

**Government Administration and Elections Committee**  
**JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No:** SB-459 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CIRCULATION OF PRIMARY AND  
NOMINATING PETITIONS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ABSENTEE BALLOT

**Title:** APPLICATIONS.

**Vote Date:** 3/23/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/13/2026

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

**SPONSORS OF BILL:**

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

**REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill intends to protect the integrity of elections by restricting the involvement of individuals who have been previously convicted of relevant offenses. The bill aims to prevent individuals convicted under title 9 from participating in activities that influence elections, specifically distribution of absentee ballot applications or the circulation of petitions, for a set period of time.

**SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):**

Limited who may distribute absentee ballot applications to three narrow exceptions and made conforming changes (such as repealing requirements that distributors register and maintain a list of the applications they distribute).

**RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None Expressed.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.](#) support efforts to keep the integrity in election material distribution but raise concerns about section 5, they, "recommend that only Town Clerks and the Secretary of State be authorized to issue absentee ballot applications". They

say that by doing so it will eliminate the need for unnecessary background checks, and produce a more streamlined system where Town Clerks can send pre-identified applications directly to voters, making for easier verification. They also suggest that campaigns and groups share information via mail. They also recommend increasing outreach to voters with disabilities.

[League of Women Voters of Connecticut](#), supports the bill as it sets limits on people who have been convicted of crimes related to elections, excusing them from being circulators of nominating petitions or Absentee Ballots for twelve years after they have served their time. The League states that they have no say on the “twelve years” time limit. They emphasize the petition circulation and absentee ballot outreach is important to democratic activities that help expand and inform voters.

[Sally Turner](#), writes in support of the bill saying that it builds on HB5001.

[Kathy Purtell](#) & [Anonymous 98](#), urges the committee to pass this legislation, and implement it by the Secretary of State for the 2026 elections.

[Holly Greenfield](#), shares her experience as a poll worker. She supports the bill, saying it helps protect elections and election officials. She says Connecticut polls deserve to be a safe place.

[Felicia DeDominicis](#), applauds the committee for the work they have done to address the threats that have been made to administer elections. He also condemns efforts for anti-democratic actors to intimidate voters, citing concerns about masked federal agents at polling places, he is proud that Connecticut is working to eliminate these threats.

[Christine Burrill](#), says this bill strengthens the security of elections, by holding accountability for petition circulators. She says that creating more requirements for gathering signatures ensures that signatures have legitimacy in the voting process. She also highlights the significance of adding a 12-year prohibition on distributing absentee ballots applications or circulating petitions for an individual convicted of a crime, saying this adds another layer of protection to the voting process. She says this bill helps to create further transparency and necessary measures to ensure that absentee ballot applications and petitions are dealt with a high level of security.

[Anonymous 97](#), shares that voting is a privilege and shares that removing excuse requirements would make voting accessible for more people, including older individuals, and those with disabilities, transportation barriers, etc. They also support high-speed tabulators to improve accuracy and efficiency. The request for the removal of allowing electronic transmission of ballots by all voters.

[Anonymous 84](#), supports the bill as written.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

[Anonymous 95](#), states there are too many items on the bill and to decrease bills to 7.

**Reported by: Megan Oros, Assistant Clerk**

**Date: 4/1/2026**