

General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 7996



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist. SEN. MARTIN, 31st Dist. SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist. SEN. CICARELLA, 34th Dist. SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist. SEN. HWANG, 28th Dist.

SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.

SEN. FAZIO, 36th Dist.

SEN. GORDON, 35th Dist.

SEN. KISSEL, 7th Dist.

SEN. PERILLO J., 21st Dist.

To: House Bill No. **7129** File No. 366 Cal. No. 351

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER TO MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS OF VOTING TABULATORS AND ACCESSORIES PURCHASED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE."

- 1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
- 2 internal references accordingly:
- 3 "Sec. 501. Section 9-352 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 5 Any election official who, with intent to cause or permit any voting
- 6 tabulator to fail to correctly register all votes cast thereon, tampers with
- 7 or disarranges such tabulator in any way or any part or appliance
- 8 thereof, or causes such tabulator to be used or consents to its being used
- 9 for voting at any election with knowledge of the fact that the same is not
- in order, or not perfectly set and adjusted to correctly register all votes

cast thereon, or who, for the purpose of defrauding or deceiving any elector or of causing it to be doubtful for what candidate or candidates

- or proposition any vote is cast, or causing it to appear upon such
- 14 tabulator that votes cast for one candidate or proposition were cast for
- 15 another candidate or proposition, removes, changes or mutilates any
- ballot, shall be guilty of a class D felony with a minimum term of
- 17 <u>imprisonment of twelve months that may not be suspended or reduced.</u>
- 18 Sec. 502. Section 9-353 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 19 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 20 Any election official who, at the close of the polls, purposely causes
- 21 the vote registered on the tabulator to be incorrectly taken down as to
- 22 any candidate or proposition voted on, or who knowingly causes to be
- 23 made or signed any false statement, certificate or return of any kind, of
- such vote, or who knowingly consents to any such act, shall be guilty of
- 25 a class D felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of twelve
- 26 <u>months that may not be suspended or reduced.</u>
- Sec. 503. Section 9-354 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 29 Any person who prints or causes to be printed upon any official ballot
- 30 the name of any person not a candidate of a party whose name is printed
- 31 at the head of the column containing such nominees or who prints or
- 32 causes to be printed any authorized ballot in any manner other than that
- 33 prescribed by the Secretary of the State, shall be guilty of a class D felony
- 34 with a minimum term of imprisonment of twelve months that may not
- 35 <u>be suspended or reduced.</u>
- Sec. 504. Section 9-355 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 37 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 38 Any person who, without reasonable cause, neglects to perform any
- 39 of the duties required of him by the laws relating to elections or
- 40 primaries and for which neglect no other punishment is provided, and
- 41 any person who is guilty of fraud in the performance of any such duty,

42 and any person who makes any unlawful alteration in any list required 43 by law, shall be fined not more than three hundred dollars or be 44 imprisoned not more than [one year] twelve months or be both fined 45 and imprisoned. Any official who is convicted of fraud in the 46 performance of any duty imposed upon him by any law relating to the 47 registration or admission of electors or to the conduct of any election 48 shall be disfranchised. Any public officer or any election official upon 49 whom any duty is imposed by part I of chapter 147 and sections 9-308 50 to 9-311, inclusive, who wilfully omits or neglects to perform any such 51 duty or does any act prohibited therein for which punishment is not 52 otherwise provided shall be guilty of a class E felony with a minimum 53 term of imprisonment of twelve months that may not be suspended or 54 reduced.

- Sec. 505. Section 9-359 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 57 (a) Any [(1)] person who executes an absentee ballot for the purpose 58 of informing any other person how he votes, or who procures any 59 absentee ballot to be prepared for such purpose, [(2)] shall be guilty of a 60 class D felony.
- 61 (b) Any (1) municipal clerk or moderator, elector appointed to count 62 any absentee ballot or other person who wilfully attempts to ascertain 63 how any elector marked his absentee ballot or how it was cast, [(3)] (2) 64 person who unlawfully opens or fills out, except as provided in section 65 9-140a with respect to a person unable to write, any elector's absentee 66 ballot signed in blank, [(4)] (3) person designated under section 9-140a 67 who executes an absentee ballot contrary to the elector's wishes, or [(5)] 68 (4) person who wilfully violates any provision of chapter 145, shall be 69 guilty of a class D felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of 70 twelve months that may not be suspended or reduced.
- Sec. 506. Section 9-359a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) A person is guilty of false statement in absentee balloting in the first degree when such person intentionally signs the name of another person to the application for an absentee ballot or the inner envelope accompanying any such ballot, which such person does not believe to be true and which signature is intended to mislead a public servant in the performance of such public servant's official function.

- 79 (2) False statement in absentee balloting in the first degree is a class 80 D felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of twelve months that may not be suspended or reduced.
 - [(a)] (b) (1) A person is guilty of false statement in absentee balloting in the second degree when [he] such person intentionally makes a false written statement in or on [or signs the name of another person to] the application for an absentee ballot or the inner envelope accompanying any such ballot, which [he] such person does not believe to be true and which statement [or signature] is intended to mislead a public servant in the performance of [his] such public servant's official function.
- 89 [(b)] (2) False statement in absentee balloting in the second degree is a class D felony. 90
- 91 Sec. 507. Section 9-363 of the general statutes is repealed and the 92 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Any person who, with intent to defraud any elector of his or her vote or cause any elector to lose his or her vote or any part thereof, gives in any way, or prints, writes or circulates, or causes to be written, printed or circulated, any improper, false, misleading or incorrect instructions or advice or suggestions as to the manner of voting on any tabulator, the following of which or any part of which would cause any elector to lose his or her vote or any part thereof, or would cause any elector to fail in whole or in part to register or record the same on the tabulator for the candidates of his or her choice, shall be guilty of a class D felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of twelve months that may not be suspended or reduced.

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Sec. 508. Section 9-364 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Any person who, with intent to disenfranchise any elector, influences or attempts to influence by force or threat, bribery or corrupt, fraudulent or deliberately deceitful means any elector to stay away from any election or otherwise refrain from voting, whether such voting is by mail, by deposit in a secure drop box or in person at a polling place or designated early voting or same-day election registration location, shall be guilty of a class D felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of twelve months that may not be suspended or reduced.

114 Sec. 509. Section 9-365 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Any person who (1) during the period that is sixty days or less prior to any election, municipal meeting, school district election or school district meeting, attempts to influence the vote of any operative in his or her employ by threats of withholding employment from him or her or by promises of employment, or (2) dismisses any operative from his or her employment on account of any vote he or she has given at any such election or meeting shall be guilty of a class D felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of twelve months that may not be suspended or reduced.

Sec. 510. Section 9-366 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Any person who induces or attempts to induce any elector to write, paste or otherwise place, on a ballot, or a table or booth used for voting, any name, sign or device of any kind, as a distinguishing mark by which to indicate to another how such elector voted, or enters into or attempts to form any agreement or conspiracy with any person to induce or attempt to induce electors or any elector to so place any distinguishing mark on such ballot, table or booth, or attempts to induce any elector to do anything with a view to enabling another person to see or know for

what persons or any of them such elector votes, or enters into or attempts to form any agreement or conspiracy to induce any elector to do any act for the purpose of enabling another person or persons to see or know for what person or persons such elector votes, or attempts to induce any person to place himself or herself in such position, or to do any other act for the purpose of enabling him or her to see or know for what candidates any elector other than himself or herself votes, or himself or herself attempts to get in such position to do any act so that he or she will be enabled to see or know how any elector other than himself or herself votes, or does any act which invades or interferes with the secrecy of the voting or causes the same to be invaded or interfered with, shall be guilty of a class D felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of twelve months that may not be suspended or reduced.

- Sec. 511. Section 9-368c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
 - (a) No person shall intentionally misrepresent the contents of a petition circulated under this title.
 - (b) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of twelve months that may not be suspended or reduced."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following		
sections:		
Sec. 501	October 1, 2025	9-352
Sec. 502	October 1, 2025	9-353
Sec. 503	October 1, 2025	9-354
Sec. 504	October 1, 2025	9-355
Sec. 505	October 1, 2025	9-359
Sec. 506	October 1, 2025	9-359a
Sec. 507	October 1, 2025	9-363
Sec. 508	October 1, 2025	9-364
Sec. 509	October 1, 2025	9-365
Sec. 510	October 1, 2025	9-366
Sec. 511	October 1, 2025	9-368c