



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 394***

LCO No. 2111



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RISK-  
LIMITING AUDITS WORKING GROUP.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not earlier than the fifteenth day  
2 after any state election and not later than two business days before the  
3 canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and  
4 Comptroller, commencing on a day designated by the Secretary, the  
5 registrars of voters shall conduct a risk-limiting audit of such election.  
6 Each such audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public  
7 observation. Any election official who participates in the administration  
8 and conduct of an audit pursuant to this section shall be compensated  
9 by the municipality at the standard rate of pay established by such  
10 municipality for elections.

11 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the  
12 offices subject to a risk-limiting audit pursuant to this section shall be  
13 (A) the office of presidential elector, if applicable, (B) all applicable state  
14 offices, as defined in section 9-372 of the general statutes, (C) at least one

15 representative in Congress, selected in a random drawing by the  
16 Secretary of the State, (D) at least five per cent, in the aggregate, of the  
17 offices of state senator and state representative, selected in a random  
18 drawing by the Secretary, and (E) any other office required to be audited  
19 by federal law. Whenever an office is randomly selected by the Secretary  
20 under this subsection, the selection process shall be open to the public.

21 (2) (A) If an office of representative in Congress is subject to recanvass  
22 or an election contest pursuant to any provision of the general statutes,  
23 the Secretary of the State shall ensure such office is included in the office  
24 or offices selected under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this  
25 subsection.

26 (B) If an office of state senator or state representative is subject to  
27 recanvass or an election contest pursuant to any provision of the general  
28 statutes, the Secretary of the State shall ensure such office is included in  
29 the offices selected under subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of this  
30 subsection.

31 (c) Prior to the day designated by the Secretary of the State for the  
32 commencement of the risk-limiting audit described in subsection (a) of  
33 this section, the registrars of voters shall submit to the Secretary the  
34 ballot manifests created under section 4 of this act.

35 (d) The risk-limiting audit described in subsection (a) of this section  
36 shall be conducted in accordance with instructions and procedures  
37 prescribed by the Secretary of the State not later than January 1, 2027,  
38 which instructions and procedures shall be consistent across all offices  
39 subject to such audit. The risk limit for each such audit shall be not more  
40 than five per cent. The results of each audit conducted pursuant to this  
41 section, including any such audit that produces an outcome of  
42 "INCONCLUSIVE" as described in subsection (e) of this section, shall be  
43 reported on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Secretary. Such  
44 reported results shall be filed with the Secretary, who shall immediately  
45 forward such reported results to The University of Connecticut for

46 analysis. The University of Connecticut shall submit to the Secretary a  
47 written report regarding such analysis that describes any concerns  
48 identified. After receipt of such written report, the Secretary shall  
49 transmit a copy of such written report to the State Elections Enforcement  
50 Commission.

51 (e) In the event a risk-limiting audit conducted pursuant to this  
52 section for a particular office produces an outcome of  
53 "INCONCLUSIVE", the Secretary of the State shall order a manual  
54 recount of all ballots cast for such office.

55 (f) If the written report submitted by The University of Connecticut  
56 under subsection (d) of this section indicates that a voting tabulator  
57 failed to record votes accurately and in the manner provided by title 9  
58 of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall require that the  
59 voting tabulator be examined and recertified by the Secretary or the  
60 Secretary's designee. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to  
61 prohibit the Secretary from requiring that a voting tabulator be  
62 examined and recertified.

63 (g) The audit results reported to the Secretary of the State pursuant to  
64 subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public inspection and may  
65 be used as prima facie evidence of an irregularity in any contest arising  
66 pursuant to chapter 149 of the general statutes or for any other cause of  
67 action arising from such election.

68 (h) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the results from an  
69 audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the outcome of the  
70 person declared elected by virtue of having received the greatest  
71 number of votes, as determined by the paper ballots, the Secretary of the  
72 State shall conduct such further investigation of the voting tabulator as  
73 may be necessary for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to  
74 decertify the voting tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the  
75 voting tabulator to be examined and recertified in accordance with  
76 subsection (f) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary as a

77 result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections  
78 Enforcement Commission, and the commission may initiate such  
79 further investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection  
80 (a) of section 9-7b of the general statutes as may be required to  
81 determine if any violations of the general statutes concerning election  
82 law have been committed.

83 (i) The individual paper ballots used at an election shall be carefully  
84 preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in accordance  
85 with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310 of the general statutes,  
86 as applicable.

87 (j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any  
88 candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to  
89 chapter 149 of the general statutes.

90 (k) After a state election, any voting tabulator may be kept locked for  
91 a period longer than that prescribed by sections 9-266, 9-310 and 9-447  
92 of the general statutes, if such an extended period is ordered by a court  
93 of competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of the State or the State Elections  
94 Enforcement Commission. Such court or the Secretary of the State may  
95 order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted by such persons  
96 as the court or the Secretary may designate, provided the State Elections  
97 Enforcement Commission may order such an audit where the particular  
98 office in question is that of the Secretary of the State. If the machine  
99 utilized in such election is an optical scan voting system, such order to  
100 lock such machine shall include the tabulator, memory card and all  
101 other components and processes utilized in the programming of such  
102 machine.

103 (l) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
104 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for the conduct  
105 of risk-limiting audits described in subsection (a) of this section and to  
106 establish guidelines for expanded audits when the results from such a  
107 risk-limiting audit cannot be reconciled with the outcome of the person

108 declared elected by virtue of having received the greatest number of  
109 votes, as determined by the paper ballots.

110 (m) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
111 Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine  
112 whenever any problem is discovered as a result of an audit described in  
113 subsection (a) of this section.

114 (n) As used in this section:

115 (1) "Risk-limiting audit" means a publicly verifiable auditing  
116 procedure that (A) manually examines a statistical sample of paper  
117 ballots that reflect the intents of the voters having cast such ballots, (B)  
118 produces an outcome of either "ACCEPTABLE" or "INCONCLUSIVE",  
119 and (C) guarantees a specified risk limit;

120 (2) "Risk limit" means the maximum probability that an audit would  
121 produce an outcome of "ACCEPTABLE" when there is a disagreement  
122 between the person declared elected and the person who received the  
123 greatest number of votes as determined by the paper ballots; and

124 (3) "State election" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1  
125 of the general statutes.

126 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 9-320 of the general statutes is  
127 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
128 *passage*):

129 (a) The clerk of each municipality shall, [within ten days after the  
130 municipal election] not later than the last day of the month in which the  
131 municipal election was held, return to the Secretary of the State a  
132 statement of the name, post-office address and term of each person  
133 elected to office in such election. If an elected town clerk is registrar of  
134 vital statistics, ex officio, such return shall so indicate. Each municipal  
135 clerk neglecting to make such return shall be fined not more than  
136 twenty-five dollars.

137 Sec. 3. Section 9-320f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
138 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

139 (a) [(1)] Not earlier than the fifteenth day after any [federal or state]  
140 election or primary and not later than two business days before the  
141 canvass of votes by the Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller  
142 [, and (2) not earlier than the fifth day after any municipal election or  
143 primary and not later than two business days before the canvass of  
144 votes] or by the town clerk, as applicable, the registrars of voters shall  
145 conduct a manual audit, or an electronic audit authorized under section  
146 9-320g, as amended by this act, of the votes recorded in not less than five  
147 per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or municipality,  
148 whichever is applicable. For the purposes of this section, any central  
149 location used in a municipality for the counting of absentee ballots, early  
150 voting ballots or same-day election registration ballots shall be deemed  
151 a voting district. Such manual or electronic audit shall be noticed in  
152 advance and be open to public observation. Any election official who  
153 participates in the administration and conduct of an audit pursuant to  
154 this section shall be compensated by the municipality at the standard  
155 rate of pay established by such municipality for elections or primaries,  
156 as the case may be.

157 (b) The voting districts subject to an audit described in subsection (a)  
158 of this section shall be selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of  
159 the State and such selection process shall be open to the public. The  
160 offices subject to an audit pursuant to this section shall be, (1) [in the  
161 case of an election where the office of presidential elector is on the ballot,  
162 all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional  
163 office selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State, but in  
164 no case less than three offices, (2) in the case of an election where the  
165 office of Governor is on the ballot, all offices required to be audited by  
166 federal law, plus one additional office selected in a random drawing by  
167 the Secretary of the State, but in no case less than three offices, (3)] in the  
168 case of a municipal election, three offices or twenty per cent of the  
169 number of offices on the ballot, whichever is greater, selected at random

170 by the municipal clerk, and [(4)] (2) in the case of a primary, [election,]  
171 all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional  
172 office, if any, but in no event less than twenty per cent of the offices on  
173 the ballot, selected in a random drawing by the municipal clerk.

174 (c) If a selected voting district has an office that is subject to recanvass  
175 or an election or primary contest pursuant to any provision of the  
176 general statutes, the Secretary of the State shall select an alternative  
177 district, pursuant to the process described in subsection (b) of this  
178 section.

179 (d) The manual or electronic audit described in subsection (a) of this  
180 section shall consist of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper  
181 ballots cast and counted by each voting tabulator subject to such audit.  
182 Once complete, the vote totals established pursuant to such manual or  
183 electronic tabulation shall be compared to the results reported by the  
184 voting tabulator on the day of the election or primary. The results of  
185 such manual or electronic tabulation shall be reported on a form  
186 prescribed by the Secretary of the State which shall include the total  
187 number of ballots counted, the total votes received by each candidate in  
188 question, the total votes received by each candidate in question on  
189 ballots that were properly completed by each voter and the total votes  
190 received by each candidate in question on ballots that were not properly  
191 completed by each voter. Such [report] reported results shall be filed  
192 with the Secretary, [of the State] who shall immediately forward such  
193 [report] reported results to The University of Connecticut for analysis.  
194 The University of Connecticut shall [file] submit to the Secretary a  
195 written report [with the Secretary of the State] regarding such analysis  
196 that describes any discrepancies identified. After receipt of such written  
197 report, the Secretary [of the State shall file such report with] shall  
198 transmit a copy of such written report to the State Elections Enforcement  
199 Commission.

200 (e) For the purposes of this section, a ballot that has not been properly  
201 completed will be deemed to be a ballot on which (1) votes have been

202 marked by the voter outside the vote targets, (2) votes have been marked  
203 by the voter using a manual marking device that cannot be read by the  
204 voting tabulator, or (3) in the judgment of the registrars of voters, the  
205 voter marked the ballot in such a manner that the voting tabulator may  
206 not have read the marks as votes cast.

207 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-311, the Secretary of  
208 the State shall order a discrepancy recanvass of the returns of an election  
209 or primary for any office if a discrepancy, as defined in subsection (o) of  
210 this section, exists where the margin of victory in the race for such office  
211 is less than the amount of the discrepancy multiplied by the total  
212 number of voting districts where such race appeared on the ballot,  
213 provided in a year in which the Secretary of the State is a candidate for  
214 an office on the ballot and that office is subject to an audit as provided  
215 by this section, the State Elections Enforcement Commission shall order  
216 a discrepancy recanvass if a discrepancy, as defined by subsection (o) of  
217 this section, has occurred that could affect the outcome of the election or  
218 primary for such office.

219 (g) If the written report submitted by The University of Connecticut  
220 [report described in] under subsection (d) of this section indicates that a  
221 voting tabulator failed to record votes accurately and in the manner  
222 provided by [the general statutes] this title, the Secretary of the State  
223 shall require that the voting tabulator be examined and recertified by  
224 the Secretary, [of the State,] or the Secretary's designee. Nothing in this  
225 subsection shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary [of the State] from  
226 requiring that a voting tabulator be examined and recertified.

227 (h) The audit [report filed] results reported to the Secretary of the  
228 State pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be open to public  
229 inspection and may be used as prima facie evidence of a discrepancy in  
230 any contest arising pursuant to chapter 149 or for any other cause of  
231 action arising from such election or primary.

232 (i) If the audit officials are unable to reconcile the manual or electronic

233 count from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section with the  
234 electronic vote tabulation and discrepancies from the election or  
235 primary, the Secretary of the State shall conduct such further  
236 investigation of the voting tabulator malfunction as may be necessary  
237 for the purpose of reviewing whether or not to decertify the voting  
238 tabulator or tabulators in question or to order the voting tabulator to be  
239 examined and recertified [pursuant to] in accordance with subsection  
240 (g) of this section. Any report produced by the Secretary [of the State] as  
241 a result of such investigation shall be filed with the State Elections  
242 Enforcement Commission and the commission may initiate such further  
243 investigation in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
244 section 9-7b as may be required to determine if any violations of the  
245 general statutes concerning election law have been committed.

246 (j) The individual paper ballots used at an election or primary shall  
247 be carefully preserved and returned in their designated receptacle in  
248 accordance with the requirements of section 9-266 or 9-310, [whichever  
249 is] as applicable.

250 (k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any  
251 candidate or elector from seeking additional remedies pursuant to  
252 chapter 149.

253 (l) After an election or primary, any voting tabulator may be kept  
254 locked for a period longer than that prescribed by sections 9-266, 9-310  
255 and 9-447, if such an extended period is ordered by [either] a court of  
256 competent jurisdiction, the Secretary of the State or the State Elections  
257 Enforcement Commission. [Either the] Such court or the Secretary [of  
258 the State] may order an audit of such voting tabulator to be conducted  
259 by such persons as the court or the Secretary of the State may designate,  
260 provided the State Elections Enforcement Commission may order such  
261 an audit under the circumstances prescribed in subsection (f) of this  
262 section. If the machine utilized in such election or primary is an optical  
263 scan voting system, such order to lock such machine shall include the  
264 tabulator, memory card and all other components and processes utilized

265 in the programming of such machine.

266 (m) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
267 with the provisions of chapter 54, [as may be necessary] for the conduct  
268 of the manual or electronic tabulation of the paper ballots described in  
269 subsection (a) of this section and to establish guidelines for expanded  
270 audits when there are differences between the manual or electronic  
271 counts from the audit described in subsection (a) of this section and  
272 tabulator counts from the election or primary.

273 (n) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
274 Secretary of the State shall have access to the code in any voting machine  
275 whenever any problem is discovered as a result of an audit described in  
276 subsection (a) of this section.

277 (o) As used in this section: [, "discrepancy"]

278 (1) "Discrepancy" means any difference in vote totals between  
279 tabulator counts from an election or primary and manual or electronic  
280 counts from an audit described in subsection (a) of this section in a  
281 voting district that exceeds one-half of one per cent of the lesser amount  
282 of the vote totals between such tabulator counts and such manual or  
283 electronic counts where such differences cannot be resolved through an  
284 accounting of ballots that were not marked properly in accordance with  
285 subsection (e) of this section; [, "state election" means "state election", as  
286 defined in section 9-1, "municipal election"]

287 (2) "Municipal election" means a municipal election held pursuant to  
288 section 9-164; [, "manual"]

289 (3) "Manual" means by hand and without the assistance of electronic  
290 equipment; and ["electronic"]

291 (4) "Electronic" means through the use of equipment described in  
292 section 9-320g, as amended by this act.

293 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Except in the case of a

294 recanvass subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, not  
295 later than seventy-two hours after the close of the polls at each state  
296 election, as defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes:

297 (1) The election officials in each polling place shall create a ballot  
298 manifest for such polling place in accordance with procedures  
299 prescribed by the Secretary of the State; and

300 (2) The absentee ballot counters in each central counting location shall  
301 create a ballot manifest for such central counting location in accordance  
302 with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

303 (b) Not later than twenty-four hours after the completion of any  
304 recanvass conducted at a state election in a voting district, the recanvass  
305 officials shall create a ballot manifest for such district in accordance with  
306 procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

307 (c) All ballot manifest creation procedures shall be open to public  
308 observation.

309 (d) Immediately after a ballot manifest has been created pursuant to  
310 this section, the moderator shall submit such ballot manifest to the  
311 registrars of voters.

312 Sec. 5. Section 9-323 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
313 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

314 Any elector or candidate who claims that he or she is aggrieved by  
315 any ruling of any election official in connection with any election for  
316 presidential electors and for a senator in Congress and for  
317 representative in Congress or any of them, held in his or her town, or  
318 that there was a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such election  
319 for candidates for such electors, senator in Congress and representative  
320 in Congress, or any of them, at any voting district in his or her town, or  
321 any candidate for such an office who claims that he or she is aggrieved  
322 by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive,

323 9-364, 9-364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such election,  
324 may bring his or her complaint to any judge of the Supreme Court, in  
325 which he or she shall set out the claimed errors of such election official,  
326 the claimed errors in the count or the claimed violations of said sections.  
327 In any action brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the  
328 complainant shall file a certification attached to the complaint indicating  
329 that a copy of the complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered  
330 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is  
331 made prior to such election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to  
332 render judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing  
333 to be given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections  
334 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to the  
335 election, it shall be brought not later than fourteen days after the election  
336 or, if such complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of  
337 paper ballots authorized] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f,  
338 as amended by this act, or section 1 of this act, such complaint shall be  
339 brought not later than seven days after the close of any such [manual  
340 tabulation] audit, and in either such circumstance, the judge shall  
341 forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such complaint, upon a day  
342 not more than five or less than three days from the making of such order,  
343 and shall cause notice of not less than three or more than five days to be  
344 given to any candidate or candidates whose election may be affected by  
345 the decision upon such hearing, to such election official, to the Secretary  
346 of the State, to the State Elections Enforcement Commission and to any  
347 other party or parties whom such judge deems proper parties thereto,  
348 of the time and place for the hearing upon such complaint. Such judge,  
349 with two other judges of the Supreme Court to be designated by the  
350 Chief Court Administrator, shall, on the day fixed for such hearing and  
351 without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient  
352 reason is shown, such judges may order any voting tabulators to be  
353 unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes  
354 cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. Such judges shall  
355 thereupon, in the case they, or any two of them, find any error in the  
356 rulings of the election official, any mistake in the count of such votes or

357 any violation of said sections, certify the result of their finding or  
358 decision, or the finding or decision of a majority of them, to the Secretary  
359 of the State before the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in  
360 December. Such judges may order a new election or a change in the  
361 existing election schedule, provided such order complies with Section  
362 302 of the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time  
363 to time. Such certificate of such judges, or a majority of them, shall be  
364 final upon all questions relating to the rulings of such election officials,  
365 to the correctness of such count and, for the purposes of this section  
366 only, such claimed violations, and shall operate to correct the returns of  
367 the moderators or presiding officers so as to conform to such finding or  
368 decision.

369       Sec. 6. Section 9-324 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
370 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

371       Any elector or candidate who claims that such elector or candidate is  
372 aggrieved by any ruling of any election official in connection with any  
373 election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State  
374 Treasurer, Attorney General, State Comptroller or judge of probate, held  
375 in such elector's or candidate's town, or that there has been a mistake in  
376 the count of the votes cast at such election for candidates for said offices  
377 or any of them, at any voting district in such elector's or candidate's  
378 town, or any candidate for such an office who claims that such candidate  
379 is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-  
380 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at  
381 such election or any candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant  
382 Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, Attorney General or  
383 State Comptroller, who claims that such candidate is aggrieved by a  
384 violation of any provision of sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive, may bring  
385 such elector's or candidate's complaint to any judge of the Superior  
386 Court, in which such elector or candidate shall set out the claimed errors  
387 of such election official, the claimed errors in the count or the claimed  
388 violations of said sections. In any action brought pursuant to the  
389 provisions of this section, the complainant shall send a copy of the

390 complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the complaint by hand,  
391 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is  
392 made prior to such election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to  
393 render judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing  
394 to be given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections  
395 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to the  
396 election, it shall be brought not later than fourteen days after the election  
397 or, if such complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of  
398 paper ballots authorized] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f,  
399 as amended by this act, or section 1 of this act, such complaint shall be  
400 brought not later than seven days after the close of any such [manual  
401 tabulation] audit and, in either such circumstance, such judge shall  
402 forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such complaint, upon a day  
403 not more than five nor less than three days from the making of such  
404 order, and shall cause notice of not less than three nor more than five  
405 days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose election may be  
406 affected by the decision upon such hearing, to such election official, the  
407 Secretary of the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and  
408 to any other party or parties whom such judge deems proper parties  
409 thereto, of the time and place for the hearing upon such complaint. Such  
410 judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing and without unnecessary  
411 delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient reason is shown, such  
412 judge may order any voting tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot  
413 boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes cast, including absentee  
414 ballots, to be made. Such judge shall thereupon, in case such judge finds  
415 any error in the rulings of the election official, any mistake in the count  
416 of the votes or any violation of said sections, certify the result of such  
417 judge's finding or decision to the Secretary of the State before the  
418 fifteenth day of the next succeeding December. Such judge may order a  
419 new election or a change in the existing election schedule. Such  
420 certificate of such judge of such judge's finding or decision shall be final  
421 and conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the rulings of  
422 such election officials, to the correctness of such count, and, for the  
423 purposes of this section only, such claimed violations, and shall operate

424 to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding officers, so as to  
425 conform to such finding or decision, unless the same is appealed from  
426 as provided in section 9-325.

427 Sec. 7. Section 9-328 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
428 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

429 Any elector or candidate claiming to have been aggrieved by any  
430 ruling of any election official in connection with an election for any  
431 municipal office or a primary for justice of the peace, or any elector or  
432 candidate claiming that there has been a mistake in the count of votes  
433 cast for any such office at such election or primary, or any candidate in  
434 such an election or primary claiming that he is aggrieved by a violation  
435 of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a  
436 or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such election or primary,  
437 may bring a complaint to any judge of the Superior Court for relief  
438 therefrom. In any action brought pursuant to the provisions of this  
439 section, the complainant shall send a copy of the complaint by first-class  
440 mail, or deliver a copy of the complaint by hand, to the State Elections  
441 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such  
442 election or primary, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render  
443 judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be  
444 given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement  
445 Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to such election or  
446 primary, it shall be brought not later than fourteen days after such  
447 election or primary, except that if such complaint is brought in response  
448 to [the manual tabulation of paper ballots, authorized] an audit  
449 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section  
450 1 of this act, such complaint shall be brought not later than seven days  
451 after the close of any such [manual tabulation] audit, to any judge of the  
452 Superior Court, in which he shall set out the claimed errors of the  
453 election official, the claimed errors in the count or the claimed violations  
454 of said sections. Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had  
455 upon such complaint, upon a day not more than five nor less than three  
456 days from the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less

457 than three nor more than five days to be given to any candidate or  
458 candidates whose election or nomination may be affected by the  
459 decision upon such hearing, to such election official, the Secretary of the  
460 State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and to any other  
461 party or parties whom such judge deems proper parties thereto, of the  
462 time and place for the hearing upon such complaint. Such judge shall,  
463 on the day fixed for such hearing and without unnecessary delay,  
464 proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient reason is shown, he may order  
465 any voting tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened  
466 and a recount of the votes cast, including absentee ballots, to be made.  
467 Such judge shall thereupon, if he finds any error in the rulings of the  
468 election official or any mistake in the count of the votes, certify the result  
469 of his finding or decision to the Secretary of the State before the tenth  
470 day succeeding the conclusion of the hearing. Such judge may order a  
471 new election or primary or a change in the existing election schedule.  
472 Such certificate of such judge of his finding or decision shall be final and  
473 conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the ruling of such  
474 election officials, to the correctness of such count, and, for the purposes  
475 of this section only, such claimed violations, and shall operate to correct  
476 the returns of the moderators or presiding officers, so as to conform to  
477 such finding or decision, except that this section shall not affect the right  
478 of appeal to the Supreme Court and it shall not prevent such judge from  
479 reserving such questions of law for the advice of the Supreme Court as  
480 provided in section 9-325. Such judge may, if necessary, issue his writ of  
481 mandamus, requiring the adverse party and those under him to deliver  
482 to the complainant the appurtenances of such office, and shall cause his  
483 finding and decree to be entered on the records of the Superior Court in  
484 the proper judicial district.

485       Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 9-329a of the general statutes is  
486 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
487 *passage*):

488       (a) Any (1) elector or candidate aggrieved by a ruling of an election  
489 official in connection with any primary held pursuant to (A) section 9-

490 423, 9-425 or 9-464, or (B) a special act, (2) elector or candidate who  
491 alleges that there has been a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such  
492 primary, or (3) candidate in such a primary who alleges that he is  
493 aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-  
494 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at  
495 such primary, may bring his complaint to any judge of the Superior  
496 Court for appropriate action. In any action brought pursuant to the  
497 provisions of this section, the complainant shall file a certification  
498 attached to the complaint indicating that a copy of the complaint has  
499 been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the State Elections  
500 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such  
501 primary such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on  
502 the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the  
503 Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission.  
504 If such complaint is made subsequent to such primary it shall be  
505 brought, not later than fourteen days after such primary, or if such  
506 complaint is brought in response to [the manual tabulation of paper  
507 ballots, described in] an audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as  
508 amended by this act, or section 1 of this act, such complaint shall be  
509 brought, not later than seven days after the close of any such [manual  
510 tabulation] audit, to any judge of the Superior Court.

511       Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 9-3 of the general statutes is repealed  
512 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

513       (b) During any municipal, state or federal election, primary or  
514 recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as  
515 amended by this act, or section 1 of this act, the Secretary of the State  
516 may issue an order, whether orally or in writing, to any registrar of  
517 voters or moderator to correct any irregularity or impropriety in the  
518 conduct of such election, primary or recanvass or audit. Any such order  
519 shall be effective upon issuance. As soon as practicable after issuance of  
520 an oral order pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall reduce such  
521 order to writing, cite within such order any applicable provision of law  
522 authorizing such order and cause a copy of such written order to be

523 delivered to the individual who is the subject of such order or, in the  
524 case that such order was originally issued in writing, issue a subsequent  
525 written order that conforms to such requirements. The Superior Court,  
526 on application of the Secretary or the Attorney General, may enforce by  
527 appropriate decree or process any such order issued pursuant to this  
528 subsection.

529 Sec. 10. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 9-229 of the general  
530 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
531 (*Effective from passage*):

532 (3) The duties of each regional election advisor shall include, but not  
533 be limited to: (A) Holding the instructional sessions described in  
534 subdivision (2) of this subsection; (B) communicating with registrars of  
535 voters to assist, to the extent permitted under law, in preparations for  
536 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit  
537 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section  
538 1 of this act; and (C) transmitting any order issued by the Secretary of  
539 the State, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-3, as amended by this  
540 act.

541 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 9-229b of the general statutes is  
542 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
543 *passage*):

544 (a) Any regional council of governments organized under the  
545 provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, may appoint a regional  
546 election advisor, who shall represent, consult with and act on behalf of  
547 such regional council of governments and any combination of regional  
548 councils of governments or member towns of regional councils of  
549 governments that may seek the assistance of such regional election  
550 advisor. A regional election advisor shall consult and coordinate with  
551 the Secretary of the State to provide such assistance in preparations for  
552 and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit  
553 conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, as amended by this act, or section

554 1 of this act.

555 Sec. 12. Section 9-320g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
556 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

557 Notwithstanding any provision of this title, the Secretary of the State,  
558 in consultation and coordination with The University of Connecticut,  
559 may authorize the use of electronic equipment for the purpose of  
560 conducting any audit required pursuant to section 9-320f, [for any  
561 primary or general election held on or after January 1, 2016] as amended  
562 by this act, or section 1 of this act, provided (1) the Secretary of the State  
563 prescribes specifications for (A) the testing, set-up and operation of such  
564 equipment, and (B) the training of election officials in the use of such  
565 equipment; and (2) the Secretary of the State and The University of  
566 Connecticut agree that such equipment is sufficient in quantity to  
567 accommodate the total number of audits to be conducted. Nothing in  
568 this section shall preclude any candidate or elector from seeking  
569 additional remedies pursuant to chapter 149 as a result of any  
570 information revealed by such process.

571 Sec. 13. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Secretary of the State shall establish  
572 a pilot program for the conduct of risk-limiting audits at municipal  
573 elections in 2027. The Secretary shall randomly select three  
574 municipalities for participation in such pilot program, provided the  
575 Secretary shall select: (1) One municipality with a population of less  
576 than twenty thousand; (2) one municipality with a population of twenty  
577 thousand or greater, but less than ninety thousand; and (3) one  
578 municipality with a population of ninety thousand or greater. For the  
579 purposes of this section, "risk-limiting audit" has the same meaning as  
580 provided in section 1 of this act and "population" means the estimated  
581 number of people according to the most recent version of the State  
582 Register and Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90 of the general  
583 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-320(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-320f
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-323
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-324
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-328
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-329a(a)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-3(b)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-229(b)(3)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-229b(a)
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	9-320g
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To implement the recommendations of the risk-limiting audits working group.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*