



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5498

February Session, 2024



**AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION SECURITY AND TRANSPARENCY,
VARIOUS OTHER REVISIONS RELATED TO ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION AND STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT
COMMISSION COMPLAINTS.**

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2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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 first
22 day of issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of
23 section 9-140, and until the last retrieval of absentee ballots from such
24 drop box at the close of the polls at the election or primary. Each such
25 recording shall immediately be made publicly available from the date
26 of recording, but in no case later than five days after such last retrieval.
27 Each such recording shall be retained by the municipality for a period
28 of twelve months and may be destroyed at the end of such period,
29 except that the State Elections Enforcement Commission or a court of
30 competent jurisdiction may order that such period be extended until the
31 conclusion of any investigation related to such recording.

32 (3) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
33 with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning the use of secure drop
34 boxes for the deposit of absentee ballots, including, but not limited to,
35 the placement and positioning of any such drop box and the video
36 recording of any such drop box and retention of any such recording.

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38 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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

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

50 preserve the affidavit for one hundred eighty days in accordance with
51 the requirements of section 9-150b. The clerk shall keep a list of the
52 names of the applicants who return absentee ballots to the clerk under
53 section 9-140b, as amended by this act. The list shall be preserved as a
54 public record as required by section 9-150b.

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

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

69 (a) If any absentee ballot applicant applies for an additional absentee
70 ballot, [he] such applicant shall note on [his] the application the reason
71 for [his] applying for an additional absentee ballot and [he] shall return
72 the absentee voting set formerly issued to [him] such applicant before
73 another set is issued, [to him, provided, if he] provided, if such applicant
74 is unable to return [the set formerly issued to him, his] such formerly
75 issued set, such application for an additional ballot shall be
76 accompanied by a statement signed under the penalties of false
77 statement in absentee balloting in which [he] such applicant shall [set
78 forth] note the reason for [his] such applicant's inability to return [the
79 set] such formerly issued [to him. If he] set. If such applicant fails to file
80 such a statement, no additional set shall be issued to [him] such
81 applicant. An application for an additional absentee ballot shall only be
82 made by an absentee ballot applicant. Any additional absentee voting

83 set issued under this subsection shall only be either provided in person
84 to the applicant or mailed directly to the applicant at the bona fide
85 mailing address designated by such applicant.

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

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

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

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

114 Any person who, with intent to disenfranchise any elector, influences

115 or attempts to influence by force or threat, bribery or corrupt, fraudulent
116 or deliberately deceitful means any elector to stay away from any
117 election or otherwise refrain from voting, whether such voting is by
118 mail, by deposit in a secure drop box or in person at a polling place or
119 designated early voting or same-day election registration location, shall
120 be guilty of a class D felony.

121 Sec. 5. Section 9-364a of the general statutes is repealed and the
122 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

123 Any person who influences or attempts to influence by force or threat
124 the vote, or by force, threat, bribery or corrupt means, the speech, of any
125 person in a primary, caucus, referendum convention or election; [or] any
126 person who wilfully and fraudulently suppresses or destroys any vote
127 or ballot properly given or cast, whether so given or cast by mail, by
128 deposit in a secure drop box or in person at a polling place or designated
129 early voting or same-day election registration location, or, in counting
130 such votes or ballots, wilfully miscounts or misrepresents the number
131 thereof; and any presiding or other officer of a primary, caucus or
132 convention who wilfully announces the result of a ballot or vote of such
133 primary, caucus or convention, untruly and wrongfully, shall be guilty
134 of a class C felony.

135 Sec. 6. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-139a of the general statutes
136 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
137 *January 1, 2025*):

138 (a) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish the following
139 materials to municipal clerks: The absentee ballot facsimile, the
140 application for absentee ballot authorized for use at each election or
141 primary, the inner envelope, the outer envelope provided for the return
142 of the ballot to the municipal clerk, the instructions for the use of the
143 absentee ballot and the envelope for mailing of such forms by the clerk
144 to the absentee ballot applicant.

145 (b) The application for absentee ballot shall be in the form of a
146 statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee

147 balloting. Each application shall contain (1) spaces for the signature
148 under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting of any person
149 who assists the applicant in the completion of an application together
150 with the information required in section 9-140, as amended by this act,
151 [and] (2) spaces for the signature and the printed or typed name of the
152 applicant, and (3) a clear and conspicuous notation of the year for which
153 such application's use is authorized.

154 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-140 of the 2024 supplement to the
155 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
156 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

157 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, application
158 for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of the municipality in
159 which the applicant is eligible to vote or has applied for such eligibility.
160 Any person who assists another person in the completion of an
161 application shall, in the space provided, sign the application and print
162 or type his name, residence address and telephone number. Such
163 signature shall be made under the penalties of false statement in
164 absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not invalidate the
165 application solely because it does not contain the name of a person who
166 assisted the applicant in the completion of the application. The
167 municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee ballot application
168 any material which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate or
169 referendum question. The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all
170 absentee ballot applications provided under this subsection, including
171 the name and address of each person to whom applications are
172 provided and the number of applications provided to each such person.
173 Each absentee ballot application provided by the municipal clerk shall
174 be consecutively numbered and be stamped or marked with the name
175 of the municipality issuing the application. The application shall be
176 signed by the applicant under the penalties of false statement in
177 absentee balloting on (A) the form prescribed by the Secretary of the
178 State pursuant to section 9-139a, as amended by this act, (B) a form
179 provided by any federal department or agency if applicable pursuant to
180 section 9-153a, or (C) any of the special forms of application prescribed

181 pursuant to section 9-150c, 9-153a, 9-153b, as amended by this act, 9-
182 153d, 9-153e, 9-153f or 9-158d, if applicable. Any such absentee ballot
183 applicant who is unable to write may cause the application to be
184 completed by an authorized agent who shall, in the spaces provided for
185 the date and signature, write the date and name of the absentee ballot
186 applicant followed by the word "by" and his own signature. If the ballot
187 is to be mailed to the applicant, the applicant shall list the bona fide
188 personal mailing address of the applicant in the appropriate space on
189 the application.

190 (2) A municipal clerk may transmit an application to a person under
191 this subsection by facsimile machine or other electronic means, if so
192 requested by the applicant. If a municipal clerk has a facsimile machine
193 or other electronic means, an applicant may return a completed
194 application to the clerk by such a machine or device, provided the
195 applicant shall also mail the original of the completed application to the
196 clerk, either separately or with the absentee ballot that is issued to the
197 applicant. If the clerk does not receive such original application by the
198 close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum, the
199 absentee ballot shall not be counted.

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

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

210 Sec. 8. Section 9-50c of the general statutes is repealed and the
211 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

212 (a) The Secretary of the State may enter into an agreement to share

213 information or data with any other state in order to maintain the state-
214 wide centralized voter registration system established pursuant to
215 section 9-50b, as amended by this act. If an agency of this state, another
216 state or the federal government provides the Secretary with information
217 or data to be used to maintain such system, the Secretary shall not use
218 such information or data for any purpose except to maintain such
219 system and shall ensure that such information or data is held
220 confidential, [if such information or data, while in the possession of such
221 other agency or state or federal government, as applicable, was required
222 to be held confidential,] except as provided for in subsection (b) of this
223 section.

224 (b) The Secretary of the State may provide such information or data
225 to a nonpartisan third-party vendor for the purpose of maintaining the
226 state-wide centralized voter registration system established pursuant to
227 section 9-50b, as amended by this act, provided such vendor's activities
228 are performed under the supervision of the Secretary and such vendor
229 has entered into an agreement to protect the confidentiality of such
230 information or data.

231 Sec. 9. Section 9-50b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is
232 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
233 *2024*):

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

242 (b) Not later than July 1, 2003, each registrar of voters shall transmit
243 to the office of the Secretary of the State all elector information required
244 by the office to complete the state-wide centralized voter registration

245 system. Each registrar shall transmit such information in a format
246 prescribed by the Secretary. Not later than September 1, 2003, each
247 registrar of voters shall participate in the state-wide centralized voter
248 registration system in the manner prescribed by the Secretary. On and
249 after July 1, 2024, each town clerk shall utilize the state-wide centralized
250 voter registration system whenever carrying out any provision of this
251 title involving the checking of absentee ballot applications or returned
252 absentee ballots against any active or inactive registry list or enrollment
253 list.

254 (c) Not later than sixty days after each election or primary, the
255 registrars of voters shall update the state-wide centralized voter
256 registration system and indicate whether the eligible voters on the
257 official registry list for such election or primary voted and, if so, if they
258 voted in person on the day of such election or primary, in person during
259 the period of early voting at such election or primary or by absentee
260 ballot.

261 Sec. 10. Section 9-50d of the general statutes is repealed and the
262 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

263 (a) (1) Whenever voter registration information maintained under
264 this title by the Secretary of the State or any registrar of voters is
265 provided pursuant to any provision of the general statutes, disclosure
266 of a voter's date of birth shall be limited to only the month and year of
267 birth, unless such voter registration information is requested and used
268 for a governmental purpose, as determined by the Secretary, in which
269 case the voter's complete date of birth shall be provided. As used in this
270 section, a governmental purpose shall include, but not be limited to, jury
271 administration.

272 (2) Voter registration information described in subdivision (1) of this
273 subsection (A) may only be used for election-related, scholarly,
274 journalistic, political or governmental purposes, as determined by the
275 Secretary of the State, and (B) shall not be used for any personal, private
276 or commercial purpose, including, but not limited to, (i) harassment of

277 any voter or voter's household, (ii) advertising, solicitation, sale or
278 marketing of products or services to any voter or voter's household, and
279 (iii) reproduction of such information in print, broadcast visual or audio
280 or display on the Internet or any computer terminal.

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

285 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, if a voter
286 submits to the Secretary of the State a signed statement that
287 nondisclosure of such voter's name from the official registry list is
288 necessary for the safety of such voter or the voter's family, the name and
289 address of such voter on his or her voter registration record shall be
290 confidential and shall not be disclosed, except that an election, primary
291 or referendum official may view such information on the official registry
292 list when such list is used by any such official at a polling place on the
293 day of an election, primary or referendum. Such signed statement shall
294 be sworn under penalty of false statement, as provided in section 53a-
295 157b.

296 Sec. 11. Subsection (h) of section 9-163aa of the 2024 supplement to
297 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
298 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

299 (h) (1) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any
300 candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being
301 submitted at the election or primary, or loiter or peddle or offer any
302 advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius
303 of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any
304 location designated by the registrars of voters for early voting or in any
305 corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside
306 entrance to any such location or in any room opening upon any such
307 corridor, passageway or approach.

308 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no person

309 shall be allowed within any location designated by the registrars of
310 voters for early voting for any purpose other than casting such person's
311 vote, except (A) primary officials under section 9-436, (B) election
312 officials under section 9-258, including (i) a municipal clerk or registrar
313 of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (ii) a deputy
314 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,
315 performing such official's duties, and (C) unofficial checkers under
316 section 9-235.

317 [(2)] (3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party
318 employee or volunteer, may be within [such] the seventy-five-foot
319 radius [of seventy-five feet] described in subdivision (1) of this
320 subsection (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such
321 person's official duties or to the conduct of government business within
322 such radius, (B) only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or
323 conduct such business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in
324 any conduct described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

325 Sec. 12. Subsection (j) of section 9-19j of the 2024 supplement to the
326 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
327 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

328 (j) (1) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any
329 candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being
330 submitted at the election, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising
331 matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-
332 five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any location
333 designated by the registrars of voters for same-day election registration
334 balloting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from
335 any such outside entrance to any such location or in any room opening
336 upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

337 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no person
338 shall be allowed within any location designated by the registrars of
339 voters for same-day election registration balloting for any purpose other
340 than casting such person's vote, except (A) primary officials under

341 section 9-436, (B) election officials under section 9-258, including (i) a
342 municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same
343 office, and (ii) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the
344 office of registrar of voters, performing such official's duties, and (C)
345 unofficial checkers under section 9-235.

346 [(2)] (3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party
347 employee or volunteer, may be within [such] the seventy-five-foot
348 radius [of seventy-five feet] described in subdivision (1) of this
349 subsection (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such
350 person's official duties or to the conduct of government business within
351 such radius, (B) only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or
352 conduct such business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in
353 any conduct described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

354 Sec. 13. Subsection (c) of section 9-236 of the general statutes is
355 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
356 *2024*):

357 (c) No person shall be allowed within any polling place for any
358 purpose other than casting his or her vote, except (1) those permitted or
359 exempt under this section or section 9-236a, (2) primary officials under
360 section 9-436, (3) election officials under section 9-258, including (A) a
361 municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same
362 office, performing his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of
363 voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing
364 his or her official duties, or (4) [party] unofficial checkers under section
365 9-235. Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to enter,
366 remain within and leave any polling place or restricted area
367 surrounding any polling place to observe the election, provided any
368 such representative who in any way interferes with the orderly process
369 of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. A number of students in
370 grades four to twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in
371 any one polling place, may enter any polling place between twelve
372 o'clock noon and three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the
373 activities taking place in the polling place, provided there is proper

374 parental or teacher supervision present, and provided further, any such
375 student who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting
376 shall be evicted by the moderator. An elector may be accompanied into
377 any polling place by one or more children who are fifteen years of age
378 or younger and supervised by the elector if the elector is the parent or
379 legal guardian of such children.

380 Sec. 14. Section 9-147a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
381 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
382 *1, 2024*):

383 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, at any election,
384 primary or referendum, all absentee ballots shall, within existing
385 resources, be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a at a
386 central location designated by the registrars of voters in writing to the
387 municipal clerk at least twenty days before the election, primary or
388 referendum, which location shall be published in the warning for the
389 election, primary or referendum. Except as provided in subsection (b) of
390 this section, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to
391 vote in the primary of either of two parties, all absentee ballots shall be
392 separated, counted, tallied and placed in depository envelopes by
393 voting district. Any member of the public may observe the counting of
394 absentee ballots at such central location, provided no candidate for
395 election or nomination shall be allowed within such central location
396 during such counting, except (1) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters,
397 who is a candidate for the same office, and (2) a deputy registrar of
398 voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing
399 such official's duties.

400 (b) At any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots may
401 be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a in the respective
402 polling places if the registrars of voters agree that such absentee ballots
403 should be so counted. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under
404 section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, absentee
405 ballots may be counted in the respective polling places if the parties
406 agree that such absentee ballots should be so counted. Any election

407 official serving in a polling place may observe the counting of absentee
408 ballots at such polling place, provided no candidate for election or
409 nomination shall be allowed within such polling place during such
410 counting, except (1) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a
411 candidate for the same office, and (2) a deputy registrar of voters, who
412 is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing such
413 official's duties.

414 Sec. 15. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the
415 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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

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

423 Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or
424 [the] Secretary of the State and filed with the Secretary of the State under
425 the provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216
426 shall contain a statement as to the residency [in this state] and eligibility
427 of the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon,
428 signed under [penalties] penalty of false statement, by the person who
429 circulated the same. Such statement shall set forth (1) [such] the
430 circulator's residence address, including the town [in this state] in which
431 [such] the circulator is a resident, (2) if the circulator is not a resident in
432 this state, that the circulator agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this
433 state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation
434 of a petition pursuant to this subpart, (3) the circulator's date of birth
435 and that the circulator is at least eighteen years of age, [(3)] (4) that the
436 circulator is a United States citizen and not on parole for conviction of a
437 felony, and [(4)] (5) that each person whose name appears on such page
438 signed the same in person in the presence of [such] the circulator and

439 that either the circulator knows each such signer or that the signer
440 satisfactorily identified [himself] such signer to the circulator. Any false
441 statement committed with respect to such statement shall be deemed to
442 have been committed in the town in which the petition was circulated.

443 Sec. 17. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-453k of the general statutes
444 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
445 *1, 2024*):

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

452 (b) The town clerk or Secretary of the State, or an appropriate person
453 as provided in section 1-29, shall certify on each such page that the
454 circulator thereof signed such statement in [his] the presence of the
455 clerk, Secretary or appropriate person, as applicable, and that either [he]
456 the clerk, Secretary or appropriate person, as applicable, knows the
457 circulator or that the circulator satisfactorily identified [himself] such
458 circulator to the individual so certifying.

459 Sec. 18. Section 9-453o of the general statutes is repealed and the
460 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

461 (a) The Secretary of the State may not count, for purposes of
462 determining compliance with the number of signatures required by
463 section 9-453d, the signatures certified by the town clerk on any petition
464 page filed under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or 9-216 if: (1) The
465 name of the candidate, [his] such candidate's address or the party
466 designation, if any, has been omitted from the face of the petition; (2) the
467 page does not contain a statement by the circulator as to the residency
468 [in this state] and eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity
469 of the signatures thereon as required by section 9-453j, as amended by
470 this act, or upon which such statement of the circulator is incomplete in

471 any respect; or (3) the page does not contain the certifications required
472 by sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, by the town clerk of the town in
473 which the signers reside. The town clerk shall cure any omission on [his]
474 the clerk's part by signing any such page at the office of the Secretary of
475 the State and making the necessary amendment or by filing a separate
476 statement in this regard, which amendment shall be dated.

477 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Secretary of
478 the State shall approve [every] each nominating petition which contains
479 sufficient signatures counted and certified on approved pages by the
480 town clerks. In the case of a candidate who petitions under a reserved
481 party designation the Secretary shall approve the petition only if it
482 meets the signature requirement and if a statement endorsing such
483 candidate is filed with the Secretary by the party designation committee
484 not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-second day before the
485 election. In the case of a candidate who petitions under a party
486 designation which is the same as the name of a minor party the Secretary
487 shall approve the petition only if it meets the signature requirement and
488 if a statement endorsing such candidate is filed in the office of the
489 Secretary by the chairman or secretary of such minor party not later than
490 four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-second day before the election. No
491 candidate shall be qualified to appear on any ballot by nominating
492 petition unless the candidate's petition is approved by the Secretary
493 pursuant to this subsection.

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

498 Sec. 19. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 9-404b of the general statutes
499 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
500 *1, 2024*):

501 (c) The names of enrolled party members signing a primary petition
502 may be on several pages, provided no person shall sign more than one

503 petition page for the same candidate or candidates. Any person who
504 signs a name other than the person's own to a primary petition filed
505 under the provisions of this section or who signs a name other than the
506 person's own as circulator of such petition shall be fined not more than
507 one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.
508 Each such page shall indicate the candidate or candidates supported,
509 the offices sought and the political party for which nomination is being
510 sought. No page of such a petition shall contain the names of enrolled
511 party members residing in different municipalities and any petition
512 page that has been certified by the registrars of voters of two or more
513 municipalities shall be rejected by the Secretary. Withdrawal of petition
514 signatures shall not be permitted.

515 (d) [Each] Any person qualified to vote under the laws of any state or
516 territory of the United States may be a circulator of a primary petition
517 page [shall be] if such person (1) is an enrolled party member of a
518 municipality in this state, [Each] or (2) agrees to submit to the
519 jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising out of or
520 related to the circulation of a primary petition. For any circulator
521 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, each petition page shall
522 contain a statement signed by the registrar of voters of the municipality
523 in which the circulator is an enrolled party member attesting that the
524 circulator is an enrolled party member in the municipality. For any
525 circulator described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each petition
526 page shall contain a statement signed by the circulator that the circulator
527 agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or
528 controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of a primary
529 petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the registrar of
530 voters of the municipality in which such page was circulated. Unless
531 such [a] an attested statement by the registrar of voters appears on each
532 page so submitted, the Secretary shall reject the page. Each separate
533 page of the petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the
534 signatures on the page and the number of such signatures, and shall be
535 signed under the [penalties] penalty of false statement by the person
536 who circulated the page, setting forth the circulator's address and the

537 town in which the circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting
538 that each person whose name appears on the page signed the petition in
539 person in the presence of the circulator, that the circulator either knows
540 each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified [himself or
541 herself] such signer to the circulator and that the spaces for candidates
542 supported, offices sought and the political party involved were filled in
543 prior to the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate page of the
544 petition shall also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as
545 provided in section 1-29. The Secretary shall reject any page of a petition
546 filed with the Secretary which does not contain such a statement by the
547 circulator as to the authenticity of the signatures on the page, or upon
548 which the statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or
549 which does not contain the [certification] attested statement required
550 under this section by the registrar of voters of the town in which the
551 circulator is an enrolled party member or in which the page was
552 circulated. Any individual proposed as a candidate in any primary
553 petition may serve as a circulator of the pages of the petition, provided
554 the individual's service as circulator does not violate any provision of
555 this section.

556 Sec. 20. Section 9-410 of the general statutes is repealed and the
557 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

558 (a) The petition form for candidacies for nomination to municipal
559 office or for election as members of town committees shall be prescribed
560 by the Secretary of the State and provided by the registrar of voters of
561 the municipality in which the candidacy is to be filed or duplicate
562 petition pages shall be produced in accordance with section 9-409, and
563 signatures shall be obtained only on such forms or such duplicate
564 petition pages. Such form shall include, at the top of the form and in
565 bold print, the following:

566 WARNING
567 IT IS A CRIME TO SIGN THIS PETITION
568 IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON

569 WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY TO DO SO
570 AND YOU MAY NOT SIGN THIS PETITION
571 IF YOU ARE NOT AN ELECTOR.

572 The form shall include thereon a statement of instructions to persons
573 using the form and shall indicate the date and time by which it shall be
574 filed and the person with whom it shall be filed. The form shall provide
575 spaces for the names and addresses of the candidates, the offices to
576 which nomination is sought or the positions to which election is sought
577 and the political party holding the primary, and shall provide lines for
578 the signatures, street addresses, dates of birth and the printing of the
579 names of enrolled party members supporting the person or persons on
580 behalf of whose candidacy the petition is used. Only as many candidates
581 may be proposed in any one primary petition for the same office or
582 position as are to be nominated or chosen by such party for such office
583 or position; but any one primary petition may propose as many
584 candidates for different offices or positions as there are nominations to
585 be made or positions to be filled.

586 (b) The names of enrolled party members signing a primary petition
587 need not all be on one sheet but may be on several sheets, but no person
588 shall sign more than one petition page for the same candidate or
589 candidates. Any person who signs a name other than the person's own
590 to a primary petition filed under the provisions of this section or who
591 signs a name other than the person's own as circulator of such a petition
592 shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not
593 more than one year or both. Each such sheet shall indicate the candidate
594 or candidates supported, the offices or positions sought and the political
595 party the nomination of which is sought or which is holding the primary
596 for election of town committee members. No page of such a petition
597 shall contain the names of enrolled party members residing in different
598 municipalities and any page thereof which has been certified by the
599 registrars of voters of two or more municipalities shall be rejected by the
600 registrar of voters. Withdrawal of petition signatures shall not be

601 permitted.

602 (c) [Each] Any person qualified to vote under the laws of any state or
603 territory of the United States may be a circulator of a primary petition
604 page [shall be] if such person (1) is an enrolled party member of a
605 municipality in this state, [who is entitled to vote. Each] or (2) agrees to
606 submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising
607 out of or related to the circulation of a primary petition. For any
608 circulator described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, each petition
609 page shall contain a statement signed by the registrar of voters of the
610 municipality in which such circulator is an enrolled party member
611 attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in such
612 municipality. For any circulator described in subdivision (2) of this
613 subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by the
614 circulator that the circulator agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this
615 state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation
616 of a primary petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the
617 registrar of voters of the municipality in which such page was
618 circulated. Unless such [a] an attested statement by the registrar of
619 voters appears on each page so submitted, the registrar of voters shall
620 reject such page. No candidate for the nomination of a party for a
621 municipal office or the position of town committee member shall
622 circulate any petition for another candidate or another group of
623 candidates contained in one primary petition for the nomination of such
624 party for the same office or position, and any petition page circulated in
625 violation of this provision shall be rejected by the registrar of voters. No
626 person shall circulate petitions for more than the maximum number of
627 candidates to be nominated by a party for the same office or position,
628 and any petition page circulated in violation of this provision shall be
629 rejected by the registrar of voters. Each separate sheet of such petition
630 shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon
631 and the number of such signatures, and shall be signed under the
632 [penalties] penalty of false statement by the person who circulated the
633 same, setting forth such circulator's address and the town in which such
634 circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that each person

635 whose name appears on such sheet signed the same in person in the
636 presence of such circulator, that the circulator either knows each such
637 signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified [the] such signer to the
638 circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported, offices or
639 positions sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to
640 the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate sheet of such petition shall
641 also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in
642 section 1-29. Any sheet of a petition filed with the registrar of voters
643 which does not contain such a statement by the circulator as to the
644 authenticity of the signatures thereon, or upon which the statement of
645 the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or which does not contain the
646 [certification hereinbefore required] attested statement required under
647 this section by the registrar of voters of the town in which the circulator
648 is an enrolled party member or in which the page was circulated, shall
649 be rejected by the registrar of voters. Any individual proposed as a
650 candidate in any primary petition may serve as a circulator of the pages
651 of such petition, provided such individual's service as circulator does
652 not violate any provision of this section.

653 Sec. 21. Section 9-140e of the general statutes is repealed and the
654 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

655 (a) Any elector who is permanently physically disabled or suffering
656 from a long-term illness and who files an application for an absentee
657 ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that
658 such elector is permanently physically disabled or suffering from a long-
659 term illness and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated
660 polling location, shall be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status
661 and shall receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary or
662 referendum conducted in such elector's municipality for which such
663 elector is eligible to vote. Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status
664 shall remain in effect until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official
665 registry list of the municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee
666 ballot status pursuant to the provisions of this section, or (3) requests
667 that he or she no longer receive such permanent absentee ballot status.

668 (b) The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each such
669 elector with permanent absentee ballot status in January of each year,
670 on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, for the purpose of
671 determining if such elector continues to reside at the address indicated
672 on the elector's permanent absentee ballot application. If [(1)] such
673 written notice is returned as undeliverable, [or (2) not later than sixty
674 days after such notice is sent to the elector, the elector fails to return such
675 notice to the registrars of voters, as directed on the form,] the elector in
676 question shall be removed from permanent absentee ballot status. If
677 such elector indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides at
678 such address and the elector's new address is within the same
679 municipality, the registrars of voters shall change the elector's address
680 pursuant to section 9-35 and such elector shall retain permanent
681 absentee ballot status. If the elector indicates on such notice that the
682 elector no longer resides in the municipality, the registrars of voters
683 shall remove such individual from the registry list of the municipality
684 and send such individual an application for voter registration. Failure
685 to return such written notice shall not result in the removal of an elector
686 from the official registry list of the municipality or from permanent
687 absentee ballot status.

688 Sec. 22. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the 2024 supplement to the
689 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
690 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

691 (a) (1) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any federal or state
692 election or primary and not later than two business days before the
693 canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and
694 Comptroller, [for any federal or state election or primary, or] and (2) not
695 earlier than the fifth day after any municipal election or primary and not
696 later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the town
697 clerk, [for any municipal election or primary,] the registrars of voters
698 shall conduct a manual audit, or [, for an election or primary held on or
699 after January 1, 2016,] an electronic audit authorized under section 9-
700 320g, of the votes recorded in not less than five per cent of the voting
701 districts in the state, district or municipality, whichever is applicable.

702 For the purposes of this section, any central location used in a
703 municipality for the counting of absentee ballots, early voting ballots or
704 same-day election registration ballots shall be deemed a voting district.
705 Such manual or electronic audit shall be noticed in advance and be open
706 to public observation. Any election official who participates in the
707 administration and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be
708 compensated by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established
709 by such municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.

710 Sec. 23. Section 9-460 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
711 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
712 *1, 2024*):

713 If any party has nominated a candidate for office, or, on and after
714 November 4, 1981, if a candidate has qualified to appear on any ballot
715 by nominating petition under a reserved party designation, in
716 accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and such nominee
717 thereafter, but prior to forty-six days before the opening of the polls on
718 the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, dies,
719 withdraws such nominee's name or for any reason becomes disqualified
720 to hold the office for which such nominee has been nominated, (1) such
721 party or, on and after November 4, 1981, the party designation
722 committee may make a nomination to fill such vacancy or provide for
723 the making of such nomination as its rules prescribe, and (2) if another
724 party that is qualified to nominate a candidate for such office does not
725 have a nominee for such office, such party may also nominate a
726 candidate for such office as its rules prescribe. No withdrawal, and no
727 nomination to replace a candidate who has withdrawn, under this
728 section shall be valid unless the candidate who has withdrawn has filed
729 a letter of withdrawal signed by such candidate with the Secretary of the
730 State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator
731 or state representative from any district, or with the municipal clerk in
732 the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state
733 representative. A copy of such candidate's letter of withdrawal to the
734 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. No
735 nomination to fill a vacancy under this section shall be valid unless it is

736 certified to the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office
737 or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or
738 to the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state
739 senator or state representative, by the organization or committee
740 making such nomination, at least forty-two days before the opening of
741 the polls on the day of the election, except as otherwise provided by this
742 section. If a nominee dies within forty-six days before the election, but
743 prior to twenty-four hours before the commencement of the period of
744 early voting at the election for which such nomination has been made,
745 the vacancy may be filled in the manner prescribed in this section by
746 two o'clock p.m. of the day before the first day of such period of early
747 voting with the municipal clerk or the Secretary of the State, as the case
748 may be. If a nominee dies within twenty-four hours before the
749 commencement of the period of early voting at the election and prior to
750 the close of the polls on the day of the election for which such
751 nomination has been made, such nominee shall not be replaced and the
752 votes cast for such nominee shall be canvassed and counted, and if such
753 nominee receives a plurality of the votes cast, a vacancy shall exist in the
754 office for which the nomination was made. The vacancy shall then be
755 filled in a manner prescribed by law. A copy of such certification to the
756 municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. Such
757 nomination to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification shall
758 include a statement setting forth the reason for such vacancy. If at the
759 time such nomination is certified to the Secretary of the State or to the
760 municipal clerk, as the case may be, the ballots have already been
761 printed, the Secretary of the State shall direct the municipal clerk in each
762 municipality affected to (A) have the ballots reprinted with the
763 nomination thus made included thereon, (B) cause printed stickers to be
764 affixed to the ballots so that the name of any candidate who has died [,
765 withdrawn or been disqualified] is deleted and the name of any
766 candidate chosen to fill such vacancy appears in the same position as
767 that in which the vacated candidacy appeared, or (C) [cause blank
768 stickers to be so affixed] if the vacancy is not filled, cause the name of
769 the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be obscured in such
770 manner that such name is no longer visible.

771 Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is
772 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
773 *2024*):

774 (a) At the top of each ballot shall be printed the name of the party
775 holding the primary, and each ballot shall contain the names of all
776 candidates to be voted upon at such primary, except the names of
777 justices of the peace. The vertical columns shall be headed by the
778 designation of the office or position and instructions as to the number
779 for which an elector may vote for such office or position, in the same
780 manner as a ballot used in a regular election. The name of each
781 candidate for town committee or municipal office, except for the
782 municipal offices of state senator and state representative, shall appear
783 on the ballot as authorized by each candidate. The name of each
784 candidate for state or district office or for the municipal offices of state
785 senator or state representative shall appear on the ballot as it appears on
786 the certificate or statement of consent filed under section 9-388, 9-391, 9-
787 400 or 9-409. On the first horizontal line, below the designation of the
788 office or position in each column, shall be placed the name of the party-
789 endorsed candidate for such office or position, such name to be marked
790 with an asterisk; provided, where more than one person may be voted
791 for for any office or position, the names of the party-endorsed
792 candidates shall be arranged in alphabetical order from left to right
793 under the appropriate office or position designation and shall continue,
794 if necessary, from left to right on the next lower line or lines. In the case
795 of no party endorsement there shall be inserted the designation "no
796 party endorsement" at the head of the vertical column, immediately
797 beneath the designation of the office or position. On the horizontal lines
798 below the line for party-endorsed candidates shall be placed, in the
799 appropriate columns, the names of all other candidates as [hereinafter]
800 provided in this section.

801 Sec. 25. Subsection (g) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is
802 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
803 *2024*):

804 (g) The name of each candidate shall appear on the ballot in such
805 position as is [hereinbefore] required in this section, and such position
806 shall be determined as of the final time for filing candidacies specified
807 in section 9-400 or 9-405. Vacancies in candidacies thereafter occurring
808 shall not cause the position of any candidate's name on the ballot to be
809 changed to another position. The name of any candidate whose
810 candidacy has been vacated shall not appear on the ballot. If such a
811 vacancy results in the cancellation of a primary for any office, the office
812 column or columns where the names of the candidates and the title of
813 the office would have appeared if the primary for that office had not
814 been cancelled shall be left blank. If a vacancy occurs in a party-
815 endorsed candidacy and a person is chosen in accordance with section
816 9-426 or 9-428, as amended by this act, to fill the resulting vacancy in
817 candidacy, the name of the person so chosen shall appear in the same
818 position as that in which the name of the vacating candidate appeared.
819 The municipal clerk shall have the ballot prepared so that the name of
820 any candidate who has vacated such candidate's candidacy is deleted
821 and so that the name of any candidate chosen to fill a vacancy in
822 candidacy appears in the same position as that in which the vacated
823 candidacy appeared. The municipal clerk may use [blank or] printed
824 stickers [, as the case may be,] in preparing the ballots if the ballots were
825 printed before [the occurrence of the vacancy in candidacy or] the
826 selection of a candidate to fill a vacancy in candidacy. If a vacancy in
827 candidacy is not filled, the municipal clerk shall cause the name of the
828 candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be obscured in such
829 manner that such name is no longer visible. The order of the offices and
830 positions shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

831 Sec. 26. Section 9-428 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
832 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
833 *1, 2024*):

834 (a) If a party-endorsed candidate for election to the position of town
835 committee member, prior to twenty-four hours before the opening of
836 the polls at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the day of such
837 primary, withdraws his name from nomination or for any reason

838 becomes disqualified to hold the position for which he is a candidate,
839 the state central committee, the town committee or other authority of
840 the party which endorsed such candidate may make an endorsement to
841 fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such endorsement, in such
842 manner as is prescribed in the rules of such party, and certify to the
843 registrar and municipal clerk or to the Secretary of the State, as the case
844 may be, the name of the person so endorsed. If such certification is made
845 at least twenty-four hours prior to the opening of the polls at the
846 primary, in the case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who
847 has died, or at least seven days before the day of such primary, in the
848 case of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has withdrawn
849 or become disqualified, such person so endorsed shall run in the
850 primary as the party-endorsed candidate, except as provided in sections
851 9-416 and 9-417. If such certification of another party-endorsed
852 candidate has been made within the time specified in this section, and if
853 the ballots have already been printed and the names of the candidates
854 for such position appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the
855 registrar, as the case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality
856 holding such primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the
857 person so certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an
858 endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification
859 has been made less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours
860 prior to the opening of the polls at the primary, such Secretary or
861 registrar shall direct such clerk to have stickers printed and inserted
862 upon the ballots, having the name of the person so certified appearing
863 thereon, and the moderator in each polling place shall cause such
864 stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the opening of the polls at such
865 primary. If no such certification has been made, such clerk shall cause
866 the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be
867 obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

868 (b) If a party-endorsed candidate for nomination to an office, prior to
869 twenty-four hours before the commencement of the period of early
870 voting at the primary, dies or, prior to ten days before the first day of
871 such period of early voting, withdraws his name from nomination or for

872 any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for which he is a
873 candidate, the state central committee, the town committee or other
874 authority of the party which endorsed such candidate may make an
875 endorsement to fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such
876 endorsement, in such manner as is prescribed in the rules of such party,
877 and certify to the registrar and municipal clerk or to the Secretary of the
878 State, as the case may be, the name of the person so endorsed. If such
879 certification is made at least twenty-four hours prior to the
880 commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, in the case
881 of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has died, or at least
882 seven days before the first day of such period of early voting, in the case
883 of such an endorsement to replace a candidate who has withdrawn or
884 become disqualified, such person so endorsed shall run in the primary
885 as the party-endorsed candidate, except as provided in sections 9-416
886 and 9-417. If such certification of another party-endorsed candidate has
887 been made within the time specified in this section, and if the ballots
888 have already been printed and the names of the candidates for such
889 office appear on the ballots, the Secretary of the State or the registrar, as
890 the case may be, shall direct the clerk of each municipality holding such
891 primary to have the ballots reprinted with the name of the person so
892 certified included thereon; provided, in the case of such an endorsement
893 to replace a candidate who has died, if such certification has been made
894 less than ninety-six hours but at least twenty-four hours prior to the
895 commencement of the period of early voting at the primary, such
896 Secretary or registrar shall direct such clerk to have stickers printed and
897 inserted upon the ballots, having the name of the person so certified
898 appearing thereon, and the moderator in each polling place shall cause
899 such stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the opening of the polls
900 at such primary. If no such certification has been made, such clerk shall
901 cause the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to
902 be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

903 Sec. 27. Subsection (d) of section 9-135b of the general statutes is
904 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
905 *2024*):

906 (d) If a vacancy in candidacy occurs after the ballots have been
907 printed, the clerk may either reprint the ballots or cause [blank or]
908 printed stickers [, as the case may be,] to be affixed to them so that the
909 name of any candidate who has vacated his candidacy is deleted and
910 the name of any candidate chosen to fill the vacancy as provided in
911 section 9-428, as amended by this act, or section 9-460, as amended by
912 this act, appears in the same position as that in which the vacated
913 candidacy appeared except as provided in section 9-426 or 9-453s. If no
914 candidate is chosen to fill such vacancy as so provided, the clerk shall
915 cause the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to
916 be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

917 Sec. 28. Section 9-472 of the general statutes is repealed and the
918 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

919 If, after determination of the order of candidates on the ballot, a
920 candidate dies, his name shall not appear on such ballot; provided that
921 the position of each remaining candidate on the ballot shall not be
922 altered by the deletion of such name. The secretary may authorize [the
923 use of] town clerks to use blank stickers on the ballot, [by town clerks]
924 or otherwise cause the name of such deceased candidate to be obscured
925 in such manner that such name is no longer visible, in order to comply
926 with the provisions of this section.

927 Sec. 29. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2024, the
928 Secretary of the State shall revise each form, whether in paper or
929 electronic format, that is provided for under the provisions of chapter
930 143 of the general statutes as an application for admission as an elector
931 or enrollment in a political party, for the purposes of clarifying the
932 portion of such form regarding party affiliation and minimizing
933 potential confusion or other ambiguity related to the use of any word
934 that may be included as part of a reserved party designation recorded
935 by the Secretary pursuant to section 9-453u of the general statutes.

936 Sec. 30. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 9-7a of the general
937 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof

938 (Effective July 1, 2024):

939 (g) (1) In the case of a written complaint filed with the commission
940 pursuant to section 9-7b, commission staff shall conduct and complete a
941 preliminary examination of such complaint by the fourteenth day
942 following its receipt, at which time such staff shall, at its discretion, (A)
943 dismiss the complaint for failure to allege any substantial violation of
944 state election law supported by evidence, (B) engage the respondent in
945 discussions in an effort to speedily resolve any matter pertaining to a de
946 minimis violation, or (C) investigate and docket the complaint for a
947 determination by the commission that probable cause or no probable
948 cause exists for any such violation. If commission staff dismisses a
949 complaint pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, such staff
950 shall provide a brief written statement concisely setting forth the
951 reasons for such dismissal. If commission staff engages a respondent
952 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision but is unable to
953 speedily resolve any such matter described in said subparagraph by the
954 forty-fifth day following receipt of the complaint, such staff shall docket
955 such complaint for a determination by the commission that probable
956 cause or no probable cause exists for any violation of state election law.
957 If the commission does not, by the sixtieth day following receipt of the
958 complaint, either issue a decision or render its determination that
959 probable cause or no probable cause exists for any violation of state
960 election laws, the complainant or respondent may apply to the superior
961 court for the judicial district of Hartford for an order to show cause why
962 the commission has not acted upon the complaint and to provide
963 evidence that the commission has unreasonably delayed action. For any
964 complaint received on or after January 1, 2018, if the commission does
965 not, by one year following receipt of such complaint, issue a decision
966 thereon, the commission shall dismiss such complaint, provided the
967 length of time of any delay caused by (i) the commission or commission
968 staff granting any extension or continuance to a respondent prior to the
969 issuance of any such decision, (ii) any subpoena issued in connection
970 with such complaint, (iii) any litigation in state or federal court related
971 to such complaint, or (iv) any investigation by, or consultation of the

972 commission or commission staff with, the Chief State's Attorney, the
 973 Attorney General, the United States Department of Justice or the United
 974 States Attorney for Connecticut related to such complaint, shall be
 975 added to such one year. For any complaint received on or after July 1,
 976 2024, if the commission does not, by the ninetieth day following the
 977 commission's determination that probable cause exists for any violation
 978 of state election laws, issue a decision on such complaint, the
 979 commission shall refer such complaint to the Chief State's Attorney for
 980 further enforcement action. In the case of any complaint so referred
 981 under this subdivision, the Chief State's Attorney shall submit a report
 982 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 983 cognizance of matters relating to elections, in accordance with the
 984 provisions of section 11-4a, detailing the status of any enforcement
 985 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>	9-364
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-364a
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	9-139a(a) and (b)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-140(a)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-50c
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-50b
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	9-50d
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-163aa(h)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-19j(j)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-236(c)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-147a
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-453e
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-453j
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-453k(a) and (b)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-453o
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-404b(c) and (d)
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-410

Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	9-140e
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-320f(a)
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-460
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-437(a)
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-437(g)
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-428
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-135b(d)
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-472
Sec. 29	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 30	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-7a(g)(1)

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

JUD *Joint Favorable*