



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6205

January Session, 2021



AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN ABSENTEE VOTING STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

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

20 election in 2020, the sickness of COVID-19. As used in this section,
21 "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World
22 Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any
23 related mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a
24 communicable respiratory disease.]

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

28 Sec. 2. Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

30 [(a)] Each absentee ballot shall be returned to the municipal clerk,
31 inserted in an inner envelope which shall be capable of being sealed and
32 which shall have printed on its face a form containing the following
33 statements:

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

45 Date

46 (Signature)"

47 [(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
48 for the state election in 2020, each inner envelope in which an absentee
49 ballot is returned to the municipal clerk shall have printed on its face a

50 form containing the following statements:

51 "I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee
52 balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum
53 in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I
54 expect to be unable to appear at my polling place during the hours of
55 voting at such primary, election or referendum for one or more of the
56 following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my
57 absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote during all of the
58 hours of voting; (3) my illness or physical disability; (4) the tenets of my
59 religion which forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election
60 or referendum; (5) my duties as a primary, election or referendum
61 official; or (6) the sickness of COVID-19.

62 Date

63 (Signature)"]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2021	9-135
Sec. 2	October 1, 2021	9-137

GAE Joint Favorable Subst.