



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 5278

LCO No. 1771



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN ABSENTEE VOTING STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

3 (a) Any elector eligible to vote at a primary or an election and any
4 person eligible to vote at a referendum may vote by absentee ballot if he
5 or she is unable to appear at his or her polling place [during the hours
6 of voting] on the day of such primary, election or referendum for any of
7 the following reasons: (1) His or her active service with the armed forces
8 of the United States; (2) his or her absence from the town of [his or her
9 voting residence during all of the hours of voting] which he or she is an
10 inhabitant; (3) his or her [illness] sickness; (4) his or her physical
11 disability; (5) the tenets of his or her religion forbid secular activity; [on
12 the day of the primary, election or referendum;] or (6) the required
13 performance of his or her duties as a primary, election or referendum
14 official, including as a town clerk or registrar of voters or as staff of the
15 clerk or registrar, at a polling place other than his or her own during all

16 of the hours of voting at such primary, election or referendum.

17 (b) No person shall misrepresent the eligibility requirements for
18 voting by absentee ballot prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, to
19 any elector or prospective absentee ballot applicant.

20 Sec. 2. Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

22 Each absentee ballot shall be returned to the municipal clerk, inserted
23 in an inner envelope which shall be capable of being sealed and which
24 shall have printed on its face a form containing the following statements:

25 "I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee
26 balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum
27 in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I
28 expect to be unable to appear at my polling place [during the hours of
29 voting at] on the day of such primary, election or referendum for one or
30 more of the following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces;
31 (2) my absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote; [during all
32 of the hours of voting;] (3) my [illness] sickness or physical disability;
33 (4) the tenets of my religion which forbid secular activity; [on the day of
34 the primary, election or referendum;] or (5) my duties as a primary,
35 election or referendum official.

36 Date

37 (Signature)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	9-135
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	9-137

Statement of Purpose:

To revise certain absentee voting statutes to no longer require that an elector be absent from his or her town of voting residence during all the hours of voting at a primary, election or referendum.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]