



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 7229***

LCO No. 6374



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESSIBILITY TO ABSENTEE BALLOTS  
FOR ELECTORS IN STATE CUSTODY.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-139a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

3 (a) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish the following  
4 materials to municipal clerks: The absentee ballot facsimile, the  
5 application for absentee ballot authorized for use at each election or  
6 primary, the inner envelope, the outer envelope provided for the return  
7 of the ballot to the municipal clerk, the instructions for the use of the  
8 absentee ballot and the envelope for mailing of such forms by the clerk  
9 to the absentee ballot applicant.

10 (b) The application for absentee ballot shall be in the form of a  
11 statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee  
12 balloting. Each application shall contain (1) spaces for the signature  
13 under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting of any person  
14 who assists the applicant in the completion of an application together

15 with the information required in section 9-140, as amended by this act,  
16 (2) spaces for the signature and the printed or typed name of the  
17 applicant, and (3) a clear and conspicuous notation of the year for which  
18 such application's use is authorized.

19 (c) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish to the  
20 Department of Correction an application for absentee ballot form for use  
21 within Department of Correction facilities that shall contain spaces for  
22 all information required under subsection (b) of this section and shall be  
23 consecutively numbered. Each such form shall indicate that such form  
24 is only for use by an absentee ballot applicant who is incarcerated in a  
25 Department of Correction facility and that such applicant is required to  
26 provide in the appropriate space on such form a mailing address at the  
27 Department of Correction facility in order for an absentee ballot to be  
28 mailed to such applicant.

29 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The instructions for the use of the absentee ballot shall be in  
30 plain language and shall include the steps to be taken if a vote is to be  
31 cancelled or changed, and shall also contain a simple and concise  
32 restatement of the provisions of subsection (l) of section 9-150a and  
33 section 9-159o concerning rejection of ballots marked in such manner as  
34 to identify the voters casting them, and withdrawal of ballots by persons  
35 who find they are able to vote at the polls.

36 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) A sufficient supply of such instructions and envelopes shall  
37 be printed to supply the number which the municipal clerk requests or  
38 the Secretary of the State deems sufficient.

39 Sec. 2. Subsection (k) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is  
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
41 *1, 2026*):

42 (k) (1) A person shall register with the [town] municipal clerk before  
43 distributing five or more absentee ballot applications for an election,  
44 primary or referendum, not including applications distributed to such  
45 person's immediate family. Such requirement shall not apply to a person

46 who is the designee of an applicant or to any employee of the  
47 Department of Correction who provides the application for absentee  
48 ballot form prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a, as  
49 amended by this act, to incarcerated absentee ballot applicants.

50 (2) The municipal clerk shall reject the application of any absentee  
51 ballot applicant made upon the form prescribed under subsection (c) of  
52 section 9-139a, as amended by this act, if such form indicates any  
53 address other than an address at a Department of Correction facility.  
54 The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all applications of  
55 incarcerated absentee ballot applicants received by such municipal  
56 clerk, which log shall indicate the name and address of each applicant,  
57 the date of receipt of each application and the date such municipal clerk  
58 mailed the absentee ballot to such applicant or the reason why such  
59 application was rejected.

60 [(2)] (3) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications shall  
61 maintain a list of the names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot  
62 applicants who receive such applications, and shall file such list with  
63 the [town] municipal clerk prior to the date of the primary, election or  
64 referendum for which the applications were so distributed, except that  
65 such requirements shall not apply to any employee of the Department  
66 of Correction who provides the application for absentee ballot form  
67 prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a, as amended by this  
68 act, to incarcerated absentee ballot applicants. Any person who  
69 distributes absentee ballot applications and receives an executed  
70 application shall forthwith file the application with the [town]  
71 municipal clerk.

72 Sec. 3. Section 9-14a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
73 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

74 Any person in the custody of the state being held at a [community  
75 correctional center or a correctional institution] Department of  
76 Correction facility, whose voting rights have not been denied, shall be

77 deemed to be absent from the town or city of which [he] such person is  
78 an inhabitant for purposes of voting, notwithstanding that such [center  
79 or institution] facility may be situated within such town or city.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-139a
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-140(k)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-14a

Section 1	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-139a
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-140(k)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-14a

***Statement of Purpose:***

To allow for eligible electors incarcerated in Department of Correction facilities to apply for absentee ballots.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*