



House Bill No. 6849

Public Act No. 25-134

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINOR AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS STATUTES.

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

Section 1. Subdivision (9) of section 3-56a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(9) "Mineral" means gas; oil; other gaseous, liquid [,] and solid hydrocarbons; oil shale; cement material; sand and gravel; road material; building stone; chemical raw material; gemstone; fissionable and nonfissionable ores; colloidal and other clay; steam and other geothermal resource; or any other substance defined as a mineral by the law of this state;

Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 4-8 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(c) Each department head may appoint such deputies as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of the business of the department. Each department head shall designate one deputy who shall, in the absence or disqualification of the department head or upon the

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department head's death, exercise the powers and duties of the department head until the department head resumes his or her duties or the vacancy is filled, as applicable. Such deputies shall serve at the pleasure of the department head. Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, each department head shall appoint such other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the department head's duties.

Sec. 3. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 9-4a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(2) The name, party affiliation and contact information of each candidate who is nominated or qualifies as a petitioning candidate for election to the office of President of the United States, Vice-President of the United States, senator in Congress, representative in Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State, state senator or state representative at the state election. As used in this section, "contact information" means any or all of the following information received by the Secretary of the State in the course of the secretary's elections duties or by the Federal Election Commission: A candidate's campaign mailing address, telephone number, facsimile number, electronic mail address and web site. The voter guide may provide contact information for a candidate for the office of President of the United States, Vice-President of the United States, senator in Congress or representative in Congress by an electronic link to such information on the Federal Election Commission's Internet web site;

Sec. 4. Subdivision (6) of subsection (b) of section 9-31l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(6) The decision of the commission shall determine the person's right to be or remain an elector. If any such decision is adverse to such

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individual's right, the commission shall order both registrars to remove the elector's name from the town's active and inactive registry list and any enrollment list. Any person whose name has been so removed may reapply for admission as an elector with the registrars of voters of the same town at any time. If such application is made within four years after the commission's decision, both registrars may approve such application only after they find that there has been a substantial change in the circumstances that provided the basis for the commission's decision and that the individual is eligible to be an elector. Registrars who approve an individual's application for admission within this time period without a substantial change in circumstances may be subject to a civil penalty imposed by the commission in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b if the commission determines, following a written complaint filed with the commission pursuant to [said] section 9-7b, that the registrars' action was without good cause and constitutes a wilful violation of a prior order of the commission.

Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 9-32 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) No elector's name shall be removed from the registry list, pursuant to section 9-35, unless (1) the elector confirms in writing that the elector has moved out of the municipality, or (2) the elector has been sent, by forwardable mail, a notice and a postage prepaid preaddressed return card in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, four years prior to removal from the registry list and such elector has failed to respond and has not restored the elector's name to the active registry list under section 9-42 or voted in an election or primary in the municipality during the period beginning on the date of the notice and ending four years later. If a registrar or a registrar's designee conducts a telephone canvass, a telephone call by any such person shall constitute an attempt

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to contact the elector only if the elector's household has a published telephone number and the telephone is in operating order. If a registrar, or a registrar's designee, during a telephone canvass contacts a telecommunication device for the deaf in an elector's household, such call shall not constitute an attempt to contact the elector unless the registrar, or the registrar's designee, uses a similar device or uses a message relay center. No elector's name shall be removed from the active registry list pursuant to [said] section 9-35 as a result of information obtained during a telephone canvass, unless the registrar believes such information is reliable and sufficient to enable the registrar to determine if the elector is entitled to remain on the list under the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 6. Section 9-35c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 9-238, 9-406 and 9-436 and other provisions of the general statutes, the names of electors on the inactive registry list compiled under section 9-35 shall not be counted for purposes of computing the number of petition signatures required. Each elector on such inactive registry list who, in the determination of the registrars, has signed a petition pursuant to the general statutes, giving the same address as appears on the inactive registry list, shall forthwith be placed on the active registry list compiled under [said] section 9-35. Each such elector shall be counted for purposes of future computations of the number of signatures required on future petitions issued for other electoral events. The names of electors on the inactive registry list compiled pursuant to section 9-35 shall not be counted for purposes of computing the minimum percentage of the number of electors required in any charter or special act, if such charter or special act requires approval of a referendum by a minimum percentage of electors qualified on the last-completed registry list or has a similar requirement.

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Sec. 7. Section 9-153a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The form of absentee ballot application provided by any federal department or agency, referred to in section 9-140, may be used only by a person in any one of the following categories who is eligible to vote and who expects to be unable to appear at his proper polling place for any reason specified in section 9-135: (1) Members of the armed forces, (2) the spouses and dependents of such members, (3) members of religious groups or welfare agencies assisting members of the armed forces, who are officially attached to and serving with the armed forces, and their spouses and dependents, (4) civilian employees of the United States in all categories serving outside the territorial limits of the several states of the United States and the District of Columbia and their spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them, whether or not the employee is subject to the civil service laws and the Federal Classification Act of 1949, and whether or not paid from funds appropriated by the Congress, (5) citizens of the United States temporarily residing outside of the territorial limits of the several states of the United States and the District of Columbia and (6) overseas citizens qualified to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 100 Stat. 924, 42 USC 1973ff et seq., as amended from time to time. Any such person may apply for an absentee ballot in the manner provided in [said] section 9-140, either on the form prescribed by the Secretary of the State under [said] section 9-140, or on the application form provided by any federal department or agency hereinbefore referred to.

Sec. 8. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-158c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) Not earlier than forty-five days before the election and not later than the close of the polls on election day, each former resident who

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desires to vote in a presidential election under sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, may apply for a "presidential ballot" to the municipal clerk of the town in which such former resident is qualified to vote on the form prescribed in section 9-158d. Application for a "presidential ballot" may be made in person or absentee, in the manner provided for applying for an absentee ballot under section 9-140, except as provided in [said] sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive.

Sec. 9. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 9-163k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(3) For a municipal election, each registrar of voters shall appoint at least one absentee ballot coordinator for each two hundred persons who voted by absentee ballot in the most recent municipal election. For a municipal primary, each registrar of voters shall appoint at least one absentee ballot coordinator for each two hundred persons who voted by absentee ballot in the most recent municipal primary. [A registrar of voter's] The appointment of an absentee ballot coordinator by a registrar of voters shall not be effective until the registrar files the appointment with the municipal clerk;

Sec. 10. Section 9-264 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

An elector who requires assistance to vote, by reason of blindness, disability or inability to write or to read the ballot, may be given assistance by a person of the elector's choice, other than (1) the elector's employer, (2) an agent of such employer, (3) an officer or agent of the elector's union, or (4) a candidate for any office on the ballot, unless the elector is a member of the immediate family of such candidate. The person assisting the elector may accompany the elector into the voting booth at the polling place, the location designated for same-day election registration or the location designated for the conduct of early voting,

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as applicable. Such person shall register such elector's vote upon the ballot as such elector directs. Any person accompanying an elector into the voting booth at the polling place or the location designated for election day registration who deceives any elector in registering the elector's vote under this section or seeks to influence any elector while in the act of voting, or who registers any vote for any elector or on any question other than as requested by such elector, or who gives information to any person as to what person or persons such elector voted for, or how such elector voted on any question, shall be guilty of a class D felony. As used in this section, "immediate family" [means "immediate family" as defined] has the same meaning as provided in section 9-140b.

Sec. 11. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-311 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) If, within three days after an election, it appears to the moderator that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials, consisting of at least two checkers of different political parties and at least two absentee ballot counters of different political parties who served at such election, and the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the election was held and such other officials as may be required to conduct such recanvass. Such written notice shall require the clerk or registrars of voters, as the case may be, to bring with them the depository envelopes required by section 9-150a, the package of write-in ballots provided for in section 9-310, the absentee ballot applications, the list of absentee ballot applications, the registry list and the moderators' returns and shall require such recanvass officials to meet at a specified time not later than the fifth business day after such election to recanvass the returns of a voting tabulator or voting tabulators or absentee ballots or write-in

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ballots used in such district in such election. If any of such recanvass officials are unavailable at the time of the recanvass, the registrar of voters of the same political party as that of the recanvass official unable to attend shall designate another elector having previous training and experience in the conduct of elections to take [his] such recanvass official's place. Before such recanvass is made, such moderator shall give notice, in writing, to the chairperson of the town committee of each political party which nominated candidates for the election, and, in the case of a state election, not later than twenty-four hours after a determination is made regarding the need for a recanvass to the Secretary of the State, of the time and place where such recanvass is to be made; and each such chairperson may send party representatives to be present at such recanvass. Such party representatives may observe, but no one other than a recanvass official may take part in the recanvass. If [any irregularity in the recanvass procedure is noted by such a party representative, he] a party representative notes any irregularity in the recanvass procedure, such party representative shall be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in any contest relating to the election.

(b) The moderator shall determine the place or places where the recanvass shall be conducted and, if such recanvass is held before the tabulators are boxed and collected in the manner required by section 9-266, the moderator may [either] require that such recanvass of such tabulators be conducted in each place where the tabulators are located, or [he] the moderator may require that [they] such tabulators be removed to one central place [,] where such recanvass shall be conducted. All recanvassing procedures shall be open to public observation, subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section. Such recanvass officials shall, in the presence of such moderator and registrars of voters, make a record of the number on the seal and the number on the protective counter, if one is provided, on each voting tabulator specified by such moderator. Such registrars of voters in the

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presence of such moderator shall turn over the keys of each such tabulator to such recanvass officials, and such recanvass officials, in the presence of such registrars of voters and moderator, shall immediately proceed to recanvass the vote cast thereon, and shall then open the package of absentee ballots and recanvass the vote cast thereon. In the course of the recanvass of the absentee ballot vote the recanvass officials shall check all outer envelopes for absentee ballots against the inner envelopes for such ballots and against the registry list to verify postmarks, addresses and registry list markings and also to determine whether the number of envelopes from which absentee ballots have been removed is the same as the number of persons checked as having voted by absentee ballot. The write-in ballots shall also be recanvassed at this time. Any party representative present shall have a right to view each ballot as it is being recanvassed by the recanvass officials, so as to be able to discern the markings on such ballot. All of the recanvass officials shall use the same forms for tallies and returns as were used at the original canvass and the absentee ballot counters shall also sign the tallies.

Sec. 12. Section 9-311a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

For purposes of this section, state, district and municipal offices shall be as defined in section 9-372 except that the office of presidential elector shall be deemed a state office. Forthwith after a regular or special election for municipal office, or forthwith upon tabulation of the vote for state and district offices by the Secretary of the State, when at any such election the plurality of an elected candidate for an office over the vote for a defeated candidate receiving the next highest number of votes was either (1) less than a vote equivalent to one-half of one per cent of the total number of votes cast for the office but not more than two thousand votes, or (2) less than twenty votes, there shall be a recanvass of the returns of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators and absentee

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ballots used in such election for such office unless such defeated candidate or defeated candidates, as the case may be, for such office file a written statement waiving this right to such canvass with the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office, or with the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office. In the case of state and district offices, the Secretary of the State upon tabulation of the votes for such offices shall notify the town clerks in the state or district, as the case may be, of the state and district offices which qualify for an automatic recanvass and shall also notify each candidate for any such office. When a recanvass is to be held, the municipal clerk shall promptly notify the moderator, as defined in section 9-311, as amended by this act, who shall proceed forthwith to cause a recanvass of such returns of the office in question in the same manner as is provided in [said] section 9-311, as amended by this act. In addition to the notice required under section 9-311, as amended by this act, the moderator shall before such recanvass is made give notice in writing of the time when, and place where, such recanvass is to be made to each candidate for a municipal office which qualifies for an automatic recanvass under this section. Nothing in this section shall preclude the right to judicial proceedings on behalf of a candidate under any provision of chapter 149. For the purposes of this section, "the total number of votes cast for the office" means, in the case of multiple openings for the same office, the total number of electors checked as having voted in the state, district, municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be. When a recanvass of the returns for an office for which there are multiple openings is required by the provisions of this section, the returns for all candidates for all openings for the office shall be recanvassed. No one other than a recanvass official shall take part in the recanvass. If [any irregularity in the recanvass procedure is noted by a candidate, he] a candidate notes any irregularity in the recanvass procedure, such candidate shall be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in any contest relating to the election.

Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 9-404c of the general statutes is

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repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) Upon the filing of all pages of a petition, the Secretary shall reject any page of the petition which does not contain the certifications required in section 9-404b or which the Secretary determines to have been circulated in violation of any provision of said section, [9-404b,] and shall immediately cause the number of certified signatures to be tabulated. Petitions filed with the Secretary shall be preserved for a period of three years and then may be destroyed.

Sec. 14. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (33) of section 9-601 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(C) A firm, partnership, corporation, association, organization or other entity:

(i) With respect to which a foreign owner or a person described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision holds, owns, controls or otherwise has a direct or indirect beneficial ownership of at least five per cent of such entity's total equity or outstanding voting shares;

(ii) With respect to which two or more, in combination, foreign owners or persons described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision hold, own, control or otherwise have a direct or indirect beneficial ownership of at least twenty per cent of such entity's total equity or outstanding voting shares, excluding interests held in a widely held, diversified fund;

(iii) With respect to which a foreign owner or individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, as applicable, [of this subdivision] participates directly or indirectly in decisions to engage in any activity subject to the provisions of chapter 155 or 157; or

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(iv) That is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, and with respect to which at least twenty per cent of the income received by such entity in the most recent taxable year derives from one or more foreign owners.

Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 9-601d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any person, as defined in section 9-601, as amended by this act, may, unless otherwise restricted or prohibited by law, including, but not limited to, any provision of this chapter or chapter 157, make unlimited independent expenditures, as defined in section 9-601c, and accept unlimited covered transfers, as defined in [said] section 9-601, as amended by this act. Except as provided pursuant to this section, any such person who makes or obligates to make an independent expenditure or expenditures in excess of one thousand dollars, in the aggregate, shall file statements according to the same schedule and in the same manner as is required of a treasurer of a candidate committee pursuant to section 9-608.

Sec. 16. Section 9-750 of the general statutes, as amended by section 188 of public act 23-205, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

If, (1) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, or any fiscal year thereafter, the amount of funds available under section 3-69a for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund established in section 9-701 is less than the amount of funds required under [said] section 3-69a to be deposited in said fund, resulting in an insufficiency in the amount of the deposit, or (2) during an election cycle the amount of funds in the Citizens' Election Fund is less than the amount of funds required to provide grants to each

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qualified candidate committee pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, resulting in an insufficiency in said fund, a portion of the revenues from the tax imposed under chapter 208, equal to the amount of any insufficiency described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this section, shall be deposited in said fund to allow for the payment of grants pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 12-107e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) An owner of land included in any area designated as open space land upon any plan as finally adopted may apply for its classification as open space land on any grand list of a municipality by filing a written application for such classification with the assessor thereof not earlier than thirty days before or later than thirty days after the assessment date, provided in a year in which a revaluation of all real property in accordance with section 12-62 becomes effective such application may be filed not later than ninety days after such assessment date. The assessor shall determine whether there has been any change in the area designated as an area of open space land upon the plan of development which adversely affects its essential character as an area of open space land and, if the assessor determines that there has been no such change, said assessor shall classify such land as open space land and include it as such on the grand list. An application for classification of land as open space land shall be made upon a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and shall set forth a description of the land, a general description of the use to which it is being put, a statement of the potential liability for tax under the provisions of [section] sections 12-504a to 12-504f, inclusive, and such other information as the assessor may require to aid in determining whether such land qualifies for such classification. Any advisory opinion issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture pursuant to section 22-4c, stating that such land constitutes

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open space land, shall be prima facie evidence that such land is classified as open space land for purposes of this section.

Sec. 18. Subsection (b) of section 21a-7 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) With the exception of the Liquor Control Commission, each board or commission within the Department of Consumer Protection under section 21a-6 that makes a proposed final decision that is adverse to a party, as described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, shall submit such proposed final decision to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. Not later than thirty calendar days after receipt of any such proposed final decision, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall notify such board or commission that the commissioner shall render the final decision concerning such matter. Not later than thirty days after receipt of any such proposed final decision, the commissioner shall approve, modify or reject the proposed final decision or remand the proposed final decision for further review or for the taking of additional evidence. The commissioner shall notify the board or commission in writing of the commissioner's decision and include in such notification the rationale for such decision. The decision of the commissioner shall be the final decision in accordance with section 4-180 for purposes of reconsideration in accordance with section 4-181a or appeal to the Superior Court in accordance with section 4-183.

Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 25-156 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) There is established the Long Island Sound Foundation, Inc., a nonstock, nonprofit corporation, organized under the laws of the state of Connecticut as a state chartered foundation. The Long Island Sound Foundation, Inc. shall be a successor organization to the Long Island

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Sound Assembly established under section 25-155 of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2023.

Governor's Action:

Approved June 30, 2025