



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 156

LCO No. 3887



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE AND
ABSENTEE VOTING.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-140 of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

4 (a) (1) [Application] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
5 section, application for an absentee ballot shall be made to the clerk of
6 the municipality in which the applicant is eligible to vote or has
7 applied for such eligibility. Any person who assists another person in
8 the completion of an application shall, in the space provided, sign the
9 application and print or type his name, residence address and
10 telephone number. Such signature shall be made under the penalties of
11 false statement in absentee balloting. The municipal clerk shall not
12 invalidate the application solely because it does not contain the name
13 of a person who assisted the applicant in the completion of the
14 application. The municipal clerk shall not distribute with an absentee
15 ballot application any material which promotes the success or defeat of
16 any candidate or referendum question. The municipal clerk shall

17 maintain a log of all absentee ballot applications provided under this
18 subsection, including the name and address of each person to whom
19 applications are provided and the number of applications provided to
20 each such person. Each absentee ballot application provided by the
21 municipal clerk shall be consecutively numbered and be stamped or
22 marked with the name of the municipality issuing the application. The
23 application shall be signed by the applicant under the penalties of false
24 statement in absentee balloting on [(1)] (A) the form prescribed by the
25 Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-139a, [(2)] (B) a form
26 provided by any federal department or agency if applicable pursuant
27 to section 9-153a, or [(3)] (C) any of the special forms of application
28 prescribed pursuant to section 9-150c, 9-153a, 9-153b, 9-153d, 9-153e, 9-
29 153f or 9-158d, if applicable. Any such absentee ballot applicant who is
30 unable to write may cause the application to be completed by an
31 authorized agent who shall, in the spaces provided for the date and
32 signature, write the date and name of the absentee ballot applicant
33 followed by the word "by" and his own signature. If the ballot is to be
34 mailed to the applicant, the applicant shall list the bona fide personal
35 mailing address of the applicant in the appropriate space on the
36 application.

37 [(b)] (2) A municipal clerk may transmit an application to a person
38 under this subsection by facsimile machine or other electronic means,
39 if so requested by the applicant. If a municipal clerk has a facsimile
40 machine or other electronic means, an applicant may return a
41 completed application to the clerk by such a machine or device,
42 provided the applicant shall also mail the original of the completed
43 application to the clerk, either separately or with the absentee ballot
44 that is issued to the applicant. If the clerk does not receive such
45 original application by the close of the polls on the day of the election,
46 primary or referendum, the absentee ballot shall not be counted.

47 (b) On and after July 1, 2019:

48 (1) Application for an absentee ballot may be made to the Secretary
49 of the State through an online system established and maintained by

50 the Secretary for such purpose, provided an applicant's signature is in
51 a database described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and such
52 signature may be imported into such online system.

53 (2) In order for an application for an absentee ballot to be submitted
54 through the online system described in subdivision (1) of this
55 subsection, the applicant's signature shall be obtained from a database
56 described in subsection (b) of section 9-19k and the applicant shall, on
57 an online form prescribed by the Secretary, (A) type his or her name,
58 (B) indicate the municipality in which such applicant is eligible to vote
59 or has applied for such eligibility, and (C) mark a box associated with
60 the following statement:

61 "By clicking on the box below, I swear or affirm all of the following
62 under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting:

63 1. I am the person whose name is provided on this form, and I
64 desire to apply for an absentee ballot.

65 2. I am eligible to vote in the municipality provided on this form or
66 have applied for such eligibility.

67 3. I authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles or other
68 Connecticut state agency to transmit to the Connecticut Secretary of
69 the State my signature that is on file with such agency and understand
70 that such signature will be used by the Secretary on this online
71 application for an absentee ballot as if I had signed this form
72 personally."

73 (3) Upon receipt of any submitted application for an absentee ballot
74 through the online system described in subdivision (1) of this
75 subsection, the Secretary shall transmit such application to the clerk of
76 the municipality indicated therein.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	9-140(a) and (b)
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GAE *Joint Favorable*