



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

***Raised Bill No. 1140***

LCO No. 3919



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:  
(PD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-184c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 (a) In 1994, 1996, and quadrennially thereafter, the town clerk of each  
4 town shall appoint as justice of the peace a number of electors of the  
5 town who are not members of major parties, as defined in section 9-372,  
6 which shall not exceed (1) where no justices of the peace are selected  
7 under section 9-183c, one-third of the total number of justices of the  
8 peace in the town, or (2) where justices of the peace are selected under  
9 section 9-183c, one-third of the total number of justices of the peace in  
10 the town less the number of justices of the peace in the town selected  
11 under section 9-183c. Such percentage shall be rounded up to the nearest  
12 whole number of justices of the peace. Any such appointment shall be  
13 made upon written application submitted on or after August first and  
14 on or before November first, in such year. No person who has  
15 enrollment privileges in the town in a political party which selected

16 justices of the peace under section 9-183b or under section 9-183c within  
17 the period beginning three months before said August first and ending  
18 on the date the person is to be appointed under this section, shall be  
19 eligible for such appointment. Not later than August 1, 1996, and  
20 quadrennially thereafter, the town clerk shall send a written notice to  
21 each incumbent justice of the peace appointed under this section. Such  
22 notice shall inform such justices of the peace of the procedures set forth  
23 in this section concerning the reappointment of such justices of the  
24 peace.

25 (b) If, on November first in such year, the number of applications for  
26 justice of the peace filed with the town clerk under subsection (a) of this  
27 section exceeds the number of justices of the peace allowed under this  
28 section, (1) each such applicant who is an incumbent justice of the peace  
29 appointed under this section shall be reappointed if there are sufficient  
30 openings and (2) the town clerk shall, on or before the fifteenth business  
31 day of November, select the remaining applicants to be appointed as  
32 justices of the peace by lot in a ceremony which shall be open to the  
33 public and held on five days' public notice. At such lottery the town  
34 clerk shall determine the order of all such remaining applications for the  
35 purpose of filling future vacancies under subsection (d) of this section.  
36 If a town clerk receives a number of applications that is less than the  
37 number of justices of the peace that he is authorized to appoint under  
38 this section in any year, he shall not appoint any additional justices of  
39 the peace.

40 (c) Justices of the peace appointed in 1994 [ , ] shall serve a term of two  
41 years beginning on the first Monday in 1995, and justices of the peace  
42 appointed in 1996 and thereafter shall serve a term of four years  
43 beginning on the first Monday in January in the succeeding year.

44 (d) [Any] For any vacancy in the office of any such justice of the peace,  
45 or upon the creation of a new office to be filled prior to the next regular  
46 election, such vacancy or new office shall be filled by appointment by  
47 the town clerk of an elector qualifying under subsection (a) of this  
48 section in the order determined in the lottery held under said

49 subsection. If no such lottery is held, the vacancy shall not be filled.

50 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 51-95b of the general statutes is  
51 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
52 *1, 2023*):

53 (c) On or before the fifteenth day of January following the  
54 appointment of justices of the peace or, if appointed to fill a vacancy or  
55 to fill a new office, within ten days after the appointment, the town clerk  
56 shall make a certificate upon a form to be prescribed and furnished by  
57 the Secretary of the State, stating the names of such qualified justices of  
58 the peace in the town, which names shall be set forth as on the registry  
59 list of electors in the town. The town clerk shall transmit the certificate  
60 to the Secretary of the State.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	9-184c
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	51-95b(c)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To specify that a newly created office of justice of the peace may be filled by appointment prior to the next regular election.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*