

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Amendment

LCO No. 8997



Offered by: REP. BLUMENTHAL, 147th Dist. SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **7228**

File No. 693

Cal. No. 433

"AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REFORMS TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS IN THIS STATE."

Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
 following in lieu thereof:

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 Section 9-139a of the general statutes is repealed and the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

5 (a) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish the following 6 materials to municipal clerks: The absentee ballot facsimile, the 7 application for absentee ballot authorized for use at each election or 8 primary, the inner envelope, the outer envelope provided for the return 9 of the ballot to the municipal clerk, the instructions for the use of the 10 absentee ballot and the envelope for mailing of such forms by the clerk 11 to the absentee ballot applicant.

12 (b) The application for absentee ballot shall be in the form of a 13 statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting. Each application shall contain (1) spaces for the signature
under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting of any person
who assists the applicant in the completion of an application together
with the information required in section 9-140, as amended by this act,
(2) spaces for the signature and the printed or typed name of the
applicant, and (3) a clear and conspicuous notation of the year for which
such application's use is authorized.

21 (c) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish to the 22 Department of Correction an application for absentee ballot form for use 23 within Department of Correction facilities. Such form shall contain 24 spaces for all information required under subsection (b) of this section. 25 Each such form shall be consecutively numbered and shall indicate that 26 such form is only for use by an absentee ballot applicant who is 27 incarcerated in a Department of Correction facility and that such 28 applicant is required to provide in the appropriate space on such form 29 a mailing address at the Department of Correction facility in order for 30 an absentee ballot to be mailed to such applicant.

31 [(c)] (d) The instructions for the use of the absentee ballot shall be in 32 plain language and shall include the steps to be taken if a vote is to be 33 cancelled or changed, and shall also contain a simple and concise 34 restatement of the provisions of subsection (l) of section 9-150a and 35 section 9-159o concerning rejection of ballots marked in such manner as 36 to identify the voters casting them, and withdrawal of ballots by persons 37 who find they are able to vote at the polls.

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

41 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*43 1, 2026):

44 (g) On the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets the municipal

45 clerk shall mail an absentee voting set to each applicant whose 46 application was received by the clerk prior to that day. When the clerk 47 receives an application during the time period in which absentee voting 48 sets are to be issued he shall mail an absentee voting set to the applicant, 49 within twenty-four hours, unless the applicant submits his application 50 in person at the office of the clerk and asks to be given his absentee 51 voting set immediately, in which case the clerk shall comply with the 52 request. Any absentee voting set to be mailed to an applicant shall be 53 mailed to the bona fide personal mailing address shown on the 54 application. If an applicant has provided a mailing address at a 55 Department of Correction facility and such applicant is subsequently 56 transferred to another Department of Correction facility, the 57 Commissioner of Correction shall ensure delivery of the absentee voting 58 set to such applicant. Issuance of absentee voting sets shall also be 59 subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, section 9-150c 60 and section 9-159q concerning persons designated to deliver or return 61 ballots in cases involving unforeseen illness or disability and supervised 62 voting at certain health care institutions.

63 Sec. 3. Subsection (k) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is
64 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*65 1, 2026):

66 (k) (1) A person shall register with the [town] <u>municipal</u> clerk before 67 distributing five or more absentee ballot applications for an election, 68 primary or referendum, not including applications distributed to such 69 person's immediate family. Such requirement shall not apply to a person 70 who is the designee of an applicant or to any employee of the 71 Department of Correction who provides the application for absentee ballot form prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a, as 72 73 amended by this act, to incarcerated absentee ballot applicants.

(2) The municipal clerk shall reject the application of any absentee
 ballot applicant made upon the form prescribed under subsection (c) of
 section 9-139a, as amended by this act, if such form indicates any
 address other than an address at a Department of Correction facility.

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78	The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all applications of		
79	incarcerated absentee ballot applicants received by such municipal		
80	clerk, which log shall indicate the name and address of each applicant,		
81	the date of receipt of each application and the date such municipal clerk		
82	mailed the absentee ballot to such applicant or the reason why such		
83	application was rejected.		
84	[(2)] (3) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications shall		
85	maintain a list of the names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot		
86	applicants who receive such applications, and shall file such list with		
87	the [town] <u>municipal</u> clerk prior to the date of the primary, election or		
88	referendum for which the applications were so distributed, except that		
89	such requirements shall not apply to any employee of the Department		
90	of Correction who provides the application for absentee ballot form		
91	prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a, as amended by this		
92	act, to incarcerated absentee ballot applicants. Any person who		
93	distributes absentee ballot applications and receives an executed		
94	application shall forthwith file the application with the [town]		
95	<u>municipal</u> clerk.		
96	Sec. 4. Section 9-14a of the general statutes is repealed and the		
97	following is substituted in lieu thereof (<i>Effective January 1, 2026</i>):		
98	Any person in the custody of the state being held at a [community		
99	correctional center or a correctional institution] Department of		
100	Correction facility, whose voting rights have not been denied, shall be		

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

Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 9-163aa of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*,
2025):

(b) (1) The registrars of voters of each municipality shall designate alocation for the conduct of early voting, which location shall be the same

109 for the duration of the period of early voting except as otherwise 110 specified in this subdivision, provided (A) the registrars of voters have 111 access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such 112 location, and (B) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of 113 the State not later than sixty days prior to the day of an election or a 114 primary. The written certification under subparagraph (B) of this 115 subdivision shall provide (i) the name, street address and relevant 116 contact information associated with such location, (ii) the number of 117 election or primary officials to be appointed by the registrars of voters to serve at such location and the roles of such officials, and (iii) a 118 119 description of the design of such location and a plan for effective 120 conduct of such early voting. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove 121 such written certification not later than forty-five days prior to the day 122 of an election or a primary. If the Secretary disapproves such 123 certification, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, the reasons for such 124 disapproval and shall issue an order for such corrective action as the 125 Secretary deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the 126 appointment of additional election or primary officials or the alteration 127 of such design or plan. After having received approval of such 128 certification or having complied with any order for corrective action to 129 the Secretary's satisfaction, as applicable, the registrars of voters shall determine the site of such location designated for the conduct of early 130 131 voting at least thirty-one days prior to an election or a primary. Such 132 location shall not be changed within such period, except, if the 133 municipal clerk and registrars of voters unanimously find that such 134 location has been rendered unusable within such period, such clerk and 135 registrars shall forthwith designate another location for the conduct of 136 early voting to be used in place of the location so rendered unusable and 137 shall give adequate notice that such location has been so changed. The 138 provisions of sections 9-168d and 9-168e shall apply to such location 139 designated for the conduct of early voting.

(2) In any municipality with a population of at least twenty thousand,the legislative body may hold a public hearing on whether to designate

any additional location in such municipality for the conduct of early

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143 voting, which public hearing, if any, shall be held not later than fifteen 144days prior to the time for designating any such location set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection. Any legislative body holding such a 145 146 public hearing shall properly notice such public hearing not later than 147 ten days prior to such public hearing in a newspaper having general 148 circulation in such municipality and on the Internet web site of the 149 municipality. For any such municipality in which such a public hearing 150 was not held, the legislative body thereof shall determine whether to 151 designate any such additional location and shall notify the Secretary of 152 the State with a detailed explanation for such determination. For any 153 municipality in which such a public hearing was held, not later than 154 three days after the conclusion of such public hearing, the legislative 155 body thereof shall determine whether to designate any such additional 156 location and shall notify the Secretary with a detailed explanation for 157 such determination. If the legislative body determines that any such 158 additional location be designated, the registrars of voters shall so 159 designate such additional location and the provisions of subdivision (1) 160 of this subsection shall apply to such additional location. The Secretary 161 shall take no action on any detailed explanation submitted under this subdivision with regard to the number of additional locations 162 designated in such a municipality, and shall preserve each such detailed 163 164 explanation as a public record open to public inspection. For the 165 purposes of this subdivision, "population" means the estimated number 166 of people according to the most recent version of the State Register and 167 Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90.

- (3) In any municipality containing any campus of a constituent unit,
 as defined in section 10a-1, with at least one thousand students living in
 housing that is on such campus or is owned or operated by, or affiliated
 with, such constituent unit, the registrars of voters of such municipality
 shall designate an additional location on such campus for the conduct
 of early voting and the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection
 shall apply to such additional location.
- 175 [(3)] (4) At each location designated for the conduct of early voting,

the registrars of voters shall provide to prospective electors during the early voting period the opportunity to apply for same-day election registration, in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 9-19j, as amended by this act, for such application and for the completion and processing of any such application.

181 [(4)] (5) (A) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on 182 which early voting is conducted, a moderator and such other election or 183 primary officials to serve at each location designated for such conduct. The moderator so appointed shall perform any duty required, and may 184185 exercise any power authorized, under this title related to the conduct of 186 early voting at such location. On any such day and solely for purposes related to the conduct of early voting, the registrars of voters of a 187 188 municipality may, upon agreement, appoint one of the registrars from 189 such municipality as moderator in accordance with the provisions of 190 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The registrars of voters may 191 delegate to each other election or primary official so appointed any of 192 the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of 193 voters shall supervise each such official and train each such official to be 194 an early voting election or primary official.

195 (B) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality appoint, 196 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, one of the registrars 197 of such municipality as moderator to serve at a location designated for 198 the conduct of early voting, such registrars of voters shall jointly submit 199 to the Secretary of the State (i) a certification that the registrars of voters 200 of such municipality are in agreement as to such appointment, and (ii) 201 a written plan detailing alternative coverage of the duties normally 202 carried out by the registrar so appointed to ensure that such registrar 203 abstains, on each day in which such registrar serves as moderator, from 204 any such duties that conflict with those of the moderator.

205 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed 206 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

207 (d) Any person applying for same-day election registration under the

208 provisions of this section shall make application in accordance with the 209 provisions of section 9-20, provided (1) (A) on election day, the applicant 210 shall appear in person not later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance 211 with subsection (b) of section 9-174, at the location designated by the 212 registrars of voters for same-day election registration, and (B) during the 213 period of early voting prior to election day, the applicant shall appear 214 in person at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) 215 of section 9-174, at such location, (2) an applicant who is a student 216 enrolled at an institution of higher education may submit a current 217 photo identification card issued by such institution in lieu of the 218 identification required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall 219 declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the 220 election, as provided in subsection (f) of this section. If the information 221 that the applicant is required to provide under section 9-20 and this 222 section does not include proof of the applicant's residential address, the 223 applicant shall also (A) submit identification that shows the applicant's 224 bona fide residence address, including, but not limited to, a learner's 225 permit issued under section 14-36 or a utility bill that has the applicant's 226 name and current address and that has a due date that is not later than 227 thirty days after the election or, in the case of a student enrolled at an 228 institution of higher education, a registration or fee statement from such 229 institution that has the applicant's name and current address, or (B) 230 prove the applicant's bona fide residence address by the testimony 231 under oath of at least one elector.

Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*1, 2026):

(b) In the event that an elector is present at the polling place but is unable to gain access to the polling place due to [a temporary] <u>an</u> incapacity, the elector may request that the ballot be brought to him or her <u>in the area designated pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-236, as</u> <u>amended by this act, for curbside voting</u>. The registrars of voters or the assistant registrars of voters, as the case may be, shall take such ballot, 241 along with a privacy sleeve to such elector. The elector shall show 242 identification, in accordance with the provisions of this section. The 243 elector shall forthwith mark the ballot in the presence of the election 244 officials in such manner that the election officials shall not know how 245 the ballot is marked. The elector shall place the ballot in the privacy 246 sleeve. The election officials shall mark the elector's name on the official 247 voter list, manually on paper or electronically, as having voted in person 248 and deliver such ballot and privacy sleeve to the voting tabulator where 249 such ballot shall be placed into the tabulator, by the election official, for 250 counting. The moderator shall record such activity in the moderator's 251 diary.

Sec. 8. Section 9-236 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

254 (a) On the day of any primary, referendum or election, no person 255 shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or 256 himself or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted 257 at the election or referendum, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising 258 matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-259 five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place 260 or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such 261 outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any 262 such corridor, passageway or approach. Nothing contained in this 263 section shall be construed to prohibit (1) parent-teacher associations or 264 parent-teacher organizations from holding bake sales or other fund-265 raising activities on the day of any primary, referendum or election in 266 any school used as a polling place, provided such sales or activities shall 267 not be held in the room in which the election booths are located, (2) the 268 registrars of voters from directing the officials at a primary, referendum 269 or election to distribute, within the restricted area, adhesive labels on 270 which are imprinted the words "I Voted Today", or (3) the registrars of 271 voters in a primary, election or referendum from jointly permitting 272 nonpartisan activities to be conducted in a room other than the room in 273 which the election booths are located. The registrars may jointly impose

such conditions and limitations on such nonpartisan activity as deemed
necessary to ensure the orderly process of voting. The moderator shall
evict any person who in any way interferes with the orderly process of
voting.

278 (b) (1) The selectmen shall provide suitable markers to indicate the 279 seventy-five-foot distance from such entrance. Such markers shall 280 consist of a board resting on an iron rod, which board shall be not less 281 than twelve inches square and painted a bright color and shall bear the 282 figures and letters "75 feet" and the following words: "On the day of any 283 primary, referendum or election no person shall solicit in behalf of or in 284 opposition to another or himself or peddle or offer any ballot, 285 advertising matter or circular to another person or loiter within a radius 286 of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any 287 polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading 288 from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room 289 opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach."

290 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this 291 subsection, the selectmen may provide the markers required by the 292 provisions of this subsection in effect prior to October 1, 1983, except 293 that in the case of a referendum which is not held in conjunction with 294 an election or a primary, the selectmen shall provide the markers 295 required by subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The moderator and the moderator's assistants shall meet at least
twenty minutes before the opening of a primary, referendum or an
election in the voting district, and shall cause to be placed by a police
officer or constable, or such other primary or election official as they
select, a suitable number of distance markers. Such moderator or any
police officer or constable shall prohibit loitering and peddling of tickets
within that distance.

303 (c) (1) The registrars of voters shall designate at each polling place an
 304 area for curbside voting where any elector who is present at the polling
 305 place, but is unable to gain access to the polling place due to an

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306	incapacity, may request that the ballot be brought to such elector as			
307	provided in subsection (b) of section 9-261, as amended by this act.			
• • • •				
308	(2) On the day of any primary, referendum or election, no person			
309	shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or			
310	himself or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted			
311	at the election or referendum, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising			
312 313	matter, ballot or circular to another person within a marked radius of			
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314	for curbside voting pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.			
315	(3) (A) While an elector is casting his or her ballot in the area			
316	designated for curbside voting pursuant to subdivision (1) of this			
317	subsection, no person shall be allowed in any vehicle being used by such			
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320	(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this			
321	subdivision, no candidate shall be allowed in any vehicle used for the			
322	casting of a ballot under this subsection unless for purposes of casting			
323	the candidate's own ballot.			
324	(4) The Secretary of the State shall adopt regulations, in accordance			
325	with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of this			
326	subsection. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to, a model			
327	plan that municipalities may implement for curbside voting.			
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328	[(c)] (<u>d</u>) No person shall be allowed within any polling place for any			
329	purpose other than casting his or her vote, except (1) those permitted or			
330	exempt under this section or section 9-236a, (2) primary officials under			
331	section 9-436, (3) election officials under section 9-258, including (A) a			
332	municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same			
333	office, performing his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of			
334 225	voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing			
335	his or her official duties, or (4) unofficial checkers under section 9-235.			
336	Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to enter, remain			

337 within and leave any polling place or restricted area surrounding any 338 polling place to observe the election, provided any such representative 339 who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be 340 evicted by the moderator. A number of students in grades four to 341 twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in any one polling 342 place, may enter any polling place between twelve o'clock noon and 343 three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the activities taking place 344 in the polling place, provided there is proper parental or teacher 345 supervision present, and provided further, any such student who in any 346 way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the 347 moderator. An elector may be accompanied into any polling place by 348 one or more children who are fifteen years of age or younger and 349 supervised by the elector if the elector is the parent or legal guardian of 350 such children.

[(d)] (e) Any person who violates any provision of this section or,
while the polls are open for voting, removes or injures any such distance
marker, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established, within the office of the Secretary of the State, a Translation Advisory Committee for the purposes of (1) validating the translations of electionrelated materials for accuracy and ensuring that such translations meet the needs of the intended audience in a culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate way, and (2) making recommendations to the Secretary of the State and municipal officials on related matters.

361 (b) The Secretary of the State shall appoint members to serve on the
362 Translation Advisory Committee based on an application that shall
363 include the submission of a writing sample. Each member shall:

364 (1) Be a current resident of the state of Connecticut;

365 (2) Have experience in one or more of the municipalities served by366 the translation of election-related materials;

367 (3) Be proficient in reading and writing in (A) English, and (B) one or

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368	more dialects of a language, other than English, that is spoken in		
369	Connecticut and in which federal or state law requires election-related		
370	materials be made available; and		
371	(4) Have experience in (A) election administration, including, but not		
372	limited to, serving as a poll worker, or (B) bilingual educational settings		
373	or community assistance programs.		
374	(c) The Secretary of the State shall make initial appointments to the		
375	Translation Advisory Committee not later than August 1, 2025. Each		
376	member shall serve for a term of four years from such appointment, or		
377	until a successor is appointed and has qualified.		
378	(d) The Translation Advisory Committee shall meet as frequently as		
379	necessary to timely approve election-related materials translations prior		
380	to elections, primaries and referenda, but not less than quarterly each		
381	year. Committee members shall serve without compensation and shall		
382	not be eligible for mileage reimbursement. Not later than January 15,		
383	2027, and biennially thereafter, the committee shall submit to the		
384	Secretary of the State a report on the committee's proceedings, including		
385	any recommendations for improvements in performing the committee's		
386	duties under this section.		
387	(e) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance		
388	with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the		
389	purposes of this section.		
390	Sec. 10. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2026) Each municipality that,		

) (*L*]] pursuant to federal or state law, is required to make election-related 391 materials available in a language other than English shall use 392 professional translators when translating election-related materials 393 394 from English into such other language. As soon as practicable, but in no case later than sixty-five days prior to each election, primary or 395 referendum, such municipality shall submit its translated election-396 related materials to the Translation Advisory Committee established 397 398 under section 9 of this act for review of such translations. As used in this sHB 7228Amendment399section, "professional translator" means a person who has attained (1)400an academic certificate or degree in translation from an accredited401institution of higher education, or (2) certification as a translator by a402professional association or other accrediting organization.403Sec. 11. Section 9-50d of the general statutes is repealed and the404following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2025):

405 (a) (1) Whenever voter registration information maintained under 406 this title by the Secretary of the State or any registrar of voters is 407 provided pursuant to any provision of the general statutes, disclosure 408 of a voter's date of birth shall be limited to only the month and year of 409 birth, unless such voter registration information is requested and used 410 for a governmental purpose, as determined by the Secretary, in which 411 case the voter's complete date of birth shall be provided. As used in this 412 section, a governmental purpose shall include, but not be limited to, jury 413 administration.

414 (2) The Secretary of the State shall include, in each contract entered 415 into on or after October 1, 2025, for the purchase of voter registration 416 information described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, a provision 417 requiring that the purchaser agree to (A) only use such information for 418 election-related, scholarly, journalistic, political or governmental 419 purposes, and (B) not use such information for any personal, private or 420 commercial purpose, including, but not limited to, (i) harassment of any 421 voter or voter's household, (ii) advertising, solicitation, sale or 422 marketing of products or services to any voter or voter's household, and 423 (iii) reproduction of such information (I) in print, (II) in broadcast visual 424 or audio, or (III) for display on the Internet or any computer terminal.

425 (3) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
426 with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning the permissible uses of
427 voter registration information.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any motorvehicle operator's license number, identity card number or Social

430 Security number on a voter registration record shall be confidential and431 shall not be disclosed to any person.

432 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, if a voter 433 submits to the Secretary of the State a signed statement that 434 nondisclosure of such voter's name from the official registry list is 435 necessary for the safety of such voter or the voter's family, the name and 436 address of such voter on his or her voter registration record shall be 437 confidential and shall not be disclosed, except that an election, primary 438 or referendum official may view such information on the official registry 439 list when such list is used by any such official at a polling place on the 440 day of an election, primary or referendum. Such signed statement shall 441 be sworn under penalty of false statement, as provided in section 53a-157b." 442

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

Section 1	January 1, 2026	9-139a
Sec. 2	January 1, 2026	9-140(g)
Sec. 3	January 1, 2026	9-140(k)
Sec. 4	January 1, 2026	9-14a
Sec. 5	July 1, 2025	9-163aa(b)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2025	9-19j(d)
Sec. 7	January 1, 2026	9-261(b)
Sec. 8	January 1, 2026	9-236
Sec. 9	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 10	January 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 11	October 1, 2025	9-50d