



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 1163

LCO No. 5198



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS
APPOINTED TO SERVE AS MODERATORS AT ELECTIONS AND
PRIMARIES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-229 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The registrars of voters in the several towns and, in towns where
4 there are different registrars for different voting districts, the registrars
5 of voters in such districts shall appoint the moderators of regular and
6 special state and municipal elections in their respective towns or
7 districts. For the purpose of providing a reserve group of persons who
8 may serve as moderators, the registrars shall designate alternate
9 moderators from among those persons chosen as official checkers, or
10 tabulator tenders, in the following minimum numbers: In towns with
11 one or more but not exceeding three voting districts, one alternate
12 moderator; in towns with four or more but not exceeding eight voting
13 districts, two alternate moderators; in towns with more than eight
14 voting districts, a number of alternate moderators equal to one-fourth

15 of the number of voting districts rounded off to the nearest multiple of
16 four. In case the registrars fail to agree in the choice of a moderator or
17 alternate moderator, the choice shall be determined between such
18 registrars by lot. In the case of a primary, the registrar, as defined in
19 section 9-372, shall so appoint such moderators and alternate
20 moderators. Moderators and alternate moderators shall be appointed at
21 least twenty days before the commencement of the period of early
22 voting at such election or primary. The registrars shall submit a list of
23 the names of such moderators and alternate moderators to the
24 municipal clerk, which list shall be made available for public inspection
25 by such clerk. Each person appointed to serve as moderator or alternate
26 moderator, including any head moderator, shall be certified by the
27 Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c)
28 of this section, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section or
29 section 9-436.

30 (b) (1) The Secretary of the State shall: (A) Request registrars of voters
31 to volunteer to serve as instructors for moderators and alternate
32 moderators; (B) select registrars from among such volunteers to serve as
33 such instructors; (C) establish a curriculum for instructional sessions for
34 moderators and alternate moderators; (D) establish the number of such
35 instructional sessions to be held, provided at least one such instructional
36 session shall be held in each congressional district in each calendar year;
37 and (E) train the instructors for such sessions. The curriculum for such
38 instructional sessions shall include, but need not be limited to,
39 procedures for counting and recording absentee ballots, hands-on
40 training in the use of voting tabulators, and the duties of a moderator in
41 the conduct of a primary or an election. The Secretary may employ
42 assistants on a temporary basis within existing budgetary resources for
43 the purpose of implementing the provisions of this section. Such
44 assistants shall not be subject to the provisions of chapter 67. The
45 instructors shall conduct instructional sessions for moderators and
46 alternate moderators in accordance with their training by the Secretary
47 and the curriculum for such sessions.

48 (2) The Secretary of the State shall also: (A) Coordinate with each
49 regional election advisor appointed pursuant to section 9-229b, and the
50 regional council of governments that appointed such regional election
51 advisor, to hold instructional sessions for moderators and alternate
52 moderators within the planning region served by such regional council
53 of governments, in accordance with the curriculum established under
54 subdivision (1) of this subsection; and (B) train and certify each regional
55 election advisor for purposes of performing the duties of the position.
56 The Secretary shall certify as a regional election advisor each individual
57 who successfully completes training under subparagraph (B) of this
58 subdivision, except the Secretary shall not so certify any individual who
59 has, in a court of competent jurisdiction, been convicted of or pled guilty
60 or nolo contendere to any (i) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny,
61 embezzlement or bribery, or (ii) criminal offense under this title. Any
62 such initial certification granted under this subdivision shall expire two
63 years after the date of such granting. Prior to expiration of the initial or
64 any subsequent certification, a regional election advisor may undergo
65 an abridged recertification process prescribed by the Secretary, and
66 upon successful completion thereof, such certification shall be renewed
67 for two years after the date of such completion. Only certification in
68 accordance with this subdivision shall satisfy the requirement of
69 subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 9-229b, and the Secretary may
70 revoke any such certification, with or without cause, at any time.

71 (3) The duties of each regional election advisor shall include, but not
72 be limited to: (A) Holding the instructional sessions described in
73 subdivision (2) of this subsection; (B) communicating with registrars of
74 voters to assist, to the extent permitted under law, in preparations for
75 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit
76 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f; and (C) transmitting any order
77 issued by the Secretary of the State, pursuant to subsection (b) of section
78 9-3.

79 (4) Any elector may attend one or more of the sessions held under
80 subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection. Each instructor or regional

81 election advisor, as the case may be, shall provide the Secretary of the
82 State with the name and address of each person who completes any such
83 session.

84 (c) The Secretary shall conduct certification sessions for moderators
85 and alternate moderators each year at times and places to be determined
86 by said Secretary, provided at least eight such sessions shall be held each
87 calendar year and at least one such session shall be conducted prior to
88 every primary. The Secretary shall certify each person who successfully
89 completes an instructional session or regional instructional session, as
90 the case may be, conducted in accordance with the provisions of
91 subsection (b) of this section and an examination administered by the
92 Secretary, as eligible to serve as moderator or alternate moderator at any
93 election or primary held during the time such certification is effective,
94 except the Secretary shall not certify any person as moderator or
95 alternate moderator who has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo
96 contendere to, in a court of competent jurisdiction, any felony involving
97 fraud, forgery, larceny, embezzlement or bribery or any criminal offense
98 under this title. Before July 1, 2019, (1) any initial certification granted
99 under this subsection shall expire two years after the date of its granting,
100 and (2) prior to expiration of an initial or subsequent certification, a
101 moderator or alternate moderator may undergo an abridged
102 recertification process prescribed by the Secretary, and upon successful
103 completion thereof, such certification shall be renewed for two years
104 after the date of such completion. On and after July 1, 2019, (A) any
105 initial certification granted under this subsection shall expire four years
106 after the date of its granting, and (B) prior to expiration of an initial or
107 subsequent certification, a moderator or alternate moderator may
108 undergo an abridged recertification process prescribed by the Secretary,
109 and upon successful completion thereof, such certification shall be
110 renewed for four years after the date of such completion. Only those
111 persons who are certified in accordance with this subsection shall be
112 eligible to serve as moderators on election or primary day, except as
113 provided in subsection (d) of this section or section 9-436. The Secretary
114 of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of

115 chapter 54, as the Secretary deems necessary to implement the
116 certification process under this section.

117 (d) If the person designated as moderator is unable to serve for any
118 reason, a certified alternate moderator shall serve as moderator. If such
119 certified alternate moderator is not called upon to serve as moderator,
120 he shall serve in another capacity as an election official on election or
121 primary day. If any town or voting district lacks a moderator due to the
122 death, disability or withdrawal of a certified moderator or alternate
123 moderator, or due to the disqualification of a moderator for any reason,
124 including failure to attend an instructional session as required by this
125 section, the registrars of voters shall appoint a new moderator for such
126 town or voting district in the manner provided in this section. Such new
127 moderator shall attend an instructional session and a certification
128 session conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section. If
129 all such sessions have been conducted at the time of appointment of the
130 new moderator, the new moderator shall receive instruction from the
131 registrars who appointed the new moderator.

132 Sec. 2. Subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 9-163aa of the
133 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
134 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

135 (4) (A) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on which
136 early voting is conducted, a moderator, in accordance with the
137 provisions of section 9-229, as amended by this act, and such other
138 election or primary officials to serve at each location designated for such
139 conduct. The moderator so appointed shall perform any duty required,
140 and may exercise any power authorized, under this title related to the
141 conduct of early voting at such location. On any such day and solely for
142 purposes related to the conduct of early voting, the registrars of voters
143 of a municipality may, upon agreement, appoint one of the registrars
144 from such municipality as moderator in accordance with the provisions
145 of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The registrars of voters may
146 delegate to each other election or primary official so appointed any of

147 the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of
148 voters shall supervise each such official and train each such official to be
149 an early voting election or primary official.

150 (B) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality appoint,
151 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, one of the registrars
152 of such municipality as moderator to serve at a location designated for
153 the conduct of early voting, such registrars of voters shall jointly submit
154 to the Secretary of the State (i) a certification that the registrars of voters
155 of such municipality are in agreement as to such appointment, and (ii)
156 a written plan detailing alternative coverage of the duties normally
157 carried out by the registrar so appointed to ensure that such registrar
158 abstains, on each day in which such registrar serves as moderator, from
159 any such duties that conflict with those of the moderator.

160 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed
161 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

162 (c) (1) The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the
163 completion and processing of same-day election registrations on
164 election day, provided (A) the registrars of voters have access to the
165 state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location, and
166 (B) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of the State not
167 later than forty-five days before election day. The written certification
168 under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall (i) include the name,
169 street address and relevant contact information associated with such
170 location, (ii) list the name and address of the moderator who shall be
171 appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 9-229, as
172 amended by this act, and of each other election official who shall be
173 appointed, by the registrars of voters to serve at such location, if any,
174 and (iii) provide a description of the design of such location and a plan
175 for effective completion and processing of such applications. The
176 Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written certification not later
177 than twenty-nine days before election day and may require the
178 registrars of voters to appoint one or more additional election officials

179 or alter such design or plan.

180 (2) The legislative body of the municipality may apply to the
181 Secretary of the State not later than seventy-four days before election
182 day, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, to designate any
183 additional location for the completion and processing of same-day
184 election registration applications on election day. The Secretary shall
185 approve or disapprove such application not later than fifty-nine days
186 before election day. If the Secretary approves such application, the
187 registrars of voters may so designate any such additional location. The
188 provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to any such
189 additional location.

190 (3) The registrars of voters may delegate to each election official
191 appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection any of the
192 responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of
193 voters shall supervise each such election official and train each such
194 official to be a same-day election official.

195 Sec. 4. Section 9-147c of the general statutes is repealed and the
196 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

197 Each registrar of voters shall appoint one or more electors of the
198 town, known to be persons of integrity, to count all absentee ballots. No
199 spouse, parent, grandparent, child or sibling of a candidate may be
200 appointed to count absentee ballots on which the name of such
201 candidate appears. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the
202 respective polling places pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a,
203 the registrars shall also jointly appoint a central counting moderator and
204 alternate moderator, [pursuant to the requirements] in accordance with
205 the provisions of section 9-229, as amended by this act. No person shall
206 print, publish, announce, or otherwise make known such count prior to
207 the time for the closing of the polls.

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-229
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-163aa(b)(4)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-19j(c)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-147c

Statement of Purpose:

To require that all persons appointed to serve as moderators, including as head moderators, at an election or primary be certified by the Secretary of the State and meet the qualifications for such certification.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.

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