



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 10273



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MARTIN, 31<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SAMPSON, 16<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. CICARELLA, 34<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SOMERS, 18<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
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SEN. FAZIO, 36<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. GORDON, 35<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KISSEL, 7<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. PERILLO J., 21<sup>st</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 7242

File No. 927

Cal. No. 483

**"AN ACT STUDYING EFFORTS TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION AND AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL PILOT PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE SUCH EFFORTS."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 1-1h of the general statutes  
4 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
5 *1, 2025*):

6 (a) Any person who does not possess a valid motor vehicle operator's  
7 license may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for an identity  
8 card. The application for an identity card shall be accompanied by the  
9 birth certificate of the applicant or a certificate of identification of the  
10 applicant issued and authorized for such use by the Department of

11 Correction and, except as provided in this subsection, a fee of twenty-  
12 eight dollars. Such application shall include: (1) The applicant's name;  
13 (2) the applicant's address; (3) whether the address is permanent or  
14 temporary; (4) the applicant's date of birth; (5) notice to the applicant  
15 that false statements on such application are punishable under section  
16 53a-157b; and (6) such other pertinent information as the Commissioner  
17 of Motor Vehicles deems necessary. The applicant shall sign the  
18 application in the presence of an official of the Department of Motor  
19 Vehicles. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any applicant who  
20 does not have the means to pay such fee, including any applicant who  
21 is a resident of a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons  
22 or a certified homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The  
23 commissioner may waive the fee for any applicant (A) who has  
24 voluntarily surrendered such applicant's motor vehicle operator's  
25 license, (B) whose license has been refused by the commissioner  
26 pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of section 14-36, or (C) who  
27 is both a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and  
28 blind, as defined in subsection (a) of section 1-1f, [ or (D) who is a  
29 resident of a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons or a  
30 certified homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The] Not  
31 later than September 1, 2025, the commissioner shall adopt regulations,  
32 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish the  
33 procedure and qualifications for the issuance of an identity card to any  
34 such [homeless] applicant who does not have the means to pay the fee  
35 for such identity card. For the purposes of this subsection, "certified  
36 homeless youth" and "certified homeless young adult" have the same  
37 meanings as provided in section 7-36.

38 (b) (1) An identity card shall indicate its date of expiration, contain a  
39 picture of the applicant and specify the applicant's height, sex and eye  
40 color.

41 (2) (A) An original identity card shall expire within a period not  
42 exceeding seven years following the date of the applicant's next  
43 birthday. Any person who holds an identity card may be notified by the

44 commissioner before its expiration and may renew such card in such  
45 manner as the commissioner shall prescribe. Upon renewal of an  
46 identity card, the commissioner may issue an identity card for a period  
47 to be determined by the commissioner, provided such period does not  
48 exceed eight years. [The] Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this  
49 subdivision, the fee for the renewal of an identity card that expires eight  
50 years from the date of issuance shall be thirty-two dollars. The  
51 commissioner shall charge a prorated amount of such fee for an identity  
52 card that expires less than eight years from the date of issuance. The  
53 commissioner shall not provide notification by mail to the holder of an  
54 identity card if the United States Postal Service has determined that mail  
55 is undeliverable to such person at the address for such person that is in  
56 the records of the department.

57 (B) The commissioner shall waive the fee for the renewal of an  
58 identity card, or any prorated amount of such fee, for any person who  
59 does not have the means to pay such fee or prorated amount.

60 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) At the request of any elector  
61 who has applied for and received an absentee ballot, each library in the  
62 state that is open to the public shall make available to such elector, free  
63 of charge, a photocopier in such library for the purposes of producing a  
64 copy of such elector's photo identification to be inserted in the outer  
65 envelope of such elector's returned absentee ballot in accordance with  
66 the provisions of section 9-140a of the general statutes, as amended by  
67 this act.

68 (b) At the request of any person applying for a presidential ballot by  
69 mail, each library in the state that is open to the public shall make  
70 available to such person, free of charge, a photocopier in such library for  
71 the purposes of producing a copy of such person's photo identification  
72 to accompany such person's application for a presidential ballot in  
73 accordance with the provisions of section 9-158e of the general statutes,  
74 as amended by this act.

75 (c) Each library in the state that is open to the public may seek

76 reimbursement from the State Treasurer of all costs associated with  
77 producing copies of photo identification for the purposes described in  
78 subsections (a) and (b) of this section, upon submission of  
79 documentation substantiating that such costs were incurred.

80 Sec. 503. Section 9-140a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
81 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

82 Each absentee ballot applicant shall sign the form on the inner  
83 envelope provided for in section 9-137, which shall constitute a  
84 statement under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting.  
85 Any absentee ballot applicant who is unable to write may cause his  
86 name to be signed on the form by an authorized agent who shall, in the  
87 space provided for the signature, write the name of the applicant  
88 followed by the word "by" and his own signature. The failure of the  
89 applicant or authorized agent to date the form shall not invalidate the  
90 ballot. The ballot shall be inserted in the inner envelope, [and] the inner  
91 envelope shall be inserted in the outer envelope [.] and a copy of the  
92 applicant's photo identification shall also be inserted in the outer  
93 envelope prior to the return of the ballot to the municipal clerk. [If an  
94 applicant is required to return identification with the ballot pursuant to  
95 the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time,  
96 such identification shall be inserted in the outer envelope so such  
97 identification can be viewed without opening the inner envelope.]

98 Sec. 504. Subsection (a) of section 9-140b of the general statutes is  
99 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
100 *2025*):

101 (a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or  
102 referendum only if: (1) It is mailed by (A) the ballot applicant, (B) a  
103 designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot because of  
104 illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the immediate family  
105 of an applicant who is a student, so that it is received by the clerk of the  
106 municipality in which the applicant is qualified to vote not later than the  
107 close of the polls; (2) it is returned by the applicant in person to the clerk

108 by the day before a regular election, special election or primary or prior  
109 to the opening of the polls on the day of a referendum; (3) it is returned  
110 by a designee of an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant, in person,  
111 to said clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election,  
112 primary or referendum; (4) it is returned by a member of the immediate  
113 family of the absentee voter, in person, to said clerk not later than the  
114 close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum; (5)  
115 in the case of a presidential or overseas ballot, it is mailed or otherwise  
116 returned pursuant to the provisions of section 9-158g; or (6) it is returned  
117 with [the proper] a copy of the applicant's photo identification [as  
118 required by the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from  
119 time to time, if applicable, inserted in the outer envelope so such  
120 identification can be viewed without opening the inner envelope]  
121 inserted in the outer envelope. A person returning an absentee ballot to  
122 the municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or (4) of this subsection  
123 shall present identification and, on the outer envelope of the absentee  
124 ballot, sign his name in the presence of the municipal clerk, and indicate  
125 his address, his relationship to the voter or his position, and the date  
126 and time of such return. As used in this section, "immediate family"  
127 means a dependent relative who resides in the individual's household  
128 or any spouse, child, parent or sibling of the individual.

129 Sec. 505. Subsection (a) of section 9-158e of the general statutes is  
130 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
131 *2025*):

132 (a) A person applying for a presidential ballot in person shall present  
133 [:(1) A] a current and valid photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a  
134 current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or  
135 other government document that shows the name and address of the  
136 voter.] The application for a presidential ballot by mail shall be  
137 accompanied by [:(A) A] a copy of a current and valid photo  
138 identification. [, or (B) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,  
139 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the  
140 name and address of the voter.] Upon receipt of an application for a

141 presidential ballot under sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, the clerk,  
142 if satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is  
143 qualified to vote under said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the  
144 applicant, as the case may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-  
145 presidential electors for use at the election and instructions and  
146 envelopes for its return.

147 Sec. 506. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is  
148 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
149 *2025*):

150 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has  
151 entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street  
152 address, if any, and the elector's name to the official checker or checkers  
153 in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials  
154 present to hear the same. Each elector [who registered to vote by mail  
155 for the first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the  
156 elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r,]  
157 shall present to the official checker or checkers, before the elector votes,  
158 [either] a current and valid photo identification that shows the elector's  
159 name and address, [or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,  
160 government check, paycheck or other government document that shows  
161 the name and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1) present  
162 to the official checker or checkers the elector's Social Security card or any  
163 other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector's name  
164 and either the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a  
165 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's  
166 residential address and date of birth, print the elector's name and sign a  
167 statement under penalty of false statement that the elector is the elector  
168 whose name appears on the official checklist. Such form shall clearly  
169 state the penalty of false statement. A separate form shall be used for  
170 each elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of identification  
171 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the official checker or checkers  
172 shall check the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually  
173 on paper or electronically. If the elector completes the form under

174 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the registrar of voters or the assistant  
175 registrar of voters, as the case may be, shall examine the information on  
176 such form and either instruct the official checker or checkers to check  
177 the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually on paper or  
178 electronically, or notify the elector that the form is incomplete or  
179 inaccurate.]

180 Sec. 507. Section 9-23r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
181 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

182 (a) On or after January 1, 2003, any person who is applying, by mail,  
183 to register to vote for the first time in this state may submit as part of  
184 such voter registration application: (1) A copy of a current and valid  
185 photo identification, (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,  
186 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the  
187 name and address of the voter, (3) a valid Connecticut motor vehicle  
188 operator's license number, or (4) the last four digits of the individual's  
189 Social Security number. Members of the armed forces and persons  
190 entitled to use the federal post card application for absentee ballots  
191 under section 9-153a are not required to provide identification when  
192 registering by mail. No information submitted as part of a voter  
193 registration application under this subsection shall be subject to  
194 disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to chapter  
195 14, except for the name, address, date of birth and telephone number of  
196 the applicant.

197 [(b) If an individual submits such information pursuant to this section  
198 as part of the individual's voter registration application and, with  
199 respect to subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this section, the  
200 registrars of voters are able to match the information submitted with an  
201 existing Connecticut identification record bearing the same number,  
202 name and date of birth as provided, such individual shall not be  
203 required to produce identification when voting in person or by absentee  
204 ballot and may sign a statement as described in subparagraph (B) of  
205 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261 in lieu of presenting  
206 identification when voting in person.]

207        [(c)] (b) Any additional documentation submitted as part of the voter  
208 registration application pursuant to this section may be destroyed by  
209 the registrars of voters after verification pursuant to the Help America  
210 Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time.

211        [(d)] (c) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section  
212 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this  
213 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,  
214 when the individual has entered the polling place in an election for  
215 federal office, the individual shall present [: (1) A] a current and valid  
216 photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank  
217 statement, government check, paycheck or other government document  
218 that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an individual does not  
219 meet the requirements of this subsection in an election for federal office,  
220 such individual may cast a provisional ballot prescribed under sections  
221 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

222        [(e)] (d) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section  
223 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this  
224 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,  
225 and if the individual votes by absentee ballot in an election for federal  
226 office, the individual shall enclose in the outer absentee ballot envelope,  
227 and not in the inner envelope with the ballot [: (1) A] a copy of a current  
228 and valid photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill,  
229 bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government  
230 document that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an  
231 individual does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an  
232 election for federal office, such [individual's] individual's absentee  
233 ballot shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of  
234 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-150a, as amended by this  
235 act, and treated as a provisional ballot for federal office only, pursuant  
236 to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

237        Sec. 508. Subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of section 9-23g of the  
238 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
239 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):



240 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant  
241 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present to  
242 the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received through  
243 the mail or an application receipt that was previously provided to the  
244 applicant pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h,  
245 subsection (b) of this section or section 9-23n. If an applicant presents  
246 said notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original  
247 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the  
248 registrar, or assistant registrar upon notice to and approval by the  
249 registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official check  
250 list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if otherwise  
251 eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the polling  
252 place a [preprinted form of identification pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
253 of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261] current and valid  
254 photo identification.

255 Sec. 509. Subsection (d) of section 9-150a of the general statutes is  
256 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
257 *2025*):

258 (d) (1) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as  
259 required by section 9-140a, as amended by this act, such inner envelope  
260 shall not be opened or the ballot removed therefrom, and such inner  
261 envelope shall be replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be  
262 marked "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the  
263 counters. (2) If such statement is signed but the individual completing  
264 the ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r, as  
265 amended by this act, and has not met the requirements of subsection  
266 [(e)] (d) of section 9-23r, as amended by this act, the counters shall  
267 replace the ballot in the opened inner envelope, replace the inner  
268 envelope in the opened outer envelope and mark "Rejected as an  
269 Absentee Ballot" and endorse the reason for such rejection on the outer  
270 envelope, and the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot for  
271 federal offices only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive."

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

Sec. 501	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	1-1h(a) and (b)
Sec. 502	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 503	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-140a
Sec. 504	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-140b(a)
Sec. 505	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-158e(a)
Sec. 506	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-261(a)
Sec. 507	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-23r
Sec. 508	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-23g(d)(4)
Sec. 509	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-150a(d)