



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 7228***

*January Session, 2025*



***AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REFORMS TO THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS IN THIS STATE.***

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

1       Section 1. Section 9-140c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

3       (a) (1) The municipal clerk shall retain the envelopes containing  
4       absentee ballots received by him under section 9-140b and shall not  
5       open such envelopes. The municipal clerk shall endorse over his  
6       signature, upon each outer envelope as he receives it, (A) the date and  
7       precise time of its receipt, and (B) the method of its receipt, in  
8       accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection. The  
9       clerk shall make an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of all such  
10      endorsements, and at the close of the polls shall deliver such affidavit to  
11      the head moderator, who shall endorse the time of its receipt and return  
12      it to the clerk after all counting is complete. The clerk shall preserve the  
13      affidavit for one hundred eighty days in accordance with the  
14      requirements of section 9-150b. The clerk shall keep a list of the names  
15      of the applicants who return absentee ballots to the clerk under section  
16      9-140b. The list shall be preserved as a public record as required by  
17      section 9-150b.

18      (2) The municipal clerk shall record on the outer envelope of each

19 absentee ballot returned under section 9-140b whether such ballot was  
20 (A) sent by the United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier,  
21 courier or messenger service, (B) deposited in a secure drop box, in  
22 which case the location of such drop box shall also be so recorded, (C)  
23 returned in person by an elector, or (D) returned in person by the  
24 designee or immediate family member of an elector. As soon as  
25 reasonably practicable after the close of the polls at an election or  
26 primary, the municipal clerk shall submit to the Secretary of the State a  
27 report detailing the total count of all absentee ballots returned for such  
28 election or primary, broken down by each method described in  
29 subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision.

30 (b) (1) Beginning not earlier than the [seventh] fourteenth day before  
31 the election, primary or referendum and on any weekday thereafter, all  
32 absentee ballots received by the municipal clerk at or prior to eleven  
33 o'clock a.m. of such day may be sorted into voting districts by the  
34 municipal clerk and checked as provided in this subsection. On any  
35 such day, beginning as soon as the ballots have been sorted, the  
36 registrars of voters, without opening the outer envelopes, may check the  
37 names of the applicants returning ballots on the official checklist to be  
38 used at the election, primary or referendum by indicating "absentee" or  
39 "A" preceding each such name and, if unaffiliated electors are  
40 authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two  
41 parties, the designation of the party in which the applicants are voting  
42 preceding each such name. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in  
43 the respective polling places, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-  
44 147a, as amended by this act, the registrars shall also place such  
45 indication on a duplicate checklist to be retained by the municipal clerk  
46 until the municipal clerk delivers such duplicate checklist to the  
47 registrars, in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, for the use  
48 of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

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

53 subsection not later than such last day.

54 (c) If the name of the applicant returning the ballot is not on the  
55 official checklist for any polling place in such municipality, the  
56 registrars shall endorse on the face of such outer envelope the word  
57 "rejected", followed by a statement of the reasons for rejection, and the  
58 outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot counted.

59 (d) After such checking has been completed on any such day, the  
60 municipal clerk shall seal the unopened ballots in a package and retain  
61 them in a safe place.

62 (e) (1) [Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
63 ballots] (A) Ballots received, sorted and checked prior to five o'clock  
64 p.m. on the (i) fourth day before the election, primary or referendum  
65 may be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at five o'clock  
66 p.m. on such fourth day, (ii) third day before the election, primary or  
67 referendum may be so delivered at five o'clock p.m. on such third day,  
68 and (iii) second day before the election, primary or referendum may be  
69 so delivered at five o'clock p.m. on such second day; and

70 (B) Ballots received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. on the last day  
71 before the election, primary or referendum that were not already  
72 delivered under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be delivered  
73 by the municipal clerk to the registrars [between ten o'clock a.m. and  
74 twelve o'clock noon] at eight o'clock a.m. on the day of the election or  
75 primary and at twelve o'clock noon on the day of a referendum.

76 (2) Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling  
77 places [,] pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by  
78 this act, each time ballots are delivered pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
79 this subsection, the municipal clerk shall also deliver to the registrars at  
80 [this] such time a copy of the duplicate checklist provided for in  
81 subsection (b) of this section, current as of the time of such delivery, for  
82 the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this  
83 section.

84       [(2) The municipal clerk may deliver the ballots at a time that is later  
85 than the time provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, provided  
86 such time is mutually agreed upon by the municipal clerk and registrars  
87 and is not later than eight o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary  
88 or referendum.]

89       (f) Absentee ballots timely received by the clerk after eleven o'clock  
90 a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or referendum shall be  
91 sorted into voting districts by the clerk and retained by the clerk  
92 separately until delivered to the registrars of voters for checking.

93       (g) Any or all of such ballots received after eleven o'clock a.m. of such  
94 last day before an election, primary or referendum and before six o'clock  
95 p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall, upon  
96 request of the registrars, be delivered to the registrars by the municipal  
97 clerk at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or  
98 referendum for checking. [ or at a later time mutually agreed upon by  
99 the clerk and registrars, provided such time is not later than eight o'clock  
100 p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.]

101       (h) Absentee ballots received after six o'clock p.m. on the day of the  
102 election, primary or referendum and any ballots received prior to six  
103 o'clock p.m. of such day which were not delivered earlier shall be  
104 delivered to the registrars at the close of the polls for checking.  
105 [Although absentee ballots shall be checked by the registrars of voters  
106 at various times throughout the election, primary or referendum day,  
107 absentee ballots may be counted at one single time during such day.]

108       (i) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the absentee  
109 ballot counters, upon receipt of the ballots delivered by the municipal  
110 clerk to the registrars at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election,  
111 primary or referendum and at the close of the polls pursuant to  
112 subsections (g) and (h) of this section, shall check the names of the  
113 applicants returning ballots on the duplicate checklist in the same  
114 manner as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

115       (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,

116 the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m.  
117 on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall be called in to  
118 the appropriate polling places where they shall be checked by the  
119 checkers on the official checklists, and they shall also be checked by the  
120 absentee ballot counters on the duplicate checklist required under  
121 subsection (b) of this section.

122 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place  
123 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the  
124 names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. on  
125 the day of the election, primary or referendum shall be checked by the  
126 absentee ballot counters and checkers at such polling place on the  
127 official checklist used at such polling place.

128 (3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,  
129 the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at the close of the  
130 polls shall be checked by the absentee ballot counters on the official  
131 checklists used at the polling places and such official checklists, bearing  
132 the certifications required by section 9-307, shall be delivered by the  
133 registrars or assistant registrars to the central counting moderator for  
134 that purpose.

135 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place  
136 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the  
137 official checklist used at such polling place shall remain in such polling  
138 place for checking by the absentee ballot counters at such polling place.

139 (4) If the name of an applicant returning a ballot has been checked on  
140 the official checklist as having voted in person the absentee ballot  
141 counters shall, in checking the ballots, endorse on the face of the outer  
142 envelope the word "rejected" followed by a statement of the reason for  
143 rejection, and the outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot  
144 counted.

145 (5) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,  
146 when central counting is completed and the result is announced, the  
147 central counting moderator shall deliver the duplicate checklist, the

148 official checklists and the returns required by section 9-150b, to the head  
149 moderator.

150 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place  
151 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, and  
152 such counting is completed and the result for such polling place is  
153 announced, the moderator for such polling place shall deliver the  
154 official checklist used at such polling place and the return required by  
155 section 9-150b to the head moderator.

156 (j) Each time absentee ballots are delivered by the clerk to the  
157 registrars pursuant to this section, the clerk and registrars shall execute  
158 an affidavit of delivery and receipt stating the number of ballots  
159 delivered. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for the period prescribed  
160 in section 9-150b.

161 (k) [The] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
162 the absentee ballot counters shall count, in the manner provided in  
163 section 9-150a, as amended by this act, each group of absentee ballots  
164 upon receipt from the registrars.

165 (2) Whenever absentee ballots are to be processed before the day of  
166 the election, primary or referendum pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
167 subsection (c) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the absentee  
168 ballot counters shall process, in the manner provided in section 3 of this  
169 act, each group of absentee ballots upon receipt from the registrars.

170 (l) The municipal clerk shall retain all outer envelopes containing  
171 absentee ballots received by him after the close of the polls, unopened,  
172 for the period prescribed in section 9-150b.

173 Sec. 2. Section 9-147a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
174 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

175 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) or (c) of this section, at any  
176 election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots shall, within  
177 existing resources, be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a,

178 as amended by this act, at a central location designated by the registrars  
179 of voters in writing to the municipal clerk at least twenty days before  
180 the election, primary or referendum, which location shall be published  
181 in the warning for the election, primary or referendum. Except as  
182 provided in subsection (b) of this section, if unaffiliated electors are  
183 authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two  
184 parties, all absentee ballots shall be separated, counted, tallied and  
185 placed in depository envelopes by voting district. Any member of the  
186 public may observe the counting of absentee ballots at such central  
187 location, provided no candidate for election or nomination shall be  
188 allowed to participate in such counting, except (1) a municipal clerk or  
189 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (2) a  
190 deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar  
191 of voters, performing such official's duties.

192 (b) At any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots may  
193 be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a, as amended by  
194 this act, in the respective polling places if the registrars of voters agree  
195 that such absentee ballots should be so counted. If unaffiliated electors  
196 are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of  
197 two parties, absentee ballots may be counted in the respective polling  
198 places if the parties agree that such absentee ballots should be so  
199 counted. Any election official serving in a polling place may observe the  
200 counting of absentee ballots at such polling place, provided no  
201 candidate for election or nomination shall be allowed within such  
202 polling place during the hours of voting for any purpose other than  
203 casting such candidate's vote and no such candidate shall be allowed to  
204 participate in such counting, except (1) a municipal clerk or registrar of  
205 voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (2) a deputy registrar  
206 of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,  
207 performing such official's duties.

208 (c) (1) Absentee ballots may be processed before the day of an  
209 election, primary or referendum in the manner provided in section 3 of  
210 this act. Any such processing shall take place at a central location  
211 designated by the registrars of voters in writing to the municipal clerk

212 at least ten days before such election, primary or referendum, which  
213 location shall be published in the warning for such election, primary or  
214 referendum.

215 (2) If absentee ballots are to be processed pursuant to subdivision (1)  
216 of this subsection, the registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall  
217 jointly certify such fact in writing to the Secretary of the State at least ten  
218 days before such election, primary or referendum. Such written  
219 certification shall (A) include the name, street address and relevant  
220 contact information associated with the designated central location, and  
221 (B) list the name and address of each absentee ballot counter appointed  
222 pursuant to section 9-147c. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove  
223 such written certification not later than two days after receipt of such  
224 certification and may require the appointment of one or more additional  
225 absentee ballot counters.

226 (3) In the case of absentee ballots delivered to the registrars on the  
227 day of such election, primary or referendum, nothing in this subsection  
228 shall preclude the counting of such absentee ballots in the respective  
229 polling places pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

230 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) (a) Notwithstanding the  
231 provisions of section 9-150a of the general statutes, as amended by this  
232 act, whenever absentee ballots are processed before the day of an  
233 election, primary or referendum pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
234 subsection (c) of section 9-147a of the general statutes, as amended by  
235 this act:

236 (1) Not earlier than five o'clock p.m. on the fourth day before such  
237 election, primary or referendum, the absentee ballot counters shall  
238 proceed to the central counting location at the times designated by the  
239 registrars of voters;

240 (2) At the time each group of ballots is delivered pursuant to  
241 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 9-140c  
242 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the counters shall  
243 proceed as hereinafter provided;



244 (3) Except with respect to ballots marked "Rejected" pursuant to  
245 section 9-140c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or other  
246 applicable law, the counters shall then remove the inner envelopes from  
247 the outer envelopes, shall note the total number of absentee ballots  
248 received and shall report such total to the moderator. The counters shall  
249 similarly note and separately so report the total numbers of presidential  
250 ballots and overseas ballots received pursuant to sections 9-158a to 9-  
251 158m, inclusive, of the general statutes;

252 (4) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as  
253 required by section 9-140a of the general statutes, such inner envelope  
254 shall not be opened or the ballot removed therefrom, and such inner  
255 envelope shall be replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be  
256 marked "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the  
257 counters. The registrars of voters shall use best efforts to notify each  
258 absentee ballot applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected" under this  
259 subdivision for the purpose of advising that (A) such applicant's ballot  
260 has been rejected, and (B) such applicant may still be able to vote in  
261 person on the day of the election, primary or referendum; and

262 (5) Not earlier than the day of such election, primary or referendum,  
263 and after the duties under subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this  
264 subsection have been performed, absentee ballots shall be counted in  
265 the manner provided in subsections (e) to (m), inclusive, of section 9-  
266 150a of the general statutes.

267 (b) In accordance with instructions that shall be prescribed by the  
268 Secretary of the State not later than ten days before such election,  
269 primary or referendum, each group of ballots delivered pursuant to  
270 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 9-140c  
271 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall be kept secure (1)  
272 throughout the performance of the duties under subdivisions (1) to (4),  
273 inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section, and (2) after such performance  
274 until such time on the day of such election, primary or referendum that  
275 absentee ballots are counted in the manner provided in subsections (e)  
276 to (m), inclusive, of section 9-150a of the general statutes. The

277 requirements of this subsection shall be in addition to all other  
278 applicable requirements under title 9 of the general statutes regarding  
279 the security of absentee ballots and any related materials.

280 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 9-150a of the general statutes is  
281 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
282 *1, 2026*):

283 (d) (1) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as  
284 required by section 9-140a, such inner envelope shall not be opened or  
285 the ballot removed therefrom, and such inner envelope shall be replaced  
286 in the opened outer envelope which shall be marked "Rejected" and the  
287 reason therefor endorsed thereon by the counters. The registrars of  
288 voters shall use best efforts to notify each absentee ballot applicant  
289 whose ballot was marked "Rejected" under this subdivision for the  
290 purpose of advising that (A) such applicant's ballot has been rejected,  
291 and (B) such applicant may still be able to vote in person on the day of  
292 the election, primary or referendum.

293 (2) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the  
294 ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r and  
295 has not met the requirements of subsection (e) of section 9-23r, the  
296 counters shall replace the ballot in the opened inner envelope, replace  
297 the inner envelope in the opened outer envelope and mark "Rejected as  
298 an Absentee Ballot" and endorse the reason for such rejection on the  
299 outer envelope, and the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot for  
300 federal offices only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive. The  
301 registrars of voters shall use best efforts to notify each absentee ballot  
302 applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot"  
303 under this subdivision for the purpose of advising that (A) such  
304 applicant's ballot has been rejected, and (B) such applicant may still be  
305 able to vote in person on the day of the election, primary or referendum,  
306 provided such applicant meets the requirements of subsection (d) of  
307 section 9-23r.

308 Sec. 5. Section 9-159o of the general statutes is repealed and the

309 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

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

333 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-150a of the general statutes is  
334 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
335 *1, 2026*):

336 (a) The absentee ballot counters shall proceed to the central counting  
337 location or to the respective polling places when counting is to take  
338 place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this  
339 act, [at the times designated by the registrars of voters] not later than  
340 eight o'clock a.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.

341 Sec. 7. Section 9-163bb of the general statutes is repealed and the  
342 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

343 (a) Early voting ballots received by the municipal clerk prior to the  
344 day of an election or primary, and same-day election registration ballots  
345 received by the municipal clerk prior to the day of a regular election [ ]  
346 shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars between six  
347 o'clock a.m. and [ten] eight o'clock a.m. on the day of the election or  
348 primary.

349 (b) The ballot counters for such early voting ballots and same-day  
350 election registration ballots shall proceed to the central counting  
351 location or to the respective polling places when counting is to take  
352 place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this  
353 act, at the time, between six o'clock a.m. and [ten] eight o'clock a.m. on  
354 the day of the election or primary, designated by the registrars of voters.  
355 At the time such ballots are delivered to the ballot counters pursuant to  
356 subsection (a) of this section, the ballot counters shall perform any  
357 checking of such ballots and proceed, as nearly as possible, as provided  
358 in section 9-150a, as amended by this act.

359 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 9-404b of the general statutes is  
360 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
361 *1, 2026*):

362 (a) The petition form for candidacies for nomination to state or  
363 district office shall be prescribed and provided by the Secretary of the  
364 State, and signatures shall be obtained only on such form or on duplicate  
365 petition pages produced in accordance with the provisions of section 9-  
366 404a. Such form shall include, at the top of the form and in bold print,  
367 the following:

368 WARNING  
369 IT IS A CRIME TO SIGN THIS PETITION  
370 IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON

371 WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY TO DO SO  
372 AND YOU MAY NOT SIGN THIS PETITION  
373 IF YOU ARE NOT AN ELECTOR.

374 The form shall include a statement of instructions to persons using the  
375 form and shall indicate the date and time by which it shall be filed and  
376 the person with whom it shall be filed. The form shall provide spaces  
377 for the names and addresses of the candidates, the offices to which  
378 nomination is sought and the political party holding the primary, and  
379 shall provide lines for the signatures, dates of such signatures, street  
380 addresses, dates of birth and the printing of the names of enrolled party  
381 members supporting the person or persons on behalf of whose  
382 candidacy the petition is used.

383 Sec. 9. Section 9-409 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
384 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

385 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, petition forms  
386 for candidacies for nomination to municipal office or for election as  
387 members of town committees shall be available from the [registrar]  
388 Secretary of the State beginning on the day following the making of the  
389 party's endorsement of a candidate or candidates for such office or  
390 position, or beginning on the day following the final day for the making  
391 of such endorsement under the provisions of section 9-391, whichever  
392 comes first.

393 (b) Petition forms for candidacies for nomination to the municipal  
394 offices of state senator and state representative shall be available from  
395 the [registrar] Secretary of the State beginning on the seventy-seventh  
396 day preceding the day of the primary for such office.

397 (c) Any person who requests a petition form shall give his name and  
398 address and the name, address and office or position sought of each  
399 candidate for whom the petition is being obtained, and shall file a  
400 statement signed by each such candidate that he consents to be a

401 candidate for such office or position. In the case of the municipal offices  
402 of state senator and state representative, each such candidate shall  
403 include on the statement of consent his name as he authorizes it to  
404 appear on the ballot. Upon receiving such information and statement,  
405 the [registrar] Secretary of the State shall type or print on a petition form  
406 the name and address of each such candidate, the office sought and the  
407 political party holding the primary. The [registrar] Secretary shall give  
408 to any person requesting such form one or more petition pages, suitable  
409 for duplication, as the [registrar] Secretary deems necessary. If the  
410 person is requesting the form on behalf of an indigent candidate or a  
411 group of indigent candidates listed on the same petition, the [registrar]  
412 Secretary shall give the person a number of petition pages determined  
413 by the [registrar] Secretary as at least two times the number needed to  
414 contain the required number of signatures for a candidacy for  
415 nomination to municipal office or a number of petition pages  
416 determined by the [registrar] Secretary as at least five times the number  
417 needed to contain the required number of signatures for a candidacy for  
418 election as a town committee member. An original petition page filled  
419 in by the [registrar] Secretary may be duplicated by or on behalf of the  
420 candidate or candidates listed on the page and signatures may be  
421 obtained on such duplicates. The duplicates may be filed in the same  
422 manner and shall be subject to the same requirements as original  
423 petition pages. All information relative to primary petitions shall be a  
424 public record.

425       Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 9-410 of the general statutes is  
426 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
427 *1, 2026*):

428       (a) The petition form for candidacies for nomination to municipal  
429 office or for election as members of town committees shall be prescribed  
430 and provided by the Secretary of the State, [and provided by the  
431 registrar of the municipality in which the candidacy is to be filed or  
432 duplicate petition pages shall be produced in accordance with section 9-  
433 409,] and signatures shall be obtained only on such [forms or] form or  
434 on such duplicate petition pages produced in accordance with the

435 provisions of section 9-409, as amended by this act. Such form shall  
436 include, at the top of the form and in bold print, the following:

437 WARNING

438 IT IS A CRIME TO SIGN THIS PETITION

439 IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON

440 WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY TO DO SO

441 AND YOU MAY NOT SIGN THIS PETITION

442 IF YOU ARE NOT AN ELECTOR.

443 The form shall include thereon a statement of instructions to persons  
444 using the form and shall indicate the date and time by which it shall be  
445 filed and the person with whom it shall be filed. The form shall provide  
446 spaces for the names and addresses of the candidates, the offices to  
447 which nomination is sought or the positions to which election is sought  
448 and the political party holding the primary, and shall provide lines for  
449 the signatures, dates of such signatures, street addresses, dates of birth  
450 and the printing of the names of enrolled party members supporting the  
451 person or persons on behalf of whose candidacy the petition is used.  
452 Only as many candidates may be proposed in any one primary petition  
453 for the same office or position as are to be nominated or chosen by such  
454 party for such office or position; but any one primary petition may  
455 propose as many candidates for different offices or positions as there are  
456 nominations to be made or positions to be filled.

457 Sec. 11. Section 9-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
458 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

459 Upon the close of the polls, the moderator, in the presence of the other  
460 election officials, shall immediately lock the voting tabulator against  
461 voting and immediately cause the vote totals for all candidates and  
462 questions to be produced. The moderator shall, in the order of the offices  
463 as their titles are arranged on the ballot, read and announce in distinct

464 tones the result as shown, giving the number indicated and indicating  
465 the candidate to whom such total belongs, and shall read the votes  
466 recorded for each office on the ballot. The moderator shall also, in the  
467 same manner, announce the vote on each constitutional amendment,  
468 proposition or other question voted on. The vote so announced by the  
469 moderator shall be taken down by each checker and recorded on the  
470 tally sheets. Each checker shall record the number of votes received for  
471 each candidate on the ballot and also the number received by each  
472 person for whom write-in ballots were cast. The moderator shall make  
473 a preliminary list from the vote totals produced by the tabulators and  
474 shall prepare such preliminary list for transmission to the Secretary of  
475 the State pursuant to section 9-314. [After such preliminary list has been  
476 transmitted to the Secretary of the State, the canvass may be temporarily  
477 interrupted, during which time] The canvass may be temporarily  
478 interrupted only after such preliminary list has been transmitted to the  
479 Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-314,  
480 or only in the case of an event described in subparagraphs (B) to (G),  
481 inclusive, of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-174a or a  
482 declaration of an emergency by the Governor or the President of the  
483 United States. During such temporary interruption, the moderator shall  
484 (1) return the keys for all tabulators to the registrars of voters, (2) seal  
485 the tabulators against voting or being tampered with, (3) prepare and  
486 seal individual envelopes for all (A) write-in ballots, (B) absentee ballots,  
487 (C) moderators' returns, and (D) other notes, worksheets or written  
488 materials used at the election, and (4) store all such tabulators and  
489 envelopes in a secure place or places directed by the registrars of voters.  
490 At the end of such temporary interruption, the moderator shall receive  
491 such keys from the registrars and shall take possession of and break the  
492 seal on all such tabulators and envelopes for the purpose of completing  
493 the canvass. The result totals shall remain in full public view until the  
494 statement of canvass and all other reports have been fully completed  
495 and signed by the moderator, checkers and registrars, or assistant  
496 registrars, as the case may be. Any other remaining result of the votes  
497 cast shall be publicly announced by the moderator not later than forty-  
498 eight hours after the close of the polls. Such public announcement shall



499 consist of reading both the name of each candidate, with the designating  
500 number and letter on the ballot and the absentee vote as furnished to the  
501 moderator by the absentee ballot counters, and also the vote cast for and  
502 against each question submitted. While such announcement is being  
503 made, ample opportunity shall be given to any person lawfully present  
504 to compare the results so announced with the result totals provided by  
505 the tabulator and any necessary corrections shall then and there be made  
506 by the moderator, checkers and registrars or assistant registrars, after  
507 which the compartments of the voting tabulator shall be closed and  
508 locked. In canvassing, recording and announcing the result, the election  
509 officials shall be guided by any instructions furnished by the Secretary  
510 of the State.

511       Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 9-311 of the general statutes is  
512 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
513 *1, 2026*):

514       (a) If, within three days after an election, it appears to the moderator  
515 that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such  
516 moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written  
517 notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials, consisting of at least  
518 two checkers of different political parties and at least two absentee ballot  
519 counters of different political parties who served at such election, and  
520 the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the election was  
521 held and such other officials as may be required to conduct such  
522 recanvass. Such written notice shall require the clerk or registrars of  
523 voters, as the case may be, to bring with them the depository envelopes  
524 required by section 9-150a, as amended by this act, the package of write-  
525 in ballots provided for in section 9-310, the absentee ballot applications,  
526 the list of absentee ballot applications, the registry list and the  
527 moderators' returns and shall require such recanvass officials to meet at  
528 a specified time not later than the fifth business day after such election  
529 to recanvass the returns of [a] each voting tabulator [or voting tabulators  
530 or] and all absentee ballots [or] and write-in ballots used in [such  
531 district] the municipality in such election. If any of such recanvass  
532 officials are unavailable at the time of the recanvass, the registrar of

533 voters of the same political party as that of the recanvass official unable  
534 to attend shall designate another elector having previous training and  
535 experience in the conduct of elections to take his place. Before such  
536 recanvass is made, such moderator shall give notice, in writing, to the  
537 chairperson of the town committee of each political party which  
538 nominated candidates for the election, and, in the case of a state election,  
539 not later than twenty-four hours after a determination is made  
540 regarding the need for a recanvass to the Secretary of the State, of the  
541 time and place where such recanvass is to be made; and each such  
542 chairperson may send party representatives to be present at such  
543 recanvass. Such party representatives may observe, but no one other  
544 than a recanvass official may take part in the recanvass. If any  
545 irregularity in the recanvass procedure is noted by such a party  
546 representative, he shall be permitted to present evidence of such  
547 irregularity in any contest relating to the election.

548       Sec. 13. Subsection (d) of section 9-311 of the general statutes is  
549 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
550 *1, 2026*):

551       (d) (1) The moderator may, when any disorder arises that interferes  
552 with the conduct of a recanvass, including any attempt by a person other  
553 than a recanvass official to take part in such recanvass or by such a  
554 person to communicate with a recanvass official, [other than the  
555 moderator,] and the offender refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful  
556 authority, order that the offender be removed by the recanvass officials  
557 from such recanvass until the offender conforms to order or, if need be,  
558 until such recanvass is completed.

559       (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
560 subsection, one party representative from each political party that  
561 nominated a candidate for the election may communicate directly with  
562 the moderator during a recanvass.

563       Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) At least thirty days prior to  
564 each primary and election, the Secretary of the State shall (1) conduct a

565 test of the election management system to be used at such primary or  
566 election, and (2) provide a demonstration to registrars of voters on such  
567 system's use, including, but not limited to, entry of voting results after  
568 the close of the polls at such primary or election. At least one registrar  
569 of voters from each municipality shall attend such test and  
570 demonstration.

571 Sec. 15. Subsection (e) of section 9-163aa of the general statutes is  
572 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
573 *1, 2026*):

574 (e) (1) If the elector is allowed to vote, the registrars of voters shall  
575 provide such elector with an early voting ballot and early voting  
576 envelope and shall make a record of such issuance. The elector shall  
577 complete an affirmation printed upon the back of the early voting  
578 envelope and shall declare under oath that the voter has not previously  
579 voted in the election or primary. The affirmation shall be in the form  
580 substantially as follows and signed by the voter:

581 AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty  
582 of false statement (perjury), that:

583 1. I am the elector appearing in person to vote at an election or  
584 primary prior to the day of such election or primary.

585 2. I am eligible to vote in the election or primary indicated for today.

586 3. I have identified myself to the satisfaction of the registrars of voters.

587 4. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote  
588 otherwise than by this ballot at this election or primary.

589 5. I have received an early voting ballot for the purpose of so voting.

590 .... (Signature of voter)

591 (2) During the period of early voting at each election and primary  
592 held on or after January 1, 2026, for the purpose of ensuring that each

593 elector in a municipality divided into voting districts has been provided  
 594 the early voting ballot for such elector's proper respective voting district,  
 595 the registrars of voters shall display, at each location designated for the  
 596 conduct of early voting in such municipality, at least one poster  
 597 explaining how electors are able to look up their proper respective  
 598 voting districts through the online voter registration system described  
 599 in section 9-19k.

600       Sec. 16. (Effective July 1, 2025) The sum of one million three hundred  
 601 twenty thousand dollars is appropriated to the office of the Secretary of  
 602 the State from the General Fund, for each of the fiscal years ending June  
 603 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, for purposes related to the administration of  
 604 early voting.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2026	9-140c
Sec. 2	January 1, 2026	9-147a
Sec. 3	January 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 4	January 1, 2026	9-150a(d)
Sec. 5	January 1, 2026	9-159o
Sec. 6	January 1, 2026	9-150a(a)
Sec. 7	January 1, 2026	9-163bb
Sec. 8	January 1, 2026	9-404b(a)
Sec. 9	January 1, 2026	9-409
Sec. 10	January 1, 2026	9-410(a)
Sec. 11	January 1, 2026	9-309
Sec. 12	January 1, 2026	9-311(a)
Sec. 13	January 1, 2026	9-311(d)
Sec. 14	January 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 15	January 1, 2026	9-163aa(e)
Sec. 16	July 1, 2025	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

The provisions of Section 11 were redrafted for clarity; and in Section 16, "the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026" was changed to "the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027" for accuracy.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*