to enroll in a political party through same-day primary registration if the voter is not currently enrolled in any party and is not subject to a three-month waiting period due to recently removing his or herself from a political party enrollment list (CGS § 9-59). Enrollment during same-day primary registration becomes effective immediately for voting in that primary.

The bill also makes conforming changes.

**Deadlines for Same-Day Registration (§ 5)**

To accommodate the increased window of SDR, the bill moves up

several deadlines by 10 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 41 days before the election),
2. the Secretary of the State's (SOTS) response to a certification request (changed from 15 days to 25 days before the election),
3. certifying additional locations for SDR (changed from 60 days to 70 days before the election), and
4. SOTS response to a certification request for additional locations (changed from 45 days to 55 days before the election).

## **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. 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 such a decision is made, the registrars and clerk must designate a new location and provide adequate notice.

The bill implements alternative timelines for special elections. The certification of an early voting location for special elections 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.

#### ***Additional Locations (§ 1)***

Under the bill, a municipality with a population of at least 20,000 must 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.

Within three days after the hearing, the municipality's registrars must notify SOTS about their determination on any additional locations. If the registrars decide not to designate additional locations, they must include a detailed explanation for their determination. Adoption of additional locations is subject to the same requirements as the main location.

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

If the voter has already voted in the election, his or her request to vote must be denied and the registrars must review the matter. If the registrars cannot resolve the matter, they must report the incident to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, which must investigate.

#### ***Casting a Ballot (§ 1)***

Under the bill, if a voter 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 voter 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 voter:

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.

#### **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 a fire-resistive vault or safe. 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**

<b>Bill Section</b>	<b>Applicable Statutes</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
§ 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



<b>Bill Section</b>	<b>Applicable Statutes</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
§ 14	CGS § 9-428	Replacement of candidacy for town committee members	Various
§ 15	CGS § 9-429	Cancellation of a primary when due to candidate death, withdrawal, or disqualification	Before the period/election 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 regular elections and primaries, including the dates, hours, and voting procedures; and
3. update the existing annual registrar training by July 1, 2023, 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.

### **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 location, an indoor path leading to the location, or any room along the path.

#### ***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.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### ***Related Bills***

sSB 1064 and sHB 5004, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections committee, contain nearly identical

provisions to this bill. Both bills, which are identical to each other, differ from this bill in that they (1) authorize a 14-day early voting instead of a 10-day period and adjust the related deadlines accordingly and (2) additionally require early voting for referenda.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 5 (03/15/2023)