



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 5280

LCO No. 1779



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO ELECTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-388 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Whenever a convention of a political party is held for the
4 endorsement of candidates for nomination to state or district office, each
5 candidate endorsed at such convention shall file with the Secretary of
6 the State a certificate, signed by him, stating that he was endorsed by
7 such convention, his name as he authorizes it to appear on the ballot, his
8 full residence address and the title and district, if applicable, of the office
9 for which he was endorsed. Such certificate shall be attested by either
10 (1) the chairman or presiding officer, or (2) the secretary of such
11 convention and shall be received by the Secretary of the State not later
12 than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of such
13 convention. Such certificate shall either be mailed to the Secretary of the
14 State by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered in person,
15 in which case a receipt indicating the date and time of delivery shall be

16 provided by the Secretary of the State to the person making delivery. If
17 a certificate of a party's endorsement for a particular state or district
18 office is not received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such
19 certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of [section 9-
20 416 and section 9-416a] sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to
21 have made no endorsement of any candidate for such office. If
22 applicable, the chairman of a party's state convention shall, forthwith
23 upon the close of such convention, file with the Secretary of the State the
24 names and full residence addresses of persons selected by such
25 convention as the nominees of such party for electors of President and
26 Vice-President of the United States in accordance with the provisions of
27 section 9-175.

28 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, in the
29 case of an error or omission in any such certificate of a party's
30 endorsement, which error or omission would operate to invalidate such
31 endorsement and which certificate is timely filed pursuant to subsection
32 (a) of this section, the candidate so certified or an individual authorized
33 to act on behalf of such candidate may correct such error or omission by
34 appearing in person at the office of the Secretary of the State not later
35 than four o'clock p.m. on the nineteenth day after the close of the state
36 or district convention, as applicable, and amending such certificate to
37 make such correction, provided neither failure of such candidate to
38 timely file such certificate pursuant to subsection (a) of this section nor
39 failure of the chairman, presiding officer or secretary of the convention,
40 as applicable, to attest such certificate shall be an error or omission that
41 may be corrected pursuant to this subsection. If such candidate or
42 individual does not appear to so amend such certificate by such time,
43 such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of
44 sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no such
45 endorsement.

46 (2) The Secretary of the State may amend a certificate of a party's
47 endorsement to correct any error or omission deemed by the Secretary
48 to be harmless, and shall keep a record of any such amendment made
49 pursuant to this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be

50 construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify
51 any error or omission in any such certificate.

52 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 9-391 of the general statutes is
53 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
54 *passage*):

55 (c) (1) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the
56 nomination of candidates for a municipal office to be voted upon at a
57 state election shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not
58 earlier than the eighty-fourth day or later than the seventy-seventh day
59 preceding the day of such primary. Each certification to be filed under
60 this subsection shall be received by the Secretary of the State not later
61 than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of the town
62 committee meeting, caucus or convention, as the case may be. If such a
63 certificate of a party's endorsement is not received by the Secretary of
64 the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party,
65 for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418, shall be deemed to have
66 neither made nor certified any endorsement of any candidate for such
67 office. The candidate so endorsed for a municipal office to be voted upon
68 at a state election, other than the office of justice of the peace, shall file
69 with the Secretary of the State a certificate, signed by that candidate,
70 stating that such candidate was so endorsed, the candidate's name as
71 the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full
72 street address and the title and district of the office for which the
73 candidate was endorsed. Such certificate may be filed by a candidate
74 whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment list of such
75 party within the senatorial district within which the candidate is
76 endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal office of
77 state senator, or the assembly district within which the candidate is
78 endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal office of
79 state representative, or the municipality or political subdivision within
80 which the candidate is to run for nomination for other municipal offices
81 to be voted on at a state election. Such certificate shall be attested by
82 either the chairperson or presiding officer or the secretary of the town
83 committee, caucus or convention which made such endorsement. The

84 endorsement of any candidate for the office of justice of the peace shall
85 be certified to the clerk of the municipality by either the chairperson or
86 presiding officer or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or
87 convention, and shall contain the name and street address of each
88 candidate so endorsed and the title of the office for which each such
89 candidate is endorsed. Such certification shall be made on a form
90 prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on such other form as may
91 comply with the provisions of this subsection.

92 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, in
93 the case of an error or omission in any such certificate of a party's
94 endorsement, which error or omission would operate to invalidate such
95 endorsement and which certificate is timely filed pursuant to
96 subdivision (1) of this subsection, the candidate so certified or an
97 individual authorized to act on behalf of such candidate may correct
98 such error or omission by appearing in person at the office of the
99 Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the nineteenth
100 day after the close of the town committee meeting, caucus or
101 convention, as the case may be, and amending such certificate to make
102 such correction, provided neither failure of such candidate to timely file
103 such certificate pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection nor failure
104 of the chairperson, presiding officer or secretary of the town committee,
105 caucus or convention, as the case may be, to attest such certificate shall
106 be an error or omission that may be corrected pursuant to this
107 subdivision. If such candidate or individual does not appear to so
108 amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and
109 such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418, shall be deemed
110 to have neither made nor certified such endorsement.

111 (B) The Secretary of the State may amend a certificate of a party's
112 endorsement to correct any error or omission deemed by the Secretary
113 to be harmless, and shall keep a record of any such amendment made
114 pursuant to this subparagraph. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be
115 construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify
116 any error or omission in any such certificate.

117 Sec. 3. Section 9-400 of the general statutes is repealed and the
118 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

119 (a) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a state office
120 may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon
121 the last-completed enrollment list of such party in any municipality
122 within the state and who has either (1) received at least fifteen per cent
123 of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-
124 call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a
125 candidate for such state office, whether or not the party-endorsed
126 candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on the last ballot,
127 or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of at least two
128 per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the state, in accordance
129 with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive. Candidacies
130 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be filed by
131 submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m.
132 on the fourteenth day following the close of the state convention, a
133 certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by either (A) the
134 chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the convention, that
135 such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of such votes, and that
136 such candidate consents to be a candidate in a primary of such party for
137 such state office. Such certificate shall specify the candidate's name as
138 the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full
139 residence address and the title of the office for which the candidacy is
140 being filed. If such certificate for a state office is not received by the
141 Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and
142 such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be
143 deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy for nomination
144 by a political party [for] to such state office. A single such certificate or
145 petition for state office may be filed on behalf of two or more candidates
146 for different state offices who consent to have their names appear on a
147 single row of the primary ballot under subsection (b) of section 9-437.
148 Candidacies described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be filed
149 by submitting said petition not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-
150 third day preceding the day of the primary for such office to the registrar

151 of voters of the towns in which the respective petition pages were
152 circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such petition with the
153 Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-404c.
154 A petition filed by or on behalf of a candidate for state office shall be
155 invalid for such candidate if such candidate is certified as the party-
156 endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by this act,
157 or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the convention vote for such
158 office pursuant to this subsection. Except as provided in section 9-416a,
159 upon the expiration of the time period for party endorsement and
160 circulation and tabulation of petitions and signatures, if any, if one or
161 more candidacies for such state office have been filed pursuant to the
162 provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall notify all town
163 clerks and registrars of voters in accordance with the provisions of
164 section 9-433, that a primary for such state office shall be held in each
165 municipality in accordance with the provisions of section 9-415.

166 (b) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a district office
167 may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon
168 the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the district the
169 person seeks to represent that is in the office of the Secretary of the State
170 at the end of the last day prior to the convention for the party from
171 which the person seeks nomination and who has either (1) received at
172 least fifteen per cent of the votes of the convention delegates present and
173 voting on any roll-call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed
174 endorsement of a candidate for such district office, whether or not the
175 party-endorsed candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on
176 the last ballot, or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of
177 at least two per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the district
178 for the district office of representative in Congress, and at least five per
179 cent of the enrolled members of such party in the district for the district
180 offices of state senator, state representative and judge of probate, in
181 accordance with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive.
182 Candidacies described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be filed
183 by submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock
184 p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of the district convention,

185 a certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by either (A) the
186 chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the convention, that
187 such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of such votes, and that
188 the candidate consents to be a candidate in a primary of such party for
189 such district office. Such certificate shall specify the candidate's name as
190 the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full
191 residence address and the title and district of the office for which the
192 candidacy is being filed. If such certificate for a district office is not
193 received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall
194 be invalid and such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-
195 416a, shall be deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy
196 for nomination by a political party [for] to such district office.
197 Candidacies described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be filed
198 by submitting said petition not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-
199 third day preceding the day of the primary for such office to the registrar
200 of voters of the towns in which the respective petition pages were
201 circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such petition with the
202 Secretary in accordance with the provisions of section 9-404c. A petition
203 may only be filed by or on behalf of a candidate for the district office of
204 state senator, state representative or judge of probate who is not certified
205 as the party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended
206 by this act, or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the convention vote
207 for such office pursuant to this subsection. A petition filed by or on
208 behalf of a candidate for the district office of representative in Congress
209 shall be invalid if said candidate is certified as the party-endorsed
210 candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by this act, or as
211 receiving at least fifteen per cent of the convention vote for such office
212 pursuant to this subsection. Except as provided in section 9-416a, upon
213 the expiration of the time period for party endorsement and circulation
214 and tabulation of petitions and signatures, if any, if one or more
215 candidacies for such district office have been filed pursuant to the
216 provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall notify all town
217 clerks within the district, in accordance with the provisions of section 9-
218 433, that a primary for such district office shall be held in each
219 municipality and each part of a municipality within the district in

220 accordance with the provisions of section 9-415.

221 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, in the
222 case of an error or omission in any such certificate of candidacy for
223 nomination by a political party, which error or omission would operate
224 to invalidate such candidacy and which certificate is timely filed
225 pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, as applicable, the person
226 so certified or an agent of such person may correct such error or
227 omission by appearing in person at the office of the Secretary of the State
228 not later than four o'clock p.m. on the nineteenth day after the close of
229 the state or district convention, as applicable, and amending such
230 certificate to make such correction, provided neither failure of such
231 person to timely file such certificate pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of
232 this section nor failure of the chairperson, presiding officer or secretary
233 of the convention to attest such certificate shall be an error or omission
234 that may be corrected pursuant to this subsection. If such person or
235 agent does not appear to so amend such certificate by such time, such
236 certificate shall be invalid and such person, for the purposes of sections
237 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no valid certification of
238 candidacy for nomination by a political party. As used in this
239 subsection, "agent" means an individual authorized to act on behalf of a
240 person.

241 (2) The Secretary of the State may amend a certificate of candidacy
242 for nomination to correct any error or omission deemed by the Secretary
243 to be harmless, and shall keep a record of any such amendment made
244 pursuant to this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be
245 construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify
246 any error or omission in any such certificate.

247 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) For the purposes of this section, the number of enrolled
248 members of a party shall be determined by the latest enrollment records
249 in the office of the Secretary of the State prior to the earliest date that
250 primary petitions were available. The names of electors on the inactive
251 registry list compiled under section 9-35 shall not be counted for
252 purposes of computing the number of petition signatures required

253 under this section, as provided in section 9-35c.

254 [(d)] (e) On the last day for filing primary petition candidacies in
255 accordance with the provisions of this section, the office or office
256 facilities of the registrars of voters shall open not later than one o'clock
257 p.m., and remain open until at least four o'clock p.m., and such
258 registrars or the deputy or assistant registrars shall be present.

259 Sec. 4. Section 9-452 of the general statutes is repealed and the
260 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

261 (a) All minor parties nominating candidates for any elective office
262 shall make such nominations and certify and file a list of such
263 nominations, as required by this section, not later than the sixty-second
264 day prior to the day of the election at which such candidates are to be
265 voted for. A list of nominees in printed or typewritten form that includes
266 each candidate's name as authorized by each candidate to appear on the
267 ballot, the signature of each candidate, the full street address of each
268 candidate and the title and district of the office for which each candidate
269 is nominated shall be certified by the presiding officer of the committee,
270 meeting or other authority making such nomination and shall be filed
271 by such presiding officer with the Secretary of the State, in the case of
272 any state, district or municipal office to be voted upon at a state election,
273 or with the clerk of the municipality, in the case of any municipal office
274 to be voted upon at a municipal election, not later than the sixty-second
275 day prior to the day of the election. The registrars of voters of such
276 municipality shall promptly verify and correct the names on any such
277 list filed with him, or the names of nominees forwarded to the clerk of
278 the municipality by the Secretary of the State, in accordance with the
279 registry list of such municipality and endorse the same as having been
280 so verified and corrected. For purposes of this section, a list of
281 nominations shall be deemed to be filed when it is received by the
282 Secretary of the State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate. If such
283 certificate of a party's nomination is not received by the Secretary of the
284 State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate, by such time, such
285 certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections

286 9-460, 9-461 and 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made nor
287 certified any nomination of any candidate for such office. A candidacy
288 for nomination by a minor party to a district or municipal office may be
289 filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed
290 registry list of the district or municipality represented by such office, as
291 the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by a minor party to a state
292 office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the
293 last-completed registry list of the state.

294 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, in the
295 case of an error or omission in any such certificate of nomination for any
296 state, district or municipal office to be voted upon at a state election,
297 which error or omission would operate to invalidate such nomination
298 and which certificate is timely filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
299 section the candidate so certified or an individual authorized to act on
300 behalf of such candidate may correct such error or omission by
301 appearing in person at the office of the Secretary of the State not later
302 than four o'clock p.m. on the fifty-seventh day prior to the day of the
303 election and amending such certificate to make such correction,
304 provided neither failure of the presiding officer of the committee,
305 meeting or other authority to timely file such certificate pursuant to
306 subsection (a) of this section nor failure of the candidate to sign such
307 certificate shall be an error or omission that may be corrected pursuant
308 to this subsection. If such candidate or individual does not appear to so
309 amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and
310 such party, for the purposes of sections 9-460, 9-461 and 9-462, shall be
311 deemed to have neither made nor certified any such nomination.

312 (2) The Secretary of the State may amend a certificate of nomination
313 to correct any error or omission deemed by the Secretary to be harmless,
314 and shall keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this
315 subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require
316 the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission
317 in any such certificate.

318 Sec. 5. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the

319 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

320 Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be a United States
321 citizen, at least eighteen years of age, [and a resident of a town in this
322 state] and shall not be on parole for conviction of a felony. Any
323 individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating petition may
324 serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating petition.

325 Sec. 6. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the
326 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

327 Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or the
328 Secretary of the State and filed with the Secretary of the State under the
329 provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall
330 contain a statement as to the residency [in this state] and eligibility of
331 the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed
332 under [penalties] penalty of false statement, by the person who
333 circulated the same. Such statement shall set forth (1) [such] the
334 circulator's residence address, including the town [in this state] in which
335 [such] the circulator is a resident, (2) if the circulator is not a resident in
336 this state, that the circulator agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of the
337 state in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation
338 of a petition pursuant to this subpart, (3) the circulator's date of birth
339 and that the circulator is at least eighteen years of age, [(3)] (4) that the
340 circulator is a United States citizen and not on parole for conviction of a
341 felony, and [(4)] (5) that each person whose name appears on such page
342 signed the same in person in the presence of [such] the circulator and
343 that either the circulator knows each such signer or that the signer
344 satisfactorily identified himself or herself to the circulator. Any false
345 statement committed with respect to such statement shall be deemed to
346 have been committed in the town in which the petition was circulated.

347 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-453k of the general statutes is
348 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
349 *passage*):

350 (a) The town clerk or Secretary of the State shall not accept any page

351 of a nominating petition unless the circulator thereof has signed before
352 [him] the clerk, the Secretary or an appropriate person, as provided in
353 section 1-29, the statement as to the residency [in this state] and
354 eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity of the signatures
355 thereon required by section 9-453j, as amended by this act.

356 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 9-453o of the general statutes is
357 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
358 *passage*):

359 (a) The Secretary of the State may not count for purposes of
360 determining compliance with the number of signatures required by
361 section 9-453d the signatures certified by the town clerk on any petition
362 page filed under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or 9-216 if: (1) The
363 name of the candidate, [his] the candidate's address or the party
364 designation, if any, has been omitted from the face of the petition; (2) the
365 page does not contain a statement by the circulator as to the residency
366 [in this state] and eligibility of the circulator and as to the authenticity
367 of the signatures thereon as required by section 9-453j, as amended by
368 this act, or upon which such statement of the circulator is incomplete in
369 any respect; or (3) the page does not contain the certifications required
370 by sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, by the town clerk of the town in
371 which the signers reside. The town clerk shall cure any omission on his
372 or her part by signing any such page at the office of the Secretary of the
373 State and making the necessary amendment or by filing a separate
374 statement in this regard, which amendment shall be dated.

375 Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of section 9-404b of the general statutes is
376 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
377 *passage*):

378 (d) [Each] Any person who has attained the age of eighteen years may
379 be a circulator of a primary petition page [shall be] if such person (1) is
380 an enrolled party member of a municipality in this state, [Each] or (2)
381 agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state in any case or
382 controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of a primary

383 petition. For any circulator described in subdivision (1) of this
384 subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by the
385 registrar of the municipality in which the circulator is an enrolled party
386 member attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in the
387 municipality. For any circulator described in subdivision (2) of this
388 subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by such
389 circulator that he or she agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state
390 in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of
391 a primary petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the
392 registrar of the municipality in which such page was circulated. Unless
393 such a statement by the registrar of voters appears on each page so
394 submitted, the Secretary shall reject the page. Each separate page of the
395 petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures
396 on the page and the number of such signatures, and shall be signed
397 under the [penalties] penalty of false statement by the person who
398 circulated the page, setting forth the circulator's address and the town
399 in which the circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that
400 each person whose name appears on the page signed the petition in
401 person in the presence of the circulator, that the circulator either knows
402 each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself or
403 herself to the circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported,
404 offices sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to the
405 obtaining of the signatures. Each separate page of the petition shall also
406 be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in section
407 1-29. The Secretary shall reject any page of a petition filed with the
408 Secretary which does not contain such a statement by the circulator as
409 to the authenticity of the signatures on the page, or upon which the
410 statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or which does
411 not contain the certification required under this section by the registrar
412 of the town in which the circulator is an enrolled party member. Any
413 individual proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may serve
414 as a circulator of the pages of the petition, provided the individual's
415 service as circulator does not violate any provision of this section.

416 Sec. 10. Subsection (c) of section 9-410 of the general statutes is

417 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
418 *passage*):

419 (c) [Each] Any person who has attained the age of eighteen years may
420 be a circulator of a primary petition page [shall be] if such person (1) is
421 an enrolled party member of a municipality in this state, [who is entitled
422 to vote. Each] or (2) agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state in
423 any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of a
424 primary petition. For any circulator described in subdivision (1) of this
425 subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by the
426 registrar of the municipality in which such circulator is an enrolled party
427 member attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in such
428 municipality. For any circulator described in subdivision (2) of this
429 subsection, each petition page shall contain a statement signed by such
430 circulator that he or she agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of this state
431 in any case or controversy arising out of or related to the circulation of
432 a petition, which signed statement shall be attested to by the registrar of
433 the municipality in which such page was circulated. Unless such a
434 statement by the registrar appears on each page so submitted, the
435 registrar shall reject such page. No candidate for the nomination of a
436 party for a municipal office or the position of town committee member
437 shall circulate any petition for another candidate or another group of
438 candidates contained in one primary petition for the nomination of such
439 party for the same office or position, and any petition page circulated in
440 violation of this provision shall be rejected by the registrar. No person
441 shall circulate petitions for more than the maximum number of
442 candidates to be nominated by a party for the same office or position,
443 and any petition page circulated in violation of this provision shall be
444 rejected by the registrar. Each separate sheet of such petition shall
445 contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures thereon and
446 the number of such signatures, and shall be signed under the penalties
447 of false statement by the person who circulated the same, setting forth
448 such circulator's address and the town in which such circulator is an
449 enrolled party member and attesting that each person whose name
450 appears on such sheet signed the same in person in the presence of such

451 circulator, that the circulator either knows each such signer or that the
452 signer satisfactorily identified the signer to the circulator and that the
453 spaces for candidates supported, offices or positions sought and the
454 political party involved were filled in prior to the obtaining of the
455 signatures. Each separate sheet of such petition shall also be
456 acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in section 1-
457 29. Any sheet of a petition filed with the registrar which does not contain
458 such a statement by the circulator as to the authenticity of the signatures
459 thereon, or upon which the statement of the circulator is incomplete in
460 any respect, or which does not contain the certification hereinbefore
461 required by the registrar of the town in which the circulator is an
462 enrolled party member, shall be rejected by the registrar. Any individual
463 proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may serve as a
464 circulator of the pages of such petition, provided such individual's
465 service as circulator does not violate any provision of this section.

466 Sec. 11. Section 9-450 of the general statutes is repealed and the
467 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

468 (a) Nominations by major parties for any state, district or municipal
469 office to be filled under the provisions of any law relating to elections to
470 fill vacancies, unless otherwise provided therein, shall be made in
471 accordance with the provisions of sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, as
472 amended by this act.

473 (b) (1) [(A)] In the case of nominations for representatives in Congress
474 and judges of probate in probate districts composed of two or more
475 towns, provided for in sections 9-212, as amended by this act, and 9-218,
476 the delegates to the convention for the last state election shall be the
477 delegates for the purpose of selecting a candidate to fill such vacancy. If
478 a vacancy occurs in the delegation from any town, political subdivision
479 or district, such vacancy may be filled by the town committee of the
480 town in which the delegate resided. Endorsements by political party
481 conventions pursuant to this subsection may be made and certified at
482 any time after the resignation or death creating such vacancy and not
483 later than the fiftieth day before the day of the election. No such

484 endorsement shall be effective until the presiding officer or secretary of
485 any district convention has certified the endorsement to the Secretary of
486 the State.

487 [(B)] (2) If such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-
488 fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or
489 municipal election in November of any year, no primary shall be held
490 for the nomination of any political party and the party-endorsed
491 candidate so selected shall be deemed, for the purposes of this chapter,
492 the person certified by the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-
493 444 as the nominee of such party.

494 [(C)] (3) Except as provided in [subparagraph (B) of this] subdivision
495 (2) of this subsection, if a candidacy for nomination is filed by or on
496 behalf of any person other than a party-endorsed candidate not later
497 than [fourteen days] the day after the party endorsement and in
498 conformity with the provisions of section 9-400, as amended by this act,
499 a primary shall be held in each municipality of the district and each part
500 of a municipality which is a component part of the district, to determine
501 the nominee of such party for such office, except as provided in section
502 9-416a. Such primary shall be held on the day that the writs of election
503 issued by the Governor, pursuant to section 9-212, as amended by this
504 act, ordered the election to be held, and new writs of election shall be
505 issued by the Governor in accordance with section 9-212, as amended
506 by this act.

507 [(D)] (4) Unless the provisions of [subparagraph (B) of this]
508 subdivision (2) of this subsection apply, petition forms for candidacies
509 for nomination by a political party pursuant to this subdivision shall be
510 available from the Secretary of the State beginning on the day following
511 the issuance of writs of election by the Governor pursuant to section 9-
512 212, as amended by this act, except when a primary has already been
513 held, and the provisions of section 9-404a shall otherwise apply to such
514 petitions.

515 [(E)] (5) The registry lists used pursuant to this subsection shall be the

516 last-completed lists, as provided in sections 9-172a and 9-172b.

517 [(2)] (c) In the case of judges of probate in probate districts composed
518 of a single town, the day named for the election shall be not earlier than
519 the one hundred fifteenth day following the day on which the writ of
520 election is issued, and the times specified in sections 9-391, as amended
521 by this act, 9-405 and 9-423 shall be applicable.

522 [(3) (A)] (d) (1) In the case of nominations for senators in Congress
523 provided for in section 9-211, the delegates to the convention for the last
524 state election shall be the delegates for the purpose of selecting a
525 candidate to fill such vacancy. If a vacancy occurs in the delegation from
526 any town or political subdivision, such vacancy may be filled by the
527 town committee of the town in which the delegate resided.
528 Endorsements by political party conventions pursuant to this subsection
529 may be made and certified at any time after the resignation or death
530 creating such vacancy and not later than the fifty-sixth day before the
531 day of the primary. No such endorsement shall be effective until the
532 presiding officer or secretary of any state convention has certified the
533 endorsement to the Secretary of the State.

534 [(B)] (2) If such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred twenty-
535 fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state or
536 municipal election in November of any year, no primary shall be held
537 for the nomination of any political party and the party-endorsed
538 candidate so selected shall be deemed, for the purposes of this chapter,
539 the person certified by the Secretary of the State, pursuant to section 9-
540 444, as the nominee of such party. In such an event, endorsements by
541 political party conventions shall be made not later than sixty days prior
542 to the election.

543 [(C)] (3) Except as provided in [subparagraph (B) of this] subdivision
544 (2) of this subsection, if a candidacy for nomination is filed by or on
545 behalf of any person other than a party-endorsed candidate not later
546 than [fourteen days] the day after the party endorsement and in
547 conformity with the provisions of section 9-400, as amended by this act,

548 a primary shall be held on the fifty-sixth day prior to the day of the
549 election in each municipality to determine the nominee of such party for
550 such office, except as provided in section 9-416a.

551 [(D)] ~~(4)~~ Unless the provisions of [subparagraph (B) of this]
552 subdivision ~~(2) of this subsection~~ apply, petition forms for candidacies
553 for nomination by a political party pursuant to this subdivision shall be
554 available from the Secretary of the State beginning on the day following
555 the issuance of writs of election by the Governor, pursuant to section 9-
556 211, except when a primary has already been held and the provisions of
557 section 9-404a shall otherwise apply to such petitions.

558 [(E)] ~~(5)~~ The registry lists used pursuant to this subsection shall be the
559 last-completed lists, as provided in sections 9-172a and 9-172b.

560 [(4)] ~~(e)~~ The times specified in sections 9-391, as amended by this act,
561 9-405 and 9-423 shall be applicable to any special town election held to
562 fill a vacancy in any town office under subsection (b) of section 9-164.
563 Except as provided under subsection (c) of section 9-164, any election
564 held to fill a vacancy in any municipal office under the provisions of any
565 special act shall be held not earlier than the one hundred twenty-seventh
566 day following the day upon which warning of such election is issued,
567 and the times specified in sections 9-391, as amended by this act, 9-405
568 and 9-423 shall be applicable.

569 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 9-212 of the general statutes is
570 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
571 *passage*):

572 (a) In case of a vacancy in the office of representative in Congress
573 from any district, the Governor, except as otherwise provided by law,
574 shall not more than ten days after the occurrence of such vacancy issue
575 writs of election directed to the town clerks or assistant town clerks, in
576 such district, ordering an election to be held on the sixtieth day after the
577 issue of such writs on a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, to fill such
578 vacancy, provided (1) if such a vacancy occurs between the one hundred
579 twenty-fifth day and the sixty-third day before the day of a regular state

580 or municipal election in November of any year, the Governor shall so
581 issue such writs on the sixtieth day before the day of such regular
582 election, ordering an election to be held on the day of such regular
583 election, (2) if such a vacancy occurs after the sixty-third day before the
584 day of a regular state election but before the regular state election, the
585 Governor shall not issue such writs and no election shall be held under
586 this section, unless the position vacated is that of member-elect, in which
587 case the Governor shall issue such writs and an election shall be held as
588 provided in this section, and (3) if a primary for such office occurs
589 pursuant to [subparagraph (C) of] subdivision [(1)] (3) of subsection (b)
590 of section 9-450, as amended by this act, the Governor shall, within ten
591 days following the filing of a candidacy for nomination by a person
592 other than the party-endorsed candidate, issue new writs of election, in
593 place of those first issued pursuant to this section.

594 Sec. 13. Section 9-324 of the general statutes is repealed and the
595 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

596 (a) Any elector or candidate who claims that such elector or candidate
597 is aggrieved by any ruling of any election official in connection with any
598 election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State
599 Treasurer, Attorney General, State Comptroller or judge of probate, held
600 in such elector's or candidate's town, or that there has been a mistake in
601 the count of the votes cast at such election for candidates for said offices
602 or any of them, at any voting district in such elector's or candidate's
603 town, or any candidate for such an office who claims that such candidate
604 is aggrieved by a violation of any provision of section 9-355, 9-357 to 9-
605 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at
606 such election or any candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant
607 Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, Attorney General or
608 State Comptroller, who claims that such candidate is aggrieved by a
609 violation of any provision of sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive, may bring
610 such elector's or candidate's complaint to any judge of the [Superior
611 Court, in which such] superior court for the judicial district of Hartford.
612 Such elector or candidate shall set out in the complaint the claimed
613 errors of such election official, the claimed errors in the count or the

614 claimed violations of said sections. In any action brought pursuant to
615 the provisions of this section, the complainant shall send a copy of the
616 complaint by first-class mail, or deliver a copy of the complaint by hand,
617 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is
618 made prior to such election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to
619 render judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing
620 to be given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections
621 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to the
622 election, it shall be brought not later than fourteen days after the election
623 or, if such complaint is brought in response to the manual tabulation of
624 paper ballots authorized pursuant to section 9-320f, such complaint
625 shall be brought not later than seven days after the close of any such
626 manual tabulation, [and, in either such circumstance, such]

627 **(b)** Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such
628 complaint, upon a day not more than five nor less than three days from
629 the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than three
630 nor more than five days to be given to any candidate or candidates
631 whose election may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to
632 such election official, the Secretary of the State, the State Elections
633 Enforcement Commission and to any other party or parties whom such
634 judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing
635 upon such complaint. Such judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing
636 and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. If sufficient
637 reason is shown, such judge may order any voting tabulators to be
638 unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the votes
639 cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. Such judge shall thereupon,
640 in case such judge finds any error in the rulings of the election official,
641 any mistake in the count of the votes or any violation of said sections,
642 certify the result of such judge's finding or decision to the Secretary of
643 the State before the fifteenth day of the next succeeding December. Such
644 judge may order a new election or a change in the existing election
645 schedule.

646 **(c)** Such certificate of such judge of such judge's finding or decision
647 shall be final and conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the

648 rulings of such election officials, to the correctness of such count, and,
649 for the purposes of this section only, such claimed violations, and shall
650 operate to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding officers, so
651 as to conform to such finding or decision, unless the same is appealed
652 from as provided in section 9-325, as amended by this act.

653 Sec. 14. Section 9-325 of the general statutes is repealed and the
654 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

655 If, upon any such hearing by a judge of the [Superior Court] superior
656 court for the judicial district of Hartford, any question of law is raised
657 which any party to the complaint claims should be reviewed by the
658 Supreme Court, such judge, instead of filing the certificate of his finding
659 or decision with the Secretary of the State, shall transmit the same,
660 including therein such questions of law, together with a proper finding
661 of facts, to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who shall thereupon
662 call a special session of [said court] the Supreme Court for the purpose
663 of an immediate hearing upon the questions of law so certified. A copy
664 of the finding and decision so certified by the judge of the [Superior
665 Court] superior court for the judicial district of Hartford, together with
666 the decision of the Supreme Court, on the questions of law therein
667 certified, shall be attested by the clerk of the Supreme Court, and by him
668 transmitted to the Secretary of the State forthwith. The finding and
669 decision of the judge of the [Superior Court] superior court for the
670 judicial district of Hartford, together with the decision of the Supreme
671 Court on the questions of law thus certified, shall be final and conclusive
672 upon all questions relating to errors in the rulings of the election officials
673 and to the correctness of such count and shall operate to correct the
674 returns of the moderators or presiding officers so as to conform to such
675 decision of [said court] the Supreme Court. Nothing in this section shall
676 be considered as prohibiting an appeal to the Supreme Court from a
677 final judgment of the [Superior Court] superior court for the judicial
678 district of Hartford. The judges of the Supreme Court may establish
679 rules of procedure for the speedy and inexpensive hearing of such
680 appeals within fifteen days of such judgment of a judge of the [Superior
681 Court] superior court for the judicial district of Hartford.

682 Sec. 15. Section 9-328 of the general statutes is repealed and the
683 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

684 (a) Any elector or candidate claiming to have been aggrieved by any
685 ruling of any election official in connection with an election for any
686 municipal office or a primary for justice of the peace, or any elector or
687 candidate claiming that there has been a mistake in the count of votes
688 cast for any such office at such election or primary, or any candidate in
689 such an election or primary claiming that he is aggrieved by a violation
690 of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a
691 or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at such election or primary,
692 may bring a complaint to any judge of the [Superior Court] superior
693 court for the judicial district of Hartford for relief therefrom. In any
694 action brought pursuant to the provisions of this section, the
695 complainant shall send a copy of the complaint by first-class mail, or
696 deliver a copy of the complaint by hand, to the State Elections
697 Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made prior to such
698 election or primary, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render
699 judgment on the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be
700 given to the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement
701 Commission. If such complaint is made subsequent to such election or
702 primary, it shall be brought not later than fourteen days after such
703 election or primary, except that if such complaint is brought in response
704 to the manual tabulation of paper ballots, authorized pursuant to section
705 9-320f, such complaint shall be brought not later than seven days after
706 the close of any such manual tabulation, to any judge of the [Superior
707 Court] superior court for the judicial district of Hartford, in which he
708 shall set out the claimed errors of the election official, the claimed errors
709 in the count or the claimed violations of said sections.

710 (b) Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such
711 complaint, upon a day not more than five nor less than three days from
712 the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than three
713 nor more than five days to be given to any candidate or candidates
714 whose election or nomination may be affected by the decision upon such
715 hearing, to such election official, the Secretary of the State, the State

716 Elections Enforcement Commission and to any other party or parties
717 whom such judge deems proper parties thereto, of the time and place
718 for the hearing upon such complaint. Such judge shall, on the day fixed
719 for such hearing and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the
720 parties. If sufficient reason is shown, he may order any voting tabulators
721 to be unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and a recount of the
722 votes cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. Such judge shall
723 thereupon, if he finds any error in the rulings of the election official or
724 any mistake in the count of the votes, certify the result of his finding or
725 decision to the Secretary of the State before the tenth day succeeding the
726 conclusion of the hearing. Such judge may order a new election or
727 primary or a change in the existing election schedule.

728 (c) Such certificate of such judge of his finding or decision shall be
729 final and conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the ruling of
730 such election officials, to the correctness of such count, and, for the
731 purposes of this section only, such claimed violations, and shall operate
732 to correct the returns of the moderators or presiding officers, so as to
733 conform to such finding or decision, except that this section shall not
734 affect the right of appeal to the Supreme Court and it shall not prevent
735 such judge from reserving such questions of law for the advice of the
736 Supreme Court as provided in section 9-325, as amended by this act.
737 Such judge may, if necessary, issue [his] a writ of mandamus, requiring
738 the adverse party and those under him to deliver to the complainant the
739 appurtenances of such office, and shall cause his finding and [decree]
740 decision to be entered on the records of the Superior Court in the proper
741 judicial district.

742 Sec. 16. Section 9-329a of the general statutes is repealed and the
743 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

744 (a) Any (1) elector or candidate aggrieved by a ruling of an election
745 official in connection with any primary held pursuant to (A) section 9-
746 423, 9-425 or 9-464, or (B) a special act, (2) elector or candidate who
747 alleges that there has been a mistake in the count of the votes cast at such
748 primary, or (3) candidate in such a primary who alleges that he is

749 aggrieved by a violation of any provision of sections 9-355, 9-357 to 9-
750 361, inclusive, 9-364, 9-364a or 9-365 in the casting of absentee ballots at
751 such primary, may bring his complaint to any judge of the [Superior
752 Court] superior court for the judicial district of Hartford for appropriate
753 action. In any action brought pursuant to the provisions of this section,
754 the complainant shall file a certification attached to the complaint
755 indicating that a copy of the complaint has been sent by first-class mail
756 or delivered to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such
757 complaint is made prior to such primary such judge shall proceed
758 expeditiously to render judgment on the complaint and shall cause
759 notice of the hearing to be given to the Secretary of the State and the
760 State Elections Enforcement Commission. If such complaint is made
761 subsequent to such primary it shall be brought, not later than fourteen
762 days after such primary, or if such complaint is brought in response to
763 the manual tabulation of paper ballots, described in section 9-320f, such
764 complaint shall be brought, not later than seven days after the close of
765 any such manual tabulation, to any judge of the [Superior Court]
766 superior court for the judicial district of Hartford.

767 (b) Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be held upon such
768 complaint upon a day not more than five nor less than three days after
769 the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than three
770 days to be given to any candidate or candidates in any way directly
771 affected by the decision upon such hearing, to such election official, to
772 the Secretary of the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission
773 and to any other person or persons, whom such judge deems proper
774 parties thereto, of the time and place of the hearing upon such
775 complaint. Such judge shall, on the day fixed for such hearing, and
776 without delay, proceed to hear the parties and determine the result. If,
777 after hearing, sufficient reason is shown, such judge may order any
778 voting tabulators to be unlocked or any ballot boxes to be opened and a
779 recount of the votes cast, including absentee ballots, to be made. Such
780 judge shall thereupon, if he finds any error in the ruling of the election
781 official, any mistake in the count of the votes or any violation of said
782 sections, certify the result of his finding or decision to the Secretary of

783 the State before the tenth day following the conclusion of the hearing.
 784 Such judge may (1) determine the result of such primary; (2) order a
 785 change in the existing primary schedule; or (3) order a new primary if
 786 he finds that but for the error in the ruling of the election official, any
 787 mistake in the count of the votes or any violation of said sections, the
 788 result of such primary might have been different and he is unable to
 789 determine the result of such primary.

790 (c) The certification by the judge of his finding or decision shall be
 791 final and conclusive upon all questions relating to errors in the ruling of
 792 such election official, to the correctness of such count, and, for the
 793 purposes of this section only, such alleged violations, and shall operate
 794 to correct any returns or certificates filed by the election officials, unless
 795 the same is appealed from as provided in section 9-325, as amended by
 796 this act. In the event a new primary is held pursuant to such [Superior
 797 Court] order of the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford,
 798 the result of such new primary shall be final and conclusive unless a
 799 complaint is brought pursuant to this section. The clerk of the court shall
 800 forthwith transmit a copy of such findings and order to the Secretary of
 801 the State.

802 Sec. 17. Section 9-329b of the general statutes is repealed and the
 803 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

804 At any time prior to a primary held pursuant to sections 9-423, 9-425
 805 and 9-464, or a special act or prior to any election, the [Superior Court]
 806 superior court for the judicial district of Hartford may issue an order
 807 removing a candidate from a ballot where it is shown that [said] such
 808 candidate is improperly on the ballot.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-388
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-391(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-400
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-452

Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-453e
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-453j
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-453k(a)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-453o(a)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-404b(d)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-410(c)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-450
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	9-212(a)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	9-324
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	9-325
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	9-328
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	9-329a
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	9-329b

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) permit candidates or their agents to amend certain election-related filings to correct errors or omissions without penalty if done so within specified time frames, (2) bring certain state laws relating to the circulation of nominating and primary petitions into compliance with federal case law, (3) in the case of nominations for judges of probate and members of Congress, reduce the time by which a person other than a party-endorsed candidate can file a candidacy for nomination in order for a primary to be held, and (4) require that certain disputes concerning elections or primaries be adjudicated by the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]