



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6004



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MARTIN, 31<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SAMPSON, 16<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. CICARELLA, 34<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SOMERS, 18<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. HWANG, 28<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. BERTHEL, 32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. FAZIO, 36<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. GORDON, 35<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KISSEL, 7<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. PERILLO J., 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Subsection (a) of section 9-21a of the general statutes is  
6 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
7 *passage*):

8 (a) The Secretary of the State, at least annually, shall cause a search to  
9 be made of computerized voter registration records to identify electors

10 who may be registered in more than one town, [or] registered more than  
11 once in the same town, deceased or improperly registered due to lack of  
12 United States citizenship. The Secretary shall compile, from such search,  
13 a list of possible duplicate registrations in any town or towns, possible  
14 registrations of deceased individuals and possible registrations of non-  
15 United States citizens and shall transmit such list to the registrars of  
16 voters of the appropriate town or towns.

17 Sec. 502. Subsection (i) of section 9-19j of the 2026 supplement to the  
18 general statutes, as amended by section 71 of public act 26-1, is repealed  
19 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

20 (i) (1) After the acceptance of a same-day election registration, the  
21 registrars of voters shall forthwith send a registration confirmation  
22 notice to the residential address of each applicant who was admitted as  
23 an elector on election day or during the period of early voting prior to  
24 election day under this section. Such confirmation shall be sent by first  
25 class mail with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not  
26 deliverable at the address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation  
27 notice is returned undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the  
28 necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable,  
29 notwithstanding the May first deadline in section 9-35.

30 (2) (A) Not later than ninety days after election day, the registrars of  
31 voters of each town shall (i) compile a report of (I) the number of persons  
32 applying for same-day election registration as described in subsection  
33 (d) of this section, (II) the number of such persons not permitted to  
34 register in accordance with subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of  
35 subsection (e) of this section, (III) the number of registration  
36 confirmation notices sent to admitted applicants, pursuant to  
37 subdivision (1) of this subsection, that were returned undelivered, and  
38 (IV) the number of such admitted applicants that were subsequently  
39 placed on the inactive registry list as a result of such notices being  
40 returned undelivered, in accordance with subdivision (1) of this  
41 subsection and section 9-35, and (ii) submit such report to the Secretary  
42 of the State.

43 (B) Not later than one hundred twenty days after election day, the  
44 Secretary of the State shall (i) aggregate all reports submitted to the  
45 Secretary under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision into one single  
46 report, and (ii) submit such single report to the joint standing committee  
47 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
48 elections, in accordance with section 11-4a, and to the State Elections  
49 Enforcement Commission.

50 (3) Not later than five days after a determination of the registrars of  
51 voters of any town that the residency of an admitted applicant cannot  
52 be verified because a registration confirmation notice for such applicant  
53 was returned undelivered to such registrars, as provided in subdivision  
54 (1) of this subsection, such registrars shall report all information  
55 resulting in such determination to the State Elections Enforcement  
56 Commission, which shall conduct an investigation of the matter.

57 Sec. 503. Section 9-150a of the general statutes, as amended by section  
58 90 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
59 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

70 (c) Except with respect to ballots marked "Rejected" pursuant to  
71 section 9-140c, as amended by this act, or other applicable law, the  
72 counters shall remove the [inner envelopes] absentee ballots from the  
73 [outer] return envelopes, shall note the total number of absentee ballots

74 received and shall report such total to the moderator. They shall  
75 similarly note and separately so report the total numbers of presidential  
76 ballots and overseas ballots received pursuant to sections 9-158a to 9-  
77 158m, inclusive.

78 (d) (1) (A) If the statement on the [inner] return envelope has not been  
79 signed as required by section 9-140a, as amended by this act, such  
80 [inner] return envelope shall not be opened [or] nor shall the ballot be  
81 removed therefrom. [, and such inner envelope shall be replaced in the  
82 opened outer envelope which shall be marked "Rejected" and the reason  
83 therefor endorsed thereon by the counters.] The return envelope shall  
84 be marked "Rejected" and the reason for such rejection shall be endorsed  
85 on such return envelope by the counters.

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

93 (2) (A) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the  
94 ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r and  
95 has not met the requirements of subsection (e) of section 9-23r, as  
96 amended by this act, the counters shall replace the ballot in the opened  
97 [inner envelope, replace the inner envelope in the opened outer] return  
98 envelope and shall mark "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot" and endorse  
99 the reason for such rejection on [the outer] such return envelope, and  
100 the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot for federal offices only,  
101 pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive.

102 (B) The moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot  
103 applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot"  
104 under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision and include thereon for  
105 each such applicant the reason for the rejection. The moderator shall

106 transmit such log to the Secretary of the State at the same time and in  
107 the same manner as the duplicate list to be transmitted to the Secretary  
108 by electronic means in accordance with section 9-314.

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

111 [(f)] (e) Before the ballots are counted, all opened [outer and inner]  
112 envelopes from which such ballots have been removed, and all [outer]  
113 envelopes marked "Rejected" as required by law, shall be placed and  
114 sealed by the counters, separately by voting district, in depository  
115 envelopes prescribed by the Secretary of the State and provided by the  
116 municipal clerk. The counters shall seal such depository envelopes by  
117 wrapping them lengthwise and sideways with nonreusable tape,  
118 endorse on each such envelope their names, the voting district and the  
119 time of the count, and deliver such envelopes to the moderator.

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

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

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

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

135 (3) If a write-in vote on an absentee ballot is cast for a candidate for

136 any office whose name appears on the ballot for that office on election  
137 or primary day, such candidate's name shall be deemed to have been  
138 checked on such ballot and, except as otherwise provided in subsection  
139 [(j)] (i) of this section, one vote shall be counted and recorded for such  
140 candidate for such office.

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

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

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

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

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

160 [(k)] (j) If the intent of an absentee voter is difficult to ascertain due to  
161 uncertain, conflicting or incorrect ballot markings which are not clearly  
162 addressed in this section or in the procedure manual for counting  
163 absentee ballots provided by the Secretary of the State, the absentee  
164 ballot counters shall submit the ballot and their question to the  
165 moderator. They shall then count the ballot in accordance with the  
166 moderator's decision as to the voter's intent, if such intent is

167 ascertainable. A ballot or part of a ballot on which the intent is  
168 determined by the moderator to be not ascertainable, shall not be  
169 counted. The moderator shall endorse on the ballot the question and  
170 [his] such moderator's decision.

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

174 ~~[(m)]~~ (l) After the absentee ballots have been so counted they shall be  
175 placed by the counters, separately by voting district, in depository  
176 envelopes prescribed by the Secretary of the State and provided by the  
177 municipal clerk. Any notes, worksheets, or other written materials used  
178 by the counters in counting such ballots shall be endorsed by them with  
179 their names, the date and the time of the count and shall also be placed  
180 in such depository envelopes together with the ballots, and with the  
181 separate record of the number of votes cast on such ballots for each  
182 candidate as required by section 9-150b, as amended by this act. Such  
183 depository envelopes shall then be sealed, endorsed and delivered to  
184 the moderator by the counters in the same manner as provided in  
185 subsection ~~[(f)]~~ (e) of this section.

186 (m) (1) At the conclusion of the counting of absentee ballots, the  
187 registrars of voters shall forthwith send a confirmation notice to the  
188 residential address of each elector who voted by absentee ballot. Such  
189 confirmation shall be sent by first class mail with instructions on the  
190 envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the address shown on  
191 the envelope. If a confirmation notice is returned undelivered, the  
192 registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in accordance with  
193 section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable, notwithstanding the May first  
194 deadline in section 9-35.

195 (2) (A) Not later than ninety days after the close of the polls, the  
196 registrars of voters of each town shall (i) compile a report of (I) the  
197 number of persons who applied for an absentee ballot, (II) the number  
198 of such persons who were issued absentee ballots, (III) the number of

199 registration confirmation notices sent to electors who voted by absentee  
 200 ballot, pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, that were returned  
 201 undelivered, and (IV) the number of such electors that were  
 202 subsequently placed on the inactive registry list as a result of such  
 203 notices being returned undelivered, in accordance with subdivision (1)  
 204 of this subsection and section 9-35, and (ii) submit such report to the  
 205 Secretary of the State.

206 (B) Not later than one hundred twenty days after the close of the  
 207 polls, the Secretary of the State shall (i) aggregate all reports submitted  
 208 to the Secretary under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision into one  
 209 single report, and (ii) submit such single report to the joint standing  
 210 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 211 relating to elections, in accordance with section 11-4a, and to the State  
 212 Elections Enforcement Commission.

213 (3) Not later than five days after a determination of the registrars of  
 214 voters of any town that the residency of an elector who voted by  
 215 absentee ballot cannot be verified because a registration confirmation  
 216 notice for such elector was returned undelivered to such registrars, as  
 217 provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, such registrars shall  
 218 report all information resulting in such determination to the State  
 219 Elections Enforcement Commission, which shall conduct an  
 220 investigation of the matter."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	9-21a(a)
Sec. 502	<i>from passage</i>	9-19j(i)
Sec. 503	<i>from passage</i>	9-150a