



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Proposed Bill No. 180

LCO No. 409



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
SEN. HASKELL, 26th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING UNIVERSAL CIVIC DUTY VOTING.

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

1 That title 9 of the general statutes be amended to provide that (1) at
2 the 2024 state election and each state election thereafter, all qualified
3 electors shall either cast a ballot or provide a valid reason for not casting
4 a ballot, (2) following the 2024 state election and each state election
5 thereafter, (A) the Secretary of the State shall mail to all qualified electors
6 who did not cast a ballot at the most recent state election a form
7 inquiring as to why such elector did not cast a ballot, which form shall
8 advise that valid reasons for not casting a ballot include travel, illness,
9 conscientious objection or such other reason as the Secretary may
10 prescribe, and (B) failure to respond to such form with a valid reason
11 shall result in a fine of twenty dollars paid to the Office of the Secretary
12 of the State, which fine shall (i) not be increased through penalty fees or
13 accrued interest, (ii) not be the basis for criminal enforcement or denial
14 of government services or benefits, and (iii) be directed to the State
15 Elections Enforcement Commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election

16 Fund, except that an elector may perform two hours of community
17 service for a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization if such elector is
18 unable to pay such fine, (3) one month prior to the 2024 state election,
19 the Secretary of the State shall mail to all qualified electors a notice that
20 (A) explains the changes that will take effect beginning at the 2024 state
21 election, as described herein, and (B) includes a statement that each
22 qualified elector will be required to either cast a ballot, with the option
23 to leave such ballot blank, or provide a valid reason for not casting a
24 ballot, (4) at the 2022 state election and each state election thereafter,
25 each ballot shall include in sufficiently large type a statement advising
26 electors that they may leave any portion or the entirety of such ballot
27 blank, and (5) not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary of the State
28 shall report on the implementation of such changes, as described herein,
29 at the 2024 state election to the joint standing committee of the General
30 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections.

Statement of Purpose:

To make several changes designed to institute universal civic duty voting.