



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6005



Offered by:

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To: Subst. House Bill No. 5001

File No. 725

Cal. No. 460

**"AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR ALL AND VARIOUS OTHER REFORMS RELATED TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS."**

1 Strike subsection (a) of section 6 in its entirety and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "(a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or  
4 referendum only if: (1) [It] Such ballot is mailed by (A) the ballot  
5 applicant, (B) a designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot  
6 because of illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the  
7 immediate family of an applicant who is a student, so that [it] the ballot  
8 is received by the clerk of the municipality in which the applicant is  
9 qualified to vote not later than the close of the polls; (2) [it] such ballot  
10 is returned by the applicant in person to [the] such clerk by the day  
11 before the election or primary or prior to the opening of the polls on the

12 day of the referendum; (3) [it] such ballot is returned by a designee of  
13 an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant, in person, to [said] such  
14 clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election,  
15 primary or referendum; (4) [it] such ballot is returned by a member of  
16 the immediate family of the [absentee voter] applicant, in person, to  
17 [said] such clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the  
18 election, primary or referendum; (5) in the case of a presidential or  
19 overseas ballot, [it] such ballot is mailed or otherwise returned pursuant  
20 to the provisions of section 9-158g, as amended by this act; or (6) [it] such  
21 ballot is returned with [the proper] a copy of the applicant's photo  
22 identification as required by the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252,  
23 as amended from time to time, if applicable, [inserted in the outer  
24 envelope so such identification can be viewed without opening the inner  
25 envelope] in accordance with the provisions of section 9-140a, as  
26 amended by this act. A person returning an absentee ballot to the  
27 municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or (4) of this subsection shall  
28 present identification and, on the [outer] return envelope of the absentee  
29 ballot, sign [his] such person's name in the presence of the municipal  
30 clerk [,] and indicate [his] such person's address [, his] and relationship  
31 to the voter or [his] position [,] and the date and time of such return. An  
32 absentee ballot shall be deemed cast when it is received and accepted by  
33 the municipal clerk in accordance with the provisions of this subsection,  
34 provided the statement on the return envelope for such absentee ballot  
35 is signed by the applicant. As used in this section, "immediate family"  
36 means a dependent relative who resides in the individual's household  
37 or any spouse, child, parent or sibling of the individual."

38 Strike subsection (d) of section 10 in its entirety and substitute the  
39 following in:

40 "(d) (1) (A) If the statement on the [inner] return envelope has not  
41 been signed as required by section 9-140a, as amended by this act, such  
42 [inner] return envelope shall not be opened [or] nor shall the ballot be  
43 removed therefrom. [,] and such inner envelope shall be replaced in the  
44 opened outer envelope which shall be marked "Rejected" and the reason

45 therefor endorsed thereon by the counters.] The return envelope shall  
46 be marked "Rejected" and the reason for such rejection shall be endorsed  
47 on such return envelope by the counters.

48 (B) The moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot  
49 applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected" under subparagraph (A)  
50 of this subdivision and include thereon for each such applicant the  
51 reason for the rejection. The moderator shall transmit such log to the  
52 Secretary of the State at the same time and in the same manner as the  
53 duplicate list to be transmitted to the Secretary by electronic means in  
54 accordance with section 9-314.

55 (2) (A) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the  
56 ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r, as  
57 amended by this act, and has not met the requirements of subsection  
58 [(e)] (d) of section 9-23r, as amended by this act, the counters shall  
59 replace the ballot in the opened [inner envelope, replace the inner  
60 envelope in the opened outer] return envelope and shall mark "Rejected  
61 as an Absentee Ballot" and endorse the reason for such rejection on [the  
62 outer] such return envelope, and the ballot shall be treated as a  
63 provisional ballot for federal offices only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to  
64 9-232o, inclusive.

65 (B) The moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot  
66 applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot"  
67 under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision and include thereon for  
68 each such applicant the reason for the rejection. The moderator shall  
69 transmit such log to the Secretary of the State at the same time and in  
70 the same manner as the duplicate list to be transmitted to the Secretary  
71 by electronic means in accordance with section 9-314."

72 Strike subsection (a) of section 16 in its entirety and substitute the  
73 following in lieu thereof:

74 "(a) (1) A person applying for a presidential ballot in person shall  
75 present [: (1) A] a current and valid photo identification, [, or (2) a copy

76 of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or  
77 other government document that shows the name and address of the  
78 voter. The application]

79 (2) A person applying for a presidential ballot by mail shall [be  
80 accompanied by: (A) A] include with such application a copy of a  
81 current and valid photo identification. [, or (B) a copy of a current utility  
82 bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or government  
83 document that shows the name and address of the voter.]

84 (3) Upon receipt of an application for a presidential ballot under  
85 sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, the municipal clerk, if satisfied that  
86 the application is proper and that the applicant is qualified to vote under  
87 said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the applicant, as the case  
88 may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-presidential electors for use at  
89 the election and instructions and envelopes for [its] the return of such  
90 ballot."

91 Strike section 23 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu  
92 thereof:

93 "Sec. 23. Section 9-23r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
94 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

95 (a) On or after January 1, 2003, any person who is applying, by mail,  
96 to register to vote for the first time in this state may submit as part of  
97 such voter registration application: (1) A copy of a current and valid  
98 photo identification, (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,  
99 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the  
100 name and address of the voter, (3) a valid Connecticut motor vehicle  
101 operator's license number, or (4) the last four digits of the individual's  
102 Social Security number. Members of the armed forces and persons  
103 entitled to use the federal post card application for absentee ballots  
104 under section 9-153a are not required to provide identification when  
105 registering by mail. No information submitted as part of a voter  
106 registration application under this subsection shall be subject to

107 disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to chapter  
108 14, except for the name, address, date of birth and telephone number of  
109 the applicant.

110 [(b) If an individual submits such information pursuant to this section  
111 as part of the individual's voter registration application and, with  
112 respect to subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this section, the  
113 registrars of voters are able to match the information submitted with an  
114 existing Connecticut identification record bearing the same number,  
115 name and date of birth as provided, such individual shall not be  
116 required to produce identification when voting in person or by absentee  
117 ballot and may sign a statement as described in subparagraph (B) of  
118 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261 in lieu of presenting  
119 identification when voting in person.]

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

124 [(d)] (c) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section  
125 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this  
126 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,  
127 when the individual has entered the polling place in an election for  
128 federal office, the individual shall present [ (1) A] a current and valid  
129 photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank  
130 statement, government check, paycheck or other government document  
131 that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an individual does not  
132 meet the requirements of this subsection in an election for federal office,  
133 such individual may cast a provisional ballot prescribed under sections  
134 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

135 [(e)] (d) If an individual described in subsection (a) of this section  
136 does not submit the identification described in subsection (a) of this  
137 section as part of the individual's application for admission as an elector,  
138 and if the individual votes by absentee ballot in an election for federal

139 office, the individual shall enclose in the [outer absentee ballot envelope,  
140 and not in the inner envelope with the ballot: (1) A] additional envelope  
141 provided by the municipal clerk pursuant to section 9-140a, as amended  
142 by this act, for the return of such applicant's identification, a copy of a  
143 current and valid photo identification. [, or (2) a copy of a current utility  
144 bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government  
145 document that shows the name and address of the voter.] If an  
146 individual does not meet the requirements of this subsection in an  
147 election for federal office, such [individual's] individual's absentee  
148 ballot shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of  
149 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-150a,  
150 as amended by this act, and treated as a provisional ballot for federal  
151 office only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive."

152 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
153 internal references accordingly:

154 "Sec. 501. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 1-1h of the general statutes  
155 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
156 *from passage*):

157 (a) Any person who does not possess a valid motor vehicle operator's  
158 license may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for an identity  
159 card. The application for an identity card shall be accompanied by the  
160 birth certificate of the applicant or a certificate of identification of the  
161 applicant issued and authorized for such use by the Department of  
162 Correction and, except as provided in this subsection, a fee of twenty-  
163 eight dollars. Such application shall include: (1) The applicant's name;  
164 (2) the applicant's address; (3) whether the address is permanent or  
165 temporary; (4) the applicant's date of birth; (5) notice to the applicant  
166 that false statements on such application are punishable under section  
167 53a-157b; and (6) such other pertinent information as the Commissioner  
168 of Motor Vehicles deems necessary. The applicant shall sign the  
169 application in the presence of an official of the Department of Motor  
170 Vehicles. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any applicant who  
171 does not have the means to pay such fee, including any applicant who

172 is a resident of a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons  
173 or a certified homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The  
174 commissioner may waive the fee for any applicant (A) who has  
175 voluntarily surrendered such applicant's motor vehicle operator's  
176 license, (B) whose license has been refused by the commissioner  
177 pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of section 14-36, or (C) who  
178 is both a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and  
179 blind, as defined in subsection (a) of section 1-1f. [, or (D) who is a  
180 resident of a homeless shelter or other facility for homeless persons or a  
181 certified homeless youth or certified homeless young adult. The] Not  
182 later than September 1, 2026, the commissioner shall adopt regulations,  
183 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish the  
184 procedure and qualifications for the issuance of an identity card to any  
185 such [homeless] applicant who does not have the means to pay the fee  
186 for such identity card. For the purposes of this subsection, "certified  
187 homeless youth" and "certified homeless young adult" have the same  
188 meanings as provided in section 7-36.

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

192 (2) (A) An original identity card shall expire within a period not  
193 exceeding seven years following the date of the applicant's next  
194 birthday. Any person who holds an identity card may be notified by the  
195 commissioner before its expiration and may renew such card in such  
196 manner as the commissioner shall prescribe. Upon renewal of an  
197 identity card, the commissioner may issue an identity card for a period  
198 to be determined by the commissioner, provided such period does not  
199 exceed eight years. [The] Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this  
200 subdivision, the fee for the renewal of an identity card that expires eight  
201 years from the date of issuance shall be thirty-two dollars. The  
202 commissioner shall charge a prorated amount of such fee for an identity  
203 card that expires less than eight years from the date of issuance. The  
204 commissioner shall not provide notification by mail to the holder of an

205 identity card if the United States Postal Service has determined that mail  
206 is undeliverable to such person at the address for such person that is in  
207 the records of the department.

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

211 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) At the request of any elector  
212 who has applied for and received an absentee ballot, each library in the  
213 state that is open to the public shall make available to such elector, free  
214 of charge, a photocopier in such library for the purposes of producing a  
215 copy of such elector's photo identification to be inserted in the outer  
216 envelope of such elector's returned absentee ballot in accordance with  
217 the provisions of section 9-140a of the general statutes, as amended by  
218 this act.

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

226 (c) Each library in the state that is open to the public may seek  
227 reimbursement from the State Treasurer of all costs associated with  
228 producing copies of photo identification for the purposes described in  
229 subsections (a) and (b) of this section, upon submission of  
230 documentation substantiating that such costs were incurred.

231 Sec. 503. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the 2026 supplement to the  
232 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
233 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

234 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has  
235 entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street

236 address, if any, and the elector's name to the official checker or checkers  
237 in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials  
238 present to hear the same. Each elector [who registered to vote by mail  
239 for the first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the  
240 elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r,]  
241 shall present to the official checker or checkers, before the elector votes,  
242 [either] a current and valid photo identification that shows the elector's  
243 name and address, [or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,  
244 government check, paycheck or other government document that shows  
245 the name and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1) present  
246 to the official checker or checkers the elector's Social Security card or any  
247 other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector's name  
248 and either the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a  
249 form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's  
250 residential address and date of birth, print the elector's name and sign a  
251 statement under penalty of false statement that the elector is the elector  
252 whose name appears on the official checklist. Such form shall clearly  
253 state the penalty of false statement. A separate form shall be used for  
254 each elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of identification  
255 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the official checker or checkers  
256 shall check the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually  
257 on paper or electronically. If the elector completes the form under  
258 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the registrar of voters or the assistant  
259 registrar of voters, as the case may be, shall examine the information on  
260 such form and either instruct the official checker or checkers to check  
261 the name of such elector on the official checklist, manually on paper or  
262 electronically, or notify the elector that the form is incomplete or  
263 inaccurate.]

264 Sec. 504. Subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of section 9-23g of the  
265 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
266 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

267 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant  
268 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present to

269 the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received through  
 270 the mail or an application receipt that was previously provided to the  
 271 applicant pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h,  
 272 subsection (b) of this section or section 9-23n. If an applicant presents  
 273 said notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original  
 274 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the  
 275 registrar, or assistant registrar upon notice to and approval by the  
 276 registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official check  
 277 list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if otherwise  
 278 eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the polling  
 279 place a [preprinted form of identification pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
 280 of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261] current and valid  
 281 photo identification."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	9-23r
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	1-1h(a) and (b)
Sec. 502	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 503	<i>from passage</i>	9-261(a)
Sec. 504	<i>from passage</i>	9-23g(d)(4)