



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 258

February Session, 2024



AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINOR AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 9-4a of the 2024
2 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
3 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

4 (2) The name, party affiliation and contact information of each
5 candidate who is nominated or qualifies as a petitioning candidate for
6 election to the office of President of the United States, Vice-President of
7 the United States, senator in Congress, representative in Congress,
8 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer,
9 State Comptroller, Secretary of the State, state senator or state
10 representative at the state election. As used in this section, "contact
11 information" means any or all of the following information received by
12 the Secretary of the State in the course of the secretary's elections duties
13 or by the Federal Election Commission: A candidate's campaign mailing
14 address, telephone number, facsimile number, electronic mail address
15 and web site. The voter guide may provide contact information for a
16 candidate for the office of President of the United States, Vice-President
17 of the United States, senator in Congress or representative in Congress
18 by an electronic link to such information on the Federal Election

19 Commission's Internet web site;

20 Sec. 2. Subdivision (6) of subsection (b) of section 9-31l of the general
21 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
22 (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

23 (6) The decision of the commission shall determine the person's right
24 to be or remain an elector. If any such decision is adverse to such
25 individual's right, the commission shall order both registrars to remove
26 the elector's name from the town's active and inactive registry list and
27 any enrollment list. Any person whose name has been so removed may
28 reapply for admission as an elector with the registrars of voters of the
29 same town at any time. If such application is made within four years
30 after the commission's decision, both registrars may approve such
31 application only after they find that there has been a substantial change
32 in the circumstances that provided the basis for the commission's
33 decision and that the individual is eligible to be an elector. Registrars
34 who approve an individual's application for admission within this time
35 period without a substantial change in circumstances may be subject to
36 a civil penalty imposed by the commission in accordance with
37 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b if the commission
38 determines, following a written complaint filed with the commission
39 pursuant to [said] section 9-7b, that the registrars' action was without
40 good cause and constitutes a wilful violation of a prior order of the
41 commission.

42 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 9-32 of the general statutes is repealed
43 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

44 (b) No elector's name shall be removed from the registry list,
45 pursuant to section 9-35, unless (1) the elector confirms in writing that
46 the elector has moved out of the municipality, or (2) the elector has been
47 sent, by forwardable mail, a notice and a postage prepaid preaddressed
48 return card in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of
49 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, four years prior to
50 removal from the registry list and such elector has failed to respond and

51 has not restored the elector's name to the active registry list under
52 section 9-42 or voted in an election or primary in the municipality
53 during the period beginning on the date of the notice and ending four
54 years later. If a registrar or a registrar's designee conducts a telephone
55 canvass, a telephone call by any such person shall constitute an attempt
56 to contact the elector only if the elector's household has a published
57 telephone number and the telephone is in operating order. If a registrar,
58 or a registrar's designee, during a telephone canvass contacts a
59 telecommunication device for the deaf in an elector's household, such
60 call shall not constitute an attempt to contact the elector unless the
61 registrar, or the registrar's designee, uses a similar device or uses a
62 message relay center. No elector's name shall be removed from the
63 active registry list pursuant to [said] section 9-35 as a result of
64 information obtained during a telephone canvass, unless the registrar
65 believes such information is reliable and sufficient to enable the registrar
66 to determine if the elector is entitled to remain on the list under the
67 provisions of this chapter.

68 Sec. 4. Section 9-35c of the general statutes is repealed and the
69 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

70 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 9-238, 9-406 and 9-436
71 and other provisions of the general statutes, the names of electors on the
72 inactive registry list compiled under section 9-35 shall not be counted
73 for purposes of computing the number of petition signatures required.
74 Each elector on such inactive registry list who, in the determination of
75 the registrars, has signed a petition pursuant to the general statutes,
76 giving the same address as appears on the inactive registry list, shall
77 forthwith be placed on the active registry list compiled under [said]
78 section 9-35. Each such elector shall be counted for purposes of future
79 computations of the number of signatures required on future petitions
80 issued for other electoral events. The names of electors on the inactive
81 registry list compiled pursuant to section 9-35 shall not be counted for
82 purposes of computing the minimum percentage of the number of
83 electors required in any charter or special act, if such charter or special

84 act requires approval of a referendum by a minimum percentage of
85 electors qualified on the last-completed registry list or has a similar
86 requirement.

87 Sec. 5. Section 9-150c of the general statutes is repealed and the
88 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

89 An applicant who applies for an absentee ballot because of
90 unforeseen illness or physical disability occurring within six days
91 immediately preceding the close of the polls at an election, primary or
92 referendum or because the applicant is a patient in a hospital within
93 such six-day period, may appoint a designee, as defined in subsection
94 (b) of section 9-140b, to deliver the ballot to [him] the applicant, by
95 stating on the application, in a space provided for that purpose, (1) the
96 date of occurrence of the illness or disability or the name and address of
97 the hospital in which the applicant is a patient within such six-day
98 period, (2) the name, address and category under [said] subsection []
99 (b) of section 9-140b of the person so designated, and (3) the delivery
100 which the person is designated to perform, provided the person so
101 designated shall also sign a statement on the application to the effect
102 that [he] such person consents to the designation and will perform the
103 delivery without tampering with the ballot in any way. If the application
104 designates a person to deliver the ballot to the applicant, [that] such
105 person shall personally submit the application to the municipal clerk. If
106 such application is submitted to the clerk in person, within six days
107 immediately preceding the close of the polls at an election or primary,
108 by a person designated on the application to deliver the absentee ballot
109 to the applicant as provided in this section and in subsection (b) of [said]
110 section 9-140b, and if [the] such application is dated within such time,
111 the clerk shall give [that] such person the absentee voting set.

112 Sec. 6. Section 9-153a of the general statutes is repealed and the
113 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

114 The form of absentee ballot application provided by any federal
115 department or agency, referred to in section 9-140, may be used only by

116 a person in any one of the following categories who is eligible to vote
117 and who expects to be unable to appear at his proper polling place for
118 any reason specified in section 9-135: (1) Members of the armed forces,
119 (2) the spouses and dependents of such members, (3) members of
120 religious groups or welfare agencies assisting members of the armed
121 forces, who are officially attached to and serving with the armed forces,
122 and their spouses and dependents, (4) civilian employees of the United
123 States in all categories serving outside the territorial limits of the several
124 states of the United States and the District of Columbia and their
125 spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them,
126 whether or not the employee is subject to the civil service laws and the
127 Federal Classification Act of 1949, and whether or not paid from funds
128 appropriated by the Congress, (5) citizens of the United States
129 temporarily residing outside of the territorial limits of the several states
130 of the United States and the District of Columbia and (6) overseas
131 citizens qualified to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens
132 Absentee Voting Act, 100 Stat. 924, 42 USC 1973ff et seq., as amended
133 from time to time. Any such person may apply for an absentee ballot in
134 the manner provided in [said] section 9-140, either on the form
135 prescribed by the Secretary of the State under [said] section 9-140, or on
136 the application form provided by any federal department or agency
137 hereinbefore referred to.

138 Sec. 7. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-158c of the general
139 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
140 (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

141 (a) (1) Not earlier than forty-five days before the election and not later
142 than the close of the polls on election day, each former resident who
143 desires to vote in a presidential election under sections 9-158a to 9-158m,
144 inclusive, may apply for a "presidential ballot" to the municipal clerk of
145 the town in which such former resident is qualified to vote on the form
146 prescribed in section 9-158d. Application for a "presidential ballot" may
147 be made in person or absentee, in the manner provided for applying for
148 an absentee ballot under section 9-140, except as provided in [said]

149 sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive.

150 Sec. 8. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 9-163k of the general
151 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
152 (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

153 (3) For a municipal election, each registrar of voters shall appoint at
154 least one absentee ballot coordinator for each two hundred persons who
155 voted by absentee ballot in the most recent municipal election. For a
156 municipal primary, each registrar of voters shall appoint at least one
157 absentee ballot coordinator for each two hundred persons who voted by
158 absentee ballot in the most recent municipal primary. [A registrar of
159 voter's] The appointment of an absentee ballot coordinator by a registrar
160 of voters shall not be effective until the registrar files the appointment
161 with the municipal clerk;

162 Sec. 9. Section 9-264 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is
163 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
164 *1, 2024*):

165 An elector who requires assistance to vote, by reason of blindness,
166 disability or inability to write or to read the ballot, may be given
167 assistance by a person of the elector's choice, other than (1) the elector's
168 employer, (2) an agent of such employer, (3) an officer or agent of the
169 elector's union, or (4) a candidate for any office on the ballot, unless the
170 elector is a member of the immediate family of such candidate. The
171 person assisting the elector may accompany the elector into the voting
172 booth at the polling place, the location designated for same-day election
173 registration or the location designated for the conduct of early voting,
174 as applicable. Such person shall register such elector's vote upon the
175 ballot as such elector directs. Any person accompanying an elector into
176 the voting booth at the polling place or the location designated for
177 election day registration who deceives any elector in registering the
178 elector's vote under this section or seeks to influence any elector while
179 in the act of voting, or who registers any vote for any elector or on any
180 question other than as requested by such elector, or who gives

181 information to any person as to what person or persons such elector
182 voted for, or how such elector voted on any question, shall be guilty of
183 a class D felony. As used in this section, "immediate family" [means
184 "immediate family" as defined] has the same meaning as provided in
185 section 9-140b.

186 Sec. 10. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-311 of the 2024
187 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
188 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

189 (a) If, within three days after an election, it appears to the moderator
190 that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such
191 moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written
192 notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials, consisting of at least
193 two checkers of different political parties and at least two absentee ballot
194 counters of different political parties who served at such election, and
195 the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the election was
196 held and such other officials as may be required to conduct such
197 recanvass. Such written notice shall require the clerk or registrars of
198 voters, as the case may be, to bring with them the depository envelopes
199 required by section 9-150a, the package of write-in ballots provided for
200 in section 9-310, the absentee ballot applications, the list of absentee
201 ballot applications, the registry list and the moderators' returns and
202 shall require such recanvass officials to meet at a specified time not later
203 than the fifth business day after such election to recanvass the returns of
204 a voting tabulator or voting tabulators or absentee ballots or write-in
205 ballots used in such district in such election. If any of such recanvass
206 officials are unavailable at the time of the recanvass, the registrar of
207 voters of the same political party as that of the recanvass official unable
208 to attend shall designate another elector having previous training and
209 experience in the conduct of elections to take [his] such recanvass
210 official's place. Before such recanvass is made, such moderator shall give
211 notice, in writing, to the chairperson of the town committee of each
212 political party which nominated candidates for the election, and, in the
213 case of a state election, not later than twenty-four hours after a

214 determination is made regarding the need for a recanvass to the
215 Secretary of the State, of the time and place where such recanvass is to
216 be made; and each such chairperson may send party representatives to
217 be present at such recanvass. Such party representatives may observe,
218 but no one other than a recanvass official may take part in the recanvass.
219 If [any irregularity in the recanvass procedure is noted by such a party
220 representative, he] a party representative notes any irregularity in the
221 recanvass procedure, such party representative shall be permitted to
222 present evidence of such irregularity in any contest relating to the
223 election.

224 (b) The moderator shall determine the place or places where the
225 recanvass shall be conducted and, if such recanvass is held before the
226 tabulators are boxed and collected in the manner required by section 9-
227 266, either the moderator may [either] require that such recanvass of
228 such tabulators be conducted in each place where the tabulators are
229 located, or [he] the moderator may require that [they] such tabulators
230 be removed to one central place, where such recanvass shall be
231 conducted. All recanvassing procedures shall be open to public
232 observation, subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section.
233 Such recanvass officials shall, in the presence of such moderator and
234 registrars of voters, make a record of the number on the seal and the
235 number on the protective counter, if one is provided, on each voting
236 tabulator specified by such moderator. Such registrars of voters in the
237 presence of such moderator shall turn over the keys of each such
238 tabulator to such recanvass officials, and such recanvass officials, in the
239 presence of such registrars of voters and moderator, shall immediately
240 proceed to recanvass the vote cast thereon, and shall then open the
241 package of absentee ballots and recanvass the vote cast thereon. In the
242 course of the recanvass of the absentee ballot vote the recanvass officials
243 shall check all outer envelopes for absentee ballots against the inner
244 envelopes for such ballots and against the registry list to verify
245 postmarks, addresses and registry list markings and also to determine
246 whether the number of envelopes from which absentee ballots have
247 been removed is the same as the number of persons checked as having

248 voted by absentee ballot. The write-in ballots shall also be recanvassed
249 at this time. Any party representative present shall have a right to view
250 each ballot as it is being recanvassed by the recanvass officials, so as to
251 be able to discern the markings on such ballot. All of the recanvass
252 officials shall use the same forms for tallies and returns as were used at
253 the original canvass and the absentee ballot counters shall also sign the
254 tallies.

255 Sec. 11. Section 9-311a of the general statutes is repealed and the
256 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

257 For purposes of this section, state, district and municipal offices shall
258 be as defined in section 9-372 except that the office of presidential elector
259 shall be deemed a state office. Forthwith after a regular or special
260 election for municipal office, or forthwith upon tabulation of the vote
261 for state and district offices by the Secretary of the State, when at any
262 such election the plurality of an elected candidate for an office over the
263 vote for a defeated candidate receiving the next highest number of votes
264 was either (1) less than a vote equivalent to one-half of one per cent of
265 the total number of votes cast for the office but not more than two
266 thousand votes, or (2) less than twenty votes, there shall be a recanvass
267 of the returns of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators and absentee
268 ballots used in such election for such office unless such defeated
269 candidate or defeated candidates, as the case may be, for such office file
270 a written statement waiving this right to such canvass with the
271 municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office, or with the Secretary of
272 the State in the case of a state or district office. In the case of state and
273 district offices, the Secretary of the State upon tabulation of the votes for
274 such offices shall notify the town clerks in the state or district, as the case
275 may be, of the state and district offices which qualify for an automatic
276 recanvass and shall also notify each candidate for any such office. When
277 a recanvass is to be held, the municipal clerk shall promptly notify the
278 moderator, as defined in section 9-311, as amended by this act, who shall
279 proceed forthwith to cause a recanvass of such returns of the office in
280 question in the same manner as is provided in [said] section 9-311, as

281 amended by this act. In addition to the notice required under section 9-
282 311, as amended by this act, the moderator shall before such recanvass
283 is made give notice in writing of the time when, and place where, such
284 recanvass is to be made to each candidate for a municipal office which
285 qualifies for an automatic recanvass under this section. Nothing in this
286 section shall preclude the right to judicial proceedings on behalf of a
287 candidate under any provision of chapter 149. For the purposes of this
288 section, "the total number of votes cast for the office" means, in the case
289 of multiple openings for the same office, the total number of electors
290 checked as having voted in the state, district, municipality or political
291 subdivision, as the case may be. When a recanvass of the returns for an
292 office for which there are multiple openings is required by the
293 provisions of this section, the returns for all candidates for all openings
294 for the office shall be recanvassed. No one other than a recanvass official
295 shall take part in the recanvass. If [any irregularity in the recanvass
296 procedure is noted by a candidate, he] a candidate notes any irregularity
297 in the recanvass procedure, such candidate shall be permitted to present
298 evidence of such irregularity in any contest relating to the election.

299 Sec. 12. Section 9-364a of the general statutes is repealed and the
300 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

301 Any person who influences or attempts to influence by force or threat
302 the vote, or by force, threat, bribery or corrupt means, the speech, of any
303 person in a primary, caucus, referendum, convention or election; [or]
304 any person who wilfully and fraudulently suppresses or destroys any
305 vote or ballot properly given or cast or, in counting such votes or ballots,
306 wilfully miscounts or misrepresents the number thereof; and any
307 presiding or other officer of a primary, caucus or convention who
308 wilfully announces the result of a ballot or vote of such primary, caucus
309 or convention, untruly and wrongfully, shall be guilty of a class C
310 felony.

311 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 9-404c of the general statutes is
312 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
313 *1, 2024*):

314 (b) Upon the filing of all pages of a petition, the Secretary shall reject
315 any page of the petition which does not contain the certifications
316 required in section 9-404b or which the Secretary determines to have
317 been circulated in violation of any provision of said section, [9-404b,]
318 and shall immediately cause the number of certified signatures to be
319 tabulated. Petitions filed with the Secretary shall be preserved for a
320 period of three years and then may be destroyed.

321 Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 9-601d of the general statutes is
322 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
323 *1, 2024*):

324 (a) Any person, as defined in section 9-601, may, unless otherwise
325 restricted or prohibited by law, including, but not limited to, any
326 provision of this chapter or chapter 157, make unlimited independent
327 expenditures, as defined in section 9-601c, and accept unlimited covered
328 transfers, as defined in [said] section 9-601. Except as provided pursuant
329 to this section, any such person who makes or obligates to make an
330 independent expenditure or expenditures in excess of one thousand
331 dollars, in the aggregate, shall file statements according to the same
332 schedule and in the same manner as is required of a treasurer of a
333 candidate committee pursuant to section 9-608.

334 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 9-750 of the 2024 supplement to the
335 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
336 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

337 (a) If, (1) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, or any fiscal year
338 thereafter, the amount of funds available under section 3-69a for deposit
339 in the Citizens' Election Fund established in section 9-701 is less than the
340 amount of funds required under [said] section 3-69a to be deposited in
341 said fund, resulting in an insufficiency in the amount of the deposit, or
342 (2) during an election cycle the amount of funds in the Citizens' Election
343 Fund is less than the amount of funds required to provide grants to each
344 qualified candidate committee pursuant to the provisions of this
345 chapter, resulting in an insufficiency in said fund, a portion of the

346 revenues from the tax imposed under chapter 208, equal to the amount
347 of any insufficiency described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this section,
348 shall be deposited in said fund to allow for the payment of grants
349 pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

350 Sec. 16. Section 9-750 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes,
351 as amended by section 188 of public act 23-205, is repealed and the
352 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

353 If, (1) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, or any fiscal year
354 thereafter, the amount of funds available under section 3-69a for deposit
355 in the Citizens' Election Fund established in section 9-701 is less than the
356 amount of funds required under [said] section 3-69a to be deposited in
357 said fund, resulting in an insufficiency in the amount of the deposit, or
358 (2) during an election cycle the amount of funds in the Citizens' Election
359 Fund is less than the amount of funds required to provide grants to each
360 qualified candidate committee pursuant to the provisions of this
361 chapter, resulting in an insufficiency in said fund, a portion of the
362 revenues from the tax imposed under chapter 208, equal to the amount
363 of any insufficiency described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this section,
364 shall be deposited in said fund to allow for the payment of grants
365 pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

366 Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 21a-7 of the 2024 supplement to the
367 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
368 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

369 (b) With the exception of the Liquor Control Commission, each board
370 or commission within the Department of Consumer Protection under
371 section 21a-6 that makes a proposed final decision that is adverse to a
372 party, as described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section,
373 shall submit such proposed final decision to the Commissioner of
374 Consumer Protection. Not later than thirty calendar days after receipt of
375 any such proposed final decision, the Commissioner of Consumer
376 Protection shall notify such board or commission that the commissioner
377 shall render the final decision concerning such matter. Not later than

378 thirty days after receipt of any such proposed final decision, the
379 commissioner shall approve, modify or reject the proposed final
380 decision or remand the proposed final decision for further review or for
381 the taking of additional evidence. The commissioner shall notify the
382 board or commission in writing of the commissioner's decision and
383 include in such notification the rationale for such decision. The decision
384 of the commissioner shall be the final decision in accordance with
385 section 4-180 for purposes of reconsideration in accordance with section
386 4-181a or appeal to the Superior Court in accordance with section 4-183.

387 Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 25-156 of the 2024 supplement to the
388 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
389 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

390 (a) There is established the Long Island Sound Foundation, Inc., a
391 nonstock, nonprofit corporation, organized under the laws of the state
392 of Connecticut as a state chartered foundation. The Long Island Sound
393 Foundation, Inc. shall be a successor organization to the Long Island
394 Sound Assembly established under section 25-155 of the general
395 statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2023.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	9-4a(b)(2)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2024	9-311(b)(6)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2024	9-32(b)
Sec. 4	October 1, 2024	9-35c
Sec. 5	October 1, 2024	9-150c
Sec. 6	October 1, 2024	9-153a
Sec. 7	October 1, 2024	9-158c(a)(1)
Sec. 8	October 1, 2024	9-163k(c)(3)
Sec. 9	October 1, 2024	9-264
Sec. 10	October 1, 2024	9-311(a) and (b)
Sec. 11	October 1, 2024	9-311a
Sec. 12	October 1, 2024	9-364a
Sec. 13	October 1, 2024	9-404c(b)
Sec. 14	October 1, 2024	9-601d(a)

Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	9-750(a)
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-750
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	21a-7(b)
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	25-156(a)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 12, "election; or wilfully" was changed to "election; [or] any person who wilfully" for clarity.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*