



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 663

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1535

Senate, April 14, 2025

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO EARLY VOTING.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-163aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) (1) (A) Any eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a regular
4 election, in accordance with the provisions of this section, during a
5 period of early voting at each regular election held on or after April 1,
6 2024.

7 (B) The period of early voting under subparagraph (A) of this
8 subdivision shall (i) notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2,
9 commence on the fifteenth day prior to and conclude on the second day
10 prior to such regular election, and (ii) consist of such days between and
11 inclusive of such commencement and conclusion, except any legal
12 holiday designated, appointed or recommended under section 1-4, and

13 at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section
14 9-174.

15 (2) (A) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection,
16 any eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a primary, other than a
17 presidential preference primary, in accordance with the provisions of
18 this section, during a period of early voting at each primary, other than
19 a presidential preference primary, held on or after April 1, 2024.

20 (B) The period of early voting under subparagraph (A) of this
21 subdivision shall (i) notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2,
22 commence on the eighth day prior to and conclude on the second day
23 prior to such primary, other than a presidential preference primary, and
24 (ii) consist of such days between and inclusive of such commencement
25 and conclusion, except any legal holiday designated, appointed or
26 recommended under section 1-4, and at such times as provided in
27 subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-174.

28 (3) (A) Any eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a special
29 election, in accordance with the provisions of this section, during a
30 period of early voting at each special election held on or after April 1,
31 2024.

32 (B) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection, any
33 eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a presidential preference
34 primary, in accordance with the provisions of this section, during a
35 period of early voting at each presidential preference primary held on
36 or after April 1, 2024.

37 (C) The period of early voting under subparagraph (A) or (B) of this
38 subdivision shall (i) notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2,
39 commence on the fifth day prior to and conclude on the second day
40 prior to such special election or such presidential preference primary,
41 except that such commencing and concluding days shall be adjusted to
42 exclude from such period March 31, 2024, and any legal holiday
43 designated, appointed or recommended under section 1-4, and (ii)
44 consist of four total days between and inclusive of such commencement

45 and conclusion, as may be adjusted pursuant to subparagraph (C)(i) of
46 this subdivision, and at such times as provided in subdivision (2) of
47 subsection (c) of section 9-174.

48 (4) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 9-19e, 9-23a, 9-26,
49 9-31a, 9-55, 9-56, as amended by this act, and 9-57:

50 (i) In the case of an unaffiliated elector who wishes to vote during the
51 period of early voting at a primary, such elector shall be eligible to so
52 vote if such elector's application for enrollment with the political party
53 holding such primary is filed with the registrars of voters by twelve
54 o'clock noon on the business day immediately preceding the day on
55 which such period of early voting commences.

56 (ii) In the case of a person who is not admitted as an elector and who
57 wishes to vote during the period of early voting at a primary, such
58 person shall be eligible to so vote if such person's application for
59 admission as an elector and enrollment with the political party holding
60 such primary is filed with the registrars of voters by twelve o'clock noon
61 on the business day immediately preceding the day during such period
62 of early voting on which such person offers to vote at such primary.

63 (B) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an individual
64 who enrolls in a political party during a period of early voting at a
65 primary from voting by absentee ballot, if eligible, or in person on the
66 day of such primary.

67 (b) (1) (A) The registrars of voters of each municipality shall designate
68 a location for the conduct of early voting [, which] but, if the registrars
69 fail to agree as to such location, the legislative body or, in a municipality
70 where the legislative body is a town meeting, the board of selectmen,
71 shall designate such location. Such location shall be the same for the
72 duration of the period of early voting except as otherwise specified in
73 this subdivision, provided [(A)] (i) the registrars of voters have access to
74 the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location,
75 and [(B)] (ii) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of the
76 State, [not later than sixty days prior to the day of an election or a

77 primary.] The written certification under subparagraph [(B)] (A)(ii) of
78 this subdivision shall be submitted annually by the registrars of voters
79 to the Secretary not later than February fifteenth. Any change to such
80 written certification shall be made and submitted, and approved or
81 disapproved, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (B) of
82 this subdivision. Such written certification shall provide [(i)] (I) the
83 name, street address and relevant contact information associated with
84 such location, [(ii)] (II) the number of election or primary officials to be
85 appointed by the registrars of voters to serve at such location and the
86 roles of such officials, and [(iii)] (III) a description of the design of such
87 location and a plan for effective conduct of such early voting, and shall
88 include the information required for same-day election registration
89 under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-19j, as amended by
90 this act. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written
91 certification annually not later than [forty-five days prior to the day of
92 an election or a primary] March first. If the Secretary disapproves such
93 certification, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, the reasons for such
94 disapproval and shall issue an order for such corrective action as the
95 Secretary deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the
96 appointment of additional election or primary officials or the alteration
97 of such design or plan. After having received approval of such
98 certification or having complied with any order for corrective action to
99 the Secretary's satisfaction, as applicable, the registrars of voters shall
100 determine the site of such location designated for the conduct of early
101 voting at least thirty-one days prior to an election or a primary. Such
102 location shall not be changed within such period, except, if the
103 municipal clerk and registrars of voters unanimously find that such
104 location has been rendered unusable within such period, such clerk and
105 registrars shall forthwith designate another location for the conduct of
106 early voting to be used in place of the location so rendered unusable and
107 shall give adequate notice that such location has been so changed. The
108 provisions of sections 9-168d and 9-168e shall apply to such location
109 designated for the conduct of early voting.

110 (B) If, after the registrars of voters annually submit the written
111 certification under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the registrars

112 make any change to any part of such written certification, such registrars
113 shall submit to the Secretary of the State an updated written
114 certification, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, as soon
115 as practicable but in no case later than seven days after such change. The
116 registrars shall clearly indicate on such updated written certification the
117 information that has changed since the prior submission. The Secretary
118 shall approve or disapprove such updated written certification as soon
119 as practicable but in no case later than seven days after submission
120 thereof. If the Secretary disapproves such updated certification, the
121 Secretary shall provide, in writing, the reasons for such disapproval and
122 shall issue an order for such corrective action as the Secretary deems
123 necessary, in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

124 (2) In any municipality with a population of at least twenty thousand,
125 the legislative body may hold a public hearing on whether to designate
126 any additional location in such municipality for the conduct of early
127 voting, which public hearing, if any, shall be held not later than fifteen
128 days prior to the time for designating any such location set forth in
129 subdivision (1) of this subsection. Any legislative body holding such a
130 public hearing shall properly notice such public hearing not later than
131 ten days prior to such public hearing in a newspaper having general
132 circulation in such municipality and on the Internet web site of the
133 municipality. For any such municipality in which such a public hearing
134 was not held, the legislative body thereof shall determine whether to
135 designate any such additional location and shall notify the Secretary of
136 the State with a detailed explanation for such determination. For any
137 municipality in which such a public hearing was held, not later than
138 three days after the conclusion of such public hearing, the legislative
139 body thereof shall determine whether to designate any such additional
140 location and shall notify the Secretary with a detailed explanation for
141 such determination. If the legislative body determines that any such
142 additional location be designated, the [registrars of voters] legislative
143 body or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting,
144 the board of selectmen, shall so designate such additional location and
145 the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to such
146 additional location. The Secretary shall take no action on any detailed

147 explanation submitted under this subdivision with regard to the
148 number of additional locations designated in such a municipality, and
149 shall preserve each such detailed explanation as a public record open to
150 public inspection. For the purposes of this subdivision, "population"
151 means the estimated number of people according to the most recent
152 version of the State Register and Manual prepared pursuant to section
153 3-90.

154 (3) In any municipality containing any campus of a public institution
155 of higher education with at least one thousand students living in
156 housing that is on such campus or is owned or operated by, or affiliated
157 with, such public institution of higher education, the registrars of voters
158 of such municipality shall designate an additional location on such
159 campus for the conduct of early voting and the provisions of
160 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to such additional location.

161 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) At each location designated for the conduct of early voting,
162 the registrars of voters shall provide to prospective electors during the
163 early voting period the opportunity to apply for same-day election
164 registration, in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 9-19j,
165 as amended by this act, for such application and for the completion and
166 processing of any such application.

167 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) (A) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on
168 which early voting is conducted, a moderator and such other election or
169 primary officials to serve at each location designated for such conduct.
170 The moderator so appointed shall perform any duty required, and may
171 exercise any power authorized, under this title related to the conduct of
172 early voting at such location. On any such day and solely for purposes
173 related to the conduct of early voting, the registrars of voters of a
174 municipality may, upon agreement, appoint one of the registrars from
175 such municipality as moderator in accordance with the provisions of
176 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The registrars of voters may
177 delegate to each other election or primary official so appointed any of
178 the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of
179 voters shall supervise each such official and train each such official to be

180 an early voting election or primary official.

181 (B) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality appoint,
182 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, one of the registrars
183 of such municipality as moderator to serve at a location designated for
184 the conduct of early voting, such registrars of voters shall jointly submit
185 to the Secretary of the State (i) a certification that the registrars of voters
186 of such municipality are in agreement as to such appointment, and (ii)
187 a written plan detailing alternative coverage of the duties normally
188 carried out by the registrar so appointed to ensure that such registrar
189 abstains, on each day in which such registrar serves as moderator, from
190 any such duties that conflict with those of the moderator.

191 (C) Not later than the fourteenth day preceding the commencement
192 of the period of early voting, the registrars of voters shall provide to the
193 Secretary of the State a written report setting forth the name, address
194 and, if available, cellular mobile telephone number of the moderator
195 appointed to serve at each location designated for the conduct of early
196 voting pursuant to this subdivision. Such written report shall be
197 included as part of the written report provided by the registrars to the
198 Secretary under section 9-228a, as amended by this act.

199 (c) Any elector who wishes to vote during a period of early voting at
200 an election or primary, and is eligible to so vote at such election or
201 primary, shall (1) appear in person at such times as provided in
202 subsection (c) of section 9-174, at the location designated by the
203 registrars of voters for early voting, and (2) identify such elector as
204 required by subsection (a) of section 9-261, [, and (3) declare under oath
205 that such elector has not previously voted in such election or primary,
206 as provided in subsection (e) of this section.]

207 (d) If the registrars of voters determine that an elector is eligible to
208 vote in the election or primary, the registrars of voters shall check the
209 state-wide centralized voter registration system before allowing such
210 elector to cast an early voting ballot as provided in subsection (e) of this
211 section.

212 (1) If the registrars of voters determine that the elector has not already
213 voted, or if there is no report that the elector has already voted, the
214 registrars shall allow such elector to vote.

215 (2) If the registrars of voters believe that the elector may have already
216 voted, such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters. After
217 completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter cannot be made
218 and such elector claims to have neither in fact voted nor offered to vote
219 in person or by absentee ballot, such elector may request a challenged
220 ballot in accordance with section 9-232d and may cast such challenged
221 ballot in accordance with section 9-232e. Such matter shall be reported
222 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, which shall conduct an
223 investigation of the matter. The provisions of section 9-232f shall apply
224 to any challenged ballot cast under this subdivision.

225 (e) If the elector is allowed to vote, the registrars of voters shall
226 provide such elector with an early voting ballot, [and early voting
227 envelope and] shall make a record of such issuance and shall announce
228 to such elector the voting district in which such elector resides and the
229 ballot, corresponding to such voting district, that such elector should
230 properly receive. [The elector shall complete an affirmation printed
231 upon the back of the early voting envelope and shall declare under oath
232 that the voter has not previously voted in the election or primary. The
233 affirmation shall be in the form substantially as follows and signed by
234 the voter:

235 AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty
236 of false statement (perjury), that:

237 1. I am the elector appearing in person to vote at an election or
238 primary prior to the day of such election or primary.

239 2. I am eligible to vote in the election or primary indicated for today.

240 3. I have identified myself to the satisfaction of the registrars of voters.

241 4. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote
242 otherwise than by this ballot at this election or primary.

243 5. I have received an early voting ballot for the purpose of so voting.

244 (Signature of voter)]

245 (f) The elector shall forthwith mark the early voting ballot in the
246 presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars
247 of voters shall not know how the early voting ballot is marked. The
248 elector shall place the early voting ballot [in the early voting ballot
249 envelope provided and deposit such envelope in a secured early voting
250 ballot depository receptacle] into the voting tabulator. At the conclusion
251 of each day during the early voting period, the registrars of voters shall
252 [transport such receptacle containing] (1) publicly open the voting
253 tabulator, secure and seal such day's early voting ballots [to the
254 municipal clerk, who shall] in a secure receptacle and retain and
255 securely store such ballots in as near a manner as possible to that for the
256 retention and secure storage of [absentee] ballots cast at polling places
257 under section 9-261, as provided in subsection (g) of this section, except
258 that, if such manner is not practicable, then such early voting ballots
259 shall be retained and securely stored as provided in an alternate plan
260 submitted by the registrars of voters to the Secretary of the State and
261 approved by the Secretary, [. On the day of the election or primary, the
262 early voting ballots shall be delivered to the registrars of voters for the
263 purpose of counting such ballots. A section of the head moderator's
264 return shall show the number of early voting ballots received from
265 electors. The registrars of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for
266 early voting ballots in a depository envelope with the early voting
267 ballots and store such early voting depository envelope with the other
268 election or primary results materials. The early voting depository
269 envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the period of
270 time required to preserve counted ballots for elections or primaries] and
271 (2) secure the voting tabulator in a locked area.

272 (g) Except as provided in section 9-163bb, as amended by this act, the
273 provisions of this title and any regulation adopted under this title
274 concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of
275 [absentee] ballots cast at polling places under section 9-261 shall apply,

276 as nearly as possible, to the custody, control and counting of early voting
277 ballots under this section. A section of the head moderator's return shall
278 show the number of early voting ballots received from electors.

279 (h) (1) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any
280 candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being
281 submitted at the election or primary, or loiter or peddle or offer any
282 advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius
283 of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any
284 building that contains any location designated by the registrars of voters
285 for early voting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach
286 leading from any such outside entrance to any such location or in any
287 room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

288 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no person
289 shall be allowed within any location designated by the registrars of
290 voters for early voting for any purpose other than casting such person's
291 vote, except (A) primary officials under section 9-436, (B) election
292 officials under section 9-258, including (i) a municipal clerk or registrar
293 of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (ii) a deputy
294 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,
295 performing such official's duties, and (C) unofficial checkers under
296 section 9-235.

297 (3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party
298 employee or volunteer, may be within the seventy-five-foot radius
299 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection (A) only for purposes
300 related to the performance of such person's official duties or to the
301 conduct of government business within such radius, (B) only for as long
302 as necessary to perform such duties or conduct such business, and (C)
303 provided such person is not engaged in any conduct described in
304 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

305 (i) The provisions of subsections (a) to (h), inclusive, of this section
306 shall not apply to any primary held for the purpose of choosing town
307 committee members.

308 (j) No election or primary official shall perform services for any party
309 or candidate on any day during the period of early voting on which such
310 election or primary official is appointed to serve under this section, nor
311 appear at any political party headquarters prior to the hour prescribed
312 under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (c) of section 9-174, as
313 applicable, for the closing of the location designated for early voting on
314 such day.

315 Sec. 2. Section 9-163bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
316 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

317 (a) [Early voting ballots received by the municipal clerk prior to the
318 day of an election or primary, and same-day] (1) Same-day election
319 registration ballots received by the municipal clerk prior to the day of a
320 regular election [.] shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the
321 registrars between six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on the day of the
322 regular election. [or primary.]

323 [(b)] (2) The ballot counters for such [early voting ballots and] same-
324 day election registration ballots shall proceed to the central counting
325 location or to the respective polling places when counting is to take
326 place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a at the time, between
327 six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on the day of the regular election,
328 [or primary,] designated by the registrars of voters. At the time such
329 ballots are delivered to the ballot counters pursuant to subsection (a) of
330 this section, the ballot counters shall perform any checking of such
331 ballots and proceed, as nearly as possible, as provided in section 9-150a.

332 (b) Upon the close of the polls on the day of an election or primary,
333 the moderator for the location designated for the conduct of early
334 voting, in the presence of the other election or primary officials at such
335 location, shall immediately lock the voting tabulator for early voting
336 ballots against voting and immediately cause the vote totals for all
337 candidates and questions to be produced.

338 Sec. 3. Section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed and the
339 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

340 (a) As used in this section:

341 (1) "Election day" means the day on which a regular election, as
342 defined in section 9-1, is held; and

343 (2) "Same-day election registration" means admission as an elector
344 during the period of early voting at a regular election, as provided in
345 section 9-163aa, as amended by this act, or on election day.

346 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, a person who (1)
347 is (A) not an elector, or (B) an elector registered in a municipality who
348 wishes to change such elector's registration to another municipality
349 pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this
350 section, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a)
351 of section 9-12, may apply for same-day election registration pursuant
352 to the provisions of this section.

353 (c) (1) ~~(A)~~ The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the
354 completion and processing of same-day election registrations on
355 election day, provided ~~[(A)]~~ (i) the registrars of voters have access to the
356 state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location, and
357 ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of the State,
358 [not later than forty-five days before election day.] The written
359 certification under subparagraph ~~[(B)]~~ (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall
360 [(i) include] be submitted annually by the registrars of voters to the
361 Secretary not later than February fifteenth as part of such registrars'
362 submission under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b)
363 of section 9-163aa, as amended by this act. Any change to such written
364 certification shall be made and submitted, and approved or
365 disapproved, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (B) of
366 this subdivision. Such written certification shall provide (I) the name,
367 street address and relevant contact information associated with such
368 location, [(ii) list the name and address of each election official who
369 shall] (II) the number of election officials to be appointed by the
370 registrars of voters to serve at such location [, if any] and the roles of
371 such officials, and [(iii) provide] (III) a description of the design of such
372 location and a plan for effective completion and processing of [such

373 applications] same-day election registrations. The Secretary shall
374 approve or disapprove such written certification annually not later than
375 [twenty-nine days before election day] March first and may require the
376 registrars of voters to appoint one or more additional election officials
377 or alter such design or plan.

378 (B) If, after the registrars of voters annually submit the written
379 certification under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the registrars
380 make any change to any part of such written certification, including for
381 any additional location designated pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
382 subsection, such registrars shall submit to the Secretary of the State an
383 updated written certification, in a form and manner prescribed by the
384 Secretary, as soon as practicable but in no case later than seven days
385 after such change. The registrars shall clearly indicate on such updated
386 written certification the information that has changed since the prior
387 submission. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such updated
388 written certification as soon as practicable but in no case later than seven
389 days after submission thereof. If the Secretary disapproves such
390 updated certification, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, the reasons
391 for such disapproval and shall issue an order for such corrective action
392 as the Secretary deems necessary, in accordance with subparagraph (A)
393 of this subdivision.

394 (2) The legislative body of the municipality may apply to the
395 Secretary of the State not later than seventy-four days before election
396 day, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, to designate any
397 additional location for the completion and processing of same-day
398 election [registration applications] registrations on election day. The
399 Secretary shall approve or disapprove such application not later than
400 fifty-nine days before election day. If the Secretary approves such
401 application, the registrars of voters may so designate any such
402 additional location. The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection
403 shall apply to any such additional location.

404 (3) (A) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on which
405 same-day election registrations are completed and processed, a

406 moderator and such other election officials to serve at each location
407 designated for such completion and processing. The moderator so
408 appointed shall perform any duty required, and may exercise any
409 power authorized, under this title related to the completion and
410 processing of same-day election registrations at such location. On any
411 such day and solely for purposes related to the completion and
412 processing of same-day election registrations, the registrars of voters of
413 a municipality may, upon agreement, appoint one of the registrars from
414 such municipality as moderator in accordance with the provisions of
415 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The registrars of voters may
416 delegate to each other election official so appointed [pursuant to
417 subdivision (1) of this subsection] any of the responsibilities assigned to
418 the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall supervise each such
419 election official and train each such official to be a same-day election
420 registration election official.

421 (B) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality appoint,
422 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, one of the registrars
423 of such municipality as moderator to serve at a location designated for
424 the completion and processing of same-day election registrations, such
425 registrars of voters shall jointly submit to the Secretary of the State (i) a
426 certification that the registrars of voters of such municipality are in
427 agreement as to such appointment, and (ii) a written plan detailing
428 alternative coverage of the duties normally carried out by the registrar
429 so appointed to ensure that such registrar abstains, on each day in which
430 such registrar serves as moderator, from any such duties that conflict
431 with those of the moderator.

432 (C) Not later than the fourteenth day preceding the commencement
433 of the period of early voting prior to election day, the registrars of voters
434 shall provide to the Secretary of the State a written report setting forth
435 the name, address and, if available, cellular mobile telephone number of
436 the moderator appointed to serve at each location designated for the
437 completion and processing of same-day election registrations pursuant
438 to this subdivision. Such written report shall be included as part of the
439 written report provided by the registrars to the Secretary under section

440 9-228a, as amended by this act.

441 (d) Any person applying for same-day election registration under the
442 provisions of this section shall make application in accordance with the
443 provisions of section 9-20, provided (1) (A) on election day, the applicant
444 shall appear in person not later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance
445 with subsection (b) of section 9-174, at the location designated by the
446 registrars of voters for same-day election registration, and (B) during the
447 period of early voting prior to election day, the applicant shall appear
448 in person at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c)
449 of section 9-174, at such location, (2) an applicant who is a student
450 enrolled at an institution of higher education may submit a current
451 photo identification card issued by such institution in lieu of the
452 identification required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall
453 declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the
454 election, as provided in subsection (f) of this section. If the information
455 that the applicant is required to provide under section 9-20 and this
456 section does not include proof of the applicant's residential address, the
457 applicant shall also submit identification that shows the applicant's
458 bona fide residence address, including, but not limited to, a learner's
459 permit issued under section 14-36 or a utility bill that has the applicant's
460 name and current address and that has a due date that is not later than
461 thirty days after the election or, in the case of a student enrolled at an
462 institution of higher education, a registration or fee statement from such
463 institution that has the applicant's name and current address.

464 (e) If the registrars of voters determine that an applicant satisfies the
465 application requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the
466 registrars of voters shall check the state-wide centralized voter
467 registration system before admitting such applicant as an elector.

468 (1) If the registrars of voters determine that the applicant is not
469 already an elector, the registrars of voters shall admit the applicant as
470 an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

471 (2) If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an
472 elector in another municipality and such applicant wants to change the

473 municipality in which the applicant is an elector, notwithstanding the
474 provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters of the municipality in
475 which such elector now seeks to register shall immediately notify the
476 registrars of voters in such other municipality that such elector is
477 changing the municipality in which the applicant is an elector. The
478 registrars of voters in such other municipality shall notify the election
479 officials in such municipality to remove such elector from the official
480 voter list of such municipality. Such election officials shall cross through
481 the elector's name on such official voter list and mark "off" next to such
482 elector's name on such official voter list.

483 (A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other
484 municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall
485 immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which
486 such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not
487 receive a same-day election registration ballot from the registrars of
488 voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register.
489 For any such elector, the same-day election registration process shall
490 cease in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register and
491 such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters in the
492 municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. After
493 completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter cannot be made,
494 such matter shall be reported to the State Elections Enforcement
495 Commission which shall conduct an investigation of the matter.

496 (B) If there is no such report that such applicant already voted in the
497 other municipality, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which
498 the applicant seeks to register shall admit the applicant as an elector and
499 the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

500 (f) If the applicant is admitted as an elector, the registrars of voters
501 shall provide the elector with a same-day election registration ballot and
502 same-day election registration envelope and shall make a record of such
503 issuance. The elector shall complete an affirmation imprinted upon the
504 back of the same-day election registration envelope and shall declare
505 under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the election.

506 The affirmation shall be in the form substantially as follows and signed
507 by the voter:

508 AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty
509 of false statement, (perjury) that:

510 1. I am the person admitted here as an elector in the town indicated.

511 2. I am eligible to vote in the election indicated for today in the town
512 indicated.

513 3. The information on my voter registration card is correct and
514 complete.

515 4. I reside at the address that I have given to the registrars of voters.

516 5. If previously registered at another location, I have provided such
517 address to the registrars of voters and hereby request cancellation of
518 such prior registration.

519 6. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote
520 otherwise than by this ballot at this election.

521 7. I completed an application for a same-day election registration
522 ballot and received a same-day election registration ballot.

523 (Signature of voter)

524 (g) The elector shall forthwith mark the same-day election
525 registration ballot in the presence of the registrars of voters in such a
526 manner that the registrars of voters shall not know how the same-day
527 election registration ballot is marked. The elector shall place the same-
528 day election registration ballot in the same-day election registration
529 ballot envelope provided, and deposit such envelope in a secured same-
530 day election registration ballot depository receptacle. At the conclusion
531 of each day during the early voting period, the registrars of voters shall
532 transport such receptacle containing such day's same-day election
533 registration ballots to the municipal clerk, who shall retain and securely
534 store such ballots in as near a manner as possible to that for the retention

535 and secure storage of absentee ballots, as provided in subsection (h) of
536 this section, except that, if such manner is not practicable, such same-
537 day election registration ballots shall be retained and securely stored as
538 provided in an alternate plan submitted by the registrars of voters to the
539 Secretary of the State and approved by the Secretary. On election day,
540 the previously retained and securely stored same-day election
541 registration ballots shall be delivered to the registrars of voters and, at
542 the time designated by the registrars of voters and noticed to election
543 officials, the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle
544 containing the same-day election registration ballots received on such
545 election day to the central location or polling place, pursuant to
546 subsection (b) of section 9-147a, where absentee ballots are counted and
547 such same-day election registration ballots shall be counted by the
548 election officials present at such central location or polling place. A
549 section of the head moderator's return shall show the number of same-
550 day election registration ballots received from electors. The registrars of
551 voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for same-day election
552 registration ballots in a depository envelope with the same-day election
553 registration ballots and store such same-day election registration
554 depository envelope with the other election results materials. The same-
555 day election registration depository envelope shall be preserved by the
556 registrars of voters for the period of time required to preserve counted
557 ballots for elections.

558 (h) Except as provided in section 9-163bb, as amended by this act, the
559 provisions of this title and any regulation adopted under this title
560 concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of
561 absentee ballots shall apply, as nearly as possible, to the custody, control
562 and counting of same-day election registration ballots under this
563 section.

564 (i) After the acceptance of a same-day election registration, the
565 registrars of voters shall forthwith send a registration confirmation
566 notice to the residential address of each applicant who was admitted as
567 an elector on election day or during the period of early voting prior to
568 election day under this section. Such confirmation shall be sent by first

569 class mail with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not
570 deliverable at the address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation
571 notice is returned undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the
572 necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable,
573 notwithstanding the May first deadline in section 9-35.

574 (j) (1) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any
575 candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being
576 submitted at the election, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising
577 matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-
578 five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any building that
579 contains any location designated by the registrars of voters for same-
580 day election registration balloting or in any corridor, passageway or
581 other approach leading from any such outside entrance to any such
582 location or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway
583 or approach.

584 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no person
585 shall be allowed within any location designated by the registrars of
586 voters for same-day election registration balloting for any purpose other
587 than casting such person's vote, except (A) primary officials under
588 section 9-436, (B) election officials under section 9-258, including (i) a
589 municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same
590 office, and (ii) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the
591 office of registrar of voters, performing such official's duties, and (C)
592 unofficial checkers under section 9-235.

593 (3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party
594 employee or volunteer, may be within the seventy-five-foot radius
595 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection (A) only for purposes
596 related to the performance of such person's official duties or to the
597 conduct of government business within such radius, (B) only for as long
598 as necessary to perform such duties or conduct such business, and (C)
599 provided such person is not engaged in any conduct described in
600 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

601 (k) No election official shall perform services for any party or

602 candidate on any day on which such election official is appointed to
603 serve under this section, nor appear at any political party headquarters
604 prior to the hour prescribed under subsection (b) or subdivision (1) of
605 subsection (c) of section 9-174, as applicable, for the closing of the
606 location designated for same-day election registration on such day.

607 Sec. 4. Section 9-228a of the general statutes is repealed and the
608 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

609 (a) [The] Not later than the thirty-first day preceding the day of each
610 municipal, state or federal election or primary, the registrars of voters of
611 each municipality shall [, not later than thirty-one days prior to each
612 municipal, state or federal election or primary,] certify to the Secretary
613 of the State, in writing, the location of each polling place that will be
614 used for such election or primary. Such certification shall detail the
615 name, address, relevant contact information and corresponding federal,
616 state and municipal districts associated with each polling place used for
617 such election or primary.

618 (b) [The] Not later than the fourteenth day preceding the
619 commencement of the period of early voting at each municipal, state or
620 federal election or primary, in accordance with the provisions of
621 subsection (a) of section 9-163aa, as amended by this act, the registrars
622 of voters of each municipality shall [, prior to each municipal, state or
623 federal election or primary,] provide a written report to the Secretary of
624 the State setting forth the names, [and] addresses and, if available,
625 cellular mobile telephone numbers of each moderator for each (1)
626 polling place location disclosed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
627 section, (2) location designated for the conduct of early voting pursuant
628 to subsection (b) of section 9-163aa, as amended by this act, and (3)
629 location designated for the completion and processing of same-day
630 election registrations pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-19j, as
631 amended by this act.

632 (c) The Secretary of the State shall have the authority to disqualify
633 any moderator appointed by the registrars of voters if, after consultation
634 with both registrars of voters, the Secretary determines such moderator

635 has committed material misconduct, material neglect of duty or material
636 incompetence in the discharge of his or her duties as a moderator. If the
637 Secretary disqualifies a moderator, the Secretary shall share his or her
638 findings upon which the disqualification was based with the registrars
639 of voters.

640 Sec. 5. Section 9-56 of the general statutes is repealed and the
641 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

642 Except as otherwise provided in the case of an elector whose name
643 has not been placed on or has been removed from the enrollment list
644 under section 9-59, 9-60, 9-61 or 9-62, any elector not enrolled on any
645 enrollment list may at any time make a written and signed application
646 for enrollment to the registrars of voters on an application form for
647 admission as an elector, in accordance with the requirements of this
648 section. The application shall be effective as of the date it is filed with
649 the registrars of voters of the town of residence of the applicant and any
650 person making application for enrollment in such manner shall
651 immediately be entitled to the privileges of party enrollment unless the
652 application for enrollment (1) is filed in person by the applicant with the
653 registrars of voters after twelve o'clock noon on the last business day
654 before a primary, in which case he shall be entitled to the privileges of
655 party enrollment immediately after the primary, (2) is otherwise filed
656 with the registrar after the [fifth] eighteenth day before the primary, in
657 which case he shall be entitled to the privileges of party enrollment
658 immediately after the primary, except as provided in section 9-23a, or
659 (3) is filed with the registrars of voters after 5:00 p.m. on the last business
660 day before a caucus or convention, in which case he shall be entitled to
661 the privileges of party enrollment immediately after the caucus or
662 convention. The application shall be signed or initialed by the registrar,
663 deputy, assistant or registrar's clerk receiving it, or by such other
664 personnel as such registrar or deputy may appoint for the purpose,
665 showing the date when such application is received and, in the case of
666 an applicant not immediately eligible under section 9-59, 9-60, 9-61 or 9-
667 62 to the privileges accompanying enrollment in the party named in his
668 application, the date upon which such applicant becomes so eligible. In

669 municipalities divided into voting districts in which an enrollment
670 session is held in each district thereof under section 9-51, application for
671 enrollment shall be made to the registrar or assistant registrar, as the
672 case may be, in the voting district in which such elector is entitled to
673 vote at the time of making such application. If any registrar or assistant
674 registrar fails to add any name to any such list on written application or
675 adds any name to any such list except as herein provided, he shall be
676 guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

677 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 9-229 of the general statutes is
678 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
679 *1, 2026*):

680 (d) If the person designated as moderator is unable to serve for any
681 reason, a certified alternate moderator shall serve as moderator. If such
682 certified alternate moderator is not called upon to serve as moderator,
683 he shall serve in another capacity as an election official on election or
684 primary day. If any town or voting district lacks a moderator due to the
685 death, disability or withdrawal of a certified moderator or alternate
686 moderator, or due to the disqualification of a moderator for any reason,
687 including failure to attend an instructional session as required by this
688 section, the registrars of voters shall appoint a new moderator for such
689 town or voting district in the manner provided in this section, except
690 that the registrars shall not appoint as moderator any person who has,
691 in a court of competent jurisdiction, been convicted of or pled guilty or
692 nolo contendere to any (1) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny,
693 embezzlement or bribery, or (2) criminal offense under this title. Such
694 new moderator shall attend an instructional session and a certification
695 session conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section. If
696 all such sessions have been conducted at the time of appointment of the
697 new moderator, the new moderator shall receive instruction from the
698 registrars who appointed the new moderator.

699 Sec. 7. Section 9-169 of the general statutes is repealed and the
700 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

701 The legislative body of any town, consolidated town and city or

702 consolidated town and borough may divide and, from time to time,
703 redivide such municipality into voting districts. The registrars of voters
704 of any municipality taking such action shall provide a suitable polling
705 place in each district but, if the registrars fail to agree as to the location
706 of any polling place or places, the legislative body shall determine the
707 location thereof. Polling places to be used in an election shall be
708 determined at least thirty-one days before such election, and such
709 polling places shall not be changed within said period of thirty-one days
710 except that, if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters of a
711 municipality unanimously find that any such polling place within such
712 municipality has been rendered unusable within such period, they shall
713 forthwith designate another polling place to be used in place of the one
714 so rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice that such polling
715 place has been so changed. The registrars of voters shall keep separate
716 lists of the electors residing in each district and shall appoint for each
717 district a moderator in accordance with the provisions of section 9-229,
718 as amended by this act, and such other election officials as are required
719 by law, and shall designate one of the moderators so appointed or any
720 other elector of such town to be the head moderator for the purpose of
721 declaring the results of elections in the whole municipality, except that
722 the registrars shall not appoint as moderator any person who has, in a
723 court of competent jurisdiction, been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo
724 contendere to any (1) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny,
725 embezzlement or bribery, or (2) criminal offense under this title. The
726 registrars may also designate a deputy head moderator to assist the
727 head moderator in the performance of his duties provided the deputy
728 head moderator and the head moderator shall not be enrolled in the
729 same major party, as defined in subdivision (5) of section 9-372. The
730 selectmen, town clerk, registrars of voters and all other officers of the
731 municipality shall perform the duties required of them by law with
732 respect to elections in each voting district established in accordance with
733 this section. Voting district lines shall not be drawn by a municipality so
734 as to conflict with the lines of congressional districts, senate districts or
735 assembly districts as established by law, except [(1)] (A) as provided in
736 section 9-169d₂ and [(2)] (B) that as to municipal elections, any part of a

737 split voting district containing less than two hundred electors may be
 738 combined with another voting district adjacent thereto from which all
 739 and the same officers are elected at such municipal election. Any change
 740 in the boundaries of voting districts made within ninety days prior to
 741 any election or primary shall not apply with respect to such election or
 742 primary. The provisions of this section shall prevail over any contrary
 743 provision of any charter or special act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-163aa
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-163bb
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-19j
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-228a
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-56
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-229(d)
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-169

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	53,500	46,700

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
All Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Potential Savings	See Below	See Below
Mansfield; New Britain; Stamford; Windham; Danbury; New Haven	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Up to 100,000	Up to 125,000

Explanation

The bill makes a variety of changes to Connecticut's law on early in-person voting and results in the fiscal impacts described below.

Section 1, requires that certain municipalities that host qualifying public universities to open a second early-in person voting location on campus resulting in a cost of \$53,500 to the Secretary of the States' Office in FY 26 and a cost of \$46,700 in FY 27. These costs are associated with the one-time cost of installation of Central Voter Registration System (CVRS) lines² for five universities in FY 26, and the monthly

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

² The cost to install CVRS lines is anticipated to cost \$3,500 each.

maintenance costs for each³ additional location. It is expected that this provision will impact one additional university in FY 27⁴.

Additionally, there is an expected total cost for impacted municipalities of up to \$100,000 in FY 26 and up to \$125,000 in FY 27. This cost is associated with the additional cost of labor and supplies to facilitate an additional early-in person voting location for each impacted town. This is expected to impact five towns in FY 26 and six towns in FY 27. The exact cost will depend on the number, cost, and availability of election workers.

This section also makes a variety of changes to early-in person voting procedures that result in potential savings to each municipality. This savings is associated with no longer requiring the usage of an outer envelope, removing several storage requirements, and instead allowing electors to place their ballot directly into the tabulator for counting and storage. The exact savings will vary by town and depend on the reduction in labor and printing as a result of the bill.

The remaining sections of the bill make a variety of changes that result in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, number of election workers required, and the complexity of elections.

³ The ongoing subscription and maintenance cost for CVRS lines is \$600 per month or \$7,220 per year, per municipality.

⁴ UCONN Stamford is expected to require a voting location beginning in FY 27.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1535*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO EARLY VOTING.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes to the state election laws. Primarily, it changes the state's early voting procedures to allow ballots cast during early voting to be deposited into voting tabulators instead of requiring they be sealed into ballot envelopes and stored until election day. The bill also requires certain municipalities with a college campus to add an early voting location if a certain number of students live on campus or in institutional housing.

It modifies certification and reporting requirements for early voting and same-day election registration (SDR) locations. The bill also prohibits election and primary officials, while serving in that role during an early voting or SDR period, from performing services for any party or candidate or appearing at any political party headquarters until the early voting or SDR location closes that day.

Additionally, the bill makes various changes concerning moderators, including (1) expanding reports designating moderators and when they are submitted, (2) adding provisions regarding moderators at SDR locations, and (3) specifying certain crimes that make a moderator ineligible for appointment.

It also modifies when party enrollment privileges for unaffiliated voters attach if they do not apply in person. Finally, the bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, except that provisions concerning unaffiliated elector party enrollment privileges and prohibitions on

individuals convicted of certain crimes from serving as moderators take effect January 1, 2026.

§§ 1 & 2 — EARLY VOTING BALLOT PROCEDURES

The bill makes several changes to the early voting process, primarily to require early voting ballots to be inserted and counted by a voting tabulator instead of being sealed in a ballot envelope, stored by town clerks, and transported to the registrars on election day for counting.

Early Voting Eligibility

Under existing law, to vote early, an elector must (1) appear in person at an early voting location within the designated times, and (2) comply with election day identification requirements by either (a) showing adequate identification or (b) signing an affidavit attesting to his or her identity. The bill eliminates a requirement that the elector also swear an oath that he or she has not previously voted in the election.

Receiving a Ballot

As under existing law, if an elector has established his or her eligibility, the registrars must check the statewide centralized voter registration system (CVRS) to see if the elector has already voted. If the registrars of voters believe that the elector may have already voted in the election, they must review the matter. If they cannot resolve it, the elector may request and cast a challenged ballot (see BACKGROUND), and the registrars must report the incident to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, which must investigate.

If a voter is determined not to have previously voted, the elector must be given an early voting ballot and the registrar must record the issuance. The bill additionally requires the registrar to tell the elector their voting district and the correct ballot they should receive.

Casting a Ballot

Under current law, when a voter applies for an early voting ballot, the voter must mark his or her ballot, place it into a ballot envelope, and deposit it in a secured early voting ballot receptacle. Once the day's

early voting period has ended, registrars are required to transport the receptacle to the town clerk for storage in as near a manner as possible to the required methods for securing absentee ballots.

Instead, the bill requires the ballot, after it is marked, to be inserted into a voting tabulator. At the end of each day's early voting period, registrars must publicly open the tabulator, secure and seal the day's early voting ballots in a secure receptacle, and secure the tabulator in a locked area. Accordingly, the bill eliminates the requirement that voters be provided an early voting ballot envelope or sign the affirmation on it.

Securing and Storing Ballots

The bill also shifts the responsibility for retaining and storing these ballots from the town clerk to the registrars. The bill specifies they must be secured in a manner as near as possible to that for those cast at a polling place on election day.

After the polls close on the day of an election or primary, the early voting moderator must, in the presence of others, immediately lock the voting tabulator and produce the vote totals. The bill otherwise requires early voting ballots to be subject to all procedures relating to the custody, control, and counting of ballots cast at polling places on election day under existing law, as nearly as possible. As under existing law, a section of the head moderator's return must still show the number of early voting ballots received.

Correspondingly, the bill eliminates provisions for delivering the early voting ballots to the registrars for counting, counting these ballots, storing these ballots in depository envelopes, and putting the early voting ballot tallies in these envelopes.

§§ 1, 3 & 4 — EARLY VOTING AND SDR LOCATIONS

Existing law requires that each municipality have at least one early voting and SDR location. Under the law, registrars of voters are responsible for designating this location for their municipality, which must be able to access the CVRS and certified to the secretary of the state

(see below). Under the bill, if the registrars cannot agree on an early voting location, the municipality's legislative body (or the board of selectmen if the municipality's body is a town meeting) must designate the location, subject to the same requirements.

Early Voting and SDR Location Certification

Deadline. In order to designate an early voting or SDR location, registrars must submit a written certification to the secretary of the state with certain information about the location. Current law requires submitting an (1) early voting location certification 60 days before an election or primary and (2) SDR location certification 45 days before an election. The bill instead requires that they be annually submitted by February 15. The SDR certification must be included in the early voting certification.

Content. As part of the early voting certifications, registrars must provide certain information, such as the name, street address, and contact information associated with the location, the number of officials serving at the location, a description of the location's design, and a plan for the efficient conduct of early voting. The bill also requires it to include the SDR implementation plan (see below).

Current law also requires SDR certifications to include similar, but not identical content as the early voting certification, including a plan for the effective completion and processing of SDR registrations. The bill eliminates the requirement for an SDR certification to list the name and address of each election official appointed for a location and instead requires the certification to note the number of officials and their roles like for early voting certifications.

Approval. Additionally, the bill specifies that the secretary must approve or disapprove these certifications by March 1 (instead of 45 days before an election contest for early voting or 29 days before an election contest for SDR certifications). Existing law, unchanged by the bill, outlines procedures if the secretary disapproves the annual location certification.

Amendment. The bill creates a process for registrars to amend their early voting or SDR written certification after it is submitted. Under the bill, they must submit an updated written certification as the secretary determines, and clearly indicate the changes from the earlier certification. The update must be submitted as soon as practicable, but no later than seven days after the change.

The secretary must approve or disapprove the amended certification as soon as practicable, but no later than seven days after the submission. If the secretary disapproves the certification, she must, as for original certifications, give the municipality a written reason for the disapproval and any order for corrective action she deems necessary (e.g., appointing additional officials or altering any submitted design or plan).

Additional Early Voting Locations

Under existing law, municipalities of 20,000 or more may authorize early voting locations under certain procedures in addition to the one required by law. The bill requires the municipality's legislative body, or board of selectmen if the legislative body is a town meeting, to designate any additional early voting locations instead of its registrars.

The bill also requires registrars to designate an additional early voting location on a college campus in a municipality, regardless of its size, if at least 1,000 students live on campus or in institution-owned, -operated, or -affiliated housing. Like the required early voting location, the added location must be able to connect to CVRS and be certified by the secretary.

§§ 1, 3, 4, 6 & 7 — MODERATORS

Moderator Reports (§§ 1, 3 & 4)

Existing law requires registrars to provide a written report with the names and addresses of all moderators designated to serve at regular polling locations. Currently, this report must be submitted at any time before each election and primary. The bill instead requires that this report be made at least 14 days before an early voting period begins. The

bill requires registrars to also include the moderator's cell phone number, if available, and provide this and the above information for early voting and SDR moderators.

SDR Moderators (§ 3)

Current law authorizes registrars of voters to delegate any of their responsibilities or duties to election officials appointed to serve at SDR locations, subject to the registrars' supervision and training. The bill generally maintains these requirements, but also implements similar moderator requirements for SDR locations as required for early voting locations.

Specifically, registrars must appoint, as previously required in the SDR certification, a moderator and other election officials who will serve at the SDR location. Moderators must perform any duty required by and may exercise any power authorized under the state's election laws in order to complete and process SDR registrations.

The bill specifies that the municipality's registrars of voters may agree to appoint one of themselves to serve as the moderator instead. If they choose to do so, they must submit a certification of their agreement to the secretary of the state as well as a written coverage plan for the registrar's regular duties, to ensure the registrar abstains from any that conflict with his or her role as moderator while serving in that role.

Persons Prohibited From Serving as Moderator (§§ 6 & 7)

The bill restricts registrars of voters from designating or appointing a person as a moderator if the person has been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no contest to, any offense under the state's election laws, or felonies involving fraud, forgery, larceny, embezzlement, or bribery. Under existing law, moderators are generally required to be certified by the secretary of the state before serving at an election or primary (see BACKGROUND) and are subject to the same restrictions in order to receive their certification.

Registrars of voters are responsible for designating a moderator for each polling place, including early voting and central counting

locations. If a moderator is unable to serve, a certified alternate moderator may assume the role of moderator. However, if a town or voting district lacks a moderator, the registrars of voters must appoint a new moderator. The new moderator should, if possible, become certified. If all instructional and certification sessions have already been conducted at the time of the moderator's appointment, he or she must receive instruction from the registrars.

§ 5 — PARTY ENROLLMENT PRIVILEGES FOR UNAFFILIATED ELECTORS

By law, unaffiliated voters who are eligible to vote, in most cases, are immediately entitled to the privileges of party enrollment (e.g., voting in a party's primary) if they file an application in person with the registrars by noon on the business day before a primary.

However, under current law, if the voter submits the application by other means (e.g., by mail) and it is filed within five days before the primary, the privileges generally attach after the primary except in some instances for members of the armed forces or certain residents temporarily overseas. The bill expands this period to 18 days before a primary (§ 5).

BACKGROUND

Challenged Ballots

Under existing law, a voter's right to cast a ballot may be challenged if a challenger knows, suspects, or reasonably believes that a person is not qualified or entitled to vote (CGS § 9-232 et seq.). A moderator must review these challenges and, if a moderator's decision is unfavorable to the challenged voter, the voter may apply for a challenged ballot. As part of the application, the voter must complete an affidavit attesting to the voter's qualifications and entitlement to vote at the election. The town clerk must preserve the ballots for at least 180 days after an election. In the case of a contested election, the court may order that challenged ballots be delivered to the board of admissions. The board, if ordered, must review all challenged ballots and determine which ones may be counted in the election and added to the vote totals.

Moderator Certification Requirements

State law requires the secretary to provide instructional sessions for moderator training each year, subject to certain geographical and timeliness requirements. At a minimum, the curriculum must include (1) procedures for counting and recording absentee ballots, (2) hands-on training for using voting tabulators, and (3) the moderator's duties in conducting a primary or election.

The secretary must generally certify anyone who successfully completes an instructional session or regional instructional session (i.e. a session conducted by a regional election advisor) and passes an exam she administers. A person cannot be certified if he or she has been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no contest to, any felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny, embezzlement, bribery, or any criminal offense under the state's election laws.

The secretary's certification is valid for four years. Before it expires, a certified moderator may undergo an abridged recertification process the secretary administers. Once completed, the certification must be renewed for another four years.

Related Bills

sSB 1163 (File 531), favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee, makes identical changes concerning persons prohibited from serving as moderators.

HB 7129 (File 366), favorably reported by the GAE Committee, provides for the transfer of voting tabulators to municipalities.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/27/2025)