



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

***Raised Bill No. 5282***

LCO No. 1464



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACE CHALLENGERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 9-232 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2020*):

4 (a) [Each registrar may appoint one or more challengers in his town  
5 or district, one of whom may be present at the offering of any vote; and  
6 any such challenger or any] Any elector may challenge the right of any  
7 person offering to vote, on the ground of want of identity with the  
8 person on whose name the vote is offered, or disfranchisement or lack  
9 of bona fide residence, and the moderator shall decide upon the right of  
10 the person so challenged to vote.

11 Sec. 2. Section 9-235d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
12 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

13 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of sections 9-233, 9-235 and 9-258,  
14 as amended by this act, to the contrary, a United States citizen who is

15 sixteen or seventeen years of age and a bona fide resident of a town may  
16 be [(1)] appointed as [a challenger or] (1) an unofficial checker in an  
17 election, or (2) [appointed as] a checker, translator, ballot clerk or voting  
18 tabulator tender in an election after (A) attending poll worker training,  
19 and (B) receiving the written permission of a parent, guardian or the  
20 principal of the school that the citizen attends if the citizen is a secondary  
21 school student and the citizen is to be appointed to work on a day when  
22 such school is in session.

23 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of section 9-436, as amended by  
24 this act, or 9-436a to the contrary, a United States citizen who is sixteen  
25 or seventeen years of age and a bona fide resident of a town or political  
26 subdivision holding a primary may be [(1)] appointed as [a challenger  
27 or] (1) a candidate checker in the primary, or (2) [appointed as] a  
28 checker, translator, ballot clerk or voting tabulator tender in a primary  
29 after (A) attending poll worker training, and (B) receiving the written  
30 permission of a parent, guardian or the principal of the school that the  
31 citizen attends if the citizen is a secondary school student and the citizen  
32 is to be appointed to work on a day when such school is in session.

33 Sec. 3. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-258 of the general statutes  
34 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
35 *1, 2020*):

36 (a) For municipalities with more than one voting district, the election  
37 officials of each polling place shall be electors of the state and shall  
38 consist of (1) one moderator, (2) at least one but not more than two  
39 official checkers, (3) two assistant registrars of voters of opposite  
40 political parties, each of whom shall be residents of the town, (4) [not  
41 more than two challengers if the registrars of voters have appointed  
42 challengers pursuant to section 9-232, (5)] at least one but not more than  
43 two ballot clerks, and [(6)] (5) at least one but not more than two voting  
44 tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in use at the polling place. A  
45 known candidate for any office shall not serve as an election official on  
46 election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that (A) a  
47 municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same

48 office, may perform his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar  
49 of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, may  
50 perform his or her official duties. If, in the opinion of the registrar of  
51 voters, the public convenience of the electors in any voting district so  
52 requires, provision shall be made for an additional line or lines of  
53 electors at the polling place and, if more than one line of electors is  
54 established, at least one but not more than two additional official  
55 checkers and at least one but not more than two ballot clerks for each  
56 line of electors shall be appointed and, if more than one tabulator is used  
57 in a polling place, at least one but not more than two additional voting  
58 tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each additional machine so  
59 used. Head moderators, central counting moderators and absentee  
60 ballot counters appointed pursuant to law shall also be deemed election  
61 officials.

62 (b) For municipalities with one voting district, the election officials of  
63 such polling place shall be electors of the state and shall consist of (1)  
64 one moderator, (2) at least one but not more than two official checkers,  
65 (3) [not more than two challengers if the registrars of voters have  
66 appointed challengers pursuant to section 9-232, (4)] at least one but not  
67 more than two voting tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in use  
68 at the polling place, and [(5)] (4) at least one but not more than two ballot  
69 clerks. Additionally, such election officials may consist of two registrars  
70 of voters of opposite political parties, or two assistant registrars of voters  
71 of opposite political parties, as the case may be, subject to the  
72 requirements of sections 9-259 and 9-439, provided if the registrars of  
73 voters are present in the polling place, they shall appoint at least one  
74 designee to be present in their office. A known candidate for any office  
75 shall not serve as an election official on election day or serve at the polls  
76 in any capacity, except that (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters,  
77 who is a candidate for the same office, may perform his or her official  
78 duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the  
79 office of registrar of voters, may perform his or her official duties. If, in  
80 the opinion of the registrar of voters, the public convenience of the  
81 electors in any voting district so requires, provision shall be made for an

82 additional line or lines of electors at the polling place and, if more than  
 83 one line of electors is established, at least one but not more than two  
 84 additional official checkers for each line of electors shall be appointed  
 85 and, if more than one tabulator is used in a polling place, at least one  
 86 but not more than two additional voting tabulator tenders shall be  
 87 appointed for each additional tabulator so used. Head moderators,  
 88 central counting moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed  
 89 pursuant to law shall be deemed to be election officials.

90 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 9-436 of the general statutes is  
 91 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
 92 *2020*):

93 (c) The registrar shall appoint from among the enrolled party  
 94 members in the state, to serve in each polling place, the primary polling  
 95 place officials, who shall consist of (1) one moderator, (2) at least one [ ]  
 96 but not more than two official checkers, [not more than two challengers  
 97 if the registrar deems it necessary, and] (3) at least one [and] but not  
 98 more than two ballot clerks, [and] (4) at least one but not more than two  
 99 voting tabulator tenders for each tabulator in use at such primary, and  
 100 [ ] (5) in towns with two or more voting districts, at least one [and] but  
 101 not more than two assistant registrars, provided [(1)] (A) in the case of  
 102 either a municipality or a political subdivision holding a primary, if no  
 103 enrolled party member can be found or no such person consents to serve  
 104 as a moderator, the registrar may appoint any elector who resides in the  
 105 state and is a certified moderator to be moderator, [(2)] (B) in the case of  
 106 a political subdivision holding a primary, if an insufficient number of  
 107 enrolled party members who reside in the state consent to serve as  
 108 checkers, [challengers,] voting tabulator tenders or assistant registrars,  
 109 the registrar may appoint any elector who resides in the state to be a  
 110 checker, [challenger,] voting tabulator tender or assistant registrar, and  
 111 [(3)] (C) in the case of either a municipality or a political subdivision  
 112 holding more than one primary on the same day for different political  
 113 parties, one certified moderator may serve as moderator for both  
 114 primaries, if the registrars of voters so agree. If unaffiliated electors are  
 115 authorized under section 9-431 to vote for some but not all of the offices

116 to be contested at the primary, the registrar shall appoint two additional  
117 checkers to check the list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to  
118 vote on the separate tabulators. If unaffiliated electors are authorized  
119 under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties in the  
120 same polling place, whether for some or for all offices to be contested at  
121 the primary, each such registrar shall appoint two additional checkers  
122 to check the list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to vote in  
123 either such primary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	9-232(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	9-235d
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	9-258(a) and (b)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	9-436(c)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To eliminate registrar-appointed challengers from who may be present in the polling place during a primary or election.

*[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.]*