



**House Bill No. 6002**

**July Special Session, Public Act No. 20-3**

**AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING AND REPORTING OF RESULTS AT THE 2020 STATE ELECTION, EXPANDING ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION AND RATIFYING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT RELATE TO THE AUGUST 11, 2020, PRIMARY.**

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

Section 1. Section 9-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any elector eligible to vote at a primary or an election and any person eligible to vote at a referendum may vote by absentee ballot if [he or she] such elector or person is unable to appear at [his or her] such elector's or person's polling place during the hours of voting for any of the following reasons: (1) [His or her] Such elector's or person's active service with the armed forces of the United States; (2) [his or her] such elector's or person's absence from the town of [his or her] such elector's or person's voting residence during all of the hours of voting; (3) [his or her] such elector's or person's illness; (4) [his or her] such elector's or person's physical disability; (5) the tenets of [his or her] such elector's or person's religion forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election or referendum; [or] (6) the required performance of [his or her] such elector's or person's duties as a primary, election or referendum official, including as a town clerk or registrar of voters or as staff of the

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clerk or registrar, at a polling place other than [his or her] such elector's or person's own during all of the hours of voting at such primary, election or referendum; or (7) for the state election in 2020, the sickness of COVID-19. As used in this section, "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any related mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a communicable respiratory disease.

(b) No person shall misrepresent the eligibility requirements for voting by absentee ballot prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, to any elector or prospective absentee ballot applicant.

Sec. 2. Section 9-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Each absentee ballot shall be returned to the municipal clerk, inserted in an inner envelope which shall be capable of being sealed and which shall have printed on its face a form containing the following statements:

"I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I expect to be unable to appear at my polling place during the hours of voting at such primary, election or referendum for one or more of the following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote during all of the hours of voting; (3) my illness or physical disability; (4) the tenets of my religion which forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election or referendum; or (5) my duties as a primary, election or referendum official.

Date ....

.... (Signature)"

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(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, for the state election in 2020, each inner envelope in which an absentee ballot is returned to the municipal clerk shall have printed on its face a form containing the following statements:

"I hereby state under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting that I am eligible to vote at the primary, election or referendum in the municipality in which this absentee ballot is to be cast and that I expect to be unable to appear at my polling place during the hours of voting at such primary, election or referendum for one or more of the following reasons: (1) My active service in the armed forces; (2) my absence from the town in which I am eligible to vote during all of the hours of voting; (3) my illness or physical disability; (4) the tenets of my religion which forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election or referendum; (5) my duties as a primary, election or referendum official; or (6) the sickness of COVID-19.

Date ....

.... (Signature)"

Sec. 3. Section 9-139b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Secretary of the State may make any changes in any forms prescribed by this chapter which, in the opinion of [said secretary] the Secretary, are necessary to conform to the applicable provisions of federal law.

(b) For the state election in 2020, the Secretary of the State may make any changes in any forms prescribed by this chapter or in any printed, recorded or electronic material issued pursuant to this chapter which, in the opinion of the Secretary, are necessary to conform to the applicable provisions of law.

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Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(g) (1) On the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets the municipal clerk shall mail an absentee voting set to each applicant whose application was received by the clerk prior to that day. When the clerk receives an application during the time period in which absentee voting sets are to be issued he shall mail an absentee voting set to the applicant, within twenty-four hours, unless the applicant submits his application in person at the office of the clerk and asks to be given his absentee voting set immediately, in which case the clerk shall comply with the request. Any absentee voting set to be mailed to an applicant shall be mailed to the bona fide personal mailing address shown on the application. Issuance of absentee voting sets shall also be subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, section 9-150c and section 9-159q concerning persons designated to deliver or return ballots in cases involving unforeseen illness or disability and supervised voting at certain health care institutions.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, for the state election in 2020, each absentee voting set required to be mailed to an applicant under said subdivision (A) shall be mailed by the municipal clerk within forty-eight hours after the application for such absentee voting set is received by the clerk, or (B) may be mailed by a third-party mailing vendor approved and selected by the Secretary of the State for use by the municipal clerk for such purpose, provided any contract between the Secretary of the State and any such vendor shall require that such vendor mail each absentee voting set within seventy-two hours after the application for such absentee voting set is received by such vendor from the clerk.

Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 9-140b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

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*passage*):

(c) (1) For purposes of this section, "mailed" means (A) sent by the United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the State, or (B) for the state election in 2020, deposited in a secure drop box designated by the municipal clerk for such purpose, in accordance with instructions prescribed by the Secretary.

(2) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the twenty-ninth day before the state election in 2020 and on each weekday thereafter until the close of the polls, the municipal clerk shall (A) retrieve from the secure drop box described in said subparagraph each such ballot deposited in such drop box, and (B) if the drop box is located outside a building other than the building where the clerk's office is located, arrange for the clerk or the clerk's designee to be escorted by a police officer during such retrieval.

Sec. 6. Section 9-140c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The municipal clerk shall retain the envelopes containing absentee ballots received by him under section 9-140b and shall not open such envelopes. The municipal clerk shall endorse over his signature, upon each outer envelope as he receives it, the date and precise time of its receipt. The clerk shall make an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of all such endorsements, and at the close of the polls shall deliver such affidavit to the head moderator, who shall endorse the time of its receipt and return it to the clerk after all counting is complete. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for one hundred eighty days in accordance with the requirements of section 9-150b. The clerk shall keep a list of the names of the applicants who return absentee ballots to the clerk under section 9-140b. The list shall be preserved as a public record as required

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by section 9-150b.

(b) [Beginning] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, beginning not earlier than the seventh day before the election, primary or referendum and on any weekday thereafter, all absentee ballots received by the municipal clerk not later than eleven o'clock a.m. of such day may be sorted into voting districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in this subsection. On any such day, beginning as soon as the ballots have been sorted, the registrars of voters, without opening the outer envelopes, may check the names of the applicants returning ballots on the official checklist to be used at the election, primary or referendum by indicating "absentee" or "A" preceding each such name and, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, the designation of the party in which the applicants are voting preceding each such name. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the registrars shall also place such indication on a duplicate of the checklist to be retained by the municipal clerk until he delivers it to the registrars at twelve o'clock noon, except as provided in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this section, on election, primary or referendum day for the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section. All absentee ballots received not later than eleven o'clock a.m. of the last day before the election, primary or referendum which is not a Sunday or legal holiday, shall be so sorted and checked not later than such day.

(2) For the state election in 2020, beginning the fourteenth day before the election and on any weekday thereafter, all absentee ballots received by the municipal clerk not later than eleven o'clock a.m. of such day may be sorted into voting districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(c) If the name of the applicant returning the ballot is not on the

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official checklist for any polling place in such municipality, the registrars shall endorse on the face of such outer envelope the word "rejected", followed by a statement of the reasons for rejection, and the outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot counted.

(d) After such checking has been completed on any such day, the municipal clerk shall seal the unopened ballots in a package and retain them in a safe place.

(e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, ballots received not later than eleven o'clock a.m. on such last day before the election, primary or referendum shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars not earlier than ten o'clock a.m. and not later than twelve o'clock noon on the day of the election or primary and at twelve o'clock noon on the day of a referendum. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the municipal clerk shall also deliver to the registrars at this time the duplicate checklist provided for in subsection (b) of this section, for the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

(2) (A) For the state election in 2020, ballots received not later than eleven o'clock a.m. on such last day before the election shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at six o'clock a.m. on the day of the election.

[(2)] (B) The municipal clerk may deliver the ballots at a time that is later than the time provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection or subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, provided such time is mutually agreed upon by the municipal clerk and registrars and is not later than eight o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.

(f) Absentee ballots timely received by the clerk after eleven o'clock a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or referendum shall be

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sorted into voting districts by the clerk and retained by the clerk separately until delivered to the registrars of voters for checking.

(g) Any or all of such ballots received after eleven o'clock a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or referendum and before six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall, upon request of the registrars, be delivered to the registrars by the municipal clerk at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum for checking, or at a later time mutually agreed upon by the clerk and registrars, provided such time is not later than eight o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.

(h) Absentee ballots received after six o'clock p.m. and any ballots received prior to six o'clock p.m. which were not delivered earlier shall be delivered to the registrars at the close of the polls for checking. Although absentee ballots shall be checked by the registrars of voters at various times throughout the election, primary or referendum day, absentee ballots may be counted at one single time during such day.

(i) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the absentee ballot counters, upon receipt of the ballots delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at six o'clock p.m. and at the close of the polls pursuant to subsections (g) and (h) of this section, shall check the names of the applicants returning ballots on the duplicate checklist in the same manner as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. shall be called in to the appropriate polling places where they shall be checked by the checkers on the official checklists, and they shall also be checked by the absentee ballot counters on the duplicate checklist required under subsection (b) of this section.

(B) [When] Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling



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place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. shall be checked by the absentee ballot counters and checkers at such polling place on the official checklist used at such polling place.

(3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at the close of the polls shall be checked by the absentee ballot counters on the official checklists used at the polling places and such official checklists, bearing the certifications required by section 9-307, shall be delivered by the registrars or assistant registrars to the central counting moderator for that purpose.

(B) [When] Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the official checklist used at such polling place shall remain in such polling place for checking by the absentee ballot counters at such polling place.

(4) If the name of an applicant returning a ballot has been checked on the official checklist as having voted in person the absentee ballot counters shall, in checking the ballots, endorse on the face of the outer envelope the word "rejected" followed by a statement of the reason for rejection, and the outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot counted.

(5) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, when central counting is completed and the result is announced, the central counting moderator shall deliver the duplicate checklist, the official checklists and the returns required by section 9-150b to the head moderator.

(B) [When] Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, and such counting is completed and the result for such polling place is announced, the

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moderator for such polling place shall deliver the official checklist used at such polling place and the return required by section 9-150b to the head moderator.

(j) Each time ballots are delivered by the clerk to the registrars on election, primary or referendum day, the clerk and registrars shall execute an affidavit of delivery and receipt stating the number of ballots delivered. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for six months in accordance with section 9-150b.

(k) Each group of absentee ballots shall be counted by the absentee ballot counters when received from the registrars on election, primary or referendum day, in the manner provided in section 9-150a.

(l) The municipal clerk shall retain all outer envelopes containing absentee ballots received by him after the close of the polls, unopened, for the period prescribed in section 9-150b.

Sec. 7. Section 9-159o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any elector who has returned an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk and who finds [he] such elector is able to vote in person shall proceed before ten o'clock a.m. on election, primary or referendum day to the municipal clerk's office and request that [his] such elector's ballot be withdrawn. The municipal clerk shall remove the ballot from the sealed package and shall mark the serially-numbered outer envelope, which shall remain unopened, "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection. The elector shall also endorse the envelope. The rejected ballot shall then be returned to the sealed package until delivered on election, primary or referendum day to the registrars of voters in accordance with section 9-140c. The municipal clerk shall then give the elector a signed statement directed to the moderator of the voting district in which the elector resides stating that the elector has withdrawn his absentee ballot

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and may vote in person. Upon delivery of the statement by the elector to the moderator, the moderator shall cause the absentee indication next to the name of the elector to be stricken from the official checklist and the elector may then have [his] such elector's name checked and vote in person. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, the municipal clerk shall also cause the absentee indication next to the name of the elector to be stricken from the duplicate checklist to be used by the absentee ballot counters.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, for the state election in 2020, any elector who has returned an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk and who finds such elector is able to vote in person shall proceed before five o'clock p.m. on the last day before the election to the municipal clerk's office and request that such elector's ballot be withdrawn.

Sec. 8. Section 9-159r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the contrary, if twenty or more of the patients in any institution in the state are electors, absentee ballots voted by such electors shall be voted under the supervision of the registrars of voters or their designees of the town in which the institution is located, in accordance with the provisions of this section. As used in this section, [the term "institution" shall be construed as defined] "institution" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-159q.

(b) Application for an absentee ballot for any such patient shall be made to the clerk of the town in which such patient is eligible to vote. The application procedure set forth in section 9-140 shall apply, except that the clerk shall deliver the absentee voting set for any such application to the clerk of the town in which the institution is located,

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who shall deliver all such voting sets he receives to the registrars of such town, on the date when the supervision of absentee balloting is to occur. The ballots and envelopes shall be prepared for delivery to the applicant as provided in sections 9-137 to 9-140a, inclusive. The registrars or their designees shall furnish the town clerk a written receipt for such ballots. The registrars of the town in which an institution is located and the administrator of the institution shall mutually agree on a date and time for such supervision of absentee balloting, which shall be not later than the last business day before the election or primary.

(c) The supervision of absentee balloting under this section shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of subsections (g), (h), (i) and (k) of section 9-159q.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section, for the state election in 2020, the Secretary of the State may waive any requirement under said subsections, provided the Secretary (1) waives such requirement in recognition of the public health and civil preparedness emergency declared by the Governor on March 10, 2020, and has consulted with the Commissioner of Public Health or said commissioner's designee regarding such waiver, (2) has given written notice to the town clerk and registrars of voters in each municipality, and (3) has submitted a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections advising of such waiver and specifying alternative actions to be taken to provide opportunities for absentee voting by electors described in this section.

Sec. 9. Section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this subsection and subsections (b) to (i), inclusive, of this section, "election day" means the day on which a regular election, as defined in section 9-1, is held.

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(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, a person who (1) is (A) not an elector, or (B) an elector registered in a municipality who wishes to change [his or her] such elector's registration to another municipality pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this section, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) of section 9-12, may apply for admission as an elector on election day pursuant to the provisions of subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section.

(c) (1) The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the completion and processing of election day registration applications on election day, provided (A) the registrars of voters shall have access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location, and (B) such location shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the State not later than thirty-one days before election day. The written certification under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall (i) include the name, street address and relevant contact information associated with such location, (ii) list the name and address of each election official appointed to serve at such location, if any, and (iii) provide a description of the design of such location and a plan for effective completion and processing of such applications. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written certification not later than fifteen days before election day and may require the registrars of voters to appoint one or more additional election officials or alter such design or plan.

(2) The registrars of voters may apply to the Secretary of the State not later than sixty days before election day, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, to designate any additional location for the completion and processing of election day registration applications on election day. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such application not later than forty-five days before election day. If the Secretary approves such application, the registrars of voters may so designate any such additional location. The provisions of subdivision

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(1) of this subsection shall apply to any such additional location.

[(2)] (3) The registrars of voters may [appoint one or more election officials to serve at such location and may delegate to such election officials] delegate to each election official appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, if any, any of the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall supervise each such election [officials] official and train each such election [officials] official to be an election day registration election [officials] official.

(d) Any person applying to register on election day under the provisions of subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section shall make application in accordance with the provisions of section 9-20, provided (1) on election day, the applicant shall appear in person not later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance with subsection (b) of section 9-174, at the location designated by the registrars of voters for election day registration, (2) an applicant who is a student enrolled at an institution of higher education may submit a current photo identification card issued by [said] such institution in lieu of the identification required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the election. If the information that the applicant is required to provide under section 9-20 and subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section does not include proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall also submit identification that shows the applicant's bona fide residence address, including, but not limited to, a learner's permit issued under section 14-36 or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and current address and that has a due date that is not later than thirty days after the election or, in the case of a student enrolled at an institution of higher education, a registration or fee statement from such institution that has the applicant's name and current address.

(e) If the registrars of voters determine that an applicant satisfies the

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application requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the registrars of voters shall check the state-wide centralized voter registration system before admitting such applicant as an elector.

(1) If the registrars of voters determine that the applicant is not already an elector, the registrars of voters shall admit the applicant as an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

(2) If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an elector in another municipality and such applicant states that he or she wants to change the municipality in which the applicant is an elector, notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register shall immediately notify the registrars of voters in such other municipality that such elector is changing the municipality in which the applicant is an elector. The registrars of voters in such other municipality shall notify the election officials in such municipality to remove such elector from the official voter list of such municipality. Such election officials shall cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and mark "off" next to such elector's name on such official voter list.

(A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not receive an election day registration ballot from the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. For any such elector, the election day registration process shall cease in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register and such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. After completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter can not be made, such matter shall be reported to the State Elections Enforcement Commission which shall conduct an investigation of the matter.

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(B) If there is no such report that such applicant already voted in the other municipality, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the applicant seeks to register shall admit the applicant as an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

(f) If the applicant is admitted as an elector, the registrars of voters shall provide the elector with an election day registration ballot and election day registration envelope and shall make a record of such issuance. The elector shall complete an affirmation imprinted upon the back of the envelope for an election day registration ballot and shall declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the election. The affirmation shall be in the form substantially as follows and signed by the voter:

AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty of false statement, (perjury) that:

1. I am the person admitted here as an elector in the town indicated.
2. I am eligible to vote in the election indicated for today in the town indicated.
3. The information on my voter registration card is correct and complete.
4. I reside at the address that I have given to the registrars of voters.
5. If previously registered at another location, I have provided such address to the registrars of voters and hereby request cancellation of such prior registration.
6. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot at this election.
7. I completed an application for an election day registration ballot and received an election day registration ballot.



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.... (Signature of voter)

(g) The elector shall forthwith mark the election day registration ballot in the presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars of voters shall not know how the election day registration ballot is marked. The elector shall place the election day registration ballot in the election day registration ballot envelope provided, and deposit such envelope in a secured election day registration ballot depository receptacle. At the time designated by the registrars of voters and noticed to election officials, the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle containing the election day registration ballots to the central location or polling place, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, where absentee ballots are counted and such election day registration ballots shall be counted by the election officials present at such central location or polling place. A section of the head moderator's return shall show the number of election day registration ballots received from electors. The registrars of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for election day registration ballots in a depository envelope with the election day registration ballots and store such election day registration depository envelope with the other election results materials. The election day registration depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the period of time required to preserve counted ballots for elections.

(h) The provisions of the general statutes and regulations concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of absentee ballots shall apply as nearly as possible, to the custody, control and counting of election day registration ballots under subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section.

(i) After the acceptance of an election day registration, the registrars of voters shall forthwith send a registration confirmation notice to the residential address of each applicant who is admitted as an elector on election day under subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section. Such

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confirmation shall be sent by first class mail with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation notice is returned undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable, notwithstanding the May first deadline in section 9-35.

(j) No person shall solicit in behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or himself or herself or in behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any location designated by the [registrars' of voters designated location] registrars of voters for election day registration balloting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to any such [registrars' of voters designated] location or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

Sec. 10. Section 9-174 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general statute, special act or municipal charter, [to the contrary,] at any regular election, or at any special election held to fill a vacancy in a state, district or municipal office, the polls shall remain open for voting from six o'clock a.m. until eight o'clock p.m. No elector shall be permitted to cast [his] such elector's vote after the hour prescribed for the closing of the polls in any election unless such elector is in line at eight o'clock p.m. An election official or a police [official] officer of the municipality, who is designated by the moderator, shall be placed at the end of the line at eight o'clock p.m. Such official or officer shall not allow any electors who were not in such line at eight o'clock p.m. to enter such line.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general statute, special act

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or municipal charter, at any regular election, each location designated for election day registration pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-19j shall remain open for election day registration and voting from six o'clock a.m. until eight o'clock p.m. No applicant for election day registration shall be admitted as an elector or permitted to cast such applicant's vote after the hour prescribed for the closing of the location designated for such purposes in any regular election unless such applicant is in line at eight o'clock p.m. An election official or a police officer of the municipality, who is appointed by the registrars of voters, shall be placed at the end of the line at eight o'clock p.m. Such official or officer shall not allow any applicants who were not in such line at eight o'clock p.m. to enter such line.

Sec. 11. Section 9-307 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Immediately after the polls are closed, the official checker or checkers, appointed under the provisions of section 9-234, shall make and deliver to the moderator a certificate stating the whole number of names on the registry list or enrollment list including, if applicable, unaffiliated electors authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary, and the number checked as having voted in that election or primary. For the purpose of computing the whole number of names on the registry list, the lists of persons who have applied for presidential or overseas ballots prepared in accordance with section 9-158h shall be included. If a paper registry list is used, the registrars or assistant registrars, as the case may be, shall write and sign with ink, on the list or lists so used and checked, a certificate of the whole number of names registered on the list eligible to vote in the election or primary and the number checked as having voted in that election or primary, and deposit it in the office of the municipal clerk not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls. If an electronic version of the registry list is used, the electronic device upon which such list is stored shall be

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returned to the registrars of voters who shall cause the electronic registry list to be printed. Such printed list shall be signed by each registrar, who shall deposit such list in the office of the municipal clerk not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls. The municipal clerk shall carefully preserve the paper registry list or printed electronic registry list, as applicable, on file, with the marks on it without alteration, for public inspection, and shall immediately enter a certified copy of such certificate on the town records. Subject to the provisions of section 7-109, the municipal clerk may destroy any voting checklist four years after the date upon which it was used. The moderator shall place the certificate which the moderator received from the official checker or checkers in the office of the municipal clerk not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, for the state election in 2020, any certificate or list required under said subsection to be deposited or placed in the office of the municipal clerk shall be so deposited or placed not later than ninety-six hours after the close of the polls.

Sec. 12. Section 9-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Upon the close of the polls, the moderator, in the presence of the other election officials, shall immediately lock the voting tabulator against voting and immediately cause the vote totals for all candidates and questions to be produced. The moderator shall, in the order of the offices as their titles are arranged on the ballot, read and announce in distinct tones the result as shown, giving the number indicated and indicating the candidate to whom such total belongs, and shall read the votes recorded for each office on the ballot. The moderator shall also, in the same manner, announce the vote on each constitutional amendment, proposition or other question voted on. The vote so announced by the moderator shall be taken down by each checker and recorded on the

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tally sheets. Each checker shall record the number of votes received for each candidate on the ballot and also the number received by each person for whom write-in ballots were cast. The moderator shall make a preliminary list from the vote totals produced by the tabulators and shall prepare such preliminary list for transmission to the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-314. After such preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State, the canvass may be temporarily interrupted, during which time the moderator shall (1) return the keys for all tabulators to the registrars of voters, (2) seal the tabulators against voting or being tampered with, (3) prepare and seal individual envelopes for all (A) write-in ballots, (B) absentee ballots, (C) moderators' returns, and (D) other notes, worksheets or written materials used at the election, and (4) store all such tabulators and envelopes in a secure place or places directed by the registrars of voters. At the end of such temporary interruption, the moderator shall receive such keys from the registrars and shall take possession of and break the seal on all such tabulators and envelopes for the purpose of completing the canvass. The result totals shall remain in full public view until the statement of canvass and all other reports have been fully completed and signed by the moderator, checkers and registrars, or assistant registrars, as the case may be. Any other remaining result of the votes cast shall be publicly announced by the moderator not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls. Such public announcement shall consist of reading both the name of each candidate, with the designating number and letter on the ballot and the absentee vote as furnished to the moderator by the absentee ballot counters, and also the vote cast for and against each question submitted. While such announcement is being made, ample opportunity shall be given to any person lawfully present to compare the results so announced with the result totals provided by the tabulator and any necessary corrections shall then and there be made by the moderator, checkers and registrars or assistant registrars, after which the compartments of the voting tabulator shall be closed and locked. In canvassing, recording and announcing the result, the election

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officials shall be guided by any instructions furnished by the Secretary of the State.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, for the state election in 2020, after the preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State, any other remaining result of the votes cast required under said subsection to be publicly announced by the moderator shall be so announced not later than ninety-six hours after the close of the polls.

Sec. 13. Section 9-311 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) If, within three days after an election, it appears to the moderator that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials, consisting of at least two checkers of different political parties and at least two absentee ballot counters of different political parties who served at such election, and the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the election was held and such other officials as may be required to conduct such recanvass. Such written notice shall require the clerk or registrars of voters, as the case may be, to bring with them the depository envelopes required by section 9-150a, the package of write-in ballots provided for in section 9-310, the absentee ballot applications, the list of absentee ballot applications, the registry list and the moderators' returns and shall require such recanvass officials to meet at a specified time not later than the fifth business day after such election to recanvass the returns of a voting tabulator or voting tabulators or absentee ballots or write-in ballots used in such district in such election. If any of such recanvass officials are unavailable at the time of the recanvass, the registrar of voters of the same political party as that of the recanvass official unable to attend shall designate another elector having previous training and experience in the conduct of elections to take his place.

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Before such recanvass is made, such moderator shall give notice, in writing, to the chairman of the town committee of each political party which nominated candidates for the election, and, in the case of a state election, not later than twenty-four hours after a determination is made regarding the need for a recanvass to the Secretary of the State, of the time and place where such recanvass is to be made; and each such chairman may send representatives to be present at such recanvass. Such representatives may observe, but no one other than a recanvass official may take part in the recanvass. If any irregularity in the recanvass procedure is noted by such a representative, he shall be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in any contest relating to the election.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, for the state election in 2020, (A) if, within five days after the election, it appears to the moderator that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials to conduct such recanvass in accordance with the provisions of said subdivision, and (B) such written notice shall require such recanvass officials to meet not later than the seventh business day after the election for such purpose.

(b) The moderator shall determine the place or places where the recanvass shall be conducted and, if such recanvass is held before the tabulators are boxed and collected in the manner required by section 9-266, the moderator may either require that such recanvass of such tabulators be conducted in each place where the tabulators are located, or he may require that they be removed to one central place, where such recanvass shall be conducted. All recanvassing procedures shall be open to public observation. Such recanvass officials shall, in the presence of such moderator and registrars of voters, make a record of the number on the seal and the number on the protective counter, if one is provided,

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on each voting tabulator specified by such moderator. Such registrars of voters in the presence of such moderator shall turn over the keys of each such tabulator to such recanvass officials, and such recanvass officials, in the presence of such registrars of voters and moderator, shall immediately proceed to recanvass the vote cast thereon, and shall then open the package of absentee ballots and recanvass the vote cast thereon. In the course of the recanvass of the absentee ballot vote the recanvass officials shall check all outer envelopes for absentee ballots against the inner envelopes for such ballots and against the registry list to verify postmarks, addresses and registry list markings and also to determine whether the number of envelopes from which absentee ballots have been removed is the same as the number of persons checked as having voted by absentee ballot. The write-in ballots shall also be recanvassed at this time. All of the recanvass officials shall use the same forms for tallies and returns as were used at the original canvass and the absentee ballot counters shall also sign the tallies.

(c) (1) The votes shall be announced and recorded in the manner prescribed in section 9-309 on return forms provided by the registrars of voters and appended thereto shall be a statement signed by the moderator indicating the time and place of the recanvass and the names, addresses, titles and party affiliations of the recanvass officials. The write-in ballots shall be replaced in a properly secured sealed package. Upon the completion of such recanvass, any tabulator used in such recanvass shall be locked and sealed, the keys thereof shall immediately be returned to such registrars of voters and such tabulator shall remain so locked until the expiration of fourteen days after such election or for such longer period as is ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. The absentee ballots shall be replaced in their wrappers and be resealed by the moderator in the presence of the recanvass officials. Upon the completion of such recanvass, such moderator and at least two of the recanvass officials of different political parties shall forthwith prepare and sign such return forms which shall contain a written statement



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giving the result of such recanvass for each tabulator and each package of absentee ballots whose returns were so recanvassed, setting forth whether or not the original canvass was correctly made and stating whether or not the discrepancy still remains unaccounted for. Such return forms containing such statement shall forthwith be filed by the moderator in the office of such clerk. If such recanvass reveals that the original canvass of returns was not correctly made, such return forms containing such statement so filed with the clerk shall constitute a corrected return. In the case of a state election, a recanvass return shall be made in duplicate on a form prescribed and provided by the Secretary of the State, and the moderator shall file one copy with the Secretary of the State and one copy with the town clerk not later than ten days after the election. Such recanvass return shall be substituted for the original return and shall have the same force and effect as an original return.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, for the state election in 2020, each copy of the recanvass return required under said subdivision to be filed by the moderator with the Secretary of the State and the town clerk shall be so filed not later than twelve days after the election.

(d) As used in this section, (1) "moderator" means, in the case of municipalities not divided into voting districts, the moderator of the election and, in the case of municipalities divided into voting districts, the head moderator of the election, and (2) "registrars of voters", in a municipality where there are different registrars of voters for different voting districts, means the registrars of voters in the voting district in which, at the last-preceding election, the presiding officer for the purpose of declaring the result of the vote of the whole municipality was moderator.

Sec. 14. Section 9-314 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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(a) As used in this subsection, "moderator" means the moderator of each state election in each town not divided into voting districts and the head moderator in each town divided into voting districts. The moderator shall make a preliminary list of the votes given for each of the following officers: Presidential electors, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, United States senator, representative in Congress, state senator, judge of probate, state representative and registrars of voters when said officers are to be chosen, as reported solely by the tabulator, as provided in section 9-309, in the moderator's town and shall immediately transmit such preliminary list to the Secretary of the State not later than midnight on election day. Once the preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State, the moderator shall make a duplicate list of the votes given in the moderator's town for each of the following officers: Presidential electors, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, United States senator, representative in Congress, state senator, judge of probate, state representative and registrars of voters when said officers are to be chosen. Such duplicate list shall indicate the total number of names on the official check list of such town and the total number of names checked as having voted. The moderator shall transmit such duplicate list to the Secretary of the State by electronic means as prescribed by the Secretary of the State not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls on election day. The moderator shall also seal and deliver one of such duplicate lists to the Secretary of the State not later than the third day after the election. Any such moderator who fails to so transmit or deliver such duplicate list to the Secretary of the State by the time required shall pay a late filing fee of fifty dollars. The moderator shall also deliver one of such duplicate lists to the clerk of such town. The Secretary of the State shall enter the returns in tabular form in books kept by the Secretary for that purpose and present a printed report of the same, with the name of, and the total number of votes received by, each of the candidates for said offices, to

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the General Assembly at its next session.

(b) As used in this subsection, "moderator" means the moderator of each municipal election in each town not divided into voting districts, and the head moderator in each town divided into voting districts. The moderator shall make a preliminary list of the votes given for each municipal office elected at such municipal election, as reported solely by the tabulator, as provided in section 9-309, in the moderator's town and shall immediately transmit such preliminary list to the Secretary of the State not later than midnight on election day. Once the preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State, the moderator shall make a duplicate list of the votes given in the moderator's town for each municipal office elected at such municipal election. Such duplicate list shall indicate the total number of names on the official check list of such town and the total number of names checked as having voted and shall be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State. The moderator shall transmit such duplicate list to the Secretary of the State by electronic means as prescribed by the Secretary of the State not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls on election day. The moderator shall also seal and deliver one of such duplicate lists to the Secretary of the State not later than the third day after the election. Any such moderator who fails to so transmit or deliver such duplicate list to the Secretary of the State by the time required shall pay a late filing fee of fifty dollars. The moderator shall also deliver one of such duplicate lists to the clerk of such town.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, for the state election in 2020, (1) the duplicate list required under said subsections to be transmitted by electronic means to the Secretary by such moderator shall be so transmitted not later than ninety-six hours after the close of the polls on election day, and (2) the duplicate list required under said subsections to be sealed and delivered to the Secretary shall be so delivered not later than the fifth day after the

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election.

Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 9-322a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) Not later than forty-eight hours following each regular election, the registrars of voters shall provide the results of the votes cast at such election to the town clerk. Not later than nine o'clock a.m. on the third day following each regular election, the head moderator, registrars of voters and town clerk for each town divided into voting districts shall meet to identify any error in the returns. Not later than one o'clock p.m. on the third day following each regular election, the head moderator shall correct any error identified and file an amended return with the Secretary of the State, the town clerk and the registrars of voters.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, for the state election in 2020, (A) the results of the votes cast at the election required under said subdivision to be provided to the town clerk by the registrars of voters shall be so provided not later than ninety-six hours following the election, (B) the meeting to identify any error in the returns required under said subdivision among the head moderator, registrars of voters and town clerk for each town divided into voting districts shall occur not later than nine o'clock a.m. on the fifth day following the election, and (C) any identified error required under said subdivision to be corrected, and any amended return required under said subdivision to be filed with the Secretary of the State, the town clerk and the registrars of voters, by the head moderator shall be so corrected or filed, as applicable, not later than one o'clock p.m. on the fifth day following the election.

Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any provisions of sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of Executive Order No. 7QQ of Governor Ned Lamont, dated May 20, 2020, that

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relate to the August 11, 2020, primary, are ratified.

Approved July 31, 2020