



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 386

LCO No. 2738



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY VOTING AT PRIMARIES AND
ELECTIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) In any municipality where the
2 registrars of voters or the legislative body of such municipality, as
3 applicable, propose that the location of any polling place to be used at
4 such election or primary be moved from the location of such polling
5 place at the immediately preceding election or primary, (1) not later than
6 one hundred twenty days before such election or primary, the registrars
7 of voters or legislative body, as applicable, shall so propose any such
8 move at a regular meeting of such legislative body, (2) not later than one
9 hundred ten days before such election or primary, the legislative body
10 shall conduct a public hearing on such proposed move, and (3) not later
11 than one hundred days before such election or primary, the legislative
12 body shall approve or disapprove such proposed move. In the case of
13 any such proposed move that is approved, the registrars of voters or the
14 legislative body, as applicable, shall designate such new polling place

15 location in accordance with the provisions of applicable law.

16 Sec. 2. Section 9-168 of the general statutes is repealed and the
17 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

18 [In] Subject to the provisions of section 1 of this act, (1) in any town
19 not divided into voting districts, the place of holding elections may be
20 determined by the legislative body of such town, [. In] and (2) in towns
21 divided into voting districts, the place of holding elections shall be
22 determined as provided in section 9-169, as amended by this act, or any
23 special act, whichever applies. Except as provided in section 9-169a,
24 state elections shall be held at the usual place or places of holding
25 elections in the town or the voting districts thereof, as the case may be,
26 unless, [the registrars of voters, in writing, have designated to the clerk
27 of such town,] at least thirty-one days before any such state election, the
28 legislative body of such town designates a different place or places for
29 holding such election in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of
30 this act. Unless otherwise provided by special act, the place of holding
31 city or borough elections shall be determined by the legislative body of
32 such city or borough. Any provision of any charter or special act to the
33 contrary notwithstanding, the place or places of holding an election
34 shall be determined at least thirty-one days prior to such election, and
35 such place or places shall not be changed within the period of thirty-one
36 days prior to such election except that, if the municipal clerk and
37 registrars of voters of a municipality unanimously find that any such
38 polling place within such municipality has been rendered unusable
39 within such period, they shall forthwith designate another polling place
40 to be used in place of the one so rendered unusable and shall give
41 adequate notice that such polling place has been so changed.

42 Sec. 3. Section 9-168a of the general statutes is repealed and the
43 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

44 (a) Any provision of the general statutes to the contrary
45 notwithstanding, in any municipality in which, at any election, or
46 primary, as a result of the assembly, senatorial or congressional district

47 lines in effect, there is a voting district or a part of a voting district which
48 differs geographically from the district lines as constituted in a
49 municipal election year, the [registrars of voters may] legislative body
50 of the municipality may, in accordance with the provisions of section 1
51 of this act, either provide a suitable polling place therein or, [may,] in
52 lieu thereof, [with the approval of the legislative body of the
53 municipality,] provide separate voting tabulators in the polling place of
54 another voting district in said municipality for use by such electors. The
55 registrars of voters shall determine which polling place officials are
56 necessary for such separate tabulators and shall provide the procedure
57 to ensure that the electors use the proper voting tabulator, which
58 procedure may include the registrars of voters prescribing and
59 providing receipts.

60 (b) Any provision of the general statutes to the contrary
61 notwithstanding, in any municipality in which, at any election or
62 primary, as a result of the assembly, senatorial or congressional district
63 lines in effect, there is a voting district with less than one thousand five
64 hundred electors who vote for a combination of officers that no other
65 electors of the town vote for, the [registrars of voters may] legislative
66 body of the municipality may, in accordance with the provisions of
67 section 1 of this act, either provide a suitable polling place therein or,
68 [may,] in lieu thereof, provide separate voting tabulators in the polling
69 place of another voting district in said municipality for use by such
70 electors. If the [registrars of voters provide] legislative body provides
71 separate voting tabulators in the polling place of another voting district,
72 [they] the registrars of voters shall determine which polling place
73 officials are necessary for the district containing less than one thousand
74 five hundred electors and shall provide the procedure to ensure that the
75 electors use the proper voting tabulators, which procedure may include
76 the registrars of voters prescribing and providing receipts.

77 (c) In any election or primary where electors in more than one voting
78 district vote in the same building and vote for all the same officers, and
79 the law does not require separate returns, the registrars of voters may
80 combine the voting districts and polling places into one voting district

81 and polling place, with or without integrating the voting districts on the
82 check lists used at the election or primary. The registrars of voters shall
83 file a statement of their action with the town clerk before the election or
84 primary and the town clerk shall label the polling place return form to
85 show which districts are combined on such return.

86 Sec. 4. Section 9-168b of the general statutes is repealed and the
87 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

88 When in the written opinion of the registrars of any municipality, the
89 lack of an existing convenient or suitable polling place within the lines
90 of a particular voting district necessitates the designation of a polling
91 place in an adjacent district, such registrars may submit such written
92 opinion to the legislative body of such municipality along with a
93 proposal for the legislative body to designate a convenient and suitable
94 polling place in a voting district adjacent thereto, located as near as
95 possible to the boundaries of the voting district for which designated, in
96 accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this act. A separate
97 location from the existing polling place for such adjacent district shall
98 be designated, except that a separate room within such existing polling
99 place may be designated. Such written opinion of the registrars and
100 designation by the legislative body shall be filed with the municipal
101 clerk not later than ninety days before a regular election, or primary.
102 Within ten days after such filing, the municipal clerk shall cause notice
103 of such filing to be published in the newspaper having the greatest
104 circulation in the town. Such designation shall remain in effect for future
105 elections and primaries, until the registrars file a document with the
106 municipal clerk stating that the designation of such polling place in an
107 adjacent district is no longer necessary.

108 Sec. 5. Section 9-169 of the general statutes is repealed and the
109 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

110 The legislative body of any town, consolidated town and city or
111 consolidated town and borough may divide and, from time to time,
112 redivide such municipality into voting districts. [The] Subject to the

113 provisions of section 1 of this act, the registrars of voters of any
114 municipality taking such action shall provide a suitable polling place in
115 each district but, if the registrars fail to agree as to the location of any
116 polling place or places, the legislative body shall determine the location
117 thereof. Polling places to be used in an election shall be determined at
118 least thirty-one days before such election, and such polling places shall
119 not be changed within said period of thirty-one days except that, if the
120 municipal clerk and registrars of voters of a municipality unanimously
121 find that any such polling place within such municipality has been
122 rendered unusable within such period, they shall forthwith designate
123 another polling place to be used in place of the one so rendered unusable
124 and shall give adequate notice that such polling place has been so
125 changed. The registrars of voters shall keep separate lists of the electors
126 residing in each district and shall appoint for each district a moderator
127 in accordance with the provisions of section 9-229 and such other
128 election officials as are required by law, and shall designate one of the
129 moderators so appointed or any other elector of such town to be the
130 head moderator for the purpose of declaring the results of elections in
131 the whole municipality. The registrars may also designate a deputy
132 head moderator to assist the head moderator in the performance of his
133 duties provided the deputy head moderator and the head moderator
134 shall not be enrolled in the same major party, as defined in subdivision
135 (5) of section 9-372. The selectmen, town clerk, registrars of voters and
136 all other officers of the municipality shall perform the duties required of
137 them by law with respect to elections in each voting district established
138 in accordance with this section. Voting district lines shall not be drawn
139 by a municipality so as to conflict with the lines of congressional
140 districts, senate districts or assembly districts as established by law,
141 except (1) as provided in section 9-169d, and (2) that as to municipal
142 elections, any part of a split voting district containing less than two
143 hundred electors may be combined with another voting district adjacent
144 thereto from which all and the same officers are elected at such
145 municipal election in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this
146 act. Any change in the boundaries of voting districts made within ninety
147 days prior to any election or primary shall not apply with respect to such

148 election or primary. The provisions of this section shall prevail over any
149 contrary provision of any charter or special act.

150 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) At the conclusion of the presidential
151 preference primary held on April 2, 2024, the Secretary of the State shall
152 conduct a state-wide review of the implementation of early voting
153 procedures at said primary for any inconsistencies, insufficiencies or
154 deficiencies in such implementation. Not later than May 1, 2024, the
155 Secretary shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the
156 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections, in
157 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
158 detailing the findings of such review and making recommendations for
159 any improvements in the implementation of early voting procedures at
160 future elections and primaries.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-168
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-168a
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-168b
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-169
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require a public hearing and a vote of the legislative body prior to any move of polling places from one election to the next, and (2) require the Secretary of the State to review the implementation of early voting at the 2024 presidential preference primary and make recommendations for potential improvements.

[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.]