STATE OF CONNECTICUT

QUI TRANSTULIT SUSTINET

General Assembly	*Amendment*

January Session, 2025 LCO No. **10704**

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."

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

3   "Section 1. Subsections (c) to (g), inclusive, of section 9-163aa of the
4   general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
5   thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

6   (c) Any elector who wishes to vote during a period of early voting at
7   an election or primary, and is eligible to so vote at such election or
8   primary, shall (1) appear in person at such times as provided in
9   subsection (c) of section 9-174, at the location designated by the
10   registrars of voters for early voting, <u>and</u> (2) identify such elector as
11   required by subsection (a) of section 9-261<u>.</u> **[**, and (3) declare under oath
12   that such elector has not previously voted in such election or primary,
13   as provided in subsection (e) of this section.**]**

14   (d) If the registrars of voters determine that an elector is eligible to
15   vote in the election or primary, the registrars of voters shall check the
16   state-wide centralized voter registration system before allowing such
17   elector to cast an early voting ballot as provided in subsection (e) of this
18   section.

19   (1) If the registrars of voters determine that the elector has not already
20   voted, or if there is no report that the elector has already voted, the
21   registrars shall allow such elector to vote.

22   (2) If the registrars of voters believe that the elector may have already
23   voted, such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters. After
24   completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter cannot be made
25   and such elector claims to have neither in fact voted nor offered to vote
26   in person or by absentee ballot, such elector may request a challenged
27   ballot in accordance with section 9-232d and may cast such challenged
28   ballot in accordance with section 9-232e. Such matter shall be reported
29   to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, which shall conduct an
30   investigation of the matter. The provisions of section 9-232f shall apply
31   to any challenged ballot cast under this subdivision.

32   (e) If the elector is allowed to vote, the registrars of voters shall
33   provide such elector with an early voting ballot, **[**and early voting
34   envelope and shall make a record of such issuance. The**]** shall make a
35   record of such issuance and shall announce to such elector the voting
36   district in which such elector resides and the ballot, corresponding to
37   such voting district, that such elector should properly receive. Prior to
38   marking the early voting ballot, the elector shall complete **[**an**]** a printed
39   affirmation **[**printed upon the back of the early voting envelope**]** in a log
40   book provided by the registrars of voters and shall declare under oath
41   that the voter has not previously voted in the election or primary. The
42   Secretary of the State shall prescribe the form of such log book and shall
43   make a sample thereof available on the Internet web site of the office of
44   the Secretary of the State. Such printed affirmation shall be in the form
45   substantially as follows and signed by the voter:

46   AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty
47 of false statement (perjury), that:

48   1. I am the elector appearing in person to vote <u>early</u> at **[**an**]** <u>this</u>
49 election or primary<u>.</u> **[**prior to the day of such election or primary.**]**

50   2. I am eligible to vote in **[**the**]** <u>this</u> election or primary<u>.</u> **[**indicated for
51 today.**]**

52   3. I have identified myself to the satisfaction of the registrars of voters.

53   4. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote
54 otherwise than by this ballot at this election or primary.

55   5. I have received an early voting ballot for the purpose of **[**so**]** voting.

56   …. (Signature of voter)

57   (f) The elector shall forthwith mark the early voting ballot in the
58 presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars
59 of voters shall not know how the early voting ballot is marked. The
60 elector shall place the early voting ballot **[**in the early voting ballot
61 envelope provided and deposit such envelope in a secured early voting
62 ballot depository receptacle**]** <u>into the voting tabulator</u>. At the conclusion
63 of each day during the early voting period, the registrars of voters shall
64 **[**transport such receptacle containing**]** <u>(1) publicly open the voting</u>
65 <u>tabulator, secure and seal</u> such day's early voting ballots **[**to the
66 municipal clerk, who shall**]** <u>in a secure receptacle and</u> retain and
67 securely store such ballots in as near a manner as possible to that for the
68 retention and secure storage of **[**absentee**]** ballots <u>cast at polling places</u>
69 <u>under section 9-261</u>, as provided in subsection (g) of this section, except
70 that, if such manner is not practicable, then such early voting ballots
71 shall be retained and securely stored as provided in an alternate plan
72 submitted by the registrars of voters to the Secretary of the State and
73 approved by the Secretary<u>,</u> **[**. On the day of the election or primary, the
74 early voting ballots shall be delivered to the registrars of voters for the
75 purpose of counting such ballots. A section of the head moderator's

76 return shall show the number of early voting ballots received from
77 electors. The registrars of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for
78 early voting ballots in a depository envelope with the early voting
79 ballots and store such early voting depository envelope with the other
80 election or primary results materials. The early voting depository
81 envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the period of
82 time required to preserve counted ballots for elections or primaries**]** and
83 (2) secure the voting tabulator in a locked area.

84   (g) Except as provided in section 9-163bb, as amended by this act, the
85 provisions of this title and any regulation adopted under this title
86 concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of
87 **[**absentee**]** ballots cast at polling places under section 9-261 shall apply,
88 as nearly as possible, to the custody, control and counting of early voting
89 ballots under this section. A section of the head moderator's return shall
90 show the number of early voting ballots received from electors.

91   Sec. 2. Section 9-163bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
92 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

93   (a) **[**Early voting ballots received by the municipal clerk prior to the
94 day of an election or primary, and same-day**]** (1) Same-day election
95 registration ballots received by the municipal clerk prior to the day of a
96 regular election **[**,**]** shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the
97 registrars between six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on the day of the
98 regular election. **[**or primary.**]**

99   **[**(b)**]** (2) The ballot counters for such **[**early voting ballots and**]** same-
100 day election registration ballots shall proceed to the central counting
101 location or to the respective polling places when counting is to take
102 place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a at the time, between
103 six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on the day of the regular election,
104 **[**or primary,**]** designated by the registrars of voters. At the time such
105 ballots are delivered to the ballot counters pursuant to subsection (a) of
106 this section, the ballot counters shall perform any checking of such
107 ballots and proceed, as nearly as possible, as provided in section 9-150a.

108   (b) Upon the close of the polls on the day of an election or primary,
109 the moderator for the location designated for the conduct of early
110 voting, in the presence of the other election or primary officials at such
111 location, shall immediately lock the voting tabulator for early voting
112 ballots against voting and immediately cause the vote totals for all
113 candidates and questions to be produced."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2025*	9-163aa(c) to (g)
Sec. 2	*July 1, 2025*	9-163bb