



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 4118



Offered by:

REP. BLUMENTHAL, 147<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5494

File No. 490

Cal. No. 340

**"AN ACT CONCERNING REFERENDA ON REVISIONS TO MUNICIPAL CHARTERS AND HOME RULE ORDINANCES."**

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

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) Whenever by law it is  
4 provided that a proposed charter amendment or home rule ordinance  
5 amendment may be submitted to a vote of the electors of a municipality  
6 pursuant to section 7-191 of the general statutes, as amended by this act,  
7 or to any special act, charter or ordinance, the provisions of this section  
8 shall apply in addition to all other applicable provisions of chapter 152  
9 of the general statutes.

10 (b) (1) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
11 the designation of a proposed charter amendment or home rule  
12 ordinance amendment on the ballot shall be "Shall (here insert the  
13 question, in a form requiring a "Yes" or "No" response, followed by a  
14 question mark)" and, unless such question as presented adequately  
15 explains the proposed change or changes, shall include a precise and

16 fair explanation of such proposed change or changes that shall not  
17 advocate either the approval or disapproval of such amendment. Such  
18 question and any such explanation shall be presented on the ballot using  
19 simple, precise, clear, unambiguous and plain language.

20 (2) In the case where a proposed charter amendment or home rule  
21 ordinance amendment addresses multiple distinct subjects, each such  
22 subject shall be submitted as a separate designation on the ballot. Where  
23 changes are being proposed across multiple provisions of such a charter  
24 or home rule ordinance, only those changes that relate to a single subject  
25 may be submitted as a single designation on the ballot.

26 (c) Any municipality may provide for the preparation, printing and  
27 dissemination of concise summaries of arguments in favor of, and  
28 arguments opposed to, a proposed charter amendment or home rule  
29 ordinance amendment, which summaries shall otherwise comply with  
30 the provisions of subsection (c) of section 9-369b of the general statutes,  
31 as amended by this act.

32 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 7-191 of the general statutes is repealed  
33 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

34 (f) The proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule  
35 ordinance amendments shall be prepared for the ballot by the  
36 appointing authority and may be submitted in the form of one or several  
37 questions in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this act; and,  
38 if approved by a majority of the electors of the municipality voting  
39 thereon at a regular election or if approved by a majority which number  
40 equals at least fifteen per cent of the electors of the municipality as  
41 determined by the last-completed active registry list of such  
42 municipality at a special election, such proposed charter, charter  
43 amendments or home rule ordinance amendments shall become  
44 effective thirty days after such approval unless an effective date or dates  
45 are specified therein, in which event the date or dates specified shall  
46 prevail.

47 Sec. 3. Section 9-369 of the general statutes is repealed and the

48 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

49 Whenever at any regular or special state or municipal election any  
50 vote for approval or disapproval of any constitutional amendment or  
51 any question or proposal is taken pursuant to the Constitution, the  
52 general statutes or any special act, unless otherwise provided, such  
53 election shall be warned and held, the vote on such amendment,  
54 question or proposal cast and canvassed and the result determined and  
55 certified as nearly as may be in accordance with the provisions  
56 governing the election of officers in the state or in such municipality.  
57 The warning for such election shall state that a purpose of such election  
58 is to vote for the approval or disapproval of such amendment, question  
59 or proposal and shall state the section of the Constitution or of the  
60 general statutes or the special act under authority of which such vote is  
61 taken. The vote on such amendment, question or proposal shall be taken  
62 by a "Yes" and "No" vote on the voting tabulator, [ and the] Except as  
63 provided in section 1 of this act for a proposed charter amendment or  
64 home rule ordinance amendment, the designation of such constitutional  
65 amendment, or of such question or proposal, on the ballot shall be "Shall  
66 (here insert the question or proposal, followed by a question mark)".  
67 Such ballot shall be provided for use in accordance with the provisions  
68 of section 9-250. The municipal clerk shall number on the ballot the  
69 questions to be voted upon according to the order in which they will  
70 appear thereon, provided amendments to the Constitution shall be  
71 numbered by the Secretary of the State in numerical order based upon  
72 the dates on which resolutions proposing such amendments were  
73 passed, precedence being given to the earliest passed unless otherwise  
74 provided by the resolutions proposing such amendments. Each elector  
75 shall vote "Yes" if in favor of the amendment, question or proposal or  
76 "No" if not in favor thereof. If, upon the official determination of the  
77 result of such vote, it appears that a majority of all the votes so cast are  
78 in approval of such amendment, question or proposal, such  
79 amendment, question or proposal shall, unless otherwise provided, take  
80 effect forthwith.

81 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 9-369a of the general statutes is

82 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
83 *2024*):

84 (b) When the clerk of the municipality determines that the necessary  
85 action has been taken for submission of the question, he shall, at least  
86 forty-five days prior to the election, file in the office of the Secretary of  
87 the State a statement setting forth the designation of the question as it is  
88 to appear on the ballot at the election, the date upon which the  
89 submitting action was taken and the reference to the law under which  
90 the action was taken. [Such] Except as provided in section 1 of this act  
91 for a proposed charter amendment or home rule ordinance amendment,  
92 such designation shall be in the form of a question, as provided in  
93 section 9-369, as amended by this act. Whenever it is specifically  
94 provided in the general statutes that any such question may be  
95 approved for such submission within the period of forty-five days prior  
96 to such an election, and action is taken to submit a question within such  
97 period, the clerk of the municipality shall file the statement required by  
98 this subsection with the Secretary of the State immediately upon the  
99 taking of such action.

100 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 9-369b of the general statutes is  
101 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
102 *2024*):

103 (c) [Any] Except as provided in section 1 of this act for a proposed  
104 charter amendment or home rule ordinance amendment, any  
105 municipality may provide, by ordinance, for the preparation, printing  
106 and dissemination of concise summaries of arguments in favor of, and  
107 arguments opposed to, local proposals or questions approved for  
108 submission to the electors of a municipality at a referendum for which  
109 explanatory texts are prepared under subsection (a) of this section. Any  
110 such ordinance shall provide for the establishment or designation of a  
111 committee to prepare such summaries, in accordance with procedures  
112 set forth in said ordinance. The members of said committee shall be  
113 representatives of various viewpoints concerning such local proposals  
114 or questions. The committee shall provide an opportunity for public

115 comment on such summaries to the extent practicable. Such summaries  
116 shall be approved by vote of the legislative body of the municipality, or  
117 any other municipal body designated by the ordinance, and shall be  
118 posted and distributed in the same manner as explanatory texts under  
119 subsection (a) of this section. Each summary shall contain language  
120 clearly stating that the printing of the summary does not constitute an  
121 endorsement by or represent the official position of the municipality."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	7-191(f)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-369
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-369a(b)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-369b(c)