



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 386

February Session, 2024



AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES, EARLY VOTING AND REGIONAL ELECTION ADVISORS.

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 an election or primary be moved from the location of such polling place
5 at the immediately preceding election or primary, (1) not later than one
6 hundred twenty days before the election or primary at which such
7 polling place is to be used, the registrars of voters or legislative body, as
8 applicable, shall so propose any such move at a regular meeting of such
9 legislative body, (2) not later than one hundred ten days before the
10 election or primary at which such polling place is to be used, the
11 legislative body shall conduct a public hearing on such proposed move,
12 and (3) not later than one hundred days before the election or primary
13 at which such polling place is to be used, the legislative body shall
14 approve or disapprove such proposed move. In the case of any such
15 proposed move that is approved, the registrars of voters or the
16 legislative body, as applicable, shall designate such new polling place
17 location in accordance with the provisions of applicable law.

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 Section 9-168 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

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

46 (a) Any provision of the general statutes to the contrary
47 notwithstanding, in any municipality in which, at any election, or
48 primary, as a result of the assembly, senatorial or congressional district
49 lines in effect, there is a voting district or a part of a voting district which
50 differs geographically from the district lines as constituted in a
51 municipal election year, the [registrars of voters may] legislative body
52 of the municipality may, in accordance with the provisions of section 1
53 of this act, either provide a suitable polling place therein or, [may,] in

54 lieu thereof, [with the approval of the legislative body of the
55 municipality,] provide separate voting tabulators in the polling place of
56 another voting district in said municipality for use by such electors. The
57 registrars of voters shall determine which polling place officials are
58 necessary for such separate tabulators and shall provide the procedure
59 to ensure that the electors use the proper voting tabulator, which
60 procedure may include the registrars of voters prescribing and
61 providing receipts.

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

79 (c) In any election or primary where electors in more than one voting
80 district vote in the same building and vote for all the same officers, and
81 the law does not require separate returns, the registrars of voters may
82 combine the voting districts and polling places into one voting district
83 and polling place, with or without integrating the voting districts on the
84 check lists used at the election or primary. The registrars of voters shall
85 file a statement of their action with the town clerk before the election or
86 primary and the town clerk shall label the polling place return form to
87 show which districts are combined on such return.

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

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

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

112 The legislative body of any town, consolidated town and city or
113 consolidated town and borough may divide and, from time to time,
114 redivide such municipality into voting districts. [The] Subject to the
115 provisions of section 1 of this act, the registrars of voters of any
116 municipality taking such action shall provide a suitable polling place in
117 each district but, if the registrars fail to agree as to the location of any
118 polling place or places, the legislative body shall determine the location
119 thereof. Polling places to be used in an election shall be determined at
120 least thirty-one days before such election, and such polling places shall

121 not be changed within [said] such period of thirty-one days except that,
122 if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters of a municipality
123 unanimously find that any such polling place within such municipality
124 has been rendered unusable within such period, they shall forthwith
125 designate another polling place to be used in place of the one so
126 rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice that such polling
127 place has been so changed. The registrars of voters shall keep separate
128 lists of the electors residing in each district and shall appoint for each
129 district a moderator in accordance with the provisions of section 9-229
130 and such other election officials as are required by law, and shall
131 designate one of the moderators so appointed or any other elector of
132 such town to be the head moderator for the purpose of declaring the
133 results of elections in the whole municipality. The registrars may also
134 designate a deputy head moderator to assist the head moderator in the
135 performance of his duties provided the deputy head moderator and the
136 head moderator shall not be enrolled in the same major party, as defined
137 in subdivision (5) of section 9-372. The selectmen, town clerk, registrars
138 of voters and all other officers of the municipality shall perform the
139 duties required of them by law with respect to elections in each voting
140 district established in accordance with this section. Voting district lines
141 shall not be drawn by a municipality so as to conflict with the lines of
142 congressional districts, senate districts or assembly districts as
143 established by law, except (1) as provided in section 9-169d₂ and (2) that₂
144 as to municipal elections, any part of a split voting district containing
145 less than two hundred electors may be combined with another voting
146 district adjacent thereto from which all and the same officers are elected
147 at such municipal election in accordance with the provisions of section
148 1 of this act. Any change in the boundaries of voting districts made
149 within ninety days prior to any election or primary shall not apply with
150 respect to such election or primary. The provisions of this section shall
151 prevail over any contrary provision of any charter or special act.

152 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) At the conclusion of the presidential
153 preference primary held on April 2, 2024, the Secretary of the State shall
154 conduct a state-wide review of the implementation of early voting

155 procedures at said primary for any inconsistencies, insufficiencies or
156 deficiencies in such implementation. Not later than May 1, 2024, the
157 Secretary shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the
158 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections, in
159 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
160 detailing the findings of such review and making recommendations for
161 any improvements in the implementation of early voting procedures at
162 future elections and primaries.

163 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 9-229b of the 2024 supplement to the
164 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
165 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

166 (c) [Not later than March first of the year of each regular election,
167 each] Each regional council of governments that has appointed a
168 regional election advisor shall enter into a memorandum of
169 understanding with the Secretary of the State concerning the assistance
170 to be provided by such regional election advisor, and shall confirm
171 within such memorandum of understanding that (1) each requirement
172 described in subsection (b) of this section is satisfied and the individual
173 who shall serve as regional election advisor has been informed, in
174 writing, of the minimum expectations of performance for the position,
175 and (2) revocation by the Secretary of such regional election advisor's
176 certification constitutes breach of such memorandum of understanding,
177 which may result in termination of such memorandum of
178 understanding if the regional council of governments is not able to
179 appoint a replacement regional election advisor within thirty days after
180 such revocation.

181 Sec. 8. Subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 9-163aa of the 2024
182 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
183 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

184 (4) (A) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on which
185 early voting is conducted, a moderator and such other election or
186 primary officials to serve at each location designated for such conduct.

187 The moderator so appointed shall perform any duty required, and may
188 exercise any power authorized, under this title related to the conduct of
189 early voting at such location. On any such day and solely for purposes
190 related to the conduct of early voting, the registrars of voters of a
191 municipality may, upon agreement, appoint one of the registrars from
192 such municipality as moderator in accordance with the provisions of
193 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The registrars of voters may
194 delegate to each other election or primary official so appointed any of
195 the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of
196 voters shall supervise each such official and train each such official to be
197 an early voting election or primary official.

198 (B) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality appoint,
199 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, one of the registrars
200 of such municipality as moderator to serve at a location designated for
201 the conduct of early voting, such registrars of voters shall jointly submit
202 to the Secretary of the State (i) a certification that the registrars of voters
203 of such municipality are in agreement as to such appointment, and (ii)
204 a written plan detailing alternative coverage of the duties normally
205 carried out by the registrar so appointed to ensure that such registrar
206 abstains, on each day in which such registrar serves as moderator, from
207 any such duties that conflict with those of the moderator.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	9-168
Sec. 3	July 1, 2024	9-168a
Sec. 4	July 1, 2024	9-168b
Sec. 5	July 1, 2024	9-169
Sec. 6	from passage	New section
Sec. 7	from passage	9-229b(c)
Sec. 8	from passage	9-163aa(b)(4)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(1) to (3), "such election or primary" was changed to "the election or primary at which such polling place is to be used" for clarity;

and in Section 5, "said period of thirty-one days" was changed to "[said] such period of thirty-one days" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*