

History of Changes to Absentee Ballot Eligibility in Connecticut

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Issue

Provide a history of changes since 1965 to the law codifying reasons for which electors may vote by absentee ballot in Connecticut, currently [CGS § 9-135](#) (amended this year by [PA 20-3, July Special Session](#)).

Summary

Since first codifying reasons for which electors may vote by absentee ballot in 1933, it appears the General Assembly has amended the law 26 times. The Legislative Library compiled the legislative histories of the relevant portions of acts from 1965 to 1990. The table below lists these 18 most recent acts and a brief summary of the changes. For an overview of changes to the constitution before then, see this [2012 report](#).

Table 1. History of Changes to § CGS 9-135 since 1965

Year	Public Act	Summary of Change
1965	PA 74, S. 1	Implemented the voter-approved state constitutional amendment which added to absentee ballot eligibility where “tenets of his religion forbid secular activity”
1967	PA 678, S. 1	Expanded absentee ballot eligibility to (1) out-of-town college students and (2) religious community members temporarily residing outside of town

Table 1 (continued)

Year	Public Act	Summary of Change
1967	PA 831, S. 6	Technical change to clarify that absentee voting provisions apply to all qualified electors including members of the armed forces
1969	PA 2, S. 1	Expanded absentee ballot eligibility to spouses of out-of-town college students
1969	PA 69, S. 2	Expanded absentee ballot eligibility for statewide elections to those registered Connecticut voters who have moved towns within the past six months
1975	PA 75-595	Expanded absentee ballot eligibility to individuals confined in correctional institutions whose privileges as electors have not been forfeited
1976	PA 76-50	Made technical changes
1976	PA 76-435	Made technical changes
1979	PA 79-189	Repealed eligibility for absentee voting of registered Connecticut voters who have moved towns within the past six months
1981	PA 81-238	Eliminated reference to certain conditions under which absence from town of voting residence during all voting hours at a state, municipal, or special election entitled electors to vote by absentee ballot and granted this entitlement to electors on the basis of such absence for any reason
1981	PA 81-472	Made technical changes
1983	PA 83-254	Authorized absentee voting by election official performing duties at polling place other than his or her own
1984	PA 84-546	Made technical change
1986	PA 86-179	Made technical changes
1987	PA 87-320	Expanded use of absentee ballots to all referenda
2005	PA 05-235	Prohibited anyone from misrepresenting the eligibility requirements for voting by absentee ballot
2012	PA 12-193	Specified that town clerks, registrars of voters, and their staff are among the primary, election, and referendum officials who may vote by absentee ballot if their duties require them to be absent from their polling place during voting hours and made technical changes
2020	PA 20-3 July 2020 Special Session	For the 2020 state election, expanded the reasons for which electors may vote by absentee ballot to include the COVID-19 sickness

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