



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 4959



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.
SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.
SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 386

File No. 392

Cal. No. 254

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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 Section 9-168b of the general statutes is repealed and the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

5 When, in the written opinion of the registrars of any municipality, the
6 lack of an existing [convenient or] suitable polling place under state and
7 federal law within the lines of a particular voting district necessitates
8 the designation of a polling place in an adjacent district, such registrars
9 [may designate a convenient and] shall submit a proposal to the
10 legislative body of such municipality that a suitable polling place under
11 state and federal law be designated in [a] an adjacent voting district,
12 [adjacent thereto,] located as near as possible to the boundaries of the

13 particular voting district for which the polling place is to be designated,
14 [A] provided such registrars shall submit such proposal not later than
15 one hundred thirty-five days before a regular election or primary. Upon
16 receipt of such proposal, the legislative body shall (1) schedule a public
17 hearing thereon, which public hearing shall be held not later than one
18 hundred twenty days before such regular election or primary, and (2)
19 timely give notice of such public hearing by mail to each elector whose
20 name appears on the registry list of the particular voting district for
21 which the polling place is to be designated, at the address of such elector
22 as it appears on such registry list. The proposal shall provide for a
23 separate location from the existing polling place for [such] the adjacent
24 district, [shall be designated,] except that a separate room within such
25 existing polling place may be designated. [Such] If, at the conclusion of
26 the public hearing, the legislative body approves such proposal, the
27 registrars' written opinion and the designation of a suitable polling
28 place under state and federal law in an adjacent district shall be filed
29 with the municipal clerk not later than ninety days before [a] such
30 regular election [,] or primary. [Within] Not later than ten days after
31 such filing, the municipal clerk shall [cause] give notice of such [filing
32 to be published] designation by (A) publication in the newspaper
33 having the greatest circulation in the [town] municipality, (B) mail to
34 each elector whose name appears on the registry list of the particular
35 voting district for which the polling place has been so designated, at the
36 address of such elector as it appears on such registry list, (C) publication
37 on such municipality's Internet web site, and (D) on the day of such
38 election or primary, prominently posting adequate signage at the
39 location of the former polling place for such particular district, advising
40 of the polling place designated in the adjacent voting district. Such
41 designation shall remain in effect for future elections and primaries,
42 until the registrars file a document with the municipal clerk stating that
43 the designation of such polling place in an adjacent district is no longer
44 necessary.

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

47 (a) [Any] Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, [to
48 the contrary notwithstanding,] in any municipality in which, at any
49 election [] or primary, as a result of the assembly, senatorial or
50 congressional district lines in effect, there is a voting district or a part of
51 a voting district [which] that differs geographically from the district
52 lines as constituted in a municipal election year, the registrars of voters
53 either may [either] provide a suitable polling place under state and
54 federal law therein or may, in lieu thereof, with the approval of the
55 legislative body of the municipality, provide separate voting tabulators
56 in the polling place of another voting district in [said] such municipality
57 for use by such electors. The registrars of voters shall determine which
58 polling place officials are necessary for such separate tabulators and
59 shall provide the procedure to ensure that the electors use the proper
60 voting tabulator, which procedure may include the registrars of voters
61 prescribing and providing receipts.

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

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

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

87 Sec. 3. Section 9-169 of the general statutes is repealed and the
88 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

89 The legislative body of any town, consolidated town and city or
90 consolidated town and borough may divide and, from time to time,
91 redivide such municipality into voting districts. The registrars of voters
92 of any municipality taking such action shall provide a suitable polling
93 place under state and federal law in each district but, if the registrars fail
94 to agree as to the location of any polling place or places, the legislative
95 body shall determine the location thereof. Polling places to be used in
96 an election shall be determined at least thirty-one days before such
97 election, and such polling places shall not be changed within said period
98 of thirty-one days except that, if the municipal clerk and registrars of
99 voters of a municipality unanimously find that any such polling place
100 within such municipality has been rendered unusable within such
101 period, they shall forthwith designate another polling place to be used
102 in place of the one so rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice
103 that such polling place has been so changed. The registrars of voters
104 shall keep separate lists of the electors residing in each district and shall
105 appoint for each district a moderator in accordance with the provisions
106 of section 9-229 and such other election officials as are required by law,
107 and shall designate one of the moderators so appointed or any other
108 elector of such town to be the head moderator for the purpose of
109 declaring the results of elections in the whole municipality. The
110 registrars may also designate a deputy head moderator to assist the
111 head moderator in the performance of his duties provided the deputy
112 head moderator and the head moderator shall not be enrolled in the
113 same major party, as defined in subdivision (5) of section 9-372. The
114 selectmen, town clerk, registrars of voters and all other officers of the

115 municipality shall perform the duties required of them by law with
116 respect to elections in each voting district established in accordance with
117 this section. Voting district lines shall not be drawn by a municipality so
118 as to conflict with the lines of congressional districts, senate districts or
119 assembly districts as established by law, except (1) as provided in
120 section 9-169d₂ and (2) that₂ as to municipal elections, any part of a split
121 voting district containing less than two hundred electors may be
122 combined with another voting district adjacent thereto from which all
123 and the same officers are elected at such municipal election. Any change
124 in the boundaries of voting districts made within ninety days prior to
125 any election or primary shall not apply with respect to such election or
126 primary. The provisions of this section shall prevail over any contrary
127 provision of any charter or special act.

128 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State shall conduct
129 a state-wide review of the implementation of early voting procedures at
130 the presidential preference primary held on April 2, 2024, for any
131 inconsistencies, insufficiencies or deficiencies in such implementation.
132 Not later than July 1, 2024, the Secretary shall submit a report to the joint
133 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
134 matters relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section
135 11-4a of the general statutes, detailing the findings of such review and
136 making recommendations for any improvements in the implementation
137 of early voting procedures at future elections and primaries.

138 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 9-229b of the 2024 supplement to the
139 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
140 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

141 (c) [Not later than March first of the year of each regular election,
142 each] Each regional council of governments that has appointed a
143 regional election advisor shall enter into a memorandum of
144 understanding with the Secretary of the State concerning the assistance
145 to be provided by such regional election advisor, and shall confirm
146 within such memorandum of understanding that (1) each requirement
147 described in subsection (b) of this section is satisfied and the individual

148 who shall serve as regional election advisor has been informed, in
 149 writing, of the minimum expectations of performance for the position,
 150 and (2) revocation by the Secretary of such regional election advisor's
 151 certification constitutes breach of such memorandum of understanding,
 152 which may result in termination of such memorandum of
 153 understanding if the regional council of governments is not able to
 154 appoint a replacement regional election advisor within thirty days after
 155 such revocation."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-168b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-168a
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-169
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-229b(c)