



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 525

February Session, 2026

House Bill No. 5549

House of Representatives, April 8, 2026

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO STATUTES
RELATED TO ELECTIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-19b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) Except during the period between the last session for the
4 admission of electors prior to an election and the day following that
5 election, the town clerk or assistant town clerk, during office hours and
6 at the office of such official, may examine the qualifications of any
7 person applying in person to be admitted as an elector and approve such
8 application.

9 (b) Except during the period between the last session for the
10 admission of electors prior to an election and the day following that
11 election, either registrar of voters [,] or a deputy registrar or assistant
12 registrar appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 9-192

13 may examine the qualifications of any person applying to be admitted
14 as an elector in the town and, except for applications submitted
15 pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection, approve such application
16 submitted in person (1) at the office of such official; (2) at any enrollment
17 session of the registrars of voters; (3) at any public place; (4) at any time
18 and at any place in the town, other than a public place; or (5) at any
19 public office of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Labor Department or
20 Department of Social Services [which] that is located in the town in
21 which the registrar, deputy registrar or assistant registrar serves, [if]
22 provided written notice of the date and time of such examination is
23 given seven days in advance thereof to the commissioner of such
24 department. Upon receipt of a written notice under subdivision (5) of
25 this subsection, the commissioner of the department may designate a
26 portion of the public office which shall be used for the admission of
27 electors. The other registrar, or any deputy or assistant registrar, shall
28 be permitted to be present during the admission of any person pursuant
29 to subdivisions (4) and (5) of this subsection. Applications accepted and
30 examined prior to the last session for admission of electors prior to an
31 election pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection may be approved
32 after such last session. The admission of any person pursuant to
33 subdivision (4) shall be effective on the date when both registrars
34 approve such application. The registrar who receives such application
35 from the applicant shall give written notice to the other registrar within
36 one business day after such receipt and the registrars shall forthwith act
37 on such applications. No rejection of any application under subdivision
38 (4) of this subsection shall be effective until the registrar has mailed to
39 the other registrar and the applicant a notice stating any reason for the
40 rejection. Any applicant whose application is rejected may appeal under
41 the provisions of section 9-31/.

42 (c) Such registrar, deputy or assistant registrar accepting applications
43 in accordance with subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section shall
44 provide the applicant with a receipt. Upon approval or disapproval of
45 the application, the registrars shall send a notice thereof by first-class
46 mail with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not
47 deliverable at the address shown thereon. If such notice of approval is

48 returned undeliverable, the registrars shall take the necessary action in
49 accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43.

50 (d) During the period between the last session for the admission of
51 electors prior to an election and the opening of the limited session for
52 the admission of electors held on the last weekday before such election
53 under section 9-17, the town clerk or assistant town clerk, during office
54 hours and at the office of such official, and either registrar of voters or a
55 deputy or assistant registrar, at the office of such official, may examine
56 the qualifications of any person applying in person to be admitted in
57 such town and approve the application of such person whose
58 qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in the municipality were
59 attained after such last session and on or before the last weekday prior
60 to such election.

61 Sec. 2. Section 9-31a of the general statutes is repealed and the
62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

63 (a) As used in this section and section 9-31b, "permanently physically
64 disabled person" means a person who, by reason of a major defect or
65 infirmity of body, whether congenital or acquired by accident, injury or
66 disease, is permanently physically incapacitated to a degree that
67 prevents [him] such person and will continue to prevent [him] such
68 person from appearing in person at the office of the town clerk or
69 registrars of voters of the town where [he] such person temporarily or
70 permanently resides.

71 (b) (1) Any permanently physically disabled person may, in the
72 manner prescribed under this section and upon a form as prescribed
73 under section 9-31b, apply to the town clerk or either registrar of voters
74 of such town for examination and admission as an elector of any
75 Connecticut town.

76 ~~[(1)]~~ (2) In the case of a permanently physically disabled person
77 whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in such town are
78 attained on or before the last session for admission of electors prior to
79 an election to be held in the town, the application shall be submitted so

80 that it will be received by such town clerk or either registrar of voters
81 not later than such last session. Upon receipt of the application, the town
82 clerk or either registrar of voters shall notify the applicant of the day []
83 and the hour, such day to be [within] not later than ten days [of the
84 receipt of the application] after such receipt, at which an admitting
85 official shall meet with the applicant at the temporary or permanent
86 residence of the applicant.

87 [(2)] (3) In the case of a permanently physically disabled person
88 whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in such town are
89 attained after the last session for admission of electors prior to an
90 election to be held in the town, the application shall be submitted so that
91 it will be received by such town clerk or either registrar of voters not
92 later than the opening of the limited session for the admission of electors
93 held [, under section 9-17,] on the last weekday prior to the election
94 pursuant to section 9-17. Upon receipt of the application, the town clerk
95 or either registrar of voters shall notify the applicant of the day [] and
96 the hour, such day and hour to be not later than 5:00 p.m. on the last
97 weekday before the election, at which an admitting official shall meet
98 with the applicant at the temporary or permanent residence of the
99 applicant.

100 (c) Such admitting official shall meet at the appointed time with the
101 applicant for the purpose of examining [his] the applicant's
102 qualifications as an elector and for the purpose of admitting [him] the
103 applicant as an elector if the applicant is found qualified. Such official
104 shall make available to the applicant at such time, upon request, a copy
105 of the statement that specifies each eligibility requirement and contains
106 an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement (1) in
107 video form, in accordance with procedures established by the registrars
108 of voters, and (2) in braille, large print and audio form. Such official shall
109 provide the applicant with a written notice of approval or disapproval
110 at that time, except as otherwise provided in section 9-19e. Any person
111 making application for registration under this section shall be entitled
112 to the privileges of an elector and party enrollment, if applicable, from
113 the time such application for admission as an elector is approved by the

114 town clerk or registrars of voters of [his] the town of such person's
115 voting residence.

116 Sec. 3. Section 9-163bb of the general statutes, as amended by section
117 70 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
118 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

119 (a) (1) Early voting ballots received by the municipal clerk prior to the
120 day of an election or primary, and same-day election registration ballots
121 received by the municipal clerk prior to the day of a regular election,
122 shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars between six
123 o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on the day of the election or primary.

124 (2) The ballot counters for such early voting ballots and same-day
125 election registration ballots shall proceed to the central counting
126 location or to the respective polling places when counting is to take
127 place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a at the time, between
128 six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on the day of the election or primary,
129 designated by the registrars of voters. At the time such ballots are
130 delivered to the ballot counters pursuant to [subsection (a) of this
131 section] subdivision (1) of this subsection, the ballot counters shall
132 perform any checking of such ballots and proceed, as nearly as possible,
133 as provided in section 9-150a, as amended by [this act] public act 26-1.

134 (b) On the first day of the early voting period, before the opening of
135 the polls, the moderator for the location designated for the conduct of
136 early voting shall unlock the voting tabulator for use and confirm that
137 the counter, which indicates the number of ballots that have been
138 inserted into the voting tabulator, is set at zero (000). Upon the close of
139 the polls each day during the early voting period, such moderator shall
140 record the number of ballots inserted into the voting tabulator, lock the
141 voting tabulator against voting and store the voting tabulator in
142 accordance with the written certification approved, or order for
143 corrective action issued, as applicable, by the Secretary of the State
144 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 9-163aa, as
145 amended by [this act] public act 26-1. On each subsequent day of the
146 early voting period, before the opening of the polls, the moderator shall

147 unlock the voting tabulator for use and confirm that the counter is set to
148 the same number that the moderator had recorded upon the close of the
149 polls the prior day for the number of ballots inserted into the voting
150 tabulator. Upon the close of the polls on the day of the election, the
151 moderator shall cause the vote totals for all candidates and questions to
152 be produced by the early voting tabulators.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-19b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-31a
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-163bb

GAE *Joint Favorable*

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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill makes technical revisions to current elections statutes, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5549

***AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO STATUTES
RELATED TO ELECTIONS.***

SUMMARY

This bill makes technical changes to the state's election laws.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/23/2026)