



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5309

LCO No. 1780



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING BALLOTS MADE AVAILABLE IN
LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-135b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) Immediately after the deadline for certification of all candidates
4 whose names are to appear on the ballot, and in sufficient time to begin
5 issuing absentee ballots on the day prescribed by law, the municipal
6 clerk shall prepare the absentee ballots and have them printed. Prior to
7 printing such ballots, (1) the registrars of voters of the municipality may
8 provide comments concerning the content and form of such ballots to
9 the clerk, and (2) in any municipality where federal or state law requires
10 such ballots to be made available in a language or languages other than
11 English, the clerk shall submit a sample of each such ballot to each
12 member of the legislative body, or the board of selectmen in a
13 municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting or
14 representative town meeting, who may provide comments concerning

15 the translation of such language or languages to the clerk.

16 (b) A layout model of each different absentee ballot shall be available
17 for public inspection at the clerk's office prior to printing. The model
18 shall indicate the type face to be used, the spelling and placement of
19 names and other information to be printed on the ballots.

20 (c) Immediately upon receiving the printed absentee ballots, the
21 municipal clerk shall file one with the Secretary of the State or, if there
22 are different ballots for different political subdivisions, one ballot for
23 each subdivision. The clerk shall also file his affidavit with the Secretary,
24 stating the number of ballots printed. The form of affidavit shall be
25 prescribed by the Secretary. If any correction or alteration is
26 subsequently made on any absentee ballot the clerk shall immediately
27 file a corrected or altered ballot and, using the prescribed form, his
28 affidavit stating the number of such ballots printed, with the Secretary.

29 (d) If a vacancy in candidacy occurs after the ballots have been
30 printed, the clerk may either reprint the ballots or cause blank or printed
31 stickers, as the case may be, to be affixed to them so that the name of any
32 candidate who has vacated his candidacy is deleted and the name of any
33 candidate chosen to fill the vacancy as provided in section 9-428 or
34 section 9-460 appears in the same position as that in which the vacated
35 candidacy appeared except as provided in section 9-426 or 9-453s.

36 (e) The Secretary of the State shall examine each absentee ballot
37 required to be filed pursuant to this section and if a ballot contains an
38 omission or error, the Secretary shall order the municipal clerk to reprint
39 a corrected absentee ballot or to take such other action as the Secretary
40 may deem appropriate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	9-135b

Statement of Purpose:

To provide that, whenever under federal or state law ballots are required to be made available in languages other than English, elected municipal leaders may review such ballots for accuracy of translation.

[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.]