



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1232

LCO No. 3949



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RISK-
LIMITING AUDITS WORKING GROUP.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective January 1, 2026*) (a) Not earlier than the fifteenth
2 day after any state election and not later than two business days before
3 the canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and
4 Comptroller, commencing on a day designated by the Secretary, the
5 registrars of voters shall conduct a risk-limiting audit of such election.
6 Each such audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public
7 observation. Any election official who participates in the administration
8 and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated
9 by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such
10 municipality for elections.

11 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
12 offices subject to a risk-limiting audit pursuant to this section shall be
13 (A) the office of presidential elector, if applicable, (B) all applicable state
14 offices, as defined in section 9-372 of the general statutes, (C) at least one

15 representative in Congress, selected in a random drawing by the
16 Secretary of the State, (D) at least five per cent, in the aggregate, of the
17 offices of state senator and state representative, selected in a random
18 drawing by the Secretary, and (E) any other office required to be audited
19 by federal law. Whenever an office is randomly selected by the Secretary
20 under this subsection, the selection process shall be open to the public.

21 (2) (A) If an office of representative in Congress is subject to recanvass
22 or an election contest pursuant to any provision of the general statutes,
23 the Secretary of the State shall ensure such office is included in the office
24 or offices selected under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this
25 subsection.

26 (B) If an office of state senator or state representative is subject to
27 recanvass or an election contest pursuant to any provision of the general
28 statutes, the Secretary of the State shall ensure such office is included in
29 the offices selected under subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of this
30 subsection.

31 (c) Prior to the day designated by the Secretary of the State for the
32 commencement of the risk-limiting audit described in subsection (a) of
33 this section, the registrars of voters shall submit to the Secretary the
34 ballot manifests created under section 3 of this act.

35 (d) The risk-limiting audit described in subsection (a) of this section
36 shall be conducted in accordance with instructions and procedures
37 prescribed by the Secretary of the State not later than January 1, 2027,
38 which instructions and procedures shall be consistent across all offices
39 subject to such audit. The risk limit for each such audit shall be not more
40 than five per cent. The results of each audit conducted pursuant to this
41 section, including any such audit that produces an outcome of
42 "INCONCLUSIVE" as described in subsection (e) of this section, shall be
43 reported on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Secretary. Such
44 reported results shall be filed with the Secretary, who shall immediately
45 forward such reported results to The University of Connecticut for

46 analysis. The University of Connecticut shall submit to the Secretary a
47 written report regarding such analysis that describes any concerns
48 identified. After receipt of such written report, the Secretary shall
49 transmit a copy of such written report to the State Elections Enforcement
50 Commission.

51 (e) In the event a risk-limiting audit conducted pursuant to this
52 section for a particular office produces an outcome of
53 "INCONCLUSIVE", the Secretary of the State shall order a manual
54 recount of all ballots cast for such office.

55 (f) If the written report submitted by The University of Connecticut
56 under subsection (d) of this section indicates that a voting tabulator
57 failed to record votes accurately and in the manner provided by title 9
58 of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall require that the
59 voting tabulator be examined and recertified by the Secretary or the
60 Secretary's designee. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
61 prohibit the Secretary from requiring that a voting tabulator be
62 examined and recertified.

63 (g) The audit results reported to the Secretary of the State pursuant to
64 subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public inspection and may
65 be used as prima facie evidence of an irregularity in any contest arising
66 pursuant to chapter 149 of the general statutes or for any other cause of
67 action arising from such election.

68 (h) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the results from an
69 audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the outcome of the
70 person declared elected by virtue of having received the greatest
71 number of votes, as determined by the paper ballots, the Secretary of the
72 State shall conduct such further investigation of the voting tabulator as
73 may be necessary for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to
74 decertify the voting tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the
75 voting tabulator to be examined and recertified in accordance with
76 subsection (f) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary as a

77 result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections
78 Enforcement Commission, and the commission may initiate such
79 further investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection
80 (a) of section 9-7b of the general statutes as may be required to
81 determine if any violations of the general statutes concerning election
82 law have been committed.

83 (i) The individual paper ballots used at an election shall be carefully
84 preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in accordance
85 with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310 of the general statutes,
86 as applicable.

87 (j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any
88 candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to
89 chapter 149 of the general statutes.

90 (k) After a state election, any voting tabulator may be kept locked for
91 a period longer than that prescribed by sections 9-266, 9-310 and 9-447
92 of the general statutes, if such an extended period is ordered by a court
93 of competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of the State or the State Elections
94 Enforcement Commission. Such court or the Secretary of the State may
95 order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted by such persons
96 as the court or the Secretary may designate, provided the State Elections
97 Enforcement Commission may order such an audit where the particular
98 office in question is that of the Secretary of the State. If the machine
99 utilized in such election is an optical scan voting system, such order to
100 lock such machine shall include the tabulator, memory card and all
101 other components and processes utilized in the programming of such
102 machine.

103 (l) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
104 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for the conduct
105 of risk-limiting audits described in subsection (a) of this section and to
106 establish guidelines for expanded audits when the results from such a
107 risk-limiting audit cannot be reconciled with the outcome of the person

108 declared elected by virtue of having received the greatest number of
109 votes, as determined by the paper ballots.

110 (m) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
111 Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine
112 whenever any problem is discovered as a result of an audit described in
113 subsection (a) of this section.

114 (n) As used in this section:

115 (1) "Risk-limiting audit" means a publicly verifiable auditing
116 procedure that (A) manually examines a statistical sample of paper
117 ballots that reflect the intents of the voters having cast such ballots, (B)
118 produces an outcome of either "ACCEPTABLE" or "INCONCLUSIVE",
119 and (C) guarantees a specified risk limit;

120 (2) "Risk limit" means the maximum probability that an audit would
121 produce an outcome of "ACCEPTABLE" when there is a disagreement
122 between the person declared elected and the person who received the
123 greatest number of votes as determined by the paper ballots; and

124 (3) "State election" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1
125 of the general statutes.

126 Sec. 2. Section 9-320f of the general statutes is repealed and the
127 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

128 (a) (1) Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any federal or state
129 [election or] primary and not later than two business days before the
130 canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and
131 Comptroller, and (2) not earlier than the fifth day after any municipal
132 election or primary and not later than two business days before the
133 canvass of votes by the town clerk, the registrars of voters shall conduct
134 a manual audit, or an electronic audit authorized under section 9-320g,
135 as amended by this act, of the votes recorded in not less than five per
136 cent of the voting districts in the state, district or municipality,

137 whichever is applicable. For the purposes of this section, any central
138 location used in a municipality for the counting of absentee ballots, early
139 voting ballots or same-day election registration ballots shall be deemed
140 a voting district. Such manual or electronic audit shall be noticed in
141 advance and be open to public observation. Any election official who
142 participates in the administration and conduct of an audit pursuant to
143 this section shall be compensated by the municipality at the standard
144 rate of pay established by such municipality for elections or primaries,
145 as the case may be.

146 (b) The voting districts subject to an audit described in subsection (a)
147 of this section shall be selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of
148 the State and such selection process shall be open to the public. The
149 offices subject to an audit pursuant to this section shall be, (1) [in the
150 case of an election where the office of presidential elector is on the ballot,
151 all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional
152 office selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State, but in
153 no case less than three offices, (2) in the case of an election where the
154 office of Governor is on the ballot, all offices required to be audited by
155 federal law, plus one additional office selected in a random drawing by
156 the Secretary of the State, but in no case less than three offices, (3)] in the
157 case of a municipal election, three offices or twenty per cent of the
158 number of offices on the ballot, whichever is greater, selected at random
159 by the municipal clerk, and [(4)] (2) in the case of a primary, [election,]
160 all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional
161 office, if any, but in no event less than twenty per cent of the offices on
162 the ballot, selected in a random drawing by the municipal clerk.

163 (c) If a selected voting district has an office that is subject to recanvass
164 or an election or primary contest pursuant to any provision of the
165 general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall select an alternative
166 district, pursuant to the process described in subsection (b) of this
167 section.

168 (d) The manual or electronic audit described in subsection (a) of this

169 section shall consist of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper
170 ballots cast and counted by each voting tabulator subject to such audit.
171 Once complete, the vote totals established pursuant to such manual or
172 electronic tabulation shall be compared to the results reported by the
173 voting tabulator on the day of the election or primary. The results of
174 such manual or electronic tabulation shall be reported on a form
175 prescribed by the Secretary of the State which shall include the total
176 number of ballots counted, the total votes received by each candidate in
177 question, the total votes received by each candidate in question on
178 ballots that were properly completed by each voter and the total votes
179 received by each candidate in question on ballots that were not properly
180 completed by each voter. Such [report] reported results shall be filed
181 with the Secretary, [of the State] who shall immediately forward such
182 [report] reported results to The University of Connecticut for analysis.
183 The University of Connecticut shall [file] submit to the Secretary a
184 written report [with the Secretary of the State] regarding such analysis
185 that describes any discrepancies identified. After receipt of such written
186 report, the Secretary [of the State shall file such report with] shall
187 transmit a copy of such written report to the State Elections Enforcement
188 Commission.

189 (e) For the purposes of this section, a ballot that has not been properly
190 completed will be deemed to be a ballot on which (1) votes have been
191 marked by the voter outside the vote targets, (2) votes have been marked
192 by the voter using a manual marking device that cannot be read by the
193 voting tabulator, or (3) in the judgment of the registrars of voters, the
194 voter marked the ballot in such a manner that the voting tabulator may
195 not have read the marks as votes cast.

196 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-311, the Secretary of
197 the State shall order a discrepancy recanvass of the returns of an election
198 or primary for any office if a discrepancy, as defined in subsection (o) of
199 this section, exists where the margin of victory in the race for such office
200 is less than the amount of the discrepancy multiplied by the total
201 number of voting districts where such race appeared on the ballot,

202 provided in a year in which the Secretary of the State is a candidate for
203 an office on the ballot and that office is subject to an audit as provided
204 by this section, the State Elections Enforcement Commission shall order
205 a discrepancy recanvass if a discrepancy, as defined by subsection (o) of
206 this section, has occurred that could affect the outcome of the election or
207 primary for such office.

208 (g) If the written report submitted by The University of Connecticut
209 [report described in] under subsection (d) of this section indicates that a
210 voting tabulator failed to record votes accurately and in the manner
211 provided by [the general statutes] this title, the Secretary of the State
212 shall require that the voting tabulator be examined and recertified by
213 the Secretary [of the State,] or the Secretary's designee. Nothing in this
214 subsection shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary [of the State] from
215 requiring that a voting tabulator be examined and recertified.

216 (h) The audit [report filed] results reported to the Secretary of the
217 State pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public
218 inspection and may be used as prima facie evidence of a discrepancy in
219 any contest arising pursuant to chapter 149 or for any other cause of
220 action arising from such election or primary.

221 (i) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the manual or electronic
222 count from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the
223 electronic vote tabulation and discrepancies from the election or
224 primary, the Secretary of the State shall conduct such further
225 investigation of the voting tabulator malfunction as may be necessary
226 for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to decertify the voting
227 tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the voting tabulator to be
228 examined and recertified [pursuant to] in accordance with subsection
229 (g) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary [of the State] as
230 a result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections
231 Enforcement Commission and the commission may initiate such further
232 investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of
233 section 9-7b as may be required to determine if any violations of the

234 general statutes concerning election law have been committed.

235 (j) The individual paper ballots used at an election or primary shall
236 be carefully preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in
237 accordance with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310, [whichever
238 is] as applicable.

239 (k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any
240 candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to
241 chapter 149.

242 (l) After an election or primary described in subsection (a) of this
243 section, any voting tabulator may be kept locked for a period longer
244 than that prescribed by sections 9-266, 9-310 and 9-447, if such an
245 extended period is ordered by [either] a court of competent jurisdiction,
246 the Secretary of the State or the State Elections Enforcement
247 Commission. [Either the] Such court or the Secretary [of the State] may
248 order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted by such persons
249 as the court or the Secretary of the State may designate, provided the
250 State Elections Enforcement Commission may order such an audit
251 under the circumstances prescribed in subsection (f) of this section. If
252 the machine utilized in such election or primary is an optical scan voting
253 system, such order to lock such machine shall include the tabulator,
254 memory card and all other components and processes utilized in the
255 programming of such machine.

256 (m) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
257 with the provisions of chapter 54, [as may be necessary] for the conduct
258 of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper ballots described in
259 subsection (a) of this section and to establish guidelines for expanded
260 audits when there are differences between the manual or electronic
261 counts from the audit described in subsection (a) of this section and
262 tabulator counts from the election or primary.

263 (n) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
264 Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine

265 whenever any problem is discovered as a result of an audit described in
266 subsection (a) of this section.

267 (o) As used in this section: ["discrepancy"]

268 (1) "Discrepancy" means any difference in vote totals between
269 tabulator counts from an election or primary and manual or electronic
270 counts from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section in a
271 voting district that exceeds one-half of one per cent of the lesser amount
272 of the vote totals between such tabulator counts and such manual or
273 electronic counts where such differences cannot be resolved through an
274 accounting of ballots that were not marked properly in accordance with
275 subsection (e) of this section; ["state election" means "state election", as
276 defined in section 9-1, "municipal election"]

277 (2) "Municipal election" means a municipal election held pursuant to
278 section 9-164; ["manual"]

279 (3) "Manual" means by hand and without the assistance of electronic
280 equipment; and ["electronic"]

281 (4) "Electronic" means through the use of equipment described in
282 section 9-320g, as amended by this act.

283 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) (a) Except in the case of a
284 recanvass subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, not
285 later than seventy-two hours after the close of the polls at each state
286 election, as defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes:

287 (1) The election officials in each polling place shall create a ballot
288 manifest for such polling place by manually verifying the number of
289 ballots cast that comprise the result publicly announced by the
290 moderator under section 9-309 of the general statutes and recording
291 such number on such ballot manifest, in accordance with procedures
292 prescribed by the Secretary of the State; and

293 (2) The absentee ballot counters in each central counting location shall

294 create a ballot manifest for such central counting location by manually
295 verifying the number of ballots cast that comprise the result publicly
296 declared by the moderator under subsection (b) of section 9-150b of the
297 general statutes and recording such number on such ballot manifest, in
298 accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

299 (b) Not later than twenty-four hours after the completion of any
300 recanvass conducted at a state election in a voting district, the recanvass
301 officials shall create a ballot manifest for such district by manually
302 verifying the number of ballots cast that comprise the vote announced
303 by the moderator under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-311
304 of the general statutes and recording such number on such ballot
305 manifest, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of
306 the State.

307 (c) All ballot manifest creation procedures shall be open to public
308 observation.

309 (d) Immediately after a ballot manifest has been created pursuant to
310 this section, the moderator shall submit such ballot manifest to the
311 registrars of voters.

312 Sec. 4. Section 9-323 of the general statutes is repealed and the
313 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

314 Any elector or candidate who claims that he or she is aggrieved by
315 any ruling of any election official in connection with any election for
316 presidential electors and for a senator in Congress and for
317 representative in Congress or any of them, held in his or her town, or
318 that there was a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such election
319 for candidates for such electors, senator in Congress and representative
320 in Congress, or any of them, at any voting district in his or her town, or
321 any candidate for such an office who claims that he or she is aggrieved
322 by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive,
323 9-364, 9-364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such election,
324 may bring his or her complaint to any judge of the Supreme Court, in

325 which he or she shall set out the claimed errors of such election official,
326 the claimed errors in the count or the claimed violations of said sections.
327 In any action brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the
328 complainant shall file a certification attached to the complaint indicating
329 that a copy of the complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered
330 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is
331 made prior to such election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to
332 render judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing
333 to be given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections
334 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to the
335 election, it shall be brought not later than fourteen days after the election
336 or, if such complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of
337 paper ballots authorized] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f,
338 as amended by this act, or section 1 of this act, such complaint shall be
339 brought not later than seven days after the close of any such [manual
340 tabulation] audit, and in either such circumstance, the judge shall
341 forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such complaint, upon a day
342 not more than five or less than three days from the making of such order,
343 and shall cause notice of not less than three or more than five days to be
344 given to any candidate or candidates whose election may be affected by
345 the decision upon such hearing, to such election official, to the Secretary
346 of the State, to the State Elections Enforcement Commission and to any
347 other party or parties whom such judge deems proper parties thereto,
348 of the time and place for the hearing upon such complaint. Such judge,
349 with two other judges of the Supreme Court to be designated by the
350 Chief Court Administrator, shall, on the day fixed for such hearing and
351 without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient
352 reason is shown, such judges may order any voting tabulators to be
353 unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes
354 cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. Such judges shall
355 thereupon, in the case they, or any two of them, find any error in the
356 rulings of the election official, any mistake in the count of such votes or
357 any violation of said sections, certify the result of their finding or
358 decision, or the finding or decision of a majority of them, to the Secretary

359 of the State before the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in
360 December. Such judges may order a new election or a change in the
361 existing election schedule, provided such order complies with Section
362 302 of the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time
363 to time. Such certificate of such judges, or a majority of them, shall be
364 final upon all questions relating to the rulings of such election officials,
365 to the correctness of such count and, for the purposes of this section
366 only, such claimed violations, and shall operate to correct the returns of
367 the moderators or presiding officers so as to conform to such finding or
368 decision.

369 Sec. 5. Section 9-324 of the general statutes is repealed and the
370 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

371 Any elector or candidate who claims that such elector or candidate is
372 aggrieved by any ruling of any election official in connection with any
373 election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State
374 Treasurer, Attorney General, State Comptroller or judge of probate, held
375 in such elector's or candidate's town, or that there has been a mistake in
376 the count of the votes cast at such election for candidates for said offices
377 or any of them, at any voting district in such elector's or candidate's
378 town, or any candidate for such an office who claims that such candidate
379 is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-
380 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at
381 such election or any candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant
382 Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, Attorney General or
383 State Comptroller, who claims that such candidate is aggrieved by a
384 violation of any provision of sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive, may bring
385 such elector's or candidate's complaint to any judge of the Superior
386 Court, in which such elector or candidate shall set out the claimed errors
387 of such election official, the claimed errors in the count or the claimed
388 violations of said sections. In any action brought pursuant to the
389 provisions of this section, the complainant shall send a copy of the
390 complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the complaint by hand,
391 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is

392 made prior to such election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to
 393 render judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing
 394 to be given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections
 395 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to the
 396 election, it shall be brought not later than fourteen days after the election
 397 or, if such complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of
 398 paper ballots authorized] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f,
 399 as amended by this act, or section 1 of this act, such complaint shall be
 400 brought not later than seven days after the close of any such [manual
 401 tabulation] audit and, in either such circumstance, such judge shall
 402 forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such complaint, upon a day
 403 not more than five nor less than three days from the making of such
 404 order, and shall cause notice of not less than three nor more than five
 405 days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose election may be
 406 affected by the decision upon such hearing, to such election official, the
 407 Secretary of the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and
 408 to any other party or parties whom such judge deems proper parties
 409 thereto, of the time and place for the hearing upon such complaint. Such
 410 judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing and without unnecessary
 411 delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient reason is shown, such
 412 judge may order any voting tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot
 413 boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes cast, including absentee
 414 ballots, to be made. Such judge shall thereupon, in case such judge finds
 415 any error in the rulings of the election official, any mistake in the count
 416 of the votes or any violation of said sections, certify the result of such
 417 judge's finding or decision to the Secretary of the State before the
 418 fifteenth day of the next succeeding December. Such judge may order a
 419 new election or a change in the existing election schedule. Such
 420 certificate of such judge of such judge's finding or decision shall be final
 421 and conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the rulings of
 422 such election officials, to the correctness of such count, and, for the
 423 purposes of this section only, such claimed violations, and shall operate
 424 to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding officers, so as to
 425 conform to such finding or decision, unless the same is appealed from

426 as provided in section 9-325.

427 Sec. 6. Section 9-328 of the general statutes is repealed and the
428 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

429 Any elector or candidate claiming to have been aggrieved by any
430 ruling of any election official in connection with an election for any
431 municipal office or a primary for justice of the peace, or any elector or
432 candidate claiming that there has been a mistake in the count of votes
433 cast for any such office at such election or primary, or any candidate in
434 such an election or primary claiming that he is aggrieved by a violation
435 of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a
436 or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such election or primary,
437 may bring a complaint to any judge of the Superior Court for relief
438 therefrom. In any action brought pursuant to the provisions of this
439 section, the complainant shall send a copy of the complaint by first-class
440 mail, or deliver a copy of the complaint by hand, to the State Elections
441 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such
442 election or primary, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render
443 judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be
444 given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement
445 Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to such election or
446 primary, it shall be brought not later than fourteen days after such
447 election or primary, except that if such complaint is brought in response
448 to [the manual tabulation of paper ballots, authorized] an audit
449 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section
450 1 of this act, such complaint shall be brought not later than seven days
451 after the close of any such [manual tabulation] audit, to any judge of the
452 Superior Court, in which he shall set out the claimed errors of the
453 election official, the claimed errors in the count or the claimed violations
454 of said sections. Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had
455 upon such complaint, upon a day not more than five nor less than three
456 days from the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less
457 than three nor more than five days to be given to any candidate or
458 candidates whose election or nomination may be affected by the

459 decision upon such hearing, to such election official, the Secretary of the
 460 State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and to any other
 461 party or parties whom such judge deems proper parties thereto, of the
 462 time and place for the hearing upon such complaint. Such judge shall,
 463 on the day fixed for such hearing and without unnecessary delay,
 464 proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient reason is shown, he may order
 465 any voting tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened
 466 and a recount of the votes cast, including absentee ballots, to be made.
 467 Such judge shall thereupon, if he finds any error in the rulings of the
 468 election official or any mistake in the count of the votes, certify the result
 469 of his finding or decision to the Secretary of the State before the tenth
 470 day succeeding the conclusion of the hearing. Such judge may order a
 471 new election or primary or a change in the existing election schedule.
 472 Such certificate of such judge of his finding or decision shall be final and
 473 conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the ruling of such
 474 election officials, to the correctness of such count, and, for the purposes
 475 of this section only, such claimed violations, and shall operate to correct
 476 the returns of the moderators or presiding officers, so as to conform to
 477 such finding or decision, except that this section shall not affect the right
 478 of appeal to the Supreme Court and it shall not prevent such judge from
 479 reserving such questions of law for the advice of the Supreme Court as
 480 provided in section 9-325. Such judge may, if necessary, issue his writ of
 481 mandamus, requiring the adverse party and those under him to deliver
 482 to the complainant the appurtenances of such office, and shall cause his
 483 finding and decree to be entered on the records of the Superior Court in
 484 the proper judicial district.

485 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-329a of the general statutes is
 486 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
 487 *1, 2026*):

488 (a) Any (1) elector or candidate aggrieved by a ruling of an election
 489 official in connection with any primary held pursuant to (A) section 9-
 490 423, 9-425 or 9-464, or (B) a special act, (2) elector or candidate who
 491 alleges that there has been a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such

primary, or (3) candidate in such a primary who alleges that he is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such primary, may bring his complaint to any judge of the Superior Court for appropriate action. In any action brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the complainant shall file a certification attached to the complaint indicating that a copy of the complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such primary such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to such primary it shall be brought, not later than fourteen days after such primary, or if such complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of paper ballots, described in] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section 1 of this act, such complaint shall be brought, not later than seven days after the close of any such [manual tabulation] audit, to any judge of the Superior Court.

Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 9-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(b) During any municipal, state or federal election, primary or recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section 1 of this act, the Secretary of the State may issue an order, whether orally or in writing, to any registrar of voters or moderator to correct any irregularity or impropriety in the conduct of such election, primary or recanvass or audit. Any such order shall be effective upon issuance. As soon as practicable after issuance of an oral order pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall reduce such order to writing, cite within such order any applicable provision of law authorizing such order and cause a copy of such written order to be delivered to the individual who is the subject of such order or, in the case that such order was originally issued in writing, issue a subsequent

525 written order that conforms to such requirements. The Superior Court,
526 on application of the Secretary or the Attorney General, may enforce by
527 appropriate decree or process any such order issued pursuant to this
528 subsection.

529 Sec. 9. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 9-229 of the general
530 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
531 (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

532 (3) The duties of each regional election advisor shall include, but not
533 be limited to: (A) Holding the instructional sessions described in
534 subdivision (2) of this subsection; (B) communicating with registrars of
535 voters to assist, to the extent permitted under law, in preparations for
536 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit
537 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section
538 1 of this act; and (C) transmitting any order issued by the Secretary of
539 the State, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-3, as amended by this
540 act.

541 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 9-229b of the general statutes is
542 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
543 *1, 2026*):

544 (a) Any regional council of governments organized under the
545 provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, may appoint a regional
546 election advisor, who shall represent, consult with and act on behalf of
547 such regional council of governments and any combination of regional
548 councils of governments or member towns of regional councils of
549 governments that may seek the assistance of such regional election
550 advisor. A regional election advisor shall consult and coordinate with
551 the Secretary of the State to provide such assistance in preparations for
552 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit
553 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section
554 1 of this act.

555 Sec. 11. Section 9-320g of the general statutes is repealed and the

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

557 Notwithstanding any provision of this title, the Secretary of the State,
 558 in consultation and coordination with The University of Connecticut,
 559 may authorize the use of electronic equipment for the purpose of
 560 conducting any audit required pursuant to section 9-320f, [for any
 561 primary or general election held on or after January 1, 2016] as amended
 562 by this act, or section 1 of this act, provided (1) the Secretary of the State
 563 prescribes specifications for (A) the testing, set-up and operation of such
 564 equipment, and (B) the training of election officials in the use of such
 565 equipment; and (2) the Secretary of the State and The University of
 566 Connecticut agree that such equipment is sufficient in quantity to
 567 accommodate the total number of audits to be conducted. Nothing in
 568 this section shall preclude any candidate or elector from seeking
 569 additional remedies pursuant to chapter 149 as a result of any
 570 information revealed by such process.

571 Sec. 12. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Secretary of the State shall establish
 572 a pilot program for the conduct of risk-limiting audits at municipal
 573 elections in 2025. The Secretary shall randomly select three
 574 municipalities for participation in such pilot program, provided the
 575 Secretary shall select: (1) One municipality with a population of less
 576 than twenty thousand; (2) one municipality with a population of twenty
 577 thousand or greater, but less than ninety thousand; and (3) one
 578 municipality with a population of ninety thousand or greater. For the
 579 purposes of this section, "population" means the estimated number of
 580 people according to the most recent version of the State Register and
 581 Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-320f
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-323

Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-324
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-328
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-329a(a)
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-3(b)
Sec. 9	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-229(b)(3)
Sec. 10	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-229b(a)
Sec. 11	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	9-320g
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the risk-limiting audits working group.

[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.]