



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6027



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.
SEN. MARTIN, 31st Dist.
SEN. SAMPSON, 16th 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 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 9-3 of the general statutes, as amended by section
4 89 of public act 26-1, is amended by adding subsection (d) as follows
5 (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

6 (NEW) (d) Prior to issuing any declaratory ruling pursuant to section
7 4-176, as amended by this act, or any instruction, opinion or order under
8 the provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall adopt such
9 declaratory ruling, instruction, opinion or order as a regulation, in
10 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. The Secretary shall
11 publish on the eRegulations System a notice of intent to adopt (1) such
12 declaratory ruling as a regulation not later than sixty days after receipt

13 of a petition for a declaratory ruling, and (2) such instruction, opinion
14 or order as a regulation immediately upon proposing to so issue any
15 such instruction, opinion or order. Such declaratory ruling, instruction,
16 opinion or order shall be effective when the regulation is posted on the
17 eRegulations System by the Secretary of the State under section 4-172.

18 Sec. 502. Subdivision (16) of section 4-166 of the general statutes is
19 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
20 *1, 2027*):

21 (16) "Regulation" means each agency statement of general
22 applicability, without regard to its designation, that implements,
23 interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or describes the organization,
24 procedure, or practice requirements of any agency. The term includes
25 the amendment or repeal of a prior regulation, but does not include (A)
26 statements concerning only the internal management of any agency and
27 not affecting private rights or procedures available to the public, (B)
28 declaratory rulings issued pursuant to section 4-176, as amended by this
29 act, other than declaratory rulings described in section 9-3, as amended
30 by this act, or (C) intra-agency or interagency memoranda;

31 Sec. 503. Section 4-176 of the general statutes is repealed and the
32 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

33 (a) Any person may petition an agency, or an agency may on its own
34 motion initiate a proceeding, for a declaratory ruling as to the validity
35 of any regulation, or the applicability to specified circumstances of a
36 provision of the general statutes, a regulation, or a final decision on a
37 matter within the jurisdiction of the agency.

38 (b) Each agency shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
39 provisions of this chapter, that provide for (1) the form and content of
40 petitions for declaratory rulings, (2) the filing procedure for such
41 petitions and (3) the procedural rights of persons with respect to the
42 petitions.

43 (c) Within thirty days after receipt of a petition for a declaratory

44 ruling, an agency shall give notice of the petition to all persons to whom
45 notice is required by any provision of law and to all persons who have
46 requested notice of declaratory ruling petitions on the subject matter of
47 the petition.

48 (d) If the agency finds that a timely petition to become a party or to
49 intervene has been filed according to the regulations adopted under
50 subsection (b) of this section, the agency: (1) May grant a person status
51 as a party if the agency finds that the petition states facts demonstrating
52 that the petitioner's legal rights, duties or privileges shall be specifically
53 affected by the agency proceeding; and (2) may grant a person status as
54 an intervenor if the agency finds that the petition states facts
55 demonstrating that the petitioner's participation is in the interests of
56 justice and will not impair the orderly conduct of the proceedings. The
57 agency may define an intervenor's participation in the manner set forth
58 in subsection (d) of section 4-177a.

59 (e) Within sixty days after receipt of a petition for a declaratory
60 ruling, an agency in writing shall: (1) Issue a ruling declaring the
61 validity of a regulation or the applicability of the provision of the
62 general statutes, the regulation, or the final decision in question to the
63 specified circumstances, (2) order the matter set for specified
64 proceedings, (3) agree to issue a declaratory ruling by a specified date,
65 (4) decide not to issue a declaratory ruling and initiate regulation-
66 making proceedings, under section 4-168, on the subject, [or] (5) decide
67 not to issue a declaratory ruling, stating the reasons for its action, or (6)
68 in the case of a declaratory ruling described in section 9-3, as amended
69 by this act, publish notice of intent to adopt regulations concerning such
70 declaratory ruling.

71 (f) A copy of all rulings issued and any actions taken under
72 subsection (e) of this section shall be promptly delivered to the
73 petitioner and other parties personally or by United States mail, certified
74 or registered, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.

75 (g) If the agency conducts a hearing in a proceeding for a declaratory

76 ruling, the provisions of subsection (b) of section 4-177c, section 4-178
77 and section 4-179 shall apply to the hearing.

78 (h) A declaratory ruling shall be effective when personally delivered
79 or mailed or on such later date specified by the agency in the ruling,
80 shall have the same status and binding effect as an order issued in a
81 contested case and shall be a final decision for purposes of appeal in
82 accordance with the provisions of section 4-183. A declaratory ruling
83 shall contain the names of all parties to the proceeding, the particular
84 facts on which it is based and the reasons for its conclusion.

85 (i) If an agency does not issue a declaratory ruling within one
86 hundred eighty days after the filing of a petition therefor, or within such
87 longer period as may be agreed by the parties, the agency shall be
88 deemed to have decided not to issue such ruling.

89 (j) The agency shall keep a record of the proceeding as provided in
90 section 4-177."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	January 1, 2027	9-3(d)
Sec. 502	January 1, 2027	4-166(16)
Sec. 503	January 1, 2027	4-176