



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6012



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.
SEN. MARTIN, 31st Dist.
SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist.
SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.
SEN. FAZIO, 36th Dist.
SEN. GORDON, 35th Dist.
SEN. PERILLO J., 21st Dist.

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 section 10 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections
2 and internal references accordingly

3 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
4 internal references accordingly:

5 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2027,
6 the Secretary of the State shall develop and implement a process by
7 which (1) each elector is issued a unique voting identification number at
8 the time such elector (A) is admitted as an elector, (B) makes any change
9 to such elector's voter registration information, or (C) submits an
10 absentee ballot application, which unique voting identification number
11 shall be included on any such application so submitted, and (2) town
12 clerks, registrars of voters, moderators, absentee ballot counters and

13 other election officials serving at polling places or central locations
14 designated for the counting of absentee ballots, as applicable, shall
15 verify such elector's identity using the unique voting identification
16 number upon the envelope of a returned absentee ballot and the
17 corresponding absentee ballot application. The Secretary may prescribe
18 that an elector's motor vehicle operator's license number or identity card
19 number, issued by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, be used as such
20 elector's unique voting identification number.

21 Sec. 502. Section 9-150a of the general statutes, as amended by section
22 90 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
23 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

24 (a) [The] Not later than fifteen minutes prior to the time specified or
25 agreed to, as applicable, under subsection (e) of section 9-140c, as
26 amended by this act, the absentee ballot counters shall proceed to the
27 central counting location or to the respective polling places when
28 counting is to take place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a. [at
29 the times designated by the registrars of voters.]

30 (b) At the time each group of ballots is delivered to them pursuant to
31 section 9-140c, as amended by this act, the counters shall perform any
32 checking of such ballots required by subsection (i) of said section and
33 shall then proceed as hereinafter provided.

34 (c) Except with respect to ballots marked "Rejected" pursuant to
35 section 9-140c, as amended by this act, or other applicable law, the
36 counters shall remove the [inner envelopes] absentee ballots from the
37 [outer] return envelopes, shall note the total number of absentee ballots
38 received and shall report such total to the moderator. They shall
39 similarly note and separately so report the total numbers of presidential
40 ballots and overseas ballots received pursuant to sections 9-158a to 9-
41 158m, inclusive.

42 (d) (1) (A) If the statement on the [inner] return envelope has not been
43 signed as required by section 9-140a, as amended by this act, such

44 [inner] return envelope shall not be opened [or] nor shall the ballot be
45 removed therefrom. [, and such inner envelope shall be replaced in the
46 opened outer envelope which shall be marked "Rejected" and the reason
47 therefor endorsed thereon by the counters.] The return envelope shall
48 be marked "Rejected" and the reason for such rejection shall be endorsed
49 on such return envelope by the counters.

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

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

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

73 (3) If such statement is signed but the counters cannot verify the
74 identity of the applicant using the unique voting identification number
75 upon the return envelope and the corresponding absentee ballot

76 application, as determined under the process described in section 501 of
77 this act, such return envelope shall not be opened nor the ballot removed
78 therefrom, and such return envelope shall be remarked "Rejected" and
79 the reason therefor endorsed thereupon by the counters.

80 [(e) The counters shall then remove the absentee ballots from the
81 remaining inner envelopes.]

82 [(f)] (e) Before the ballots are counted, all opened [outer and inner]
83 envelopes from which such ballots have been removed, and all [outer]
84 envelopes marked "Rejected" as required by law, shall be placed and
85 sealed by the counters, separately by voting district, in depository
86 envelopes prescribed by the Secretary of the State and provided by the
87 municipal clerk. The counters shall seal such depository envelopes by
88 wrapping them lengthwise and sideways with nonreusable tape,
89 endorse on each such envelope their names, the voting district and the
90 time of the count, and deliver such envelopes to the moderator.

91 [(g)] (f) The counters shall then count such ballots as provided in this
92 section. The moderator shall supervise the counting.

93 [(h)] (g) The Secretary of the State shall provide a procedure manual
94 for counting absentee ballots. The manual shall include a description of
95 the steps to be followed in receiving, handling, counting and preserving
96 absentee ballots. Facsimile ballots shall be printed in the manual,
97 illustrating potential variations in ballot markings along with the correct
98 interpretation to be given in each situation illustrated.

99 [(i)] (h) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section the provisions
100 of section 9-265 shall apply to write-in votes on absentee ballots at
101 elections.

102 (2) Votes cast by absentee ballot at a primary may be counted only for
103 candidates whose names appear on the ballot on primary day, and no
104 write-in vote shall be counted except as provided in subdivision (3) of
105 this subsection.

106 (3) If a write-in vote on an absentee ballot is cast for a candidate for
107 any office whose name appears on the ballot for that office on election
108 or primary day, such candidate's name shall be deemed to have been
109 checked on such ballot and, except as otherwise provided in subsection
110 [(j)] (i) of this section, one vote shall be counted and recorded for such
111 candidate for such office.

112 (4) Except as otherwise provided in section 9-265, if the name of a
113 registered write-in candidate for an office is written in for such office on
114 an absentee ballot it shall be deemed validly written in for purposes of
115 subsection [(j)] (i) of this section.

116 [(j)] (i) In the counting of absentee ballots the intent of the voter shall
117 govern, provided the following conclusive presumptions, where
118 applicable, shall prevail in determining such intent:

119 (1) If the names of more candidates for an office than the voter is
120 entitled to vote for are checked or validly written in, then the vote cast
121 for that office shall be deemed an invalid overvote.

122 (2) If the name of a candidate who has vacated [his] such candidate's
123 candidacy is checked, such vote shall not be counted.

124 (3) On an absentee ballot on which candidates' names are printed, a
125 vote shall be deemed cast only for each candidate whose name is
126 individually checked or validly written in, except as otherwise provided
127 in this subsection. If a party designation is circled, checked, underscored
128 or similarly marked in any manner, or written in, no vote shall be
129 deemed cast or cancelled for any candidate by virtue of such marking
130 or writing.

131 [(k)] (j) If the intent of an absentee voter is difficult to ascertain due to
132 uncertain, conflicting or incorrect ballot markings which are not clearly
133 addressed in this section or in the procedure manual for counting
134 absentee ballots provided by the Secretary of the State, the absentee
135 ballot counters shall submit the ballot and their question to the
136 moderator. They shall then count the ballot in accordance with the

137 moderator's decision as to the voter's intent, if such intent is
 138 ascertainable. A ballot or part of a ballot on which the intent is
 139 determined by the moderator to be not ascertainable, shall not be
 140 counted. The moderator shall endorse on the ballot the question and
 141 [his] such moderator's decision.

142 [(l)] (k) No absentee ballot shall be rejected as a marked ballot unless,
 143 in the opinion of the moderator, it was marked for the purpose of
 144 providing a means of identifying the voter who cast it.

145 [(m)] (l) After the absentee ballots have been so counted they shall be
 146 placed by the counters, separately by voting district, in depository
 147 envelopes prescribed by the Secretary of the State and provided by the
 148 municipal clerk. Any notes, worksheets, or other written materials used
 149 by the counters in counting such ballots shall be endorsed by them with
 150 their names, the date and the time of the count and shall also be placed
 151 in such depository envelopes together with the ballots, and with the
 152 separate record of the number of votes cast on such ballots for each
 153 candidate as required by section 9-150b, as amended by this act. Such
 154 depository envelopes shall then be sealed, endorsed and delivered to
 155 the moderator by the counters in the same manner as provided in
 156 subsection [(f)] (e) of this section."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 502	<i>from passage</i>	9-150a