

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5

January Session, 2021



AN ACT CONCERNING INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING, SAFE AND SECURE IN-PERSON VOTING, VOTER REGISTRATION AND CERTAIN OTHER CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.

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

- 1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-19h of the general statutes is
- 2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
- 3 passage):
- 4 (b) (1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the 5 6 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles [, not later than January 1, 1994,] shall include an application for the admission of an elector with each 8 application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under 10 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form 11 provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such 12 application form for the admission of an elector [(1)] (A) shall be subject 13 to the approval of the Secretary of the State, [(2)] (B) shall not include 14 any provisions for the witnessing of the application, and [(3)] (C) shall 15 contain a statement that [(A)] (i) specifies each eligibility requirement, 16 [(B)] (ii) contains an attestation that the applicant meets each such 17 requirement, and [(C)] (iii) requires the signature of the applicant under

penalty of perjury. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept any such completed application for admission which is submitted in person, [or] by mail [. The] or through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. Except as provided in said subdivision, the applicant shall state on such form, under penalty of perjury, the applicant's name, bona fide residence address, date of birth, whether the applicant is a United States citizen, party enrollment, if any, prior voting address, if registered previously, and that the applicant's privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction of a felony. No Social Security number on any such application form for the admission of an elector filed prior to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency. The commissioner shall indicate on each such form the date of receipt of such application to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is received by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote in an election. The commissioner shall provide the applicant with an application receipt, on a form approved by the Secretary of the State and on which the commissioner shall record the date that the commissioner received the application, using an official date stamp bearing the words "Department of Motor Vehicles". The commissioner shall provide such receipt whether the application was submitted in person, [or] by mail or through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. The commissioner shall forthwith transmit the application to the registrars of voters of the applicant's town of residence. If a registration application is accepted within five days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g which are not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made under this section. The commissioner is not an admitting official and may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, as amended by this act, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.

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- (2) (A) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide an electronic system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding application for admission of an elector, except that the condition that an applicant state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may be waived for any such eligibility requirement verified independently by said commissioner through a federally approved identity verification program or other evidence acceptable to said commissioner. Such electronic system may provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an applicant's signature on file with said commissioner. The use of any such electronic system shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.
- (B) (i) Unless otherwise provided in this subparagraph, if the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles determines that a person applying for a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license renewal or an identity card meets each eligibility requirement for admission as an elector, said commissioner shall forthwith transmit an application for such person's admission as an elector to the registrars of voters of the town of residence of such person through an electronic system pursuant to this subdivision, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, except that no such application shall be transmitted if such person declines to apply for such admission.
- (ii) If said commissioner determines that a person applying for a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license renewal or an identity card is not a United States citizen, said commissioner shall not provide such person an opportunity to apply for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this subdivision and shall not transmit any application for such admission on behalf of such person.
- (iii) If said commissioner cannot determine whether a person applying for a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license renewal or an identity card is a United States citizen, such person shall attest to his or her United States citizenship as a

- precondition of said commissioner processing such person's application
 for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this
 subdivision.
- 89 (C) In the case of an individual already admitted as an elector and 90 who is also enrolled in a party, if use of such electronic system results in such elector being removed from the enrollment list of such party 91 92 because such elector did not affirmatively confirm an intent to continue 93 enrollment in such party, such removal shall be presumed unintentional 94 and such elector shall be restored to such list upon such elector's notification of such removal to the registrar of voters of the town of 95 96 residence of such elector.
- 97 Sec. 2. Section 9-19i of the general statutes is repealed and the 98 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) Any change of address form submitted by a person in accordance with law for purposes of a motor vehicle operator's license shall serve as notification of change of address for voter registration for the person unless the person states on the form that the change of address is not for voter registration purposes. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall forthwith transmit such change of address information to the registrars of voters of the town of the former address of the person. If the name of the person appears on the registry list of the town, and if the new address is also within such town, the registrars shall enter the name of such elector on the registry list at the place where he then resides. If the name of the person appears on the registry list of the town and if the new address is outside such town, the registrars shall remove the name of such elector from the registry list and send the elector the notice, information and application required by subsection (c) of section 9-35, except that if said commissioner is using an electronic system pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of the State may prescribe alternative procedures for sending such notice and information and may waive the requirement to send such application.
- 117 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide an electronic

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- system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to effectuate
- the purposes of subsection (a) of this section regarding notifications of
- change of address for voter registration. Such electronic system may
- 121 provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an applicant's signature
- on file with said commissioner. The use of any such electronic system
- shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-
- 124 31, as amended from time to time.
- Sec. 3. Section 9-23n of the general statutes is repealed and the
- following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2022*):
- 127 (a) As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means (1)
- 128 public assistance offices, (2) all offices in the state that provide
- 129 state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to
- persons with disabilities, (3) libraries that are open to the public, and (4)
- 131 such other appropriate offices as the Secretary of the State shall
- designate in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of
- 133 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.
- (b) [Voter registration agencies shall] (1) Except as provided in
- subdivision (2) of this subsection, each voter registration agency shall
- 136 (A) distribute mail voter registration application forms, [(2)] (B) assist
- applicants for [such] assistance or services provided by the agency in
- completing voter registration application forms, except for applicants
- who refuse [such] assistance <u>in completing such forms</u>, [(3)] (C) accept
- 140 completed voter registration application forms and provide each
- applicant with an application receipt, on which the agency shall record
- the date that the agency received the application, using an official date
- stamp bearing the name of the agency, and [(4)] (D) immediately
- transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of the town of
- voting residence of the applicants. The agency shall provide such receipt
- whether the application was submitted in person, [or] by mail or
- through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
- 148 <u>subsection</u>. If a registration application is accepted within five days
- before the last day for registration to vote in a regular election, the
- application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of

voting residence of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance. [The] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the voter registration agency shall indicate on the completed mail voter registration application form, without indicating the identity of the voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such agency, to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is received by the registration agency by the last day for registration to vote in an election. If a state-funded program primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities provides services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency shall provide such voter registration services at the person's home. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g that are not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made under this section. Officials and employees of such voter registration agencies are not admitting officials, as defined in section 9-17a, and may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.

(2) (A) Each voter registration agency shall provide an electronic system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding application for admission of an elector, except that the condition that an applicant state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may be waived for any such eligibility requirement verified independently by the agency through a federally approved identity verification program or other evidence acceptable to the agency. Such electronic system may provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an applicant's signature on file with the voter registration agency. The use of any such electronic system shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

(B) (i) Unless otherwise provided in this subparagraph, if the voter registration agency determines that a person applying for assistance or services provided by the agency meets each eligibility requirement for

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- admission as an elector, the agency shall forthwith transmit an application for such person's admission as an elector to the registrars of voters of the town of residence of such person through an electronic system pursuant to this subdivision, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, except that no such application shall be transmitted if such person declines to apply for such admission.
- (ii) If the voter registration agency determines that a person applying
 for assistance or services provided by the agency is not a United States
 citizen, the agency shall not provide such person an opportunity to
 apply for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant
 to this subdivision and shall not transmit any application for such
 admission on behalf of such person.
 - (iii) If the voter registration agency cannot determine whether a person applying for assistance or services provided by the agency is a United States citizen, such person shall attest to his or her United States citizenship as a precondition of the agency processing such person's application for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this subdivision.
 - (C) In the case of an individual already admitted as an elector and who is also enrolled in a party, if use of such electronic system results in such elector being removed from the enrollment list of such party because such elector did not affirmatively confirm an intent to continue enrollment in such party, such removal shall be presumed unintentional and such elector shall be restored to such list upon such elector's notification of such removal to the registrar of voters of the town of residence of such elector.
- Sec. 4. Section 9-230 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2022*):
- A voter registration agency, as defined in section 9-23n, as amended by this act, shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, and (1) shall distribute

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with each application for [service or] assistance or services provided by 215 216 the agency, and with each recertification, renewal or change of address 217 form relating to such [service or] assistance or services, a mail voter registration application form approved by the Secretary of the State, and 218 219 (2) during each application for such assistance or services and each 220 recertification, renewal or change of address relating to such assistance 221 or services, shall use an electronic system described in subdivision (2) of 222 subsection (b) of section 9-23n, as amended by this act, in accordance 223 with said subdivision to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of 224 said subsection regarding application for admission of an elector, unless 225 the applicant declines to register to vote pursuant to the provisions of 226 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended 227 from time to time. Such declination shall be in writing, except in the case 228 of an application for service or assistance provided by a library, or a 229 recertification, renewal or change of address form relating to such library service or assistance. Such voter registration agency shall 230 231 provide each applicant to register to vote the same degree of assistance 232 with regard to the completion of the registration application form as is 233 provided by the agency with regard to the completion of its own forms, 234 unless the applicant refuses such assistance.

Sec. 5. Section 9-23p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2022*):

Each public institution of higher education shall (1) distribute mail voter registration application forms, and [(2)] assist applicants who request assistance in completing <u>such</u> voter registration application forms, and (2) use an electronic system described in subdivision (2) of <u>subsection</u> (b) of section 9-23n, as amended by this act, in accordance with said subdivision to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of <u>said subsection regarding application for admission of an elector, and assist applicants who request assistance in so applying through such electronic system.</u>

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the State shall develop and implement a system or systems through which the

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- Secretary may permit any person to submit an electronic signature for the purpose of signing any form or application to be filed pursuant to chapters 141 to 154, inclusive, of the general statutes. The Secretary may include in, or exclude from, such system any such form or application. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any such form or application on which any such electronic signature appears shall be deemed to have been signed in the original.
 - (b) A state agency, upon the request of the Secretary of the State, shall provide any information to the Secretary that the Secretary deems necessary to maintain the system or systems described in subsection (a) of this section. The Secretary shall not use the information obtained from any state agency except for the purpose of allowing any person to sign any form or application to be filed pursuant to chapters 141 to 154, inclusive, of the general statutes.
 - Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 9-17 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (c) In addition to the sessions held pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the registrars of voters in each town shall: [hold]
 - (1) Hold one session each year, between the first of January and the last day of the school year, at each public high school in such town, for the admission of persons who are eligible for admission under subsection (a) or (b) of section 9-12, as amended by this act, provided, in the case of a public high school in a regional school district, such session shall be held on a rotating basis by the registrars of voters for each town which is a member of the regional school district. The registrars of voters need not give notice of this session by publication in a newspaper; and
 - (2) Distribute each year, on the fourth Tuesday of September, at each public high school in such town, information regarding eligibility for admission under subsection (a) or (b) of section 9-12, as amended by this act, and procedures for applying for such admission. The registrars of voters and the principal of any such public high school shall determine

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- the best means of distributing such information at such public high school.
- Sec. 8. Section 1-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1*, 2021):

283 In each year the first day of January (known as New Year's Day), the 284 fifteenth day of January of each year prior to 1986, and commencing on 285 the twentieth day of January in 1986, the first Monday occurring on or 286 after January fifteenth (known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day), [the 287 twelfth day of February (known as Lincoln Day), the third Monday in 288 February (known as [Washington's Birthday] Presidents' Day), the last 289 Monday in May (known as Memorial Day or Decoration Day), the 290 fourth day of July (known as Independence Day), the first Monday in 291 September (known as Labor Day), the second Monday in October 292 (known as Columbus Day), the Tuesday after the first Monday in 293 November (known as Election Day), the eleventh day of November 294 (known as Veterans' Day) and the twenty-fifth day of December (known 295 as Christmas) and any day appointed or recommended by the Governor 296 of this state or the President of the United States as a day of 297 thanksgiving, fasting or religious observance, shall each be a legal 298 holiday, except that whenever any of such days which are not 299 designated to occur on Monday, occurs upon a Sunday, the Monday 300 next following such day shall be a legal holiday and whenever any of 301 such days occurs upon a Saturday, the Friday immediately preceding 302 such day shall be a legal holiday. When any such holiday, except 303 holidays in January and December, occurs on a school day, each local 304 and regional board of education may close the public schools under its 305 jurisdiction for such day or hold a session of the public schools on such 306 day, provided, if a session is held, the board shall require each school to 307 hold a suitable nonsectarian educational program in observance of such 308 holiday. If a holiday in January or December occurs on a school day, 309 there shall be no session of the public schools on such day.

Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each employer shall grant to (1) each employee in the case of a state election, or (2) each employee who

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- is an elector in the case of any special election for United States senator, representative in Congress, state senator or state representative, two hours paid time off from such employee's regularly scheduled work on the day of any such election, for the purpose of voting at such election during the hours of voting specified in section 9-174 of the general
- statutes, if the employee requests such time off not less than two working days prior to such election.
- Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 9-12 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 322 (a) Each citizen of the United States who has attained the age of 323 eighteen years, and who is a bona fide resident of the town to which the 324 citizen applies for admission as an elector shall, on approval by the 325 registrars of voters or town clerk of the town of residence of such citizen, 326 as prescribed by law, be an elector, except as provided in subsection (b) 327 of this section. For purposes of this section, a person shall be deemed to 328 have attained the age of eighteen years on the day of the person's 329 eighteenth birthday and a person shall be deemed to be a bona fide 330 resident of the town to which the citizen applies for admission as an 331 elector if such person's dwelling unit is located within the geographic 332 boundaries of such town. [No mentally incompetent person shall be 333 admitted as an elector.]
- Sec. 11. Section 9-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) (1) Each person who applies for admission as an elector in person to an admitting official shall, upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State and signed by the applicant, state under penalties of perjury, his name, bona fide residence by street and number, date of birth, whether he is a United States citizen, whether his privileges as an elector are forfeited by reason of conviction of crime, and whether he has previously been admitted as an elector in any town in this or any other state. Each such applicant shall present his birth certificate, drivers'

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- license or Social Security card to the admitting official for inspection at the time of application. Notwithstanding the provisions of any special act or charter to the contrary, the application form shall also, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, provide for application for enrollment in any political party, including, on any such form printed on or after January 1, 2006, a list of the names of the major parties, as defined in section 9-372, as options for the applicant. The form shall indicate that such enrollment is not mandatory.
 - (2) A person with a developmental disability, as determined by a licensed physician who specializes in primary care, who applies for admission as an elector in person to an admitting official may be assisted in satisfying the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection by such person's legal representative. At the time of application, such applicant or such legal representative shall present to the admitting official documentation from such licensed physician of such determination. As used in this section, "legal representative" has the same meaning as provided in section 17a-488.
 - (b) The applicant's statement shall be delivered to the registrars immediately and shall be kept by the registrars as a public record in a safe depository, except that no Social Security number obtained by the registrars prior to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency. Any such statement of an elector whose name has been removed from the registry list for a period of at least five years may be placed on microfilm, destroyed or otherwise disposed of by such registrars, in the manner provided in section 7-109. Upon the request of any elector, or if the applicant does not present a birth certificate, drivers' license or Social Security card as required by subsection (a) of this section, at the time an application is made in person to an admitting official or prior to the approval of such an application, any admitting official shall require the applicant to prove his identity, place of birth, age and bona fide residence by the testimony under oath of at least one elector or by the presentation of proof satisfactory to such admitting official. Each person found qualified shall thereupon be

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admitted as an elector, except as provided in sections 9-12, 9-19e, 9-19g and 9-30. The registrars may request an elector whose date of birth is missing from their records to voluntarily furnish his date of birth. Any admitting official may administer oaths in any matter coming before him under section 9-12, 9-17, 9-19b, subsection (a) of section 9-19c, section 9-19e, 9-19g, 9-23, 9-23a, 9-25, 9-31a, 9-31b, 9-31l, 9-40a or this section. Said admitting official shall prohibit any activity which interferes with the orderly process of admission of electors.

- (c) The application for admission as an elector shall include a statement that (1) specifies each eligibility requirement, (2) contains an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, and (3) requires the signature of the applicant, or of such applicant's legal representative in the case of an applicant with a developmental disability, under penalty of perjury. Each registrar of voters and town clerk shall maintain a copy of such statement in braille, large print and audio form. The Department of Aging and Disability Services shall produce a videotape presenting such statement in voice and sign language and provide the videotape to the Secretary of the State who shall make copies of the videotape and provide a copy to the registrars of voters of any municipality, upon request and at a cost equal to the cost of making the copy. If a person applies for admission as an elector in person to an admitting official, such admitting official shall, upon the request of the applicant, administer the elector's oath.
- Sec. 12. Section 9-261 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street address, if any, and the elector's name to the official checker or checkers in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials present to hear the same. Each elector who registered to vote by mail for the first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r, shall present to the official checker or checkers, before the elector votes,

either a current and valid photo identification that shows the elector's name and address or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1) present to the official checker or checkers the elector's Social Security card or any other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector's name and either the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's residential address and date of birth, print the elector's name and sign a statement under penalty of false statement that the elector is the elector whose name appears on the official checklist. Such form shall clearly state the penalty of false statement. A separate form shall be used for each elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of identification under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the official checker or checkers shall check the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually on paper or electronically. If the elector completes the form under subdivision (2) of this subsection, the registrar of voters or the assistant registrar of voters, as the case may be, shall examine the information on such form and either instruct the official checker or checkers to check the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually on paper or electronically, or notify the elector that the form is incomplete or inaccurate.

(b) In the event that an elector is present at the polling place but is unable to gain access to the polling place due to a temporary incapacity, the elector may request that the ballot be brought to him or her. The registrars of voters or the assistant registrars of voters, as the case may be, shall take such ballot, along with a privacy sleeve to such elector. The elector shall show identification, in accordance with the provisions of this section. The elector shall forthwith mark the ballot in the presence of the election officials in such manner that the election officials shall not know how the ballot is marked. The elector shall place the ballot in the privacy sleeve. The election officials shall mark the elector's name on the official voter list, manually on paper or electronically, as having voted in person and deliver such ballot and privacy sleeve to the voting

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tabulator where such ballot shall be placed into the tabulator, by the election official, for counting. The moderator shall record such activity in the moderator's diary.

- (c) In each polling place in which two or more parties are holding primaries in which unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote, pursuant to section 9-431, an unaffiliated elector shall also announce to the separate table of the official checker or checkers for unaffiliated electors the party in whose primary the elector chooses to vote and the official checker or checkers shall note such party when checking such elector's name on the checklist of unaffiliated electors, manually on paper or electronically, provided such choice shall not alter the elector's unaffiliated status.
- (d) In each polling place in which two or more parties are holding primaries in which unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote or in which one party is holding a primary in which unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote for some but not all offices to be contested at the primary, the official checker or checkers shall give to each elector checked manually on paper or electronically, a receipt provided by the registrars of voters, in a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, specifying either (1) the party with which the elector is enrolled, if any, or (2) in the case of an unaffiliated elector, the party in whose primary the elector has so chosen to vote, and whether the elector is authorized to vote for only a partial ballot.
- (e) If not challenged by anyone lawfully present in the polling place, the elector shall be permitted to pass to the separated area to receive the ballot. The elector shall give any receipt the elector has received to a ballot clerk who shall give the elector a ballot to vote only in the primary of the party specified by the receipt. The elector shall be permitted into the voting booth area, and shall then register his or her vote in secret, except as provided in subsection (f) of this section. Having voted, the elector shall immediately exit the voting booth area and deposit the ballot in the voting tabulator and leave the room. No elector shall remain within the voting booth longer than the time necessary to complete the

ballot, and, if the elector refuses to leave such booth after completing the ballot, the elector shall at once be removed by the election officials upon order of the moderator. Not more than one elector at a time shall be permitted to be within the enclosed space which the elector occupies while the elector completes his or her ballot, [provided] except that an elector may be accompanied within such enclosed space by (1) one or more children who are fifteen years of age or younger and supervised by the elector, if the elector is the parent or legal guardian of such children, or (2) such elector's legal representative in the case of an elector with a developmental disability, as described in section 9-20, as amended by this act, pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. If any elector, after entering the voting booth area, asks for further instruction concerning the manner of voting, the election officials shall give such instructions or directions to the elector; but no election official instructing or assisting an elector, except as provided in section 9-264, shall look at the ballot in such a way as to see the elector's markings or in any manner seek to influence any such elector in the casting of the elector's vote.

- (f) In the case of an elector with a developmental disability, as described in section 9-20, as amended by this act, the legal representative of such elector may assist such elector in performing any action under this section if such legal representative presents to the registrar of voters or assistant registrar of voters, as the case may be, information sufficient to prove such a relationship with such elector.
- Sec. 13. Section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) As used in this subsection and subsections (b) to [(i)] (j), inclusive, of this section, "election day" means the day on which a regular election, as defined in section 9-1, is held.
 - (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, a person who (1) is (A) not an elector, or (B) an elector registered in a municipality who wishes to change such elector's registration to another municipality

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- pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this section, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) of section 9-12, <u>as amended by this act</u>, may apply for admission as an elector on election day pursuant to the provisions of subsections (a) to [(i)] (j), inclusive, of this section.
- (c) (1) The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the completion and processing of election day registration applications on election day, provided (A) the registrars of voters shall have access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location, and (B) such location shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the State not later than thirty-one days before election day. The written certification under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall (i) include the name, street address and relevant contact information associated with such location, (ii) list the name and address of each election official appointed to serve at such location, if any, and (iii) provide a description of the design of such location and a plan for effective completion and processing of such applications. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written certification not later than fifteen days before election day and may require the registrars of voters to appoint one or more additional election officials or alter such design or plan.
- (2) The registrars of voters may apply to the Secretary of the State not later than sixty days before election day, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, to designate any additional location for the completion and processing of election day registration applications on election day. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such application not later than forty-five days before election day. If the Secretary approves such application, the registrars of voters may so designate any such additional location. The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to any such additional location.
- (3) The registrars of voters may delegate to each election official appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, if any, any of the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall supervise each such election official and train each such

election official to be an election day registration election official.

- (d) Any person applying to register on election day under the provisions of subsections (a) to [(i)] (j), inclusive, of this section shall make application in accordance with the provisions of section 9-20, provided (1) on election day, the applicant shall appear in person not later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance with subsection (b) of section 9-174, at the location designated by the registrars of voters for election day registration, (2) an applicant who is a student enrolled at an institution of higher education may submit a current photo identification card issued by such institution in lieu of the identification required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the election. If the information that the applicant is required to provide under section 9-20 and subsections (a) to [(i)] (j), inclusive, of this section does not include proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall also submit identification that shows the applicant's bona fide residence address, including, but not limited to, a learner's permit issued under section 14-36 or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and current address and that has a due date that is not later than thirty days after the election or, in the case of a student enrolled at an institution of higher education, a registration or fee statement from such institution that has the applicant's name and current address.
- (e) If the registrars of voters determine that an applicant satisfies the application requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the registrars of voters shall check the state-wide centralized voter registration system before admitting such applicant as an elector.
- (1) If the registrars of voters determine that the applicant is not already an elector, the registrars of voters shall admit the applicant as an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.
- (2) If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an elector in another municipality and such applicant states that he or she wants to change the municipality in which the applicant is an elector,

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notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register shall immediately notify the registrars of voters in such other municipality that such elector is changing the municipality in which the applicant is an elector. The registrars of voters in such other municipality shall notify the election officials in such municipality to remove such elector from the official voter list of such municipality. Such election officials shall cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and mark "off" next to such elector's name on such official voter list.

- (A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not receive an election day registration ballot from the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. For any such elector, the election day registration process shall cease in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register and such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. After completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter [can not] cannot be made, such matter shall be reported to the State Elections Enforcement Commission which shall conduct an investigation of the matter.
- (B) If there is no such report that such applicant already voted in the other municipality, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the applicant seeks to register shall admit the applicant as an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.
- (f) If the applicant is admitted as an elector, the registrars of voters shall provide the elector with an election day registration ballot and election day registration envelope and shall make a record of such issuance. The elector shall complete an affirmation imprinted upon the back of the envelope for an election day registration ballot and shall declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the election. The affirmation shall be in the form substantially as follows and

- 607 signed by the voter:
- AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty
- of false statement, (perjury) that:
- 1. I am the person admitted here as an elector in the town indicated.
- 2. I am eligible to vote in the election indicated for today in the town
- 612 indicated.
- 3. The information on my voter registration card is correct and
- 614 complete.
- 4. I reside at the address that I have given to the registrars of voters.
- 5. If previously registered at another location, I have provided such
- address to the registrars of voters and hereby request cancellation of
- 618 such prior registration.
- 6. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote
- otherwise than by this ballot at this election.
- 7. I completed an application for an election day registration ballot
- and received an election day registration ballot.
- 623 (Signature of voter)
- 624 (g) The elector shall forthwith mark the election day registration
- ballot in the presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that
- 626 the registrars of voters shall not know how the election day registration
- ballot is marked. The elector shall place the election day registration
- 628 ballot in the election day registration ballot envelope provided, and
- deposit such envelope in a secured election day registration ballot
- depository receptacle. At the time designated by the registrars of voters
- and noticed to election officials, the registrars of voters shall transport
- 632 such receptacle containing the election day registration ballots to the
- central location or polling place, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-
- 634 147a, as amended by this act, where absentee ballots are counted and

such election day registration ballots shall be counted by the election officials present at such central location or polling place. A section of the head moderator's return shall show the number of election day registration ballots received from electors. The registrars of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for election day registration ballots in a depository envelope with the election day registration ballots and store such election day registration depository envelope with the other election results materials. The election day registration depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the period of time required to preserve counted ballots for elections.

- (h) The provisions of the general statutes and regulations concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of absentee ballots shall apply as nearly as possible, to the custody, control and counting of election day registration ballots under subsections (a) to [(i)] (j), inclusive, of this section.
- (i) After the acceptance of an election day registration, the registrars of voters shall forthwith send a registration confirmation notice to the residential address of each applicant who is admitted as an elector on election day under subsections (a) to [(i)] (j), inclusive, of this section. Such confirmation shall be sent by first class mail with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation notice is returned undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable, notwithstanding the May first deadline in section 9-35.
- (j) In the case of an elector with a developmental disability, as described in section 9-12, as amended by this act, the legal representative of such elector may assist such elector in performing any action under this section if such legal representative presents to the registrar of voters or an election official appointed by such registrar under this section, as the case may be, information sufficient to prove such a relationship with such elector.

[(j)] (k) No person shall (1) solicit [in] on behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or himself or herself or [in] on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any location designated by the registrars of voters for election day registration balloting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to any such location or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach, or (2) possess a firearm within a radius of two hundred feet of any such outside entrance or in any such corridor, passageway or other approach or in any such room, except in the case of a firearm located in a residence or parked motor vehicle situated within such radius or in the case of a uniformed on-duty police officer.

- Sec. 14. Section 9-45 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):
 - (a) The Commissioner of Correction shall, on or before the fifteenth day of each month, transmit to the Secretary of the State a list of all persons who, during the preceding calendar month, have been (1) convicted in the Superior Court of a felony and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility, or [a community residence] (2) returned to confinement in a correctional institution or facility from parole or special parole, release pursuant to section 18-100, 18-100c, 18-100e, 18-100h or 18-100i or furlough pursuant to section 18-101a. Such lists shall include the names, birth dates and addresses of such persons, with the dates of their conviction and the crimes of which such persons have been convicted, or the dates of the violation of their parole, special parole, release or furlough and the nature of such violation, as applicable. The Secretary of the State shall transmit such lists to the registrars of the towns in which such [convicted] persons who have been convicted or returned to confinement, as applicable, resided at the time of their conviction or violation of parole, special parole, release or

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- furlough and to the registrars of any towns where the [secretary] Secretary believes such persons may be electors. The registrars of such towns shall compare the same with the list of electors upon their registry lists and, after written notice mailed by certified mail to each of the persons named at the last-known place of address of such person, shall erase such names from the registry lists in their respective towns or voting districts.
 - (b) Any person who procures such person or another to be registered after having been disfranchised by reason of conviction of crime and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence, and any person who votes at any election after having forfeited such privileges by reason of conviction of crime and confinement, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars and imprisoned not more than one year.
- Sec. 15. Section 9-46 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):
 - (a) A person shall forfeit such person's right to become an elector and such person's privileges as an elector upon conviction of a felony and (1) committal to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility, [or] <u>but not</u> a community residence, (2) committal to confinement in a federal correctional institution or facility, or (3) committal to the custody of the chief correctional official of any other state or a county of any other state for confinement in a correctional institution or facility, [or] <u>but not</u> a community residence, in such state or county.
 - (b) If a person has forfeited such person's privileges as an elector under subsection (a) of this section, has regained such privileges under section 9-46a, as amended by this act, and is subsequently returned to confinement in a correctional institution or facility, but not a community residence, from parole or special parole, release pursuant to section 18-100, 18-100c, 18-100e, 18-100h or 18-100i or furlough pursuant to section

- 732 <u>18-101a, such person shall again forfeit such privileges.</u>
- [(b)] (c) No person who has forfeited and not regained such person's
- privileges as an elector [,] as provided in section 9-46a, as amended by
- 735 this act, or who has regained such privileges and again forfeited such
- 736 privileges as provided in subsection (b) of this section, may be a
- 737 candidate for or hold public office.
- Sec. 16. Section 9-46a of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 739 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):
- 740 (a) (1) A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed
- 741 to confinement in a [federal or other state] correctional institution or
- 742 facility [or community residence] of the federal government or of
- 743 <u>another state</u> shall have such person's electoral privileges restored
- 744 [upon the payment of all fines in conjunction with the conviction and]
- once such person has been [discharged] released from confinement. [,
- 746 and, if applicable, parole]
- 747 (2) A person who has been convicted of a felony and is committed to
- 748 confinement in a community residence of the federal government or of
- 749 another state shall have such person's electoral privileges restored if
- such person had previously forfeited such electoral privileges.
- 751 (b) (1) Upon the release from confinement in a correctional institution
- 752 or facility [or a community residence] of a person who has been
- convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of the Commissioner
- of Correction, [and, if applicable, the discharge of such person from
- parole, (1)] (A) the person shall have the right to become an elector, (2)]
- 756 (B) the Commissioner of Correction shall give the person a document
- certifying that the person has been released from such confinement,
- 758 [and, if applicable, has been discharged from parole, (3)] (C) if the
- person was an elector at the time of such felony conviction and, after
- such release, [and any such discharge,] is residing in the same
- 761 municipality in which the person resided at the time of such felony
- 762 conviction, the person's electoral privileges shall be restored, and [(4)]

- (D) if the person was an elector at the time of such felony conviction and, after such release, [and any such discharge,] is residing in a different municipality or if the person was not an elector at the time of such felony conviction, the person's electoral privileges shall be restored or granted upon submitting to an admitting official satisfactory proof of the person's qualifications to be admitted as an elector. The provisions of [subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection] subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision shall not apply to any person convicted of a felony for a violation of any provision of this title until such person has been discharged from any parole or probation for such felony.
- (2) A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and is confined in a community residence shall have such person's electoral privileges restored if such person had previously forfeited such electoral privileges.
 - (c) The registrars of voters of the municipality in which a person is admitted as an elector pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, within thirty days after the date on which such person is admitted, shall notify the registrars of voters of the municipality wherein such person resided at the time of such person's conviction that such person's electoral rights have been so restored.
 - (d) The Commissioner of Correction shall establish procedures to inform those persons who have been convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of said commissioner for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence, and are eligible to have their electoral privileges restored or granted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, of the right and procedures to have such privileges restored. [The Office of Adult Probation] The Commissioner of Correction shall, within available appropriations, inform such persons who are on [probation on January 1, 2002] parole or special parole, or confined in a community residence, of their right to become electors and procedures to have their electoral privileges restored,

which shall be in accordance with subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

- (e) The Commissioner of Correction shall, on or before the fifteenth day of each month, transmit to the Secretary of the State a list of all persons convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of said commissioner who, during the preceding calendar month, have (1) been released from confinement in a correctional institution or facility, or (2) begun confinement in a community residence. [and, if applicable, discharged from parole.] Such lists shall include the names, birth dates and addresses of such persons, with the dates of their convictions and the crimes of which such persons have been convicted. The Secretary [of the State] shall transmit such lists to the registrars of the municipalities in which such convicted persons resided at the time of their convictions and to the registrars of any municipalities where the [secretary] Secretary believes such persons may be electors.
- Sec. 17. Section 9-236 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) On the day of any primary, referendum or election, no person shall (1) solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or himself or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election or referendum, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach, or (2) possess a firearm within a radius of two hundred feet of any such outside entrance or in any such corridor, passageway or other approach or in any such room, except in the case of a firearm located in a residence or parked motor vehicle situated within such radius or in the case of a uniformed on-duty police officer. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit [(1)] (A) parent-teacher associations or parentteacher organizations from holding bake sales or other fund-raising activities on the day of any primary, referendum or election in any

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school used as a polling place, provided such sales or activities shall not be held in the room in which the election booths are located, [(2)] (B) the registrars of voters from directing the officials at a primary, referendum or election to distribute, within the restricted area, adhesive labels on which are imprinted the words "I Voted Today", or [(3)] (C) the registrars of voters in a primary, election or referendum from jointly permitting nonpartisan activities to be conducted in a room other than the room in which the election booths are located. The registrars may jointly impose such conditions and limitations on such nonpartisan activity as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly process of voting. The moderator shall evict any person who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting.

- (b) (1) The selectmen shall provide suitable markers to indicate the seventy-five-foot [distance] and two-hundred-foot distances from such entrance. Such markers shall consist of a board resting on an iron rod, which board shall be not less than twelve inches square and painted a bright color and shall bear, [the] respectively:
- (A) The figures and letters "75 feet" and the following words: "On the day of any primary, referendum or election no person shall solicit [in] on behalf of or in opposition to another or himself or peddle or offer any ballot, advertising matter or circular to another person or loiter within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach."; and
- (B) The figures and letters "200 feet" and the following words: "On the day of any primary, referendum or election no person shall possess a firearm within a radius of two hundred feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach. This restriction shall not apply in the case of a firearm located in a residence or parked motor vehicle situated within such radius of

two hundred feet or in the case of a uniformed on-duty police officer."

- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of <u>subparagraph</u> (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the selectmen may provide the markers required by the provisions of this subsection in effect prior to October 1, 1983, <u>in lieu of the markers required by said subparagraph</u>, except that in the case of a referendum which is not held in conjunction with an election or a primary, the selectmen shall provide the markers required by [subdivision (1) of this subsection] <u>said subparagraph</u>.
- (3) The moderator and the moderator's assistants shall meet at least twenty minutes before the opening of a primary, referendum or an election in the voting district, and shall cause to be placed by a police officer or constable, or such other primary or election official as they select, a suitable number of distance markers. Such moderator or any police officer or constable shall prohibit loitering and peddling of tickets within that distance.
- (c) No person shall be allowed within any polling place for any purpose other than casting his or her vote, except (1) those permitted or exempt under this section or section 9-236a, (2) primary officials under section 9-436, (3) election officials under section 9-258, including (A) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, performing his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing his or her official duties, or (4) party checkers under section 9-235. Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to enter, remain within and leave any polling place or restricted area surrounding any polling place to observe the election, provided any such representative who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. A number of students in grades four to twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in any one polling place, may enter any polling place between twelve o'clock noon and three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the activities taking place in the polling place, provided there is proper parental or teacher supervision present, and provided further, any such student who in any

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- way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. An elector may be accompanied into any polling place by one or more children who are fifteen years of age or younger and supervised by the elector if the elector is the parent or legal guardian of such children.
- (d) Any person who violates any provision of this section or, while the polls are open for voting, removes or injures any such distance marker, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.
- 903 Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 9-225 of the general statutes is 904 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from* 905 *passage*):
- 906 (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the 907 town clerk or assistant town clerk of each town shall warn the electors 908 therein to meet on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November 909 in the even-numbered years, at six o'clock a.m., which warning shall be 910 given by publication (A) in a newspaper having a general circulation in 911 such town, or towns in the case of a joint publication under subsection 912 (b) of this section, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous 913 to holding such election, and (B) on such town's Internet web site, not 914 more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to holding such 915 <u>election</u>. The clerk in each town shall, in the warning for such election, 916 give notice of (i) the time and the location of [the] each polling place in 917 the town, [and] (ii) in towns divided into voting districts, [of] the time 918 and the location of [the] each polling place in each district, and (iii) the 919 time and the location of each location designated for election day 920 registration in the town, at which such election will be held. The town 921 clerk shall record each such warning.
 - (2) For the state election in 2020, the warning under subsection (a) of this section shall be given not more than seven nor less than four days previous to holding such election.
- 925 Sec. 19. Section 9-226 of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The warning of each municipal election shall specify the objects for which such election is to be held. Notice of a town election shall be given by the town clerk or assistant town clerk, by publishing a warning (1) in a newspaper published in such town or having a general circulation therein, such publication to be not more than fifteen [,] nor less than five days previous to holding the election, and (2) on such town's Internet web site, such publication to be not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to holding the election. The town clerk in each town shall, in the warning for such election, give notice of (A) the time and the location of [the] each polling place in the town, [and,] (B) in towns divided into voting districts, [of] the time and the location of [the] each polling place in each district, and (C) the time and the location of each location designated for election day registration in the town. The town clerk shall record each such warning. Notice of an election of a city or borough shall be given by publishing a warning (i) in a newspaper published within the limits of such city or borough [,] or having a general circulation therein, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to holding the election, and (ii) on the Internet web site of such city or borough, or the town having such city or borough within such town's limits, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to holding the election, which warning shall include notice of (I) the time and the location of [the] each polling place in such city or borough, [and,] (II) in cities and boroughs divided into voting districts, [of] the time and the location of [the] each polling place in each district, and (III) the time and the location of each location designated for election day registration in such city or borough.

Sec. 20. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-140 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2021):

(a) (1) [Application] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, application for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of the municipality in which the applicant is eligible to vote or has applied

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for such eligibility. Any person who assists another person in the completion of an application shall, in the space provided, sign the application and print or type his name, residence address and telephone number. Such signature shall be made under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not invalidate the application solely because it does not contain the name of a person who assisted the applicant in the completion of the application. The municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee ballot application any material which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate or referendum question. The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all absentee ballot applications provided under this subsection, including the name and address of each person to whom applications are provided and the number of applications provided to each such person. Each absentee ballot application provided by the municipal clerk shall be consecutively numbered and be stamped or marked with the name of the municipality issuing the application. The application shall be signed by the applicant under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting on [(1)] (A) the form prescribed by the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-139a, [(2)] (B) a form provided by any federal department or agency if applicable pursuant to section 9-153a, or [(3)] (C) any of the special forms of application prescribed pursuant to section 9-150c, 9-153a, 9-153b, 9-153d, 9-153e, 9-153f or 9-158d, if applicable. Any such absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write may cause the application to be completed by an authorized agent who shall, in the spaces provided for the date and signature, write the date and name of the absentee ballot applicant followed by the word "by" and his own signature. If the ballot is to be mailed to the applicant, the applicant shall list the bona fide personal mailing address of the applicant in the appropriate space on the application.

[(b)] (2) A municipal clerk may transmit an application to a person under this subsection by facsimile machine or other electronic means, if so requested by the applicant. If a municipal clerk has a facsimile machine or other electronic means, an applicant may return a completed application to the clerk by such a machine or device, provided the

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- applicant shall also mail the original of the completed application to the 993 994 clerk, either separately or with the absentee ballot that is issued to the applicant. If the clerk does not receive such original application by the 995 996 close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum, the 997 absentee ballot shall not be counted. 998 (b) On and after July 1, 2021: 999 (1) (A) Application for an absentee ballot may also be made to the 1000 Secretary of the State through a telephonic system established and maintained by the Secretary for such purpose if an applicant's signature 1001 is in a database described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and such 1002 1003 signature may be imported into such online system. 1004 (B) In order for an application for an absentee ballot to be submitted 1005 through the telephonic system described in subparagraph (A) of this 1006 subdivision, the applicant's signature shall be obtained from a database 1007 described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and the applicant shall, in speaking with a respondent from the office of the Secretary of the State, 1008 1009 (i) provide his or her name, (ii) indicate the municipality in which such 1010 applicant is eligible to vote or has applied for such eligibility, and (iii) 1011 swear or affirm under penalties of false statement in absentee balloting 1012 that: (I) Such person is the person whose name was so provided and 1013 1014 desires to apply for an absentee ballot; 1015 (II) Such person is eligible to vote in the municipality so indicated or 1016 has applied for such eligibility; and 1017 (III) Such person authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles or 1018 other state agency to transmit to the Secretary such person's signature
- 1022 (2) (A) Application for an absentee ballot may also be made to the

absentee ballot as if such person had signed this form personally.

that is on file with such agency and understands that such signature will

be used by the Secretary through this telephonic application for an

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1023	Secretary of the State through an online system established and
1024	maintained by the Secretary for such purpose if an applicant's signature
1025	is in a database described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and such
1026	signature may be imported into such online system.
1027	(B) In order for an application for an absentee ballot to be submitted
1028	through the online system described in subparagraph (A) of this
1029	subdivision, the applicant's signature shall be obtained from a database
1030	described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and the applicant shall, on
1031	an online form prescribed by the Secretary, (i) type his or her name, (ii)
1032	indicate the municipality in which such applicant is eligible to vote or
1033	has applied for such eligibility, and (iii) mark a box associated with the
1034	following statement:
1035	"By clicking on the box below, I swear or affirm all of the following
1036	under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting:
1037	1. I am the person whose name is provided on this form, and I desire
1038	to apply for an absentee ballot.
1039	2. I am eligible to vote in the municipality provided on this form or
1040	have applied for such eligibility.
1041	3. I authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles or other Connecticut
1042	state agency to transmit to the Connecticut Secretary of the State my
1043	signature that is on file with such agency and understand that such
1044	signature will be used by the Secretary on this online application for an
1045	absentee ballot as if I had signed this form personally."
1046	(3) Not later than twenty-four hours after receipt of any submitted
1047	application for an absentee ballot through the telephonic or online
1048	system described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, the
1049	Secretary shall transmit such application to the clerk of the municipality
1050	indicated in such application.
1051	Sec. 21. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 9-140b of the
1052	general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
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thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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(a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or referendum only if: (1) It is mailed by (A) the ballot applicant, (B) a designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot because of illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the immediate family of an applicant who is a student, so that it is received by the clerk of the municipality in which the applicant is qualified to vote not later than the close of the polls; (2) it is returned by the applicant in person to the clerk by the day before a regular election, special election or primary or prior to the opening of the polls on the day of a referendum; (3) it is returned by a designee of an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant, in person, to said clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum; (4) it is returned by a member of the immediate family of the absentee voter, in person, to said clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum; (5) in the case of a presidential or overseas ballot, it is mailed or otherwise returned pursuant to the provisions of section 9-158g; or (6) it is returned with the proper identification as required by the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time, if applicable, inserted in the outer envelope so such identification can be viewed without opening the inner envelope. A person returning an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or (4) of this subsection shall present identification and, on the outer envelope of the absentee ballot, sign his name in the presence of the municipal clerk, and indicate his address, his relationship to the voter or his position, and the date and time of such return. As used in this section, "immediate family" means a dependent relative who resides in the individual's household or any spouse, child, [or] parent or sibling of the individual.

(b) As used in this section and section 9-150c, "designee" means (1) a person who is caring for the applicant because of the applicant's illness or physical disability, including but not limited to, a licensed physician or a registered or practical nurse, (2) a member of the applicant's family, who is designated by an absentee ballot applicant and who consents to

such designation, or (3) [if no such person consents or is available, then] a police officer, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters or assistant registrar of voters in the municipality in which the applicant resides.

- (c) (1) For purposes of this section, "mailed" means (A) sent by the United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the State, or (B) [for the state election in 2020,] deposited in a secure drop box designated by the municipal clerk for such purpose, in accordance with instructions prescribed by the Secretary.
- (2) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the twenty-ninth day before [the state election in 2020] each election and on each weekday thereafter until the close of the polls at such election, the municipal clerk shall (A) retrieve from the secure drop box described in said subparagraph each such ballot deposited in such drop box, and (B) if the drop box is located outside a building other than the building where the clerk's office is located, arrange for the clerk or the clerk's designee to be escorted by a police officer during such retrieval.
 - Sec. 22. Section 9-140c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) The municipal clerk shall retain the envelopes containing absentee ballots received by him under section 9-140b, as amended by this act, and shall not open such envelopes. The municipal clerk shall endorse over his signature, upon each outer envelope as he receives it, the date and precise time of its receipt. The clerk shall make an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of all such endorsements, and at the close of the polls shall deliver such affidavit to the head moderator, who shall endorse the time of its receipt and return it to the clerk after all counting is complete. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for one hundred eighty days in accordance with the requirements of section 9-150b. The clerk shall keep a list of the names of the applicants who return absentee ballots to the clerk under section 9-140b, as amended by this act. The list shall be

preserved as a public record as required by section 9-150b.

(b) (1) [(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, beginning not earlier than the seventh] Beginning on the fourteenth day before the election, primary or referendum and on any weekday thereafter, all absentee ballots received by the municipal clerk at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of such day may be sorted into voting districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in this [subparagraph] subsection. On any such day, beginning as soon as the ballots have been sorted, the registrars of voters, without opening the outer envelopes, may check the names of the applicants returning ballots on the official checklist to be used at the election, primary or referendum by indicating "absentee" or "A" preceding each such name and, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, the designation of the party in which the applicants are voting preceding each such name. [Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the The registrars shall also place such indication on a duplicate checklist to be retained by the municipal clerk until the municipal clerk delivers such duplicate checklist to the registrars, in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, for the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

[(B) For the state election in 2020, beginning on the fourteenth day before the election and on any weekday thereafter, all absentee ballots received by the municipal clerk at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of such day may be sorted into voting districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.]

(2) All absentee ballots received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of the last day before the election, primary or referendum which is not a Sunday or legal holiday, shall be sorted into voting districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in [subparagraph (A) of] subdivision (1) of this subsection not later than such last day.

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- (c) If the name of the applicant returning the ballot is not on the official checklist for any polling place in such municipality, the registrars shall endorse on the face of such outer envelope the word "rejected", followed by a statement of the reasons for rejection, and the outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot counted.
- 1155 (d) After such checking has been completed on any such day, the 1156 municipal clerk shall seal the unopened ballots in a package and retain 1157 them in a safe place.
 - [(e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, ballots received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. on the last day before the election, primary or referendum shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars between ten o'clock a.m. and twelve o'clock noon on the day of the election or primary and at twelve o'clock noon on the day of a referendum. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the municipal clerk shall also deliver to the registrars at this time the duplicate checklist provided for in subsection (b) of this section, for the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.
 - (2) (A) For the state election in 2020:]
- [(i)] (e) (1) (A) Ballots received, sorted and checked prior to five o'clock p.m. on the [(I)] (i) fourth day before the election may be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at five o'clock p.m. on such fourth day, [(II)] (ii) third day before the election may be so delivered at five o'clock p.m. on such third day, and [(III)] (iii) second day before the election may be so delivered at five o'clock p.m. on such second day;
 - [(ii)] (B) Ballots received [not later than] at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. on the last day before the election shall be sorted and checked not later than such last day and shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at six o'clock a.m. on the day of the election. [; and]

- [(iii)] (C) Each time ballots are delivered pursuant to [this] subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, the municipal clerk shall also deliver to the registrars at such time a copy of the duplicate checklist provided for in subsection (b) of this section, current as of the time of such delivery, for the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.
- [(B)] (2) The municipal clerk may deliver the ballots at times later than those provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, [or subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, as applicable,] provided any such time is mutually agreed upon by the municipal clerk and registrars and is not later than eight o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.
 - (f) Absentee ballots timely received by the clerk after eleven o'clock a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or referendum shall be sorted into voting districts by the clerk and retained by the clerk separately until delivered to the registrars of voters for checking.
 - (g) Any or all of such ballots received after eleven o'clock a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or referendum and before six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall, upon request of the registrars, be delivered to the registrars by the municipal clerk at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum for checking, or at a later time mutually agreed upon by the clerk and registrars, provided such time is not later than eight o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.
 - (h) Absentee ballots received after six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum and any ballots received prior to six o'clock p.m. of such day which were not delivered earlier shall be delivered to the registrars at the close of the polls for checking. Although absentee ballots shall be checked by the registrars of voters at various times throughout the election, primary or referendum day, absentee ballots may be counted at one single time during such day.

- (i) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the absentee ballot counters, upon receipt of the ballots delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum and at the close of the polls pursuant to subsections (g) and (h) of this section, shall check the names of the applicants returning ballots on the duplicate checklist in the same manner as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.
 - (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall be called in to the appropriate polling places where they shall be checked by the checkers on the official checklists, and they shall also be checked by the absentee ballot counters on the duplicate checklist required under subsection (b) of this section.
 - (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall be checked by the absentee ballot counters and checkers at such polling place on the official checklist used at such polling place.
 - (3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at the close of the polls shall be checked by the absentee ballot counters on the official checklists used at the polling places and such official checklists, bearing the certifications required by section 9-307, shall be delivered by the registrars or assistant registrars to the central counting moderator for that purpose.
 - (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the official checklist used at such polling place shall remain in such polling place for checking by the absentee ballot counters at such polling place.

- (4) If the name of an applicant returning a ballot has been checked on the official checklist as having voted in person the absentee ballot counters shall, in checking the ballots, endorse on the face of the outer envelope the word "rejected" followed by a statement of the reason for rejection, and the outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot counted.
 - (5) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, when central counting is completed and the result is announced, the central counting moderator shall deliver the duplicate checklist, the official checklists and the returns required by section 9-150b to the head moderator.
 - (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, and such counting is completed and the result for such polling place is announced, the moderator for such polling place shall deliver the official checklist used at such polling place and the return required by section 9-150b to the head moderator.
 - (j) Each time absentee ballots are delivered by the clerk to the registrars pursuant to this section, the clerk and registrars shall execute an affidavit of delivery and receipt stating the number of ballots delivered. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for the period prescribed in section 9-150b.
 - (k) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the absentee ballot counters shall count, in the manner provided in section 9-150a, each group of absentee ballots upon receipt from the registrars.
 - (2) [For the state election in 2020, whenever] Whenever absentee ballots are to be processed before the day of the election, pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the absentee ballot counters shall process, in the manner provided in section 9-150e, as amended by this act, each group of absentee ballots upon receipt from the registrars.

- (l) The municipal clerk shall retain all outer envelopes containing absentee ballots received by him after the close of the polls, unopened, for the period prescribed in section 9-150b.
- Sec. 23. Section 9-140e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) Any elector who is permanently physically disabled <u>or suffering from a long-term illness</u> and who files an application for an absentee ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that such elector is permanently physically disabled <u>or suffering from a long-term illness</u> and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated polling location, shall be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status and shall receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary or referendum conducted in such elector's municipality for which such elector is eligible to vote. Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status shall remain in effect until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official registry list of the municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee ballot status pursuant to the provisions of this section, or (3) requests that he or she no longer receive such permanent absentee ballot status.
 - (b) The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each such elector with permanent absentee ballot status in January of each year, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, for the purpose of determining if such elector continues to reside at the address indicated on the elector's permanent absentee ballot application. If [(1)] such written notice is returned as undeliverable, [or (2) not later than thirty days after such notice is sent to the elector, the elector fails to return such notice to the registrars of voters, as directed on the form,] the elector in question shall be removed from permanent absentee ballot status. If such elector indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides at such address and the elector's new address is within the same municipality, the registrars of voters shall change the elector's address pursuant to section 9-35 and such elector shall retain permanent absentee ballot status. If the elector indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides in the municipality, the registrars of voters

- shall remove such individual from the registry list of the municipality and send such individual an application for voter registration. Failure to return such written notice shall not result in the removal of an elector from the official registry list of the municipality or from permanent absentee ballot status.
- Sec. 24. Section 9-147a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) or (c) of this section, at any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots shall, within existing resources, be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a at a central location designated by the registrars of voters in writing to the municipal clerk at least twenty days before the election, primary or referendum, which location shall be published in the warning for the election, primary or referendum. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, all absentee ballots shall be separated, counted, tallied and placed in depository envelopes by voting district. Any member of the public may observe the counting of absentee ballots at such central location.
 - (b) At any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots may be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a in the respective polling places if the registrars of voters agree that such absentee ballots should be so counted. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, absentee ballots may be counted in the respective polling places if the parties agree that such absentee ballots should be so counted. Any election official serving in a polling place may observe the counting of absentee ballots at such polling place.
 - (c) (1) [For the state election in 2020, absentee] <u>Absentee</u> ballots may be processed before the day of [the] <u>any</u> election, <u>primary or referendum</u> in the manner provided in section 9-150e, <u>as amended by this act</u>. Any such processing shall take place at a central location designated by the

- registrars of voters in writing to the municipal clerk at least ten days before the election, which location shall be published in the warning for the election.
 - (2) If absentee ballots are to be processed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall jointly certify such fact in writing to the Secretary of the State at least ten days before the election. Such written certification shall (A) include the name, street address and relevant contact information associated with the designated central location, and (B) list the name and address of each absentee ballot counter appointed pursuant to section 9-147c. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written certification not later than two days after receipt of such certification and may require the appointment of one or more additional absentee ballot counters.
- (3) In the case of absentee ballots delivered to the registrars on the day of the election, nothing in this subsection shall preclude the counting of such absentee ballots in the respective polling places pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.
- Sec. 25. Section 9-150e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-150a, [for the state election in 2020,] in any municipality in which absentee ballots are processed pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act:
- (a) (1) Not earlier than five o'clock p.m. on the fourth day before the election, <u>primary or referendum</u>, the absentee ballot counters shall proceed to the central counting location at the times designated by the registrars of voters;
- 1366 (2) At the time each group of ballots is delivered pursuant to [subdivision (2) of] subsection (e) of section 9-140c, <u>as amended by this</u> act, the counters shall proceed as hereinafter provided;

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- (3) Except with respect to ballots marked "Rejected" pursuant to section 9-140c, as amended by this act, or other applicable law, the counters shall then remove the inner envelopes from the outer envelopes, shall note the total number of absentee ballots received and shall report such total to the moderator. The counters shall similarly note and separately so report the total numbers of presidential ballots and overseas ballots received pursuant to sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive;
- (4) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as required by section 9-140a, such inner envelope shall not be opened or the ballot removed therefrom <u>at that time</u>, and such inner envelope shall be replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be marked "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the counters; and
 - (5) Not earlier than the day of the election, and after the duties under subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection have been performed, absentee ballots shall be counted in the manner provided in subsections (e) to (m), inclusive, of section 9-150a.
 - (b) In accordance with instructions [which shall be] prescribed by the Secretary of the State, [not later than ten days before the election,] each group of ballots delivered pursuant to subdivision [(2)] (1) of subsection (e) of section 9-140c, as amended by this act, shall be kept secure (1) throughout the performance of the duties under subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section, and (2) after such performance until such time on the day of the election that absentee ballots are counted in the manner provided in subsections (e) to (m), inclusive, of section 9-150a. The requirements of this subsection shall be in addition to all other applicable requirements under this title regarding the security of absentee ballots and any related materials.
 - Sec. 26. Section 9-1590 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

[(a)] Any elector who has returned an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk and who finds such elector is able to vote in person shall proceed before [ten o'clock a.m.] five o'clock p.m. on the fourth day before election, primary or referendum day to the municipal clerk's office and request that such elector's ballot be withdrawn. The municipal clerk shall remove the ballot from the sealed package and shall mark the serially-numbered outer envelope, which shall remain unopened, "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection. The elector shall also endorse the envelope. The rejected ballot shall then be returned to the sealed package until delivered on election, primary or referendum day to the registrars of voters in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act. The municipal clerk shall then give the elector a signed statement directed to the moderator of the voting district in which the elector resides stating that the elector has withdrawn such elector's absentee ballot and may vote in person. Upon delivery of the statement by the elector to the moderator, the moderator shall cause the absentee indication next to the name of the elector to be stricken from the official checklist and the elector may then have such elector's name checked and vote in person. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the municipal clerk shall also cause the absentee indication next to the name of the elector to be stricken from the duplicate checklist to be used by the absentee ballot counters.

[(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, for the state election in 2020, any elector who has returned an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk and who finds such elector is able to vote in person shall proceed before five o'clock p.m. on the fourth day before the election to the municipal clerk's office and request that such elector's ballot be withdrawn.]

Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Whenever voter registration information maintained under title 9 of the general statutes by the Secretary of the State or any registrar of voters is provided pursuant to any provision of the general statutes, disclosure of a voter's date of birth

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- shall be limited to only the year of birth, unless such voter registration information is requested and used for a governmental purpose, as determined by the Secretary, in which case the voter's complete date of birth shall be provided. As used in this section, a governmental purpose shall include, but not be limited to, jury administration.
- (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any motor vehicle operator's license number, identity card number, Social Security number and any other unique identifier used for the purpose of generating a voter registration record, or added to such record for compliance with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time, shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person.
- (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, if a voter submits to the Secretary of the State a signed statement that nondisclosure of such voter's name from the official registry list is necessary for the safety of such voter or the voter's family, the name and address of such voter on his or her voter registration record shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except that an election, primary or referendum official may view such information on the official registry list when such list is used by any such official at a polling place on the day of an election, primary or referendum.
- Sec. 28. (NEW) (Effective from passage) In the case of a municipality, or a voting district within a municipality, in which, as reported in the decennial census of the United States, (1) the number of United States citizens of voting age in a single language minority group (A) is more than seven thousand five hundred, (B) makes up more than three per cent of all voting age citizens in such municipality or voting district, or (C) if on an Indian reservation, makes up more than three per cent of all reservation residents, or (2) the illiteracy rate of a single language minority group is higher than the national illiteracy rate, such municipality at any election, primary or referendum held within such municipality or voting district shall make available ballots in the language of each such language minority group to be used in such

- 1466 municipality or voting district at such election, primary or referendum.
- 1467 As used in this section, "language minority group" means American
- 1468 Indians, Asian Americans, Alaskan Natives or Spanish-heritage
- 1469 citizens.
- Sec. 29. Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):
- 1472 (a) Any elector eligible to vote at a primary or an election and any 1473 person eligible to vote at a referendum may vote by absentee ballot if 1474 such elector or person is unable to appear at such elector's or person's 1475 polling place [during the hours of voting] on the day of such primary, 1476 election or referendum for any of the following reasons: (1) Such 1477 elector's or person's active service with the armed forces of the United 1478 States; (2) such elector's or person's absence from the town of [such 1479 elector's or person's voting residence during all of the hours of voting] 1480 which such elector or person is an inhabitant; (3) [such elector's or 1481 person's illness] sickness; (4) [such elector's or person's] physical 1482 disability; (5) the tenets of such elector's or person's religion forbid 1483 secular activity; [on the day of the primary, election or referendum;] or 1484 (6) the required performance of such elector's or person's duties as a 1485 primary, election or referendum official, including as a town clerk or 1486 registrar of voters or as staff of the clerk or registrar, at a polling place 1487 other than such elector's or person's own during all of the hours of 1488 voting at such primary, election or referendum. [; or (7) for the state 1489 election in 2020, the sickness of COVID-19. As used in this section, 1490 "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World 1491 Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any 1492 related mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a 1493 communicable respiratory disease.]
- 1494 (b) No person shall misrepresent the eligibility requirements for 1495 voting by absentee ballot prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, to 1496 any elector or prospective absentee ballot applicant.
- Sec. 30. Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

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

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

1514 Date

- 1515 (Signature)"
- [(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, for the state election in 2020, each inner envelope in which an absentee ballot is returned to the municipal clerk shall have printed on its face a form containing the following statements:

"I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I expect to be unable to appear at my polling place during the hours of voting at such primary, election or referendum for one or more of the following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote during all of the hours of voting; (3) my illness or physical disability; (4) the tenets of my religion which forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election

- or referendum; (5) my duties as a primary, election or referendum
- official; or (6) the sickness of COVID-19.
- 1531 Date
- 1532 (Signature)"]
- 1533 Sec. 31. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 1534 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 1535 Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be a United States
- citizen [,] and at least eighteen years of age, [and a resident of a town in
- this state] and shall not be on parole for conviction of a felony. Any
- 1538 individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating petition may
- serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating petition.
- 1540 Sec. 32. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 1541 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or the
- 1543 Secretary of the State and filed with the Secretary of the State under the
- provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall
- 1545 contain a statement as to the residency [in this state] and eligibility of
- the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed
- 1547 under [penalties] penalty of false statement, by the person who
- 1548 circulated the same. Such statement shall set forth (1) [such] the
- circulator's residence address, including the town [in this state] in which
- 1550 [such] the circulator is a resident, (2) if the circulator is not a resident in
- this state, that the circulator agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of the
- 1552 <u>state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation</u>
- of a petition pursuant to this subpart, (3) the circulator's date of birth
- and that the circulator is at least eighteen years of age, [(3)] (4) that the
- 1555 circulator is a United States citizen and not on parole for conviction of a
- felony, and [(4)] (5) that each person whose name appears on such page
- signed the same in person in the presence of [such] the circulator and
- that either the circulator knows each such signer or that the signer
- satisfactorily identified himself or herself to the circulator. Any false

- statement committed with respect to such statement shall be deemed to have been committed in the town in which the petition was circulated.
- Sec. 33. Subsection (a) of section 9-453k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- (a) The town clerk or Secretary of the State shall not accept any page of a nominating petition unless the circulator thereof has signed before [him] the clerk, the Secretary or an appropriate person as provided in section 1-29, the statement as to the residency [in this state] and eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon required by section 9-453j, as amended by this act.
- Sec. 34. Subsection (a) of section 9-4530 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) The Secretary of the State may not count for purposes of determining compliance with the number of signatures required by section 9-453d the signatures certified by the town clerk on any petition page filed under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or 9-216 if: (1) The name of the candidate, [his] the candidate's address or the party designation, if any, has been omitted from the face of the petition; (2) the page does not contain a statement by the circulator as to the residency [in this state] and eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon as required by section 9-453j, as amended by this act, or upon which such statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect; or (3) the page does not contain the certifications required by sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, by the town clerk of the town in which the signers reside. The town clerk shall cure any omission on his or her part by signing any such page at the office of the Secretary of the State and making the necessary amendment or by filing a separate statement in this regard, which amendment shall be dated.
- 1590 Sec. 35. Subsection (d) of section 9-404b of the general statutes is

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repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) [Each] Any person qualified to vote under the laws of any state or territory of the United States may be a circulator of a primary petition page [shall be] if such person (1) is an enrolled party member of a municipality in this state, [. Each] or (2) agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of a primary petition. For any circulator described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by the registrar of voters of the municipality in which the circulator is an enrolled party member attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in the municipality. For any circulator described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by such circulator that he or she agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of a primary petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the registrar of voters of the municipality in which such page was circulated. Unless such a statement by the registrar [of voters] appears on each page so submitted, the Secretary shall reject the page. Each separate page of the petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures on the page and the number of such signatures, and shall be signed under the [penalties] penalty of false statement by the person who circulated the page, setting forth the circulator's address and the town in which the circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that each person whose name appears on the page signed the petition in person in the presence of the circulator, that the circulator either knows each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself or herself to the circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported, offices sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate page of the petition shall also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in section 1-29. The Secretary shall reject any page of a petition filed with the Secretary which does not contain such a statement by the circulator as

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to the authenticity of the signatures on the page, or upon which the statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or which does not contain the certification required under this section by the registrar of the town in which the circulator is an enrolled party member. Any individual proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may serve as a circulator of the pages of the petition, provided the individual's service as circulator does not violate any provision of this section.

Sec. 36. Subsection (c) of section 9-410 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) [Each] Any person qualified to vote under the laws of any state or territory of the United States may be a circulator of a primary petition page [shall be] if such person (1) is an enrolled party member of a municipality in this state, [who is entitled to vote. Each] or (2) agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of a primary petition. For any circulator described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by the registrar of voters of the municipality in which such circulator is an enrolled party member attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in such municipality. For any circulator described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by such circulator that he or she agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of a primary petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the registrar of voters of the municipality in which such page was circulated. Unless such a statement by the registrar appears on each page so submitted, the registrar shall reject such page. No candidate for the nomination of a party for a municipal office or the position of town committee member shall circulate any petition for another candidate or another group of candidates contained in one primary petition for the nomination of such party for the same office or position, and any petition page circulated in violation of this provision shall be rejected by

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the registrar. No person shall circulate petitions for more than the maximum number of candidates to be nominated by a party for the same office or position, and any petition page circulated in violation of this provision shall be rejected by the registrar. Each separate sheet of such petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon and the number of such signatures, and shall be signed under the penalties of false statement by the person who circulated the same, setting forth such circulator's address and the town in which such circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that each person whose name appears on such sheet signed the same in person in the presence of such circulator, that the circulator either knows each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified the signer to the circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported, offices or positions sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate sheet of such petition shall also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in section 1-29. Any sheet of a petition filed with the registrar which does not contain such a statement by the circulator as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon, or upon which the statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or which does not contain the certification hereinbefore required by the registrar of the town in which the circulator is an enrolled party member, shall be rejected by the registrar. Any individual proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may serve as a circulator of the pages of such petition, provided such individual's service as circulator does not violate any provision of this section.

Sec. 37. Section 9-450 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Nominations by major parties for any state, district or municipal office to be filled under the provisions of any law relating to elections to fill vacancies, unless otherwise provided therein, shall be made in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, as amended by this act.

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(b) (1) [(A)] In the case of nominations for representatives in Congress and judges of probate in probate districts composed of two or more towns, provided for in sections 9-212, as amended by this act, and 9-218, as amended by this act, the delegates to the convention for the last state election shall be the delegates for the purpose of selecting a candidate to fill such vacancy. If a vacancy occurs in the delegation from any town, political subdivision or district, such vacancy may be filled by the town committee of the town in which the delegate resided. Endorsements by political party conventions pursuant to this subsection may be made and certified at any time after the resignation or death creating such vacancy and not later than the fiftieth day before the day of the election. No such endorsement shall be effective until the presiding officer or secretary of any district convention has certified the endorsement to the Secretary of the State.

[(B)] (2) If such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or municipal election in November of any year, no primary shall be held for the nomination of any political party and the party-endorsed candidate so selected shall be deemed, for the purposes of this chapter, the person certified by the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-444 as the nominee of such party.

[(C)] (3) Except as provided in [subparagraph (B) of this] subdivision (2) of this subsection, if a candidacy for nomination is filed by or on behalf of any person other than a party-endorsed candidate not later than [fourteen days] the day after the party endorsement and in conformity with the provisions of section 9-400, as amended by this act, a primary shall be held in each municipality of the district and each part of a municipality which is a component part of the district, to determine the nominee of such party for such office, except as provided in section 9-416a. Such primary shall be held on the day that the writs of election issued by the Governor, pursuant to section 9-212, as amended by this act, ordered the election to be held, and new writs of election shall be issued by the Governor in accordance with section 9-212, as amended

- by this act.
- [(D)] (4) Unless the provisions of [subparagraph (B) of this]
- subdivision (2) of this subsection apply, petition forms for candidacies
- 1727 for nomination by a political party pursuant to this subdivision shall be
- available from the Secretary of the State beginning on the day following
- the issuance of writs of election by the Governor pursuant to section 9-
- 1730 212, as amended by this act, except when a primary has already been
- held, and the provisions of section 9-404a shall otherwise apply to such
- 1732 petitions.
- [(E)] (5) The registry lists used pursuant to this subsection shall be the
- last-completed lists, as provided in sections 9-172a and 9-172b.
- [(2)] (c) In the case of judges of probate in probate districts composed
- of a single town, the day named for the election shall be not earlier than
- the one hundred fifteenth day following the day on which the writ of
- election is issued, and the times specified in sections 9-391, 9-405 and 9-
- 1739 423 shall be applicable.
- [(3) (A)] (d) (1) In the case of nominations for senators in Congress
- provided for in section 9-211, as amended by this act, the delegates to
- the convention for the last state election shall be the delegates for the
- purpose of selecting a candidate to fill such vacancy. If a vacancy occurs
- in the delegation from any town or political subdivision, such vacancy
- 1745 may be filled by the town committee of the town in which the delegate
- 1746 resided. Endorsements by political party conventions pursuant to this
- 1747 subsection may be made and certified at any time after the resignation
- 1748 or death creating such vacancy and not later than the fifty-sixth day
- before the day of the primary. No such endorsement shall be effective
- until the presiding officer or secretary of any state convention has
- 1751 certified the endorsement to the Secretary of the State.
- [(B)] (2) If such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-
- 1753 fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or
- 1754 municipal election in November of any year, no primary shall be held

- for the nomination of any political party and the party-endorsed candidate so selected shall be deemed, for the purposes of this chapter, the person certified by the Secretary of the State, pursuant to section 9-444, as the nominee of such party. In such an event, endorsements by political party conventions shall be made not later than sixty days prior to the election.
 - [(C)] (3) Except as provided in [subparagraph (B) of this] subdivision (2) of this subsection, if a candidacy for nomination is filed by or on behalf of any person other than a party-endorsed candidate not later than [fourteen days] the day after the party endorsement and in conformity with the provisions of section 9-400, as amended by this act, a primary shall be held on the fifty-sixth day prior to the day of the election in each municipality to determine the nominee of such party for such office, except as provided in section 9-416a.
 - [(D)] (4) Unless the provisions of [subparagraph (B) of this] subdivision (2) of this subsection apply, petition forms for candidacies for nomination by a political party pursuant to this subdivision shall be available from the Secretary of the State beginning on the day following the issuance of writs of election by the Governor, pursuant to section 9-211, as amended by this act, except when a primary has already been held and the provisions of section 9-404a shall otherwise apply to such petitions.
 - [(E)] (5) The registry lists used pursuant to this subsection shall be the last-completed lists, as provided in sections 9-172a and 9-172b.
 - [(4)] (e) The times specified in sections 9-391, 9-405 and 9-423 shall be applicable to any special town election held to fill a vacancy in any town office under subsection (b) of section 9-164. Except as provided under subsection (c) of section 9-164, any election held to fill a vacancy in any municipal office under the provisions of any special act shall be held not earlier than the one hundred twenty-seventh day following the day upon which warning of such election is issued, and the times specified in sections 9-391, 9-405 and 9-423 shall be applicable.

Sec. 38. Subsection (a) of section 9-212 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

- (a) In case of a vacancy in the office of representative in Congress from any district, the Governor, except as otherwise provided by law, shall not more than ten days after the occurrence of such vacancy issue writs of election directed to the town clerks or assistant town clerks, in such district, ordering an election to be held on the sixtieth day after the issue of such writs on a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, to fill such vacancy, provided (1) if such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or municipal election in November of any year, the Governor shall so issue such writs on the sixtieth day before the day of such regular election, ordering an election to be held on the day of such regular election, (2) if such a vacancy occurs after the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state election but before the regular state election, the Governor shall not issue such writs and no election shall be held under this section, unless the position vacated is that of member-elect, in which case the Governor shall issue such writs and an election shall be held as provided in this section, and (3) if a primary for such office occurs pursuant to [subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1)] subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 9-450, as amended by this act, the Governor shall, within ten days following the filing of a candidacy for nomination by a person other than the party-endorsed candidate, issue new writs of election, in place of those first issued pursuant to this section.
- Sec. 39. Subsection (a) of section 9-320f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any election or primary and not later than two business days before the canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller, for any federal or state election or primary, or by the town clerk for any municipal election or primary, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit or, for

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- 1820 an election or primary held on or after January 1, 2016, an electronic 1821 audit authorized under section 9-320g of the votes recorded in not less 1822 than five per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or 1823 municipality, whichever is applicable. For the purposes of this section, 1824 any central location used in a municipality for the counting of absentee 1825 ballots shall be deemed a voting district. Such manual or electronic audit 1826 shall be noticed in advance and be open to public observation. Any 1827 election official who participates in the administration and conduct of 1828 an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated by the 1829 municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such 1830 municipality for elections or primaries, as the case may be.
- Sec. 40. Section 9-159q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) As used in this section:

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- (1) "Institution" means a veterans' health care facility, residential care home, health care facility for the handicapped, nursing home, rest home, mental health facility, alcohol or drug treatment facility, an infirmary operated by an educational institution for the care of its students, faculty and employees or an assisted living facility; and
 - (2) "Designee" means an elector of the same town and political party as the appointing registrar of voters, which elector is not an employee of the institution at which supervised voting is conducted.
 - (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, [to the contrary,] if less than twenty of the patients in any institution in the state are electors, absentee ballots voted by such electors shall, upon request of either registrar of voters in the town of such electors' voting residence or the administrator of such institution, be voted under the supervision of such registrars of voters or their designees in accordance with the provisions of this section. The registrars of voters of a town other than the town in which an institution is located may refuse a request by the administrator of such institution when, in their written opinion, the

registrars agree that such request is unnecessary, in which case this section shall not apply. Such registrars shall inform the administrator and the town clerk of the electors' town of voting residence of their refusal.

- (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, such request shall be made in writing and filed with the town clerk and registrars of voters of the town of such electors' voting residence, not more than forty-five days prior to an election or thirty-four days prior to a primary and not later than the seventh day prior to an election or primary. The request shall specify the name and location of the institution and the date and time when the registrars of voters or their designees shall supervise the casting of absentee ballots at the institution. The request shall also specify one or more alternate dates and times when supervised voting may occur. No request shall specify a date or an alternate date for supervised voting which is later than the last business day before the election or primary.
- (d) The town clerk shall not mail or otherwise deliver an absentee ballot to an applicant who is a patient in any institution if a request for supervision of absentee balloting at that institution has been filed with the clerk during the period set forth in subsection (c) of this section. The clerk shall instead deliver such ballot or ballots to the registrars of voters or their designees who will supervise the voting of such ballots in accordance with this section.
- (e) Except in the case of a written refusal as provided in subsection (b) of this section, upon receipt of a request for supervision of absentee balloting during the period set forth in subsection (c) of this section, the registrar or registrars of voters who received the request shall inform the registrar or administrator who made the request and the town clerk as to the date and time when such supervision shall occur, which shall be the date and time contained in the request or the alternate date and time contained in the registrar or registrars fail to select either date, the supervision shall take place on the date and time contained in the request. If a request for supervision of absentee

balloting at an institution is filed during the period set forth in subsection (c) of this section and the town clerk receives an application for an absentee ballot from a patient in the institution after the date when supervised balloting occurred, either registrar of voters may request, in writing, to the appropriate town clerk and registrars of voters that the supervision of the voting of absentee ballots at such institution in accordance with this section be repeated, and in such case the registrars or their designees shall supervise absentee balloting at such institution on the date and at the time specified in the subsequent request, which shall be not later than the last business day before the election or primary.

- (f) On the date when the supervision of absentee balloting at any institution is to occur, the town clerk shall deliver to the registrars or their designees the absentee ballots and envelopes for all applicants who are electors of such clerk's town and patients at such institution. The ballot and envelopes shall be prepared for delivery to the applicant as provided in sections 9-137 to 9-140a, inclusive. The registrars or their designees shall furnish the town clerk a written receipt for such ballots.
- (g) The registrars or their designees, as the case may be, shall jointly deliver the ballots to the respective applicants at the institution and shall jointly supervise the voting of such ballots. The ballots shall be returned to the registrars or their designees by the electors in the envelopes provided and in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-137, 9-139 and 9-140a. If any elector asks for assistance in voting his ballot, two registrars or their designees of different political parties or, for a primary, their designees of different candidates, shall render such assistance as they deem necessary and appropriate to enable such elector to vote his ballot. The registrars or their designees may reject a ballot when (1) the elector declines to vote a ballot, or (2) the registrars or their designees are unable to determine how the elector who has requested their assistance desires to vote the ballot. When the registrars or their designees reject a ballot, they shall mark the serially-numbered outer envelope "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection. Nothing in

- 1917 this section shall limit the right of an elector to vote his ballot in secret.
- (h) After all ballots have been voted or marked "rejected" in accordance with subsection (g) of this section, the registrars or their designees shall jointly deliver or mail them in the envelopes, which shall be sealed, to the appropriate town clerk, who shall retain them until delivered in accordance with section 9-140c.
 - (i) When an institution is located in a town having a primary, the registrar in that town of the party holding the primary shall appoint for each such institution, one designee of the party-endorsed candidates and one designee of the contestants from the lists, if any, submitted by the party-endorsed candidates and contestants. Such registrar shall notify all party-endorsed candidates and all contestants of their right to submit a list of potential designees under this section. Each party-endorsed candidate and each contestant may submit to such registrar in writing a list of names of potential designees, provided any such list shall be submitted not later than ten days before the primary. If no such lists are submitted within said period, such registrar shall appoint one designee of the party-endorsed candidates and one designee of the contestants. Each designee appointed pursuant to this section shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his duties, and the registrar shall file a certificate of each designation with his town clerk.
 - (j) Any registrar of voters who has filed a request that the absentee balloting at an institution be supervised and any registrar required to conduct a supervision of voting under this section, who neglects to perform any of the duties required of him by this section so as to cause any elector to lose his vote shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. Any registrar from the same town as a registrar who has filed such a request may waive his right to participate in the supervision of absentee balloting.
 - (k) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, [to the contrary,] if the spouse or a child of a registrar of voters or a dependent relative residing in the registrar's household is a candidate in the election or

primary for which supervised absentee voting is to occur, such registrar shall not supervise such absentee voting but may designate the deputy registrar of voters or an assistant registrar of voters, appointed by the registrar pursuant to section 9-192, to supervise the absentee voting in his place.

(l) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, [if a town clerk receives twenty or more absentee ballot applications from the same street address in a town, including, but not limited to, an apartment building or complex, absentee ballots voted by the electors submitting such applications may, at the discretion of the registrars of voters of such town, be voted under the supervision of such registrars of voters or their designees in accordance with the same procedures set forth in this section for supervised absentee voting at institutions.] the Secretary of the State may suspend the supervision of absentee balloting under this section and section 9-159r, provided the Secretary (1) suspends such supervision of absentee balloting in recognition of a declaration by the Governor of a civil preparedness emergency, pursuant to section 28-9, or a public health emergency, pursuant to section 19a-131, and (2) submits a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections advising of such suspension and specifying alternative actions to be taken to provide opportunities for absentee voting by electors described in this section and section 9-159r.

Sec. 41. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) In the case of an elector unable to appear at such elector's polling place because of a visual impairment, the Secretary of the State shall electronically provide to such elector an absentee ballot in a format capable of being read by a computer-related device and printed. Each such ballot signed by such elector, returned to the municipal clerk in accordance with section 9-140b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and that otherwise satisfies all requirements for returned absentee ballots shall be counted.

Sec. 42. Subsection (a) of section 9-164 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*

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(a) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, there shall be held in each municipality, biennially, a municipal election [on the first Monday of May or the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, of the odd-numbered years, whichever date the legislative body of such municipality determines, provided, if no action is taken by the legislative body to so designate the date of such election, such election shall be held] on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the odd-numbered years. In any municipality where the term of any elected official would expire prior to the next regular election held under the provisions of this section, the term of such official shall be extended to the date of such election.

Sec. 43. Section 9-164a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, in any municipality in which the date of the municipal election has been, or will be, changed to the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the oddnumbered years under section 9-164, as amended by this act, and in which the terms of office of one or more elected municipal officers had not, or will have not, expired at the time of the holding of the first municipal election in accordance with such changed date under said section, the legislative body of such municipality shall, prior to [July 25, 1969] January 1, 2023, provide for a reasonable method of transition for such offices which may include reasonable extension of such terms and provision for interim terms. Except as provided in sections 9-164b, as amended by this act, 9-164d to 9-164f, inclusive, as amended by this act, 9-187 and 9-187a, as amended by this act, in the absence of such action by such legislative body, the terms of any such officers which do not terminate within three months after such first or a subsequent municipal election held under said section 9-164 shall be extended to the municipal election next held after the expiration of such terms, or to such date, within seventy days after such election, on which the terms of municipal officers generally begin in such municipality, at which election

- successors shall be elected for the terms provided for by law or for such other transitional terms as are necessary to provide the rotation required by law. The clerk of the municipality, in preparing the list provided for under section 9-254, shall set forth such terms or transitional terms therein.
- Sec. 44. Section 9-164b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - As to any board or commission with a rotating membership, some of the members of which, prior to the change to a uniform municipal election date to the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the odd-numbered years under section 9-164, as amended by this act, were elected for terms beginning approximately one year after the date of their election, the legislative body may provide for such conforming changes in the beginning date of the terms of office as are designed to continue the rotation with regard to such office as it existed prior to such change, and in the absence of such action by such legislative body, the beginning date of the terms of such office shall be so changed by the clerk of the municipality in preparing the list provided for under section 9-254. With respect to any board or commission with a rotating membership established under sections 8-1, 8-4a, 8-5 and 8-19, the authority empowered to prescribe the term of office of the members of such board or commission, if it is authorized under said sections to provide for an odd-numbered year term, may further provide for deferred terms by prescribing which terms are to begin approximately one year from the date on which the terms of municipal officers generally begin in such municipality.
- Sec. 45. Section 9-187a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1*, 2023):
- 2043 (a) (1) Except as provided in sections 9-164a, as amended by this act, 2044 9-164b, as amended by this act, 9-164d to 9-164f, inclusive, as amended 2045 by this act, and subdivision (2) of this subsection, (A) the term of each 2046 [elected] municipal official elected at a municipal election, other than

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town clerk and treasurer, shall begin [within seventy days after the municipal election at which such official is elected, on the day within such period prescribed by special act or charter provision, or, in the absence of such special act or charter provision, on the day within such period as is prescribed by action of the legislative body of such municipality, provided (1) in each municipality which holds its municipal election on the first Monday of May in the odd-numbered years, in the absence of such special act or charter provision, or action of the legislative body, such terms shall begin on the first day of July following the municipal election at which such official is elected, and (2) in each municipality which holds its municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November in the odd-numbered years, with the exception of the term of the town clerk, in the absence of such special act, or charter provision, or action of the legislative body, such term shall begin on the second Tuesday next] (i) December first next following the day of [the municipal election at which such official is elected,] such municipal election, or (ii) such other day as may be prescribed by special act for a municipal election held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the odd-numbered years, and [(3) in each municipality which holds its municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the odd-numbered years, [(B)) the term of the town clerk [shall be two years from] or the treasurer, as applicable, elected at a municipal election shall begin on the first Monday of January next [succeeding his election, unless otherwise provided by charter or special act] following the day of such municipal election. Whenever the beginning date of the terms of elected municipal officials is so determined or changed, within the limits hereinabove specified, the authority providing therefor may provide for the conforming diminution or extension of terms of incumbents.

(2) The legislative body of a municipality may provide for a deferred beginning date, not to exceed one year from the applicable date set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, of the term of any office to be elected at a municipal election.

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- (b) In the case of a special election to fill a vacancy in an elected municipal office, which special election is combined with a regular election pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-164, the person elected to fill such vacancy shall begin to serve the unexpired portion of his or her predecessor's term on the applicable date provided in subsection (a) of this section.
- Sec. 46. Section 9-189a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):
- 2088 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 9-189 and 9-190a, any 2089 town or municipality may, by charter or ordinance, provide that the 2090 treasurer or the town clerk of [said] such town or municipality, or the 2091 registrars of voters of [said] such town, or any of such officers, shall, at 2092 the next [succeeding] following regular election for such office and 2093 thereafter, be elected for a term of four years. In such event, such four-2094 year term shall begin on the first Monday of January [succeeding] next 2095 following an election for treasurer or town clerk, [except as provided in 2096 section 9-187a, and from and on the Wednesday following the first 2097 Monday of January succeeding an election for registrars of voters. [, 2098 provided, if any such town or municipality holds its town or municipal 2099 election on the first Monday of May of the odd-numbered years, the 2100 term of such treasurer or town clerk shall begin on the first day of July 2101 following the election, except as provided in section 9-187a.]
- Sec. 47. Subsection (a) of section 9-32 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January* 1, 2023):
 - (a) In each municipality the registrars, between January first and May first, annually, shall cause either (1) a complete house to house canvass to be made in person of each residence on each street, avenue or road within such municipality, (2) a complete canvass to be made by mail of each residence located on each street, avenue or road within such municipality, provided, upon agreement of both registrars, the National Change of Address System of the United States Postal Service may be

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- used instead of such mailing, (3) a complete canvass to be made by 2112 2113 telephone of each residence located on each street, avenue or road 2114 within such municipality, or (4) a complete canvass of each residence 2115 within such municipality by any combination of such methods, for the 2116 purpose of ascertaining the name of any elector formerly residing on 2117 such street, avenue or road who has removed therefrom. [; provided in 2118 the odd-numbered years, no canvass need be conducted by the 2119 registrars in a town which holds its regular municipal election on the 2120 first Monday of May in odd-numbered years.] The Secretary of the State 2121 shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 2122 setting forth the procedure to be followed in conducting any such 2123 canvass by either mail or telephone.
- Sec. 48. Section 9-164e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):
- Before any action is taken under sections 9-164a, as amended by this act, 9-164b to 9-164f, inclusive, as amended by this act, 9-187 and 9-187a, as amended by this act, such proposed action shall be submitted by the legislative body to the municipal attorney of the municipality taking such action for approval as to conforming to law.
- Sec. 49. Section 9-164f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2023*):
- Nothing in sections 9-164a, [to] <u>as amended by this act, 9-164b, as</u> amended by this act, 9-164d, 9-164e, <u>as amended by this act, [inclusive,]</u> 9-187 and 9-187a, <u>as amended by this act, shall affect the election of registrars of voters.</u>
- Sec. 50. Section 9-164c of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective* 2138 *January* 1, 2023)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following			
sections:			
Section 1	from vassage	9-19h(b)	

Sec. 2	from passage	9-19i
Sec. 3	January 1, 2022	9-23n
Sec. 4	January 1, 2022	9-230
Sec. 5	January 1, 2022	9-23p
Sec. 6	from passage	New section
Sec. 7	from passage	9-17(c)
Sec. 8	October 1, 2021	1-4
Sec. 9	from passage	New section
Sec. 10	from passage	9-12(a)
Sec. 11	from passage	9-20
Sec. 12	from passage	9-261
Sec. 13	from passage	9-19j
Sec. 14	July 1, 2021	9-45
Sec. 15	July 1, 2021	9-46
Sec. 16	July 1, 2021	9-46a
Sec. 17	from passage	9-236
Sec. 18	from passage	9-225(a)
Sec. 19	from passage	9-226
Sec. 20	July 1, 2021	9-140(a) and (b)
Sec. 21	from passage	9-140b(a) to (c)
Sec. 22	from passage	9-140c
Sec. 23	from passage	9-140e
Sec. 24	from passage	9-147a
Sec. 25	from passage	9-150e
Sec. 26	from passage	9-159o
Sec. 27	from passage	New section
Sec. 28	from passage	New section
Sec. 29	October 1, 2021	9-135
Sec. 30	October 1, 2021	9-137
Sec. 31	from passage	9-453e
Sec. 32	from passage	9-453j
Sec. 33	from passage	9-453k(a)
Sec. 34	from passage	9-453o(a)
Sec. 35	from passage	9-404b(d)
Sec. 36	from passage	9-410(c)
Sec. 37	from passage	9-450
Sec. 38	from passage	9-212(a)
Sec. 39	from passage	9-320f(a)
Sec. 40	from passage	9-159q
Sec. 41	from passage	New section

Sec. 42	January 1, 2023	9-164(a)
Sec. 43	from passage	9-164a
Sec. 44	from passage	9-164b
Sec. 45	January 1, 2023	9-187a
Sec. 46	January 1, 2023	9-189a
Sec. 47	January 1, 2023	9-32(a)
Sec. 48	January 1, 2023	9-164e
Sec. 49	January 1, 2023	9-164f
Sec. 50	January 1, 2023	Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Sections 1(b)(2)(B)(i) and 3(b)(2)(B)(i), "such person's residence" was changed to "the town of residence of such person" for accuracy and consistency; in Sections 1(b)(2)(C) and 3(b)(2)(C), "in which such elector resides" was changed to "of residence of such elector" for consistency; Section 4(1), "services a mail" was changed to "services, a mail" for clarity; in Section 7(c)(2), "as well as" was changed to "and" for consistency; in Section 9, "provided such employee shall request" was changed to "if the employee requests" for accuracy; in Section 11(a)(2), the first sentence was rephrased for conciseness; in Sections 12(f) and 13(j), ", provided such legal representative shall submit" was changed to "if such legal representative submits" for accuracy; in Section 13(k), "in behalf of" was changed to "[in] on behalf of" for consistency; in Section 14(a), "violation or parole" was changed to "violation of parole" for accuracy; in Section 17(b)(1)(A), "in behalf of" was changed to "[in] on behalf of" for consistency; in Section 17(b)(1)(B), "or parked motor vehicle" was inserted for accuracy; in Section 17(b)(2), references to "subdivision (1) of this subsection" were changed to references to "subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this section" for accuracy, and "in lieu of the markers required by said subparagraph" was added for clarity; in Section 19(1), "fifteen, nor less" was changed to "fifteen [,] nor less" for consistency; in Section 19(2), "fifteen, nor less" was changed to "fifteen nor less" for consistency; in Section 25, "subsection [(c)] (b)" was changed to "subsection (c)" for accuracy; and in Section 39(a), "applicable, except that, for" was changed to "applicable. For" for clarity.

GAE Joint Favorable Subst.