



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5498

LCO No. 2811



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION SECURITY AND TRANSPARENCY
AND VARIOUS OTHER REVISIONS RELATED TO ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 9-140b of the 2024 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (c) (1) For purposes of this section, "mailed" means (A) sent by the
5 United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or
6 messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the
7 State, or (B) deposited in a secure drop box designated by the municipal
8 clerk for such purpose, in accordance with instructions prescribed by
9 the Secretary.

10 (2) (A) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B)
11 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the first day of
12 issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section
13 9-140, and on each weekday thereafter until the close of the polls at the

14 election, primary or referendum, the municipal clerk shall retrieve from
15 the secure drop box described in said subparagraph each such ballot
16 deposited in such drop box.

17 (B) On and after July 1, 2025, each municipality shall provide a video
18 recording device for each secure drop box described in subparagraph
19 (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection within such municipality, which
20 device's recordings shall capture the location of such drop box and
21 evidence the date and time of each such recording beginning on the
22 thirtieth day preceding an election or primary until the last retrieval of
23 absentee ballots from such drop box at the close of the polls at such
24 election or primary. Each such recording shall immediately be made
25 publicly available from the date of recording, but in no case later than
26 five days after such last retrieval. Each such recording shall be retained
27 by the municipality for a period of twelve months and may be destroyed
28 at the end of such period, except that such period may be extended as
29 necessary in response to a pending investigation or an order of the State
30 Elections Enforcement Commission or a court of competent jurisdiction.

31 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 9-140c of the 2024 supplement to the
32 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
33 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

34 (a) (1) The municipal clerk shall retain the envelopes containing
35 absentee ballots received by him under section 9-140b, as amended by
36 this act, and shall not open such envelopes. The municipal clerk shall
37 endorse over his signature, upon each outer envelope as he receives it,
38 (A) the date and precise time of its receipt, and (B) the method of its
39 receipt, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this
40 subsection. The clerk shall make an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of
41 all such endorsements, and at the close of the polls shall deliver such
42 affidavit to the head moderator, who shall endorse the time of its receipt
43 and return it to the clerk after all counting is complete. The clerk shall
44 preserve the affidavit for one hundred eighty days in accordance with
45 the requirements of section 9-150b. The clerk shall keep a list of the
46 names of the applicants who return absentee ballots to the clerk under

47 section 9-140b, as amended by this act. The list shall be preserved as a
48 public record as required by section 9-150b.

49 (2) The municipal clerk shall record on the outer envelope of each
50 absentee ballot returned under section 9-140b, as amended by this act,
51 whether such ballot was (A) sent by the United States Postal Service or
52 any commercial carrier, courier or messenger service, (B) deposited in a
53 secure drop box, in which case the location of such drop box shall also
54 be so recorded, (C) returned in person by an elector, or (D) returned in
55 person by the designee or immediate family member of an elector.
56 Immediately at the close of the polls at an election or primary, the
57 municipal clerk shall submit to the Secretary of the State a report
58 detailing the total count of all absentee ballots returned for such election
59 or primary, broken down by each method described in subparagraphs
60 (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision.

61 Sec. 3. Section 9-153b of the general statutes is repealed and the
62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

63 (a) If any absentee ballot applicant applies for an additional absentee
64 ballot, [he] such applicant shall note on [his] the application the reason
65 for [his] applying for an additional absentee ballot and [he] shall return
66 the absentee voting set formerly issued to [him] such applicant before
67 another set is issued, [to him, provided, if he] provided, if such applicant
68 is unable to return [the set formerly issued to him, his] such formerly
69 issued set, such application for an additional ballot shall be
70 accompanied by a statement signed under the penalties of false
71 statement in absentee balloting in which [he] such applicant shall [set
72 forth] note the reason for [his] such applicant's inability to return [the
73 set] such formerly issued [to him. If he] set. If such applicant fails to file
74 such a statement, no additional set shall be issued to [him] such
75 applicant. An application for an additional absentee ballot shall only be
76 made by an absentee ballot applicant. Any additional absentee voting
77 set issued under this subsection shall only be either provided in person
78 to the applicant or mailed directly to the applicant at the bona fide
79 mailing address designated by such applicant.

80 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section for members
81 of the armed forces, the municipal clerk shall mark the serially-
82 numbered outer envelope "rejected" and note the reasons therefor on all
83 absentee ballots and envelopes so returned [to him] and shall seal such
84 unopened ballots in a package and retain them in a safe place until
85 delivered in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act. The
86 municipal clerk shall keep a list of the names of each absentee ballot
87 applicant who has applied for more than one absentee ballot, as
88 provided in section 9-140, as amended by this act, together with the
89 serial number appearing on the outer envelope of each absentee voting
90 set issued to each such applicant including the latest one issued.

91 (c) When an absentee ballot applicant has applied for more than one
92 absentee ballot, only the latest absentee ballot issued to [him] such
93 applicant by the municipal clerk as determined by the serial number
94 appearing on the outer envelope may be counted and all absentee
95 ballots and envelopes formerly issued to that applicant shall be marked
96 rejected as provided in subsection (b) of this section and not counted.

97 (d) Subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section shall not apply to
98 members of the armed forces, and if more than one absentee ballot is
99 received from any elector who is a member of the armed forces, the
100 ballot of such elector bearing the latest postmark shall be counted if no
101 absentee ballot of such elector has already been counted, provided that
102 the municipal clerk shall mark all serially-numbered outer envelopes
103 bearing earlier postmarks "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection
104 and shall deliver such ballots in accordance with section 9-140c, as
105 amended by this act.

106 Sec. 4. Section 9-364a of the general statutes is repealed and the
107 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

108 Any person who influences or attempts to influence by force or threat
109 the vote, or by force, threat, bribery or corrupt means, the speech, of any
110 person in a primary, caucus, referendum convention or election; [or] any
111 person who wilfully and fraudulently suppresses or destroys any vote

112 or ballot properly given or cast, whether so given or cast by mail, by
113 deposit in a secure drop box or in person at a polling place or designated
114 early voting or same-day election registration location, or, in counting
115 such votes or ballots, wilfully miscounts or misrepresents the number
116 thereof; and any presiding or other officer of a primary, caucus or
117 convention who wilfully announces the result of a ballot or vote of such
118 primary, caucus or convention, untruly and wrongfully, shall be guilty
119 of a class C felony.

120 Sec. 5. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-139a of the general statutes
121 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
122 *January 1, 2025*):

123 (a) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish the following
124 materials to municipal clerks: The absentee ballot facsimile, the
125 application for absentee ballot designated for use at each election or
126 primary, the inner envelope, the outer envelope provided for the return
127 of the ballot to the municipal clerk, the instructions for the use of the
128 absentee ballot and the envelope for mailing of such forms by the clerk
129 to the absentee ballot applicant.

130 (b) The application for absentee ballot shall be in the form of a
131 statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee
132 balloting. Each application shall contain (1) spaces for the signature
133 under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting of any person
134 who assists the applicant in the completion of an application together
135 with the information required in section 9-140, as amended by this act,
136 [and] (2) spaces for the signature and the printed or typed name of the
137 applicant, and (3) a clear and conspicuous notation of the year for which
138 such application's use is authorized.

139 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-140 of the 2024 supplement to the
140 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
141 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

142 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, application
143 for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of the municipality in

144 which the applicant is eligible to vote or has applied for such eligibility.
145 Any person who assists another person in the completion of an
146 application shall, in the space provided, sign the application and print
147 or type his name, residence address and telephone number. Such
148 signature shall be made under the penalties of false statement in
149 absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not invalidate the
150 application solely because it does not contain the name of a person who
151 assisted the applicant in the completion of the application. The
152 municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee ballot application
153 any material which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate or
154 referendum question. The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all
155 absentee ballot applications provided under this subsection, including
156 the name and address of each person to whom applications are
157 provided and the number of applications provided to each such person.
158 Each absentee ballot application provided by the municipal clerk shall
159 be consecutively numbered and be stamped or marked with the name
160 of the municipality issuing the application. The application shall be
161 signed by the applicant under the penalties of false statement in
162 absentee balloting on (A) the form prescribed by the Secretary of the
163 State pursuant to section 9-139a, as amended by this act, (B) a form
164 provided by any federal department or agency if applicable pursuant to
165 section 9-153a, or (C) any of the special forms of application prescribed
166 pursuant to section 9-150c, 9-153a, 9-153b, as amended by this act, 9-
167 153d, 9-153e, 9-153f or 9-158d, if applicable. Any such absentee ballot
168 applicant who is unable to write may cause the application to be
169 completed by an authorized agent who shall, in the spaces provided for
170 the date and signature, write the date and name of the absentee ballot
171 applicant followed by the word "by" and his own signature. If the ballot
172 is to be mailed to the applicant, the applicant shall list the bona fide
173 personal mailing address of the applicant in the appropriate space on
174 the application.

175 (2) A municipal clerk may transmit an application to a person under
176 this subsection by facsimile machine or other electronic means, if so
177 requested by the applicant. If a municipal clerk has a facsimile machine

178 or other electronic means, an applicant may return a completed
179 application to the clerk by such a machine or device, provided the
180 applicant shall also mail the original of the completed application to the
181 clerk, either separately or with the absentee ballot that is issued to the
182 applicant. If the clerk does not receive such original application by the
183 close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum, the
184 absentee ballot shall not be counted.

185 (3) No municipal clerk shall provide, for an election, primary or
186 referendum, more than five absentee ballot applications at a time to any
187 person earlier than ninety days prior to the first day of issuance of
188 absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-140, for
189 such election, primary or referendum.

190 (4) No municipal clerk shall provide or accept for return, and no
191 person shall distribute or otherwise use, any absentee ballot application
192 in a given year unless such application contains the notation described
193 in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 9-139a, as amended by this
194 act, authorizing such application's use in such year.

195 Sec. 7. Section 9-50c of the general statutes is repealed and the
196 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

197 (a) The Secretary of the State may enter into an agreement to share
198 information or data with any other state in order to maintain the state-
199 wide centralized voter registration system established pursuant to
200 section 9-50b, as amended by this act. If an agency of this state, another
201 state or the federal government provides the Secretary with information
202 or data to be used to maintain such system, the Secretary shall not use
203 such information or data for any purpose except to maintain such
204 system and shall ensure that such information or data is held
205 confidential, [if such information or data, while in the possession of such
206 other agency or state or federal government, as applicable, was required
207 to be held confidential,] except as provided for in subsection (b) of this
208 section.

209 (b) The Secretary of the State may provide such information or data

210 to a nonpartisan third-party vendor for the purpose of maintaining the
211 state-wide centralized voter registration system established pursuant to
212 section 9-50b, as amended by this act, provided such vendor's activities
213 are performed under the supervision of the Secretary and such vendor
214 has entered into an agreement to protect the confidentiality of such
215 information or data.

216 Sec. 8. Section 9-50b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is
217 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
218 *2024*):

219 (a) As used in this section, "state-wide centralized voter registration
220 system" means a computerized system designed and maintained by the
221 Secretary of the State which includes: (1) Voter registration information
222 prescribed by the Secretary, (2) information contained in applications
223 for admission as electors described in section 9-20, (3) information
224 needed to compile registry lists and enrollment lists under sections 9-35
225 and 9-54, (4) information required by section 9-50a, and (5) other
226 information for use in complying with the provisions of this title.

227 (b) Not later than July 1, 2003, each registrar of voters shall transmit
228 to the office of the Secretary of the State all elector information required
229 by the office to complete the state-wide centralized voter registration
230 system. Each registrar shall transmit such information in a format
231 prescribed by the Secretary. Not later than September 1, 2003, each
232 registrar of voters shall participate in the state-wide centralized voter
233 registration system in the manner prescribed by the Secretary. On and
234 after July 1, 2024, each town clerk shall utilize the state-wide centralized
235 voter registration system whenever carrying out any provision of this
236 title involving the checking of absentee ballot applications or returned
237 absentee ballots against any active or inactive registry list or enrollment
238 list.

239 (c) Not later than sixty days after each election or primary, the
240 registrars of voters shall update the state-wide centralized voter
241 registration system and indicate whether the eligible voters on the

242 official registry list for such election or primary voted and, if so, if they
243 voted in person on the day of such election or primary, in person during
244 the period of early voting at such election or primary or by absentee
245 ballot.

246 Sec. 9. Section 9-50d of the general statutes is repealed and the
247 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

248 (a) (1) Whenever voter registration information maintained under
249 this title by the Secretary of the State or any registrar of voters is
250 provided pursuant to any provision of the general statutes, disclosure
251 of a voter's date of birth shall be limited to only the month and year of
252 birth, unless such voter registration information is requested and used
253 for a governmental purpose, as determined by the Secretary, in which
254 case the voter's complete date of birth shall be provided. As used in this
255 section, a governmental purpose shall include, but not be limited to, jury
256 administration.

257 (2) Voter registration information described in subdivision (1) of this
258 subsection (A) may only be used for election-related, scholarly,
259 journalistic, political or governmental purposes, as determined by the
260 Secretary of the State, and (B) shall not be used for any personal, private
261 or commercial purpose, including, but not limited to, (i) harassment of
262 any voter or voter's household, (ii) advertising, solicitation, sale or
263 marketing of products or services to any voter or voter's household, and
264 (iii) reproduction of such information in print, broadcast visual or audio
265 or display on the Internet or any computer terminal.

266 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any motor
267 vehicle operator's license number, identity card number or Social
268 Security number on a voter registration record shall be confidential and
269 shall not be disclosed to any person.

270 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, if a voter
271 submits to the Secretary of the State a signed statement that
272 nondisclosure of such voter's name from the official registry list is
273 necessary for the safety of such voter or the voter's family, the name and

274 address of such voter on his or her voter registration record shall be
275 confidential and shall not be disclosed, except that an election, primary
276 or referendum official may view such information on the official registry
277 list when such list is used by any such official at a polling place on the
278 day of an election, primary or referendum. Such signed statement shall
279 be sworn under penalty of false statement, as provided in section 53a-
280 157b.

281 Sec. 10. Subsection (h) of section 9-163aa of the 2024 supplement to
282 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
283 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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

293 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no person
294 shall be allowed within any location designated by the registrars of
295 voters for early voting for any purpose other than casting such person's
296 vote, except (A) primary officials under section 9-436, (B) election
297 officials under section 9-258, including (i) a municipal clerk or registrar
298 of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (ii) a deputy
299 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,
300 performing such official's duties, and (C) party checkers under section
301 9-235.

302 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party
303 employee or volunteer, may be within [such] the seventy-five-foot
304 radius [of seventy-five feet] described in subdivision (1) of this
305 subsection (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such

306 person's official duties or to the conduct of government business within
307 such radius, (B) only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or
308 conduct such business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in
309 any conduct described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

310 Sec. 11. Subsection (j) of section 9-19j of the 2024 supplement to the
311 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
312 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

313 (j) (1) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any
314 candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being
315 submitted at the election, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising
316 matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-
317 five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any location
318 designated by the registrars of voters for same-day election registration
319 balloting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from
320 any such outside entrance to any such location or in any room opening
321 upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

322 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no person
323 shall be allowed within any location designated by the registrars of
324 voters for same-day election registration balloting for any purpose other
325 than casting such person's vote, except (A) primary officials under
326 section 9-436, (B) election officials under section 9-258, including (i) a
327 municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same
328 office, and (ii) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the
329 office of registrar of voters, performing such official's duties, and (C)
330 party checkers under section 9-235.

331 [(2)] (3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party
332 employee or volunteer, may be within [such] the seventy-five-foot
333 radius [of seventy-five feet] described in subdivision (1) of this
334 subsection (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such
335 person's official duties or to the conduct of government business within
336 such radius, (B) only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or
337 conduct such business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in

338 any conduct described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

339 Sec. 12. Section 9-147a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
340 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
341 *1, 2024*):

342 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, at any election,
343 primary or referendum, all absentee ballots shall, within existing
344 resources, be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a at a
345 central location designated by the registrars of voters in writing to the
346 municipal clerk at least twenty days before the election, primary or
347 referendum, which location shall be published in the warning for the
348 election, primary or referendum. Except as provided in subsection (b) of
349 this section, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to
350 vote in the primary of either of two parties, all absentee ballots shall be
351 separated, counted, tallied and placed in depository envelopes by
352 voting district. Any member of the public may observe the counting of
353 absentee ballots at such central location, provided no candidate for
354 election or nomination shall be allowed within such central location
355 during such counting, except (1) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters,
356 who is a candidate for the same office, and (2) a deputy registrar of
357 voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing
358 such official's duties.

359 (b) At any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots may
360 be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a in the respective
361 polling places if the registrars of voters agree that such absentee ballots
362 should be so counted. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under
363 section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, absentee
364 ballots may be counted in the respective polling places if the parties
365 agree that such absentee ballots should be so counted. Any election
366 official serving in a polling place may observe the counting of absentee
367 ballots at such polling place, provided no candidate for election or
368 nomination shall be allowed within such polling place during such
369 counting, except (1) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a
370 candidate for the same office, and (2) a deputy registrar of voters, who

371 is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing such
372 official's duties.

373 Sec. 13. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the
374 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

375 Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be a United States
376 citizen [,] and at least eighteen years of age, [and a resident of a town in
377 this state] and shall not be on parole for conviction of a felony. Any
378 individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating petition may
379 serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating petition.

380 Sec. 14. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the
381 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

382 Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or
383 [the] Secretary of the State and filed with the Secretary of the State under
384 the provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216
385 shall contain a statement as to the residency [in this state] and eligibility
386 of the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon,
387 signed under [penalties] penalty of false statement, by the person who
388 circulated the same. Such statement shall set forth (1) [such] the
389 circulator's residence address, including the town [in this state] in which
390 [such] the circulator is a resident, (2) if the circulator is not a resident in
391 this state, that the circulator agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this
392 state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation
393 of a petition pursuant to this subpart, (3) the circulator's date of birth
394 and that the circulator is at least eighteen years of age, [(3)] (4) that the
395 circulator is a United States citizen and not on parole for conviction of a
396 felony, and [(4)] (5) that each person whose name appears on such page
397 signed the same in person in the presence of [such] the circulator and
398 that either the circulator knows each such signer or that the signer
399 satisfactorily identified [himself] such signer to the circulator. Any false
400 statement committed with respect to such statement shall be deemed to
401 have been committed in the town in which the petition was circulated.

402 Sec. 15. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-453k of the general statutes

403 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
404 *1, 2024*):

405 (a) The town clerk or Secretary of the State shall not accept any page
406 of a nominating petition unless the circulator thereof has signed before
407 [him] the clerk or Secretary, or an appropriate person as provided in
408 section 1-29, the statement as to the residency [in this state] and
409 eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures
410 thereon required by section 9-453j, as amended by this act.

411 (b) The town clerk or Secretary of the State, or an appropriate person
412 as provided in section 1-29, shall certify on each such page that the
413 circulator thereof signed such statement in [his] the presence of the
414 clerk, Secretary or appropriate person, as applicable, and that either [he]
415 the clerk, Secretary or appropriate person, as applicable, knows the
416 circulator or that the circulator satisfactorily identified [himself] such
417 circulator to the individual so certifying.

418 Sec. 16. Section 9-453o of the general statutes is repealed and the
419 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

420 (a) The Secretary of the State may not count, for purposes of
421 determining compliance with the number of signatures required by
422 section 9-453d, the signatures certified by the town clerk on any petition
423 page filed under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or 9-216 if: (1) The
424 name of the candidate, [his] such candidate's address or the party
425 designation, if any, has been omitted from the face of the petition; (2) the
426 page does not contain a statement by the circulator as to the residency
427 [in this state] and eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity
428 of the signatures thereon as required by section 9-453j, as amended by
429 this act, or upon which such statement of the circulator is incomplete in
430 any respect; or (3) the page does not contain the certifications required
431 by sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, by the town clerk of the town in
432 which the signers reside. The town clerk shall cure any omission on [his]
433 the clerk's part by signing any such page at the office of the Secretary of
434 the State and making the necessary amendment or by filing a separate

435 statement in this regard, which amendment shall be dated.

436 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Secretary of
437 the State shall approve [every] each nominating petition which contains
438 sufficient signatures counted and certified on approved pages by the
439 town clerks. In the case of a candidate who petitions under a reserved
440 party designation the Secretary shall approve the petition only if it
441 meets the signature requirement and if a statement endorsing such
442 candidate is filed with the Secretary by the party designation committee
443 not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-second day before the
444 election. In the case of a candidate who petitions under a party
445 designation which is the same as the name of a minor party the Secretary
446 shall approve the petition only if it meets the signature requirement and
447 if a statement endorsing such candidate is filed in the office of the
448 Secretary by the chairman or secretary of such minor party not later than
449 four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-second day before the election. No
450 candidate shall be qualified to appear on any ballot by nominating
451 petition unless the candidate's petition is approved by the Secretary
452 pursuant to this subsection.

453 (c) The Secretary of the State may approve a nominating petition
454 received under section 9-453k, as amended by this act, at any time
455 except such approval shall be withdrawn if sufficient signatures are
456 withdrawn under section 9-453h.

457 Sec. 17. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 9-404b of the general statutes
458 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
459 *1, 2024*):

460 (c) The names of enrolled party members signing a primary petition
461 may be on several pages, provided no person shall sign more than one
462 petition page for the same candidate or candidates. Any person who
463 signs a name other than the person's own to a primary petition filed
464 under the provisions of this section or who signs a name other than the
465 person's own as circulator of such petition shall be fined not more than
466 one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

467 Each such page shall indicate the candidate or candidates supported,
468 the offices sought and the political party for which nomination is being
469 sought. No page of such a petition shall contain the names of enrolled
470 party members residing in different municipalities and any petition
471 page that has been certified by the registrars of voters of two or more
472 municipalities shall be rejected by the Secretary. Withdrawal of petition
473 signatures shall not be permitted.

474 (d) [Each] Any person qualified to vote under the laws of any state or
475 territory of the United States may be a circulator of a primary petition
476 page [shall be] if such person (1) is an enrolled party member of a
477 municipality in this state, [. Each] or (2) agrees to submit to the
478 jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising out of or
479 related to the circulation of a primary petition. For any circulator
480 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, each petition page shall
481 contain a statement signed by the registrar of voters of the municipality
482 in which the circulator is an enrolled party member attesting that the
483 circulator is an enrolled party member in the municipality. For any
484 circulator described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each petition
485 page shall contain a statement signed by the circulator that the circulator
486 agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or
487 controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of a primary
488 petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the registrar of
489 voters of the municipality in which such page was circulated. Unless
490 such [a] an attested statement by the registrar of voters appears on each
491 page so submitted, the Secretary shall reject the page. Each separate
492 page of the petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the
493 signatures on the page and the number of such signatures, and shall be
494 signed under the [penalties] penalty of false statement by the person
495 who circulated the page, setting forth the circulator's address and the
496 town in which the circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting
497 that each person whose name appears on the page signed the petition in
498 person in the presence of the circulator, that the circulator either knows
499 each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified [himself or
500 herself] such signer to the circulator and that the spaces for candidates

501 supported, offices sought and the political party involved were filled in
502 prior to the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate page of the
503 petition shall also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as
504 provided in section 1-29. The Secretary shall reject any page of a petition
505 filed with the Secretary which does not contain such a statement by the
506 circulator as to the authenticity of the signatures on the page, or upon
507 which the statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or
508 which does not contain the [certification] attested statement required
509 under this section by the registrar of voters of the town in which the
510 circulator is an enrolled party member or in which the page was
511 circulated. Any individual proposed as a candidate in any primary
512 petition may serve as a circulator of the pages of the petition, provided
513 the individual's service as circulator does not violate any provision of
514 this section.

515 Sec. 18. Section 9-410 of the general statutes is repealed and the
516 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

517 (a) The petition form for candidacies for nomination to municipal
518 office or for election as members of town committees shall be prescribed
519 by the Secretary of the State and provided by the registrar of voters of
520 the municipality in which the candidacy is to be filed or duplicate
521 petition pages shall be produced in accordance with section 9-409, and
522 signatures shall be obtained only on such forms or such duplicate
523 petition pages. Such form shall include, at the top of the form and in
524 bold print, the following:

525 WARNING

526 IT IS A CRIME TO SIGN THIS PETITION

527 IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON

528 WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY TO DO SO

529 AND YOU MAY NOT SIGN THIS PETITION

530 IF YOU ARE NOT AN ELECTOR.

531 The form shall include thereon a statement of instructions to persons
532 using the form and shall indicate the date and time by which it shall be
533 filed and the person with whom it shall be filed. The form shall provide
534 spaces for the names and addresses of the candidates, the offices to
535 which nomination is sought or the positions to which election is sought
536 and the political party holding the primary, and shall provide lines for
537 the signatures, street addresses, dates of birth and the printing of the
538 names of enrolled party members supporting the person or persons on
539 behalf of whose candidacy the petition is used. Only as many candidates
540 may be proposed in any one primary petition for the same office or
541 position as are to be nominated or chosen by such party for such office
542 or position; but any one primary petition may propose as many
543 candidates for different offices or positions as there are nominations to
544 be made or positions to be filled.

545 (b) The names of enrolled party members signing a primary petition
546 need not all be on one sheet but may be on several sheets, but no person
547 shall sign more than one petition page for the same candidate or
548 candidates. Any person who signs a name other than the person's own
549 to a primary petition filed under the provisions of this section or who
550 signs a name other than the person's own as circulator of such a petition
551 shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not
552 more than one year or both. Each such sheet shall indicate the candidate
553 or candidates supported, the offices or positions sought and the political
554 party the nomination of which is sought or which is holding the primary
555 for election of town committee members. No page of such a petition
556 shall contain the names of enrolled party members residing in different
557 municipalities and any page thereof which has been certified by the
558 registrars of voters of two or more municipalities shall be rejected by the
559 registrar of voters. Withdrawal of petition signatures shall not be
560 permitted.

561 (c) [Each] Any person qualified to vote under the laws of any state or
562 territory of the United States may be a circulator of a primary petition
563 page [shall be] if such person (1) is an enrolled party member of a
564 municipality in this state, [who is entitled to vote. Each] or (2) agrees to

565 submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising
566 out of or related to the circulation of a primary petition. For any
567 circulator described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, each petition
568 page shall contain a statement signed by the registrar of voters of the
569 municipality in which such circulator is an enrolled party member
570 attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in such
571 municipality. For any circulator described in subdivision (2) of this
572 subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by the
573 circulator that the circulator agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this
574 state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation
575 of a primary petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the
576 registrar of voters of the municipality in which such page was
577 circulated. Unless such [a] an attested statement by the registrar of
578 voters appears on each page so submitted, the registrar of voters shall
579 reject such page. No candidate for the nomination of a party for a
580 municipal office or the position of town committee member shall
581 circulate any petition for another candidate or another group of
582 candidates contained in one primary petition for the nomination of such
583 party for the same office or position, and any petition page circulated in
584 violation of this provision shall be rejected by the registrar of voters. No
585 person shall circulate petitions for more than the maximum number of
586 candidates to be nominated by a party for the same office or position,
587 and any petition page circulated in violation of this provision shall be
588 rejected by the registrar of voters. Each separate sheet of such petition
589 shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon
590 and the number of such signatures, and shall be signed under the
591 [penalties] penalty of false statement by the person who circulated the
592 same, setting forth such circulator's address and the town in which such
593 circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that each person
594 whose name appears on such sheet signed the same in person in the
595 presence of such circulator, that the circulator either knows each such
596 signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified [the] such signer to the
597 circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported, offices or
598 positions sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to
599 the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate sheet of such petition shall

600 also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in
601 section 1-29. Any sheet of a petition filed with the registrar of voters
602 which does not contain such a statement by the circulator as to the
603 authenticity of the signatures thereon, or upon which the statement of
604 the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or which does not contain the
605 [certification hereinbefore required] attested statement required under
606 this section by the registrar of voters of the town in which the circulator
607 is an enrolled party member or in which the page was circulated, shall
608 be rejected by the registrar of voters. Any individual proposed as a
609 candidate in any primary petition may serve as a circulator of the pages
610 of such petition, provided such individual's service as circulator does
611 not violate any provision of this section.

612 Sec. 19. Section 9-140e of the general statutes is repealed and the
613 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

614 (a) Any elector who is permanently physically disabled or suffering
615 from a long-term illness and who files an application for an absentee
616 ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that
617 such elector is permanently physically disabled or suffering from a long-
618 term illness and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated
619 polling location, shall be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status
620 and shall receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary or
621 referendum conducted in such elector's municipality for which such
622 elector is eligible to vote. Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status
623 shall remain in effect until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official
624 registry list of the municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee
625 ballot status pursuant to the provisions of this section, or (3) requests
626 that he or she no longer receive such permanent absentee ballot status.

627 (b) The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each such
628 elector with permanent absentee ballot status in January of each year,
629 on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, for the purpose of
630 determining if such elector continues to reside at the address indicated
631 on the elector's permanent absentee ballot application. If [(1)] such
632 written notice is returned as undeliverable, [or (2) not later than sixty

633 days after such notice is sent to the elector, the elector fails to return such
634 notice to the registrars of voters, as directed on the form,] the elector in
635 question shall be removed from permanent absentee ballot status. If
636 such elector indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides at
637 such address and the elector's new address is within the same
638 municipality, the registrars of voters shall change the elector's address
639 pursuant to section 9-35 and such elector shall retain permanent
640 absentee ballot status. If the elector indicates on such notice that the
641 elector no longer resides in the municipality, the registrars of voters
642 shall remove such individual from the registry list of the municipality
643 and send such individual an application for voter registration. Failure
644 to return such written notice shall not result in the removal of an elector
645 from the official registry list of the municipality or from permanent
646 absentee ballot status.

647 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the 2024 supplement to the
648 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
649 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

650 (a) Not earlier than the [fifteenth] tenth day after any election or
651 primary and not later than two business days before the canvass of votes
652 by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, for any federal
653 or state election or primary, or by the town clerk for any municipal
654 election or primary, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit
655 or, for an election or primary held on or after January 1, 2016, an
656 electronic audit authorized under section 9-320g of the votes recorded
657 in not less than five per cent of the voting districts in the state, district
658 or municipality, whichever is applicable. For the purposes of this
659 section, any central location used in a municipality for the counting of
660 absentee ballots, early voting ballots or same-day election registration
661 ballots shall be deemed a voting district. Such manual or electronic audit
662 shall be noticed in advance and be open to public observation. Any
663 election official who participates in the administration and conduct of
664 an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated by the
665 municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such
666 municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

667 Sec. 21. Section 9-460 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
668 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
669 *1, 2024*):

670 If any party has nominated a candidate for office, or, on and after
671 November 4, 1981, if a candidate has qualified to appear on any ballot
672 by nominating petition under a reserved party designation, in
673 accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and such nominee
674 thereafter, but prior to forty-six days before the opening of the polls on
675 the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, dies,
676 withdraws such nominee's name or for any reason becomes disqualified
677 to hold the office for which such nominee has been nominated, (1) such
678 party or, on and after November 4, 1981, the party designation
679 committee may make a nomination to fill such vacancy or provide for
680 the making of such nomination as its rules prescribe, and (2) if another
681 party that is qualified to nominate a candidate for such office does not
682 have a nominee for such office, such party may also nominate a
683 candidate for such office as its rules prescribe. No withdrawal, and no
684 nomination to replace a candidate who has withdrawn, under this
685 section shall be valid unless the candidate who has withdrawn has filed
686 a letter of withdrawal signed by such candidate with the Secretary of the
687 State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator
688 or state representative from any district, or with the municipal clerk in
689 the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state
690 representative. A copy of such candidate's letter of withdrawal to the
691 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. No
692 nomination to fill a vacancy under this section shall be valid unless it is
693 certified to the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office
694 or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or
695 to the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state
696 senator or state representative, by the organization or committee
697 making such nomination, at least forty-two days before the opening of
698 the polls on the day of the election, except as otherwise provided by this
699 section. If a nominee dies within forty-six days before the election, but
700 prior to twenty-four hours before the commencement of the period of

701 early voting at the election for which such nomination has been made,
702 the vacancy may be filled in the manner prescribed in this section by
703 two o'clock p.m. of the day before the first day of such period of early
704 voting with the municipal clerk or the Secretary of the State, as the case
705 may be. If a nominee dies within twenty-four hours before the
706 commencement of the period of early voting at the election and prior to
707 the close of the polls on the day of the election for which such
708 nomination has been made, such nominee shall not be replaced and the
709 votes cast for such nominee shall be canvassed and counted, and if such
710 nominee receives a plurality of the votes cast, a vacancy shall exist in the
711 office for which the nomination was made. The vacancy shall then be
712 filled in a manner prescribed by law. A copy of such certification to the
713 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. Such
714 nomination to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification shall
715 include a statement setting forth the reason for such vacancy. If at the
716 time such nomination is certified to the Secretary of the State or to the
717 municipal clerk, as the case may be, the ballots have already been
718 printed, the Secretary of the State shall direct the municipal clerk in each
719 municipality affected to (A) have the ballots reprinted with the
720 nomination thus made included thereon, (B) cause printed stickers to be
721 affixed to the ballots so that the name of any candidate who has died [,
722 withdrawn or been disqualified] is deleted and the name of any
723 candidate chosen to fill such vacancy appears in the same position as
724 that in which the vacated candidacy appeared, or (C) cause [blank
725 stickers to be so affixed] to be obscured the name of the candidate whose
726 candidacy has been vacated if the vacancy is not filled.

727 Sec. 22. Subsection (a) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is
728 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
729 *2024*):

730 (a) At the top of each ballot shall be printed the name of the party
731 holding the primary, and each ballot shall contain the names of all
732 candidates to be voted upon at such primary, except the names of
733 justices of the peace. The vertical columns shall be headed by the
734 designation of the office or position and instructions as to the number

735 for which an elector may vote for such office or position, in the same
736 manner as a ballot used in a regular election. The name of each
737 candidate for town committee or municipal office, except for the
738 municipal offices of state senator and state representative, shall appear
739 on the ballot as authorized by each candidate. The name of each
740 candidate for state or district office or for the municipal offices of state
741 senator or state representative shall appear on the ballot as it appears on
742 the certificate or statement of consent filed under section 9-388, 9-391, 9-
743 400 or 9-409. On the first horizontal line, below the designation of the
744 office or position in each column, shall be placed the name of the party-
745 endorsed candidate for such office or position, such name to be marked
746 with an asterisk; provided, where more than one person may be voted
747 for any office or position, the names of the party-endorsed candidates
748 shall be arranged in alphabetical order from left to right under the
749 appropriate office or position designation and shall continue, if
750 necessary, from left to right on the next lower line or lines. In the case of
751 no party endorsement there shall be inserted the designation "no party
752 endorsement" at the head of the vertical column, immediately beneath
753 the designation of the office or position. On the horizontal lines below
754 the line for party-endorsed candidates shall be placed, in the
755 appropriate columns, the names of all other candidates as [hereinafter]
756 provided in this section.

757 Sec. 23. Subsection (g) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is
758 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
759 *2024*):

760 (g) The name of each candidate shall appear on the ballot in such
761 position as is [hereinbefore] required in this section, and such position
762 shall be determined as of the final time for filing candidacies specified
763 in section 9-400 or 9-405. Vacancies in candidacies thereafter occurring
764 shall not cause the position of any candidate's name on the ballot to be
765 changed to another position. The name of any candidate whose
766 candidacy has been vacated shall not appear on the ballot. If such a
767 vacancy results in the cancellation of a primary for any office, the office
768 column or columns where the names of the candidates and the title of

769 the office would have appeared if the primary for that office had not
770 been cancelled shall be left blank. If a vacancy occurs in a party-
771 endorsed candidacy and a person is chosen in accordance with section
772 9-426 or 9-428, as amended by this act, to fill the resulting vacancy in
773 candidacy, the name of the person so chosen shall appear in the same
774 position as that in which the name of the vacating candidate appeared.
775 The municipal clerk shall have the ballot prepared so that the name of
776 any candidate who has vacated such candidate's candidacy is deleted
777 and so that the name of any candidate chosen to fill a vacancy in
778 candidacy appears in the same position as that in which the vacated
779 candidacy appeared. The municipal clerk may use [blank or] printed
780 stickers [, as the case may be,] in preparing the ballots if the ballots were
781 printed before [the occurrence of the vacancy in candidacy or] the
782 selection of a candidate to fill a vacancy in candidacy. The municipal
783 clerk shall cause to be obscured the name of the candidate whose
784 candidacy has been vacated if the vacancy is not filled. The order of the
785 offices and positions shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

786 Sec. 24. Section 9-428 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
787 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
788 *1, 2024*):

789 (a) If a party-endorsed candidate for election to the position of town
790 committee member, prior to twenty-four hours before the opening of
791 the polls at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the day of such
792 primary, withdraws his name from nomination or for any reason
793 becomes disqualified to hold the position for which he is a candidate,
794 the state central committee, the town committee or other authority of
795 the party which endorsed such candidate may make an endorsement to
796 fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such endorsement, in such
797 manner as is prescribed in the rules of such party, and certify to the
798 registrar and municipal clerk or to the Secretary of the State, as the case
799 may be, the name of the person so endorsed. If such certification is made
800 at least twenty-four hours prior to the opening of the polls at the
801 primary, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who
802 has died, or at least seven days before the day of such primary, in the

803 case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has withdrawn
804 or become disqualified, such person so endorsed shall run in the
805 primary as the party-endorsed candidate, except as provided in sections
806 9-416 and 9-417. If such certification of another party-endorsed
807 candidate has been made within the time specified in this section, and if
808 the ballots have already been printed and the names of the candidates
809 for such position appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the
810 registrar, as the case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality
811 holding such primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the
812 person so certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an
813 endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification
814 has been made less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours
815 prior to the opening of the polls at the primary, such Secretary or
816 registrar shall direct such clerk to have stickers printed and inserted
817 upon the ballots, having the name of the person so certified appearing
818 thereon, and the moderator in each polling place shall cause such
819 stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the opening of the polls at such
820 primary. If no such certification has been made, such clerk shall cause
821 to be obscured the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been
822 vacated.

823 (b) If a party-endorsed candidate for nomination to an office, prior to
824 twenty-four hours before the commencement of the period of early
825 voting at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the first day of
826 such period of early voting, withdraws his name from nomination or for
827 any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for which he is a
828 candidate, the state central committee, the town committee or other
829 authority of the party which endorsed such candidate may make an
830 endorsement to fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such
831 endorsement, in such manner as is prescribed in the rules of such party,
832 and certify to the registrar and municipal clerk or to the Secretary of the
833 State, as the case may be, the name of the person so endorsed. If such
834 certification is made at least twenty-four hours prior to the
835 commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, in the case
836 of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, or at least

837 seven days before the first day of such period of early voting, in the case
838 of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has withdrawn or
839 become disqualified, such person so endorsed shall run in the primary
840 as the party-endorsed candidate, except as provided in sections 9-416
841 and 9-417. If such certification of another party-endorsed candidate has
842 been made within the time specified in this section, and if the ballots
843 have already been printed and the names of the candidates for such
844 office appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the registrar, as
845 the case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality holding such
846 primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the person so
847 certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an endorsement
848 to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification has been made
849 less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours prior to the
850 commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, such
851 Secretary or registrar shall direct such clerk to have stickers printed and
852 inserted upon the ballots, having the name of the person so certified
853 appearing thereon, and the moderator in each polling place shall cause
854 such stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the opening of the polls
855 at such primary. If no such certification has been made, such clerk shall
856 cause to be obscured the name of the candidate whose candidacy has
857 been vacated.

858 Sec. 25. Subsection (d) of section 9-135b of the general statutes is
859 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
860 *2024*):

861 (d) If a vacancy in candidacy occurs after the ballots have been
862 printed, the clerk may either reprint the ballots or cause [blank or]
863 printed stickers [, as the case may be,] to be affixed to them so that the
864 name of any candidate who has vacated his candidacy is deleted and
865 the name of any candidate chosen to fill the vacancy as provided in
866 section 9-428, as amended by this act, or section 9-460, as amended by
867 this act, appears in the same position as that in which the vacated
868 candidacy appeared except as provided in section 9-426 or 9-453s. If no
869 candidate is chosen to fill such vacancy as so provided, the clerk shall
870 cause to be obscured the name of the candidate whose candidacy has

871 been vacated.

872 Sec. 26. Section 9-472 of the general statutes is repealed and the
873 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

874 If, after determination of the order of candidates on the ballot, a
875 candidate dies, his name shall not appear on such ballot; provided that
876 the position of each remaining candidate on the ballot shall not be
877 altered by the deletion of such name. The secretary may authorize [the
878 use of] town clerks to use blank stickers on the ballot [by town clerks] or
879 otherwise cause to be obscured the name of such deceased candidate in
880 order to comply with the provisions of this section.

881 Sec. 27. Section 9-453u of the general statutes is repealed and the
882 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

883 (a) An application to reserve a party designation with the Secretary
884 of the State and to form a party designation committee may be made at
885 any time after November 3, 1981, by filing [in the office of the secretary]
886 with the Secretary a written statement signed by at least twenty-five
887 electors who desire to be members of such committee.

888 (b) The statement shall include the offices for which candidates may
889 petition for nomination under the party designation to be reserved but
890 shall not include an office if no elector who has signed the application is
891 entitled to vote at an election for such office.

892 (c) The statement shall include the party designation to be reserved
893 which (1) shall consist of not more than three words and not more than
894 twenty-five letters; (2) shall not incorporate the name of any major party;
895 (3) shall not incorporate the name of any minor party which is entitled
896 to nominate candidates for any office which will appear on the same
897 ballot with any office included in the statement; (4) shall not be the same
898 as any party designation for which a reservation with the [secretary]
899 Secretary is currently in effect for any office included in the statement;
900 and (5) shall not be the word "none", or incorporate the words
901 "unaffiliated" or "unenrolled" or any similarly antonymous form of the

902 words "affiliated" or "enrolled".

903 (d) The statement shall include the names of two persons who are
904 authorized by the party designation committee to execute and file with
905 the [secretary] Secretary statements of endorsement required by section
906 9-453o, as amended by this act, and certificates of nomination as
907 required by section 9-460, as amended by this act.

908 (e) The [secretary] Secretary shall examine the statement, and if it
909 complies with the requirements of this section, the [secretary] Secretary
910 shall reserve the party designation for the offices included in the
911 statement and record such reservation in the office of the [secretary.
912 The] Secretary of the State. Except as provided in subsection (f) of this
913 section, the reservation shall continue in effect from the date it is
914 recorded until the day following any regular election at which no
915 candidate appears on the appropriate ballot for that office under that
916 party designation.

917 (f) Any party for which a reservation of a party designation has been
918 recorded pursuant to this section prior to January 1, 2025, which party
919 designation incorporates the words "unaffiliated", "unenrolled" or
920 "independent", or any similarly antonymous form of the words
921 "affiliated", "enrolled" or "dependent", shall apply to reserve a new party
922 designation in accordance with the provisions of subsections (a) to (d),
923 inclusive, of this section, and have reservation recorded, pursuant to
924 subsection (e) of this section, before making any nomination on or after
925 January 1, 2025. Any such party for which the reservation of a new party
926 designation has been recorded pursuant to this subsection shall retain
927 all rights earned under the previously recorded reservation, including,
928 but not limited to, ballot access and cross-endorsement.

929 Sec. 28. Section 9-324 of the general statutes is repealed and the
930 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and*
931 *applicable to complaints brought on or after July 1, 2024*):

932 (a) Any elector or candidate who claims that such elector or candidate
933 is aggrieved by any ruling of any election official in connection with any

934 election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State
935 Treasurer, Attorney General, State Comptroller or judge of probate, held
936 in such elector's or candidate's town, or that there has been a mistake in
937 the count of the votes cast at such election for candidates for said offices
938 or any of them, at any voting district in such elector's or candidate's
939 town, or any candidate for such an office who claims that such candidate
940 is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-
941 361, inclusive, section 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in
942 the casting of absentee ballots at such election or any candidate for the
943 office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State
944 Treasurer, Attorney General or State Comptroller, who claims that such
945 candidate is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-700
946 to 9-716, inclusive, may bring such elector's or candidate's complaint [to
947 any judge of the Superior Court, in which such] in the superior court for
948 the judicial district of Hartford. Such elector or candidate shall set out in
949 the complaint the claimed errors of such election official, the claimed
950 errors in the count or the claimed violations of said sections. In any
951 action brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the
952 complainant shall send a copy of the complaint by first-class mail, or
953 deliver a copy of the complaint by hand, to the State Elections
954 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such
955 election, [such judge] the court shall proceed expeditiously to render
956 judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be
957 given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement
958 Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to the election, it
959 shall be brought not later than fourteen days after the election or, if such
960 complaint is brought in response to the manual tabulation of paper
961 ballots authorized pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act,
962 such complaint shall be brought not later than seven days after the close
963 of any such manual tabulation. [and, in either such circumstance, such
964 judge]

965 (b) The court shall forthwith order a hearing to be [had] held upon
966 [such] a complaint filed under subsection (a) of this section, upon a day
967 not more than five nor less than three days from the making of such

968 order, and shall cause notice of not less than three nor more than five
 969 days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose election may be
 970 affected by the decision upon such hearing, to such election official, the
 971 Secretary of the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and
 972 to any other party or parties whom [such judge] the court deems proper
 973 parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing upon such
 974 complaint. [Such judge] The court shall, on the day fixed for such
 975 hearing and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If
 976 sufficient reason is shown, [such judge] the court may order any voting
 977 tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount
 978 of the votes cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. [Such judge]
 979 The court shall thereupon, in case [such judge] the court finds any error
 980 in the rulings of the election official, any mistake in the count of the votes
 981 or any violation of [said sections] any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357
 982 to 9-361, inclusive, section 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-
 983 365 or sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive, certify the result of [such
 984 judge's] the court's finding or decision to the Secretary of the State before
 985 the fifteenth day of the next succeeding December. [Such judge] The
 986 court may order a new election or a change in the existing election
 987 schedule. [Such certificate of such judge of such judge's]

988 (c) The certificate of the court's finding or decision pursuant to
 989 subsection (b) of this section shall be final and conclusive upon all
 990 questions relating to errors in the rulings of such election officials, to the
 991 correctness of such count, and, for the purposes of this section only, such
 992 claimed violations, and shall operate to correct the returns of the
 993 moderators or presiding officers, so as to conform to such finding or
 994 decision, unless the same is appealed from as provided in section 9-325,
 995 as amended by this act.

996 Sec. 29. Section 9-325 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 997 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and*
 998 *applicable to complaints brought on or after July 1, 2024*):

999 If, upon any such hearing [by a judge of the Superior Court] in the
 1000 superior court for the judicial district of Hartford, any question of law is

1001 raised which any party to the complaint claims should be reviewed by
1002 the Supreme Court, [such judge] the court, instead of filing the
1003 certificate of [his] the court's finding or decision with the Secretary of
1004 the State, shall transmit the same, including therein such questions of
1005 law, together with a proper finding of facts, to the Chief Justice of the
1006 Supreme Court, who shall thereupon call a special session of [said court]
1007 the Supreme Court for the purpose of an immediate hearing upon the
1008 questions of law so certified. A copy of the finding and decision so
1009 certified by the judge of [the Superior Court] such superior court,
1010 together with the decision of the Supreme Court, on the questions of law
1011 therein certified, shall be attested by the clerk of the Supreme Court, and
1012 by [him] such clerk transmitted to the Secretary of the State forthwith.
1013 The finding and decision of [the judge of the Superior Court] such
1014 superior court, together with the decision of the Supreme Court on the
1015 questions of law thus certified, shall be final and conclusive upon all
1016 questions relating to errors in the rulings of the election officials and to
1017 the correctness of such count and shall operate to correct the returns of
1018 the moderators or presiding officers so as to conform to such decision of
1019 [said court] the Supreme Court. Nothing in this section shall be
1020 considered as prohibiting an appeal to the Supreme Court from a final
1021 judgment of [the Superior Court] such superior court. The judges of the
1022 Supreme Court may establish rules of procedure for the speedy and
1023 inexpensive hearing of such appeals within fifteen days of such
1024 judgment of a judge of [the Superior Court] such superior court.

1025 Sec. 30. Section 9-328 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1026 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and*
1027 *applicable to complaints brought on or after July 1, 2024*):

1028 (a) Any elector or candidate claiming to have been aggrieved by any
1029 ruling of any election official in connection with an election for any
1030 municipal office or a primary for justice of the peace, or any elector or
1031 candidate claiming that there has been a mistake in the count of votes
1032 cast for any such office at such election or primary, or any candidate in
1033 such an election or primary claiming that [he] such candidate is
1034 aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-

1035 361, inclusive, section 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365 in
1036 the casting of absentee ballots at such election or primary, may bring a
1037 complaint [to any judge of the Superior Court] in the superior court for
1038 the judicial district of Hartford for relief therefrom. In any action
1039 brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the complainant shall
1040 send a copy of the complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the
1041 complaint by hand, to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If
1042 such complaint is made prior to such election or primary, [such judge]
1043 the court shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on the
1044 complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the
1045 Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission.
1046 If such complaint is made subsequent to such election or primary, it
1047 shall be brought not later than fourteen days after such election or
1048 primary, except that if such complaint is brought in response to the
1049 manual tabulation of paper ballots, authorized pursuant to section 9-
1050 320f, as amended by this act, such complaint shall be brought not later
1051 than seven days after the close of any such manual tabulation, to any
1052 judge of [the Superior Court] such superior court, in which [he] such
1053 complainant shall set out the claimed errors of the election official, the
1054 claimed errors in the count or the claimed violations of [said sections.
1055 Such judge] any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive,
1056 section 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365.

1057 (b) The court shall forthwith order a hearing to be [had] held upon
1058 [such] a complaint filed under subsection (a) of this section, upon a day
1059 not more than five nor less than three days from the making of such
1060 order, and shall cause notice of not less than three nor more than five
1061 days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose election or
1062 nomination may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to such
1063 election official, the Secretary of the State, the State Elections
1064 Enforcement Commission and to any other party or parties whom [such
1065 judge] the court deems proper parties thereto, of the time and place for
1066 the hearing upon such complaint. [Such judge] The court shall, on the
1067 day fixed for such hearing and without unnecessary delay, proceed to
1068 hear the parties. If sufficient reason is shown, [he] the court may order

1069 any voting tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened
1070 and a recount of the votes cast, including absentee ballots, to be made.
1071 [Such judge] The court shall thereupon, if [he] the court finds any error
1072 in the rulings of the election official or any mistake in the count of the
1073 votes, certify the result of [his] the court's finding or decision to the
1074 Secretary of the State before the tenth day succeeding the conclusion of
1075 the hearing. [Such judge] The court may order a new election or primary
1076 or a change in the existing election schedule. [Such certificate of such
1077 judge of his]

1078 (c) The certificate of the court's finding or decision under subsection
1079 (b) of this section shall be final and conclusive upon all questions
1080 relating to errors in the ruling of such election officials, to the correctness
1081 of such count, and, for the purposes of this section only, such claimed
1082 violations, and shall operate to correct the returns of the moderators or
1083 presiding officers, so as to conform to such finding or decision, except
1084 that this section shall not affect the right of appeal to the Supreme Court
1085 and [it] shall not prevent [such judge] the court from reserving such
1086 questions of law for the advice of the Supreme Court as provided in
1087 section 9-325, as amended by this act. [Such judge] The court may, if
1088 necessary, issue [his] a writ of mandamus, requiring the adverse party
1089 and those [under him] thereunder to deliver to the complainant the
1090 appurtenances of such office, and shall cause [his] the court's finding
1091 and [decree] decision to be entered on the records of the Superior Court
1092 in the proper judicial district.

1093 Sec. 31. Section 9-329a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1094 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and*
1095 *applicable to complaints brought on or after July 1, 2024*):

1096 (a) Any (1) elector or candidate aggrieved by a ruling of an election
1097 official in connection with any primary held pursuant to (A) section 9-
1098 423, 9-425 or 9-464, or (B) a special act, (2) elector or candidate who
1099 alleges that there has been a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such
1100 primary, or (3) candidate in such a primary who alleges that [he] such
1101 candidate is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-355,

1102 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive, section 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act,
1103 or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such primary, may bring
1104 [his] a complaint [to any judge of the Superior Court] in the superior
1105 court for the judicial district of Hartford for appropriate action. In any
1106 action brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the
1107 complainant shall file a certification attached to the complaint indicating
1108 that a copy of the complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered
1109 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is
1110 made prior to such primary [such judge] the court shall proceed
1111 expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint and shall cause
1112 notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the State and the
1113 State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made
1114 subsequent to such primary [it] such complaint shall be brought, not
1115 later than fourteen days after such primary, or if such complaint is
1116 brought in response to the manual tabulation of paper ballots, described
1117 in section 9-320f, as amended by this act, such complaint shall be
1118 brought, not later than seven days after the close of any such manual
1119 tabulation, [to any judge of the Superior Court] in such superior court.

1120 (b) [Such judge] The court shall forthwith order a hearing to be held
1121 upon [such] a complaint filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section,
1122 upon a day not more than five nor less than three days after the making
1123 of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than three days to be
1124 given to any candidate or candidates in any way directly affected by the
1125 decision upon such hearing, to such election official, to the Secretary of
1126 the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and to any other
1127 person or persons, whom [such judge] the court deems proper parties
1128 thereto, of the time and place of the hearing upon such complaint. [Such
1129 judge] The court shall, on the day fixed for such hearing, and without
1130 delay, proceed to hear the parties and determine the result. If, after
1131 hearing, sufficient reason is shown, [such judge] the court may order
1132 any voting tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened
1133 and a recount of the votes cast, including absentee ballots, to be made.
1134 [Such judge] The court shall thereupon, if [he] the court finds any error
1135 in the ruling of the election official, any mistake in the count of the votes

1136 or any violation of [said sections] any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357
1137 to 9-361, inclusive, section 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-
1138 365, certify the result of [his] the court's finding or decision to the
1139 Secretary of the State before the tenth day following the conclusion of
1140 the hearing. [Such judge] The court may (1) determine the result of such
1141 primary; (2) order a change in the existing primary schedule; or (3) order
1142 a new primary if [he] the court finds that, but for the error in the ruling
1143 of the election official, any mistake in the count of the votes or any
1144 violation of [said sections] any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-
1145 361, inclusive, section 9-364, 9-364a, as amended by this act, or 9-365, the
1146 result of such primary might have been different and [he] the court is
1147 unable to determine the result of such primary.

1148 (c) [The certification by the judge of his] The certificate of the court's
1149 finding or decision under subsection (b) of this section shall be final and
1150 conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the ruling of such
1151 election official, to the correctness of such count, and, for the purposes
1152 of this section only, such alleged violations, and shall operate to correct
1153 any returns or certificates filed by the election officials, unless the same
1154 is appealed from as provided in section 9-325, as amended by this act.
1155 In the event a new primary is held pursuant to such [Superior Court]
1156 order of such superior court, the result of such new primary shall be
1157 final and conclusive unless a complaint is brought pursuant to this
1158 section. The clerk of [the] such superior court shall forthwith transmit a
1159 copy of such findings and order to the Secretary of the State.

1160 Sec. 32. Section 9-329b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
1161 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1162 *1, 2024, and applicable to complaints brought on or after July 1, 2024*):

1163 (a) At any time prior to a primary held before April 1, 2024, and
1164 pursuant to sections 9-423, 9-425 and 9-464, or a special act, or prior to
1165 any election held before April 1, 2024, the [Superior Court] superior
1166 court for the judicial district of Hartford may issue an order removing a
1167 candidate from a ballot where it is shown that such candidate is
1168 improperly on the ballot.

1169 (b) At any time prior to the commencement of the period of early
1170 voting at a primary held on or after April 1, 2024, and pursuant to
1171 sections 9-423, 9-425 and 9-464, or a special act, or prior to the
1172 commencement of the period of early voting at any election held on or
1173 after April 1, 2024, the [Superior Court] superior court for the judicial
1174 district of Hartford may issue an order removing a candidate from a
1175 ballot where it is shown that such candidate is improperly on the ballot.

1176 Sec. 33. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
1177 section 9-368j of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed
1178 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and*
1179 *applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024*):

1180 (B) (i) In determining whether divergent voting patterns occur in a
1181 municipality or whether a method of election in such municipality
1182 results in a dilutive effect on the vote of protected class members, the
1183 superior court for the judicial district [in which such municipality is
1184 located] of Hartford (I) shall consider elections held prior to the filing of
1185 an action pursuant to this section as more probative than elections
1186 conducted after such filing, (II) shall consider evidence concerning
1187 elections for any municipal office in such municipality as more
1188 probative than evidence concerning elections for other offices, but may
1189 still afford probative value to evidence concerning elections for such
1190 other offices, (III) shall consider statistical evidence as more probative
1191 than nonstatistical evidence, (IV) in the case of claims brought on behalf
1192 of two or more protected classes that are politically cohesive in such
1193 municipality, shall combine members of such protected classes to
1194 determine whether voting by such combined protected class members
1195 is divergent from other electors and shall not require evidence that
1196 voting by each such protected class's members is separately divergent
1197 from such other electors, and (V) shall not require evidence concerning
1198 the intent of electors, elected officials or such municipality to
1199 discriminate against protected class members.

1200 (ii) Evidence concerning the causes of, or reasons for, the occurrence
1201 of divergent voting patterns shall not be deemed relevant to the

1202 determination of whether divergent voting patterns occur or whether a
1203 method of election results in a dilutive effect on the vote of protected
1204 class members.

1205 Sec. 34. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-368j of the 2024
1206 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
1207 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions*
1208 *filed on or after July 1, 2024*):

1209 (c) (1) In determining whether, based on the totality of the
1210 circumstances, an impairment of the right to vote for any protected class
1211 member in a municipality, or of the opportunity or ability of protected
1212 class members in a municipality to participate in the political process
1213 and elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome
1214 of elections, has occurred, the superior court for the judicial district [in
1215 which such municipality is located] of Hartford may consider factors
1216 that include, but are not limited to: (A) The history of discrimination in
1217 or affecting the municipality or state; (B) the extent to which protected
1218 class members have been elected to office in the municipality; (C) the
1219 use of any qualification for eligibility to be an elector or other
1220 prerequisite to voting, any statute, ordinance, regulation or other law
1221 regarding the administration of elections, or any standard, practice,
1222 procedure or policy, by the municipality that may enhance the dilutive
1223 effects of a method of election in such municipality; (D) the extent of any
1224 history of unequal access on the part of protected class members or
1225 candidates to election administration or campaign finance processes
1226 that determine which candidates will receive access to the ballot or
1227 financial or other support in a given election for an office of the
1228 municipality; (E) the extent to which protected class members in the
1229 municipality or state have historically made expenditures, as defined in
1230 section 9-601b, at lower rates than other individuals in such
1231 municipality or state; (F) the extent to which protected class members in
1232 the municipality or state vote at lower rates than other electors in the
1233 municipality or state, as applicable; (G) the extent to which protected
1234 class members in the municipality are disadvantaged, or otherwise bear
1235 the effects of public or private discrimination, in areas that may hinder

1236 their ability to participate effectively in the political process, such as
1237 education, employment, health, criminal justice, housing,
1238 transportation, land use or environmental protection; (H) the extent to
1239 which protected class members in the municipality are disadvantaged
1240 in other areas that may hinder their ability to participate effectively in
1241 the political process; (I) the use of overt or subtle racial appeals in
1242 political campaigns in the municipality or surrounding the adoption or
1243 maintenance of a challenged practice; (J) the extent to which candidates
1244 face hostility or barriers while campaigning due to their membership in
1245 a protected class; (K) a significant or recurring lack of responsiveness on
1246 the part of elected officials of the municipality to the particularized
1247 needs of a community or communities of protected class members,
1248 except that compliance with a court order shall not be considered to be
1249 evidence of such responsiveness; and (L) whether the particular method
1250 of election, ordinance, regulation or other law regarding the
1251 administration of elections, standard, practice, procedure or policy was
1252 designed to advance, and does materially advance, a valid state interest.

1253 Sec. 35. Subsection (d) of section 9-368j of the 2024 supplement to the
1254 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1255 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July*
1256 *1, 2024*):

1257 (d) Any individual aggrieved by a violation of this section, any
1258 organization whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by
1259 such a violation or the Secretary of the State may file an action alleging
1260 a violation of this section in the superior court for the judicial district [in
1261 which such violation has occurred] of Hartford. Members of two or
1262 more protected classes that are politically cohesive in a municipality
1263 may jointly file such an action in such court.

1264 Sec. 36. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 9-368j of the 2024
1265 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
1266 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions*
1267 *filed on or after July 1, 2024*):

1268 (e) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this title and any special act,
1269 charter or home rule ordinance, whenever the superior court for [a] the
1270 judicial district of Hartford finds a violation by a municipality [within
1271 such judicial district] of any provision of this section, such court shall
1272 order appropriate remedies that are tailored to address such violation
1273 in such municipality and to ensure protected class members have
1274 equitable opportunities to fully participate in the political process and
1275 that can be implemented in a manner that will not unduly disrupt the
1276 administration of an ongoing or imminent election. Such court shall take
1277 into account the ability of officials who administer elections in such
1278 municipality to implement any change to voting for an ongoing or
1279 imminent election in a manner that is orderly and fiscally sound, and
1280 shall not order any remedy that contravenes the Constitution of
1281 Connecticut. Appropriate remedies may include, but need not be
1282 limited to: (A) A district-based method of election; (B) an alternative
1283 method of election; (C) new or revised districting or redistricting plans;
1284 (D) elimination of staggered elections so that all members of the
1285 legislative body are elected at the same time; (E) reasonably increasing
1286 the size of the legislative body; (F) additional voting days or hours; (G)
1287 additional polling places; (H) additional means of voting, such as voting
1288 by mail, or additional opportunities to return ballots; (I) holding of
1289 special elections; (J) expanded opportunities for admission of electors;
1290 (K) additional elector education; (L) the restoration or addition of
1291 individuals to registry lists; or (M) retaining jurisdiction for such period
1292 of time as the court may deem appropriate, during which period no
1293 qualification for eligibility to be an elector or prerequisite to voting, or
1294 standard, practice or procedure with respect to voting, that is different
1295 from that which was in effect at the time an action under subsection (d)
1296 of this section was commenced shall be enforced unless the court finds
1297 that such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice or procedure
1298 does not have the purpose, and will not have the effect, of impairing the
1299 right to vote on the basis of protected class membership or in
1300 contravention of the guarantees with respect to such right that are set
1301 forth in sections 9-368j to 9-368q, inclusive, as amended by this act,
1302 provided, in any action brought pursuant to chapter 149, any remedy

1303 ordered shall be consistent with the provisions of said chapter.
1304 Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (M) of this
1305 subdivision, any such finding by the court shall not be a bar to any
1306 subsequent action to enjoin enforcement of such qualification,
1307 prerequisite, standard, practice or procedure.

1308 Sec. 37. Subparagraphs (E) and (F) of subdivision (2) of subsection (g)
1309 of section 9-368j of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are
1310 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1311 *2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024*):

1312 (E) If, pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, a municipality
1313 enacts or implements a remedy or the Secretary of the State approves a
1314 proposed remedy, a party who sent a notification letter described in
1315 subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding a potential violation that is
1316 related to such remedy may, not later than thirty days after such
1317 enactment, implementation or approval, submit a claim for
1318 reimbursement from such municipality for the costs associated with
1319 producing and sending such notification letter. Such party shall submit
1320 such claim in writing and substantiate such claim with financial
1321 documentation, including a detailed invoice for any demography
1322 services or analysis of voting patterns in such municipality. Upon
1323 receipt of any such claim, such municipality may request additional
1324 financial documentation if that which has been provided by such party
1325 is insufficient to substantiate such costs. Such municipality shall
1326 reimburse such party for reasonable costs claimed or for an amount to
1327 which such party and such municipality agree, except that the
1328 cumulative amount of any such reimbursements to all such parties other
1329 than the Secretary of the State shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars,
1330 adjusted in accordance with any change in the consumer price index for
1331 all urban consumers as published by the United States Department of
1332 Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. If any such party and such
1333 municipality fail to agree to a reimbursement amount, either such party
1334 or such municipality may file an action for a declaratory judgment with
1335 the superior court for the judicial district [in which such municipality is
1336 located] of Hartford for a clarification of rights.

1337 (F) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a party
1338 described in subsection (d) of this section may seek preliminary relief
1339 for a regular election held in a municipality by filing an action pursuant
1340 to this section during the one hundred twenty days prior to such regular
1341 election. Not later than the filing of such action, such party shall send a
1342 notification letter described in subdivision (1) of this subsection to such
1343 municipality. In the event any such action is withdrawn or dismissed as
1344 being moot as a result of such municipality's enactment or
1345 implementation of a remedy, or the approval by the Secretary of the
1346 State of a proposed remedy, any such party may only submit a claim for
1347 reimbursement in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (E)
1348 of this subdivision.

1349 (ii) In the case of preliminary relief sought pursuant to subparagraph
1350 (F)(i) of this subdivision by a party described in subsection (d) of this
1351 section, the superior court for the judicial district [in which such
1352 municipality is located] of Hartford shall grant such relief if such court
1353 determines that (I) such party has shown a substantial likelihood of
1354 success on the merits, and (II) it is possible to implement an appropriate
1355 remedy that would resolve the violation alleged under this section prior
1356 to such election in a manner that will not unduly disrupt such election.

1357 Sec. 38. Subsection (g) of section 9-368l of the 2024 supplement to the
1358 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1359 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July*
1360 *1, 2024*):

1361 (g) Any individual aggrieved by a violation of this section, any
1362 organization whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by
1363 such a violation or the Secretary of the State may file an action alleging
1364 a violation of this section in the superior court for the judicial district [in
1365 which such violation has occurred] of Hartford, except that no
1366 determination of the Secretary under this section to designate a
1367 municipality or a language for the provision of assistance shall
1368 constitute a violation of this section.

1369 Sec. 39. Subsection (a) of section 9-368m of the 2024 supplement to the
1370 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1371 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July*
1372 *1, 2024*):

1373 (a) In accordance with the provisions of this section, the enactment or
1374 implementation of a covered policy, as described in subsection (b) of this
1375 section, by a covered jurisdiction, as described in subsection (c) of this
1376 section, shall be subject to preclearance, as described in subsections (e)
1377 and (f) of this section, by the Secretary of the State or the superior court
1378 for the judicial district [in which such covered jurisdiction is located] of
1379 Hartford.

1380 Sec. 40. Subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of section 9-368m of the 2024
1381 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
1382 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions*
1383 *filed on or after July 1, 2024*):

1384 (f) (1) If a covered jurisdiction seeks preclearance from the superior
1385 court for the judicial district [in which such covered jurisdiction is
1386 located] of Hartford for the adoption or implementation of any covered
1387 policy, in lieu of seeking such preclearance from the Secretary of the
1388 State pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, such covered jurisdiction
1389 shall submit, in writing, such covered policy to such court and may
1390 obtain such preclearance in accordance with the provisions of this
1391 subsection, provided (A) such covered jurisdiction shall also
1392 contemporaneously transmit to the Secretary of the State a copy of such
1393 submission, and (B) failure to so provide such copy shall result in an
1394 automatic denial of such preclearance. Notwithstanding the
1395 transmission to the Secretary of a copy of any such submission, the court
1396 shall exercise exclusive jurisdiction over such submission. The covered
1397 jurisdiction shall bear the burden of proof in the court's determination
1398 as to preclearance.

1399 Sec. 41. Subsection (g) of section 9-368m of the 2024 supplement to
1400 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

1401 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July*
1402 *1, 2024*):

1403 (g) If any covered jurisdiction enacts or implements any covered
1404 policy without obtaining preclearance for such covered policy in
1405 accordance with the provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State
1406 or any party described in subsection (d) of section 9-368j, as amended
1407 by this act, may file an action in the superior court for the judicial district
1408 [in which such covered jurisdiction is located] of Hartford to enjoin such
1409 enactment or implementation and seek sanctions against such covered
1410 jurisdiction for violations of this section.

1411 Sec. 42. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-368n of the 2024
1412 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
1413 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions*
1414 *filed on or after July 1, 2024*):

1415 (c) (1) Any individual aggrieved by a violation of this section or any
1416 organization whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by
1417 such a violation may file an action alleging a violation of this section in
1418 the superior court for the judicial district [in which such violation has
1419 occurred] of Hartford. Such an action may be filed irrespective of any
1420 action that may be filed by the State Elections Enforcement Commission,
1421 the Attorney General or the State's Attorney as a result of such a
1422 violation.

1423 Sec. 43. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 9-7a of the general
1424 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1425 (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1426 (g) (1) In the case of a written complaint filed with the commission
1427 pursuant to section 9-7b, commission staff shall conduct and complete a
1428 preliminary examination of such complaint by the fourteenth day
1429 following its receipt, at which time such staff shall, at its discretion, (A)
1430 dismiss the complaint for failure to allege any substantial violation of
1431 state election law supported by evidence, (B) engage the respondent in
1432 discussions in an effort to speedily resolve any matter pertaining to a de

1433 minimis violation, or (C) investigate and docket the complaint for a
1434 determination by the commission that probable cause or no probable
1435 cause exists for any such violation. If commission staff dismisses a
1436 complaint pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, such staff
1437 shall provide a brief written statement concisely setting forth the
1438 reasons for such dismissal. If commission staff engages a respondent
1439 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision but is unable to
1440 speedily resolve any such matter described in said subparagraph by the
1441 forty-fifth day following receipt of the complaint, such staff shall docket
1442 such complaint for a determination by the commission that probable
1443 cause or no probable cause exists for any violation of state election law.
1444 If the commission does not, by the sixtieth day following receipt of the
1445 complaint, either issue a decision or render its determination that
1446 probable cause or no probable cause exists for any violation of state
1447 election laws, the complainant or respondent may apply to the superior
1448 court for the judicial district of Hartford for an order to show cause why
1449 the commission has not acted upon the complaint and to provide
1450 evidence that the commission has unreasonably delayed action. For any
1451 complaint received on or after January 1, 2018, if the commission does
1452 not, by one year following receipt of such complaint, issue a decision
1453 thereon, the commission shall dismiss such complaint, provided the
1454 length of time of any delay caused by (i) the commission or commission
1455 staff granting any extension or continuance to a respondent prior to the
1456 issuance of any such decision, (ii) any subpoena issued in connection
1457 with such complaint, (iii) any litigation in state or federal court related
1458 to such complaint, or (iv) any investigation by, or consultation of the
1459 commission or commission staff with, the Chief State's Attorney, the
1460 Attorney General, the United States Department of Justice or the United
1461 States Attorney for Connecticut related to such complaint, shall be
1462 added to such one year. For any complaint received on or after July 1,
1463 2024, if the commission does not, by the ninetieth day following the
1464 commission's determination that probable cause exists for any violation
1465 of state election laws, issue a decision on such complaint, the
1466 commission shall refer such complaint to the Chief State's Attorney for
1467 further enforcement action. In the case of any complaint so referred

1468 under this subdivision, the Chief State's Attorney shall submit a report
 1469 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 1470 cognizance of matters relating to elections, in accordance with the
 1471 provisions of section 11-4a, detailing the status of any enforcement
 1472 action related to such referred complaint.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-140b(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-140c(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-153b
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-364a
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	9-139a(a) and (b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-140(a)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-50c
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-50b
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	9-50d
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-163aa(h)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-19j(j)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-147a
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-453e
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-453j
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-453k(a) and (b)
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-453o
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-404b(c) and (d)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-410
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	9-140e
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-320f(a)
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-460
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-437(a)
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-437(g)
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-428
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-135b(d)
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-472
Sec. 27	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	9-453u
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to complaints brought on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-324

Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to complaints brought on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-325
Sec. 30	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to complaints brought on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-328
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to complaints brought on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-329a
Sec. 32	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to complaints brought on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-329b
Sec. 33	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-368j(b)(2)(B)
Sec. 34	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-368j(c)(1)
Sec. 35	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-368j(d)
Sec. 36	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-368j(e)(1)
Sec. 37	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-368j(g)(2)(E) and (F)
Sec. 38	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-368l(g)
Sec. 39	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-368m(a)
Sec. 40	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-368m(f)(1)
Sec. 41	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-368m(g)

Sec. 42	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to actions filed on or after July 1, 2024</i>	9-368n(c)(1)
Sec. 43	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-7a(g)(1)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) provide for video recording of absentee ballot drop boxes and retention of such recordings, (2) require town clerks to record the method of receipt for absentee ballots, (3) limit who may apply for additional absentee voting sets, (4) amend an election crime statute regarding suppression or destruction of votes to specify applicability to various methods of casting such votes, (5) require confidentiality of certain election data provided by other states, (6) limit the authorized use of absentee ballot applications to specified periods of time, (7) require town clerks to track absentee ballots in the state-wide centralized voter registration system, (8) prohibit the commercial use of certain voter registration information, (9) prohibit certain candidates from being present in early voting, same-day election registration and absentee ballot central counting locations, (10) bring into compliance with federal case law certain state statutes relating to the circulation of nominating and primary petitions, (11) delete a grounds for removal of an elector from permanent absentee ballot status, (12) modify the timeline for the conduct of a post-election audit, (13) require town clerks to, when a vacancy in candidacy is unfilled, obscure the name of the vacated candidate on the ballot, (14) prohibit the use of "independent" or any similar word in any party designation recorded with the Secretary of the State, (15) require that certain election-related filings be made in the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford, and (16) provide a deadline for mandatory referral of a complaint from the State Elections Enforcement Commission to the Chief State's Attorney.

[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.]