



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6019



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.

SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.

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

3 "Sec. 501. Section 9-250 of the general statutes, as amended by section
4 83 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
5 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

6 (a) Ballots shall be printed in plain clear type and on material of such
7 size as will fit the tabulator, and shall be furnished by the registrar of
8 voters. The size and style of the type used to print the name of a political
9 party on a ballot shall be identical with the size and style of the type
10 used to print the names of all other political parties appearing on such
11 ballot.

12 (b) The name of each major party candidate for a municipal office, as

13 defined in section 9-372, except for the municipal offices of state senator
14 and state representative, shall appear on the ballot as authorized by each
15 candidate. The name of each major party candidate for a state or district
16 office, as defined in section 9-372, or for the municipal office of state
17 senator or state representative shall appear on the ballot as it appears on
18 the certificate or statement of consent filed under section 9-388, as
19 amended by [this act] public act 26-1, subsection (b) of section 9-391, or
20 section 9-400, as amended by [this act] public act 26-1, or 9-409. The
21 name of each minor party candidate shall appear on the ballot as
22 authorized by each candidate, except as provided in subdivision (2) of
23 subsection (c) of this section. The name of each nominating petition
24 candidate shall appear on the ballot as it is verified by the town clerk on
25 the application filed under section 9-453b.

26 (c) (1) The size and style of the type used to print the name of a
27 candidate on a ballot shall be identical with the size and style of the type
28 used to print the names of all other candidates appearing on such ballot.
29 Such ballot shall contain the names of the offices and the names of the
30 candidates arranged thereon. [The] Except as provided in subdivision
31 (2) of this subsection, the names of the political parties and party
32 designations shall be arranged on the ballots and followed by the word
33 "party", either in columns or horizontal rows as set forth in section 9-
34 249a, immediately adjacent to the column or row occupied by the
35 candidate or candidates of such political party or organization.

36 (2) In the case of a candidate who has been nominated by more than
37 one major or minor party, as defined in section 9-372, to the same office,
38 or a candidate who has been nominated by a major or minor party to an
39 office and who is also eligible to appear on the ballot by nominating
40 petition for the same office in accordance with the provisions of section
41 9-453t, the name of such candidate shall appear on the ballot only once.

42 (d) The ballot shall be printed in such manner as to indicate how
43 many candidates the elector may vote for each office, provided in the
44 case of a town adopting the provisions of section 9-204a, such ballot
45 shall indicate the maximum number of candidates who may be elected

46 to such office from any party. If two or more candidates are to be elected
47 to the same office for different terms, the term for which each is
48 nominated shall be printed on the official ballot as a part of the title of
49 the office. If, at any election, one candidate is to be elected for a full term
50 and another to fill a vacancy, the official ballot containing the names of
51 the candidates in the foregoing order shall, as a part of the title of the
52 office, designate the term which such candidates are severally
53 nominated to fill. No column, under the name of any political party or
54 independent organization, shall be printed on any official ballot, which
55 contains more candidates for any office than the number for which an
56 elector may vote for that office.

57 [(b)] (e) Not later than ten days prior to the commencement of the
58 period of early voting at an election, the town clerk of each municipality
59 shall file with the Secretary of the State, for each voting district in such
60 municipality, the official ballot to be used for such voting district. No
61 such official ballot shall be used at any election unless it has been
62 approved by the Secretary of the State.

63 Sec. 502. Section 9-242 of the general statutes is repealed and the
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

65 (a) A voting tabulator approved by the Secretary of the State shall be
66 so constructed as to provide facilities for voting for the candidates of at
67 least nine different parties or organizations. It shall permit voting in
68 absolute secrecy. It shall be provided with a lock by means of which any
69 illegal movement of the voting or registering mechanism is absolutely
70 prevented. Such tabulator shall be so constructed that an elector cannot
71 vote for a candidate or on a proposition for whom or on which the
72 elector is not lawfully entitled to vote.

73 (b) It shall be so constructed as to prevent an elector from voting for
74 more than one person for the same office, except when the elector is
75 lawfully entitled to vote for more than one person for that office, and it
76 shall afford the elector an opportunity to vote for only as many persons
77 for that office as the elector is by law entitled to vote for, at the same

78 time preventing the elector from voting for the same person twice. It
79 shall be so constructed that all votes cast will be registered or recorded
80 by the tabulator. [In the event that a candidate is cross endorsed and an
81 elector casts more than one vote for such candidate, such vote shall be
82 attributed by the head moderator to the endorsing parties as provided
83 for in this subsection. The head moderator shall (1) determine the
84 percentage of all attributable votes the candidate received that are
85 attributable to each endorsing party, (2) determine the number of ballots
86 upon which an elector voted for the candidate more than once, and (3)
87 apply the percentage determined under subdivision (1) of this
88 subsection for an endorsing party to the total determined under
89 subdivision (2) of this subsection. The resulting number from the
90 calculation under subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be the number
91 of votes the head moderator attributes to the endorsing party associated
92 with the percentage used in the calculation under subdivision (3) of this
93 subsection. The head moderator shall repeat the calculation in
94 subdivision (3) of this subsection for each endorsing party. For any
95 result under subdivision (3) of this subsection that is a fractional
96 number, the head moderator shall round such result to the nearest
97 whole number, provided a half number shall be rounded to the next
98 highest whole number, and provided further that each such endorsing
99 party with a percentage greater than zero under subdivision (1) of this
100 subsection shall receive at least one such vote, with the remaining
101 parties receiving a proportional reduction in votes, if necessary. If any
102 vote remains that can not be evenly attributed to such parties, such vote
103 shall be attributed to the endorsing party with the most votes.]

104 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
105 the Secretary of the State may approve a voting tabulator which requires
106 the elector in the polls to place the elector's ballot into the recording
107 device and which meets the voluntary performance and test standards
108 for voting systems adopted by (1) the Federal Election Commission on
109 January 25, 1990, as amended from time to time, or (2) the Election
110 Assistance Commission pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002,
111 P.L. 107-252, 42 USC 15481-85, as amended from time to time, whichever

112 standards are most current at the time of the Secretary of the State's
113 approval, and regulations which the Secretary of the State may adopt in
114 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. [, provided the voting
115 tabulator shall (A) warn the elector of overvotes, (B) not record
116 overvotes, and (C) not record more than one vote of an elector for the
117 same person for an office. In the event that a candidate is cross endorsed
118 and an elector casts more than one vote for such candidate, such vote
119 shall be attributed by the head moderator to the endorsing parties as
120 provided for in this subsection. The head moderator shall (i) determine
121 the percentage of all attributable votes the candidate received that are
122 attributable to each endorsing party, (ii) determine the number of ballots
123 upon which an elector voted for the candidate more than once, and (iii)
124 apply the percentage determined under subparagraph (C)(i) of this
125 subsection for an endorsing party to the total determined under
126 subparagraph (C)(ii) of this subsection. The resulting number from the
127 calculation under subparagraph (C)(iii) of this subsection shall be the
128 number of votes the head moderator attributes to the endorsing party
129 associated with the percentage used in the calculation under
130 subparagraph (C)(iii) of this subsection. The head moderator shall
131 repeat the calculation in subparagraph (C)(iii) of this subsection for each
132 endorsing party. For any result under subparagraph (C)(iii) of this
133 subsection that is a fractional number, the head moderator shall round
134 such result to the nearest whole number, provided a half number shall
135 be rounded to the next highest whole number, and provided further that
136 each such endorsing party with a percentage greater than zero under
137 subparagraph (C)(i) of this subsection shall receive at least one such
138 vote, with the remaining parties receiving a proportional reduction in
139 votes, if necessary. If any vote remains that can not be evenly attributed
140 to such parties, such vote shall be attributed to the endorsing party with
141 the most votes.]

142 (d) Any direct recording electronic voting tabulator approved by the
143 Secretary of the State for an election or primary held on or after July 1,
144 2005, shall be so constructed as to:

145 (1) (A) Contemporaneously produce an individual, permanent, paper
146 record containing all of the elector's selections of ballot preferences for
147 candidates and questions or proposals, if any, prior to the elector's
148 casting a ballot, as set forth in this subsection, and (B) produce at any
149 time after the close of the polls a voting tabulator generated, individual,
150 permanent, paper record of each such elector's selections of ballot
151 preferences for candidates and questions or proposals, if any. Both the
152 contemporaneously produced paper record and the voting tabulator
153 generated paper record of each elector's selections of ballot preferences
154 shall include a voting tabulator generated unique identifier that can be
155 matched against each other and which preserves the secrecy of the
156 elector's ballot as set forth in subdivision (4) of this subsection;

157 (2) Provide each elector with an opportunity to verify that the
158 contemporaneously produced, individual, permanent, paper record
159 accurately conforms to such elector's selection of ballot preferences, as
160 reflected on the electronic summary screen, and to hear, if desired, an
161 audio description of such electronic summary screen, for the purpose of
162 having an opportunity to make any corrections or changes prior to
163 casting the ballot. If an elector makes corrections or changes prior to
164 casting the ballot, the voting tabulator shall void such
165 contemporaneously produced paper record, contemporaneously
166 produce another paper record containing such corrections or changes
167 and provide the elector with another opportunity to verify ballot
168 preferences in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision. As
169 used in this section, "electronic summary screen" means a screen
170 generated by a direct recording electronic voting tabulator that displays
171 a summary of an elector's selections of ballot preferences for candidates
172 and questions or proposals, if any, at an election or primary;

173 (3) Provide that a ballot shall be deemed cast on the voting tabulator
174 at the time that an elector's contemporaneously produced, individual,
175 permanent, voter-verified paper record, containing all of the elector's
176 final selections of ballot preferences, is (A) deposited inside a receptacle
177 designed to store all such paper records produced by such voting

178 tabulator on the day of the election or primary, and (B) the elector's
179 selection of ballot preferences is simultaneously electronically recorded
180 inside the voting tabulator for the purpose of (i) being electronically
181 tabulated immediately after the polls are closed on the day of the
182 election or primary, and (ii) producing, on such other day as required
183 under section 9-242b, a voting tabulator generated, individual,
184 permanent, paper record of each such elector's selections of ballot
185 preferences for candidates and questions or proposals, if any;

186 (4) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (1) of section 9-242b,
187 secure the secrecy of each such elector's ballot by making it impossible
188 for any other individual to identify the elector in relationship to such
189 elector's selection of ballot preferences at the time that the elector (A)
190 selects ballot preferences; (B) verifies the accuracy of the electronic
191 summary screen by comparing it to the contemporaneously produced,
192 individual, permanent, paper record or the audio description of such
193 electronic summary screen, prior to casting a ballot; (C) makes
194 corrections or changes by reselecting ballot preferences and verifies the
195 accuracy of such preferences in accordance with the provisions of
196 subdivision (2) of this subsection prior to casting a ballot; and (D) casts
197 the ballot; and at the time that all electors' ballots are canvassed,
198 recanvassed or otherwise tallied to produce a final count of the vote for
199 candidates and questions or proposals, if any, whether through the
200 electronic vote tabulation process or through the manual count process
201 of each elector's contemporaneously produced, individual, permanent,
202 voter-verified paper record, as set forth in section 9-242b; and

203 (5) (A) Be accessible to blind or visually impaired persons by
204 providing each elector, if desired by the elector, an audio description of
205 the contemporaneously produced individual, permanent, paper record
206 containing all of the elector's selections of ballot preferences, in addition
207 to an audio description of the electronic summary screen and comply
208 with such additional standards of accessibility included in regulations
209 that the Secretary of the State may adopt in accordance with the
210 provisions of chapter 54.

211 (B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this
 212 subdivision, on or before June 30, 2007, the Secretary of the State may
 213 approve an electronic voting tabulator that does not comply with the
 214 provisions of said subparagraph if (i) the Secretary determines that there
 215 are no electronic voting tabulators available for purchase or lease at the
 216 time of such approval that are capable of complying with said
 217 subparagraph (A), (ii) the electronic voting tabulator complies with the
 218 provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection, and
 219 (iii) the person applying to the Secretary for approval of the electronic
 220 voting tabulator agrees to include a provision in any contract for the sale
 221 or lease of such voting tabulators that requires such person, upon
 222 notification by the Secretary that modifications to such tabulators that
 223 would bring the tabulators into compliance with said subparagraph (A)
 224 are available, to (I) so modify any electronic voting tabulators
 225 previously sold or leased under such contract in order to comply with
 226 said subparagraph (A), and (II) provide that any electronic voting
 227 tabulators sold or leased after receipt of such notice comply with said
 228 subparagraph (A). No voting tabulator approved under this
 229 subparagraph shall be used on or after July 1, 2007, unless it has been
 230 modified to comply with the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this
 231 subdivision."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	9-250
Sec. 502	<i>from passage</i>	9-242