



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 5198



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 Section 9-168b of the general statutes is repealed and the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 to the legislative body of
10 such municipality, not later than one hundred thirty-five days before a
11 regular election or primary, a plan to designate a suitable polling place
12 under state and federal law in [a] an adjacent voting district [adjacent

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

42 Sec. 2. 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] Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, [to
45 the contrary notwithstanding,] in any municipality in which, at any
46 election [,] or primary, as a result of the assembly, senatorial or

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

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

75 (c) In any election or primary where electors in more than one voting
76 district vote in the same building and vote for all the same officers, and
77 the law does not require separate returns, the registrars of voters may
78 combine the voting districts and polling places into one voting district
79 and polling place, with or without integrating the voting districts on the
80 check lists used at the election or primary. The registrars of voters shall

81 file a statement of their action with the town clerk before the election or
82 primary and the town clerk shall label the polling place return form to
83 show which districts are combined on such return.

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

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

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

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

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

138 (c) [Not later than March first of the year of each regular election,
139 each] Each regional council of governments that has appointed a
140 regional election advisor shall enter into a memorandum of
141 understanding with the Secretary of the State concerning the assistance
142 to be provided by such regional election advisor, and shall confirm
143 within such memorandum of understanding that (1) each requirement
144 described in subsection (b) of this section is satisfied and the individual
145 who shall serve as regional election advisor has been informed, in
146 writing, of the minimum expectations of performance for the position,
147 and (2) revocation by the Secretary of such regional election advisor's

148 certification constitutes breach of such memorandum of understanding,
149 which may result in termination of such memorandum of
150 understanding if the regional council of governments is not able to
151 appoint a replacement regional election advisor within thirty days after
152 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)