

1 **Draft Bill for Sentencing Commission – December 16, 2020**

2  
3  
4 **State of Connecticut**  
5 **General Assembly**

6  
7 **January Session, 2021**  
8

9  
10 ***AN ACT FACILITATING VOTING BY PERSONS WHO ARE INCARCERATED IN***  
11 ***CONNECTICUT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND RESTORING VOTING RIGHTS***  
12 ***AND ELECTORAL PRIVILEGES FOR PERSONS WHO ARE INCARCERATED FOR***  
13 ***FELONY CONVICTIONS.***  
14

15  
16 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly  
17 convened:

18  
19 Section 1. (NEW) *(Effective July 1, 2021)* (a) As used in this section:

20  
21 (1) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Correction;

22  
23 (2) “Correctional facility” means a correctional institution, community correctional  
24 center or other facility administered by the Commissioner of Correction; and

25  
26 (3) “Person who is incarcerated” means a person committed to the custody of the  
27 Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional facility.

28  
29 (4) “Admitting official” has the same meaning as provided in section 9-17a of the  
30 general statutes.

31  
32 (b) Not later than fourteen days after a person is incarcerated in a correctional facility,  
33 either initially or by transfer from another correctional facility, the Commissioner of  
34 Correction shall provide to the person voter registration information and materials  
35 described in subsection (a) of section 9-19h of the general statutes, as amended by this  
36 act, and a mail voter registration application form described in section 9-23h of the  
37 general statutes. The commissioner shall also provide a person who is incarcerated with  
38 a mail voter registration application form at any other time upon the request of such  
39 person.  
40

41 (c) The commissioner may (1) provide electronic access to enable a person who is  
42 incarcerated to use the online voter registration system established under section 9-19k  
43 of the general statutes, and (2) assist a person who is incarcerated in completing either a  
44 mail or online voter registration application.

45

46 (d) The commissioner is not an admitting official.

47

48 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section, the terms  
49 “commissioner”, “correctional facility” and “person who is incarcerated” have the same  
50 meanings as provided in section 1 of this act.

51

52 (b) Not later than fourteen days after a person is incarcerated in a correctional facility,  
53 either initially or by transfer from another correctional facility, the Commissioner of  
54 Correction shall (1) inform the person of (A) the opportunity for incarcerated persons  
55 who are electors, as defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, to vote by absentee  
56 ballot for primaries, elections and referenda, and (B) the procedure for applying for  
57 presumptive absentee ballot status in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of  
58 this section and, alternatively, the procedure for applying for an absentee ballot for the  
59 next primary, election or referendum in the municipality in which the person’s residence  
60 is located, and (2) provide the person with an application for an absentee ballot described  
61 in section 9-139a of the general statutes, which may be used to apply for either  
62 presumptive absentee ballot status or for an absentee ballot for such primary, election or  
63 referendum. The commissioner shall also provide a person who is incarcerated with an  
64 application for an absentee ballot at any other time upon the request of such person.

65

66 (c) (1) Any person who is incarcerated and (A) is either an elector or has completed a  
67 voter registration application under section 1 of this act and (B) files an application for an  
68 absentee ballot described in section 9-139a of the general statutes, with a certification from  
69 the commissioner indicating that such person is committed to the custody of the  
70 commissioner for confinement in a correctional facility and is unable to appear in person  
71 at such person’s designated or prospective polling location, shall be eligible for  
72 presumptive absentee ballot status and shall receive an absentee ballot for each election,  
73 primary or referendum conducted in such person’s municipality for which such person  
74 is eligible to vote, provided a person who has completed a voter registration application  
75 under section 1 of this act shall not be eligible for presumptive absentee ballot status  
76 unless the person’s voter registration application is accepted by a registrar. The

77 presumptive absentee ballot status for a person who is incarcerated and an elector shall  
78 remain in effect until such elector: (i) Is removed from the official registry list of the  
79 municipality, (ii) is removed from presumptive absentee ballot status pursuant to the  
80 provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, (iii) requests that he or she no longer  
81 receive such presumptive absentee ballot status, or (iv) is discharged from confinement  
82 in a correctional facility.

83

84 (2) The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each such elector with  
85 presumptive absentee ballot status in January of each year, at the mailing address  
86 provided on the elector's absentee ballot application filed under subdivision (1) of this  
87 subsection. Such notice shall be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State. If the  
88 elector, as directed on the form, either (A) fails to return such notice to the registrars of  
89 voters within forty-five days after the notice is sent to the elector, or (B) fails to confirm  
90 that the residence address provided on the elector's absentee ballot application is still the  
91 elector's residence address, the elector shall be removed from presumptive absentee  
92 ballot status. Failure to return such written notice shall not result in the removal of an  
93 elector from the official registry list of the municipality.

94

95 Sec. 3. Subsection (k) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
96 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

97

98 (k) (1) A person shall register with the town clerk before distributing five or more  
99 absentee ballot applications for an election, primary or referendum, not including  
100 applications distributed to such person's immediate family. Such requirement shall not  
101 apply to (A) a person who is the designee of an applicant, or (B) the Commissioner of  
102 Correction with regard to the provision of absentee ballot applications under section 2 of  
103 this act to persons who are incarcerated.

104

105 (2) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications shall maintain a list of the  
106 names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot applicants who receive such  
107 applications, and shall file such list with the town clerk prior to the date of the primary,  
108 election or referendum for which the applications were so distributed. Such requirement  
109 shall not apply to the Commissioner of Correction with regard to the provision of  
110 absentee ballot applications under section 2 of this act to persons who are incarcerated.

111

112 (3) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications and receives an executed  
113 application shall forthwith file the application with the town clerk.

114

115 Sec. 4. Subsection (m) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
116 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

117

118 (m) The Secretary of the State shall conspicuously post on the Secretary of the State's  
119 web site, adjacent to the absentee ballot application form available for downloading, a  
120 notice that the application may be downloaded by a person only for (1) the person's own  
121 use, (2) the use of a member of the person's immediate family, [or] (3) the use of a designee  
122 of the applicant, or (4) the use of the Commissioner of Correction under section 2 of this  
123 act. The notice shall also contain an advisory statement concerning the requirements of  
124 subsection (k) of this section.

125

126 Sec. 5. Subsection (o) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
127 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

128

129 (o) As used in this section, (1) "immediate family" has the same meaning as provided  
130 in subsection (a) of section 9-140b, [and] (2) "designee" has the same meaning as provided  
131 in subsection (b) of section 9-140b, and (3) "person who is incarcerated" has the same  
132 meaning as provided in section 1 of this act.

133

134 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section, "correctional facility"  
135 means a correctional institution, community correctional center or other facility  
136 administered by the Commissioner of Correction.

137

138 (b) Not later than February 15, 2022, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of  
139 Correction and the Connecticut Sentencing Commission shall jointly submit a report to  
140 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
141 relating to elections, on the implementation of sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of this act. Such  
142 report shall include, for the preceding calendar year, (1) a summary of the measures taken  
143 by the Commissioner of Correction to carry out the purposes of said sections, and (2)  
144 findings and recommendations concerning voter registration and absentee voting by  
145 persons who are incarcerated at correctional facilities.

146

147 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) A person whose right to become an elector and  
148 privileges as an elector (1) have been forfeited, pursuant to section 9-46 of the general  
149 statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2021, upon conviction of a felony and  
150 committal to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a  
151 correctional institution or facility or a community residence, committal to confinement in  
152 a federal correctional institution or facility, or committal to the custody of the chief  
153 correctional official of any other state or a county of any other state for confinement in a  
154 correctional institution or facility or a community residence in such state or county, and  
155 (2) as of June 30, 2021, have not been restored pursuant to section 9-46a of the general  
156 statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2021, shall have such person's right to  
157 become an elector and privileges as an elector restored on July 1, 2021.

158  
159 (b) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section, the Commissioner  
160 of Correction shall notify each person described in subsection (a) of this section of the  
161 restoration of the person's right to become an elector and privileges as an elector.

162  
163 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 9-19h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
164 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

165  
166 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner  
167 of Motor Vehicles, not later than January 1, 1994, shall include an application for the  
168 admission of an elector with each application form provided for a motor vehicle  
169 operator's license and a motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under  
170 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form provided for an  
171 identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such application form for the admission of an  
172 elector (1) shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, (2) shall not include  
173 any provisions for the witnessing of the application, and (3) shall contain a statement that  
174 (A) specifies each eligibility requirement, (B) contains an attestation that the applicant  
175 meets each such requirement, and (C) requires the signature of the applicant under  
176 penalty of perjury. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept any such completed  
177 application for admission which is submitted in person or by mail. The applicant shall  
178 state on such form, under penalty of perjury, the applicant's name, bona fide residence  
179 address, date of birth, whether the applicant is a United States citizen, party enrollment,  
180 if any, and prior voting address, if registered previously. [, and that the applicant's  
181 privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction of a felony.] No Social  
182 Security number on any such application form for the admission of an elector filed prior

183 to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency. The  
184 commissioner shall indicate on each such form the date of receipt of such application to  
185 ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is received by the  
186 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote in an election.  
187 The commissioner shall provide the applicant with an application receipt, on a form  
188 approved by the Secretary of the State and on which the commissioner shall record the  
189 date that the commissioner received the application, using an official date stamp bearing  
190 the words "Department of Motor Vehicles". The commissioner shall provide such receipt  
191 whether the application was submitted in person or by mail. The commissioner shall  
192 forthwith transmit the application to the registrars of voters of the applicant's town of  
193 residence. If a registration application is accepted within five days before the last day for  
194 registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be transmitted to the  
195 registrars of voters of the town of voting residence of the applicant not later than five  
196 days after the date of acceptance. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of  
197 section 9-23g which are not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,  
198 P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made under this  
199 section. The commissioner is not an admitting official, [and may not restore, under the  
200 provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony] as  
201 defined in section 9-17a.

202  
203 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 9-20 of the 2020 supplement to the general statutes is  
204 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

205  
206 (a) Each person who applies for admission as an elector in person to an admitting  
207 official shall, upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State and signed by the  
208 applicant, state under penalties of perjury, his name, bona fide residence by street and  
209 number, date of birth, whether he is a United States citizen [, whether his privileges as an  
210 elector are forfeited by reason of conviction of crime,] and whether he has previously  
211 been admitted as an elector in any town in this or any other state. Each such applicant  
212 shall present his birth certificate, drivers' license or Social Security card to the admitting  
213 official for inspection at the time of application. Notwithstanding the provisions of any  
214 special act or charter to the contrary, the application form shall also, in a manner  
215 prescribed by the Secretary of the State, provide for application for enrollment in any  
216 political party, including, on any such form printed on or after January 1, 2006, a list of  
217 the names of the major parties, as defined in section 9-372, as options for the applicant.  
218 The form shall indicate that such enrollment is not mandatory.

219

220 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 9-23n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
221 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

222

223 (b) Voter registration agencies shall (1) distribute mail voter registration application  
224 forms, (2) assist applicants for such assistance or services in completing voter registration  
225 application forms, except for applicants who refuse such assistance, (3) accept completed  
226 voter registration application forms and provide each applicant with an application  
227 receipt, on which the agency shall record the date that the agency received the  
228 application, using an official date stamp bearing the name of the agency, and (4)  
229 immediately transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of the town of voting  
230 residence of the applicants. The agency shall provide such receipt whether the application  
231 was submitted in person or by mail. If a registration application is accepted within five  
232 days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall  
233 be transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence of the applicant  
234 not later than five days after the date of acceptance. The voter registration agency shall  
235 indicate on the completed mail voter registration application form, without indicating  
236 the identity of the voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such agency, to  
237 ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is received by the  
238 registration agency by the last day for registration to vote in an election. If a state-funded  
239 program primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities provides  
240 services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency shall provide such  
241 voter registration services at the person's home. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f)  
242 and (g) of section 9-23g that are not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act  
243 of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made  
244 under this section. Officials and employees of such voter registration agencies are not  
245 admitting officials, as defined in section 9-17a\_ [, and may not restore, under the  
246 provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.]

247

248 Sec. 11. Section 9-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
249 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

250

251 Any person who, because of service in the armed forces, membership in the United  
252 States Merchant Marine, membership in a religious or welfare group or agency attached  
253 to and serving with the armed forces or civilian employment with the United States or  
254 because he is a spouse or dependent of any such person, and any person who because of

255 temporary residence outside the territorial limits of the several states of the United States  
256 and the District of Columbia, may, at any time, in the manner and upon a form prescribed  
257 by the Secretary of the State, make application, in person or by mail, to the town clerk of  
258 such town for such examination and for admission as an elector. Upon such form, signed  
259 by the applicant, he shall state under penalties of perjury, his name, bona fide residence  
260 by street and number, if any, in such town and date of birth, and that he is, at the time of  
261 making such application, a citizen of the United States. He shall also state that he is (1) a  
262 member of the armed forces, of the merchant marine or of a religious or welfare group or  
263 agency attached to and serving with the armed forces, (2) a civilian employee of the  
264 United States, (3) a spouse or dependent of any person described in subdivision (1) or (2),  
265 or (4) a person temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the several states of  
266 the United States and the District of Columbia. The person shall also state the date of his  
267 induction into such armed forces or the date of his joining the merchant marine or such  
268 religious or welfare group or agency or of his entering United States employment or  
269 moving temporarily outside the territorial limits of the several states of the United States  
270 and the District of Columbia [; whether his privileges as an elector are forfeited by reason  
271 of conviction of crime;] and whether he is, at the time of making such application,  
272 registered as an elector in any other town in this or any other state. The application form  
273 shall provide for application for enrollment in any political party and shall indicate that  
274 such enrollment is optional. No Social Security number on any such form filed prior to  
275 January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency. The town  
276 clerk may accept such fully completed form as evidence of the qualifications of the  
277 applicant to be admitted as an elector. The application for admission as an elector shall  
278 include a statement that (A) specifies each eligibility requirement, (B) contains an  
279 attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement and (C) requires the signature  
280 of the applicant under penalty of perjury. In lieu of the application form prescribed by  
281 the secretary under this section, any such person may apply for registration and  
282 enrollment on the federal postcard application form provided pursuant to the Uniformed  
283 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 100 Stat. 924, 42 USC 1973ff et seq., as  
284 amended from time to time, or any other applicable law.

285

286 Sec. 12. Section 9-31b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
287 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

288 Such application shall be in form substantially as follows:

289 APPLICATION OF PERMANENTLY PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSON FOR  
290 ADMISSION AS AN ELECTOR

291 To the Town Clerk of the town of .... or to the registrar of voters of the .... Party of the  
292 town of .... I hereby apply for admission as an elector:

293 (1) My name is .... (last name) (first name) (initial).

294 (2) My bona fide residence is .... (street and number), but I am presently residing at ....  
295 (street, number and town if different from residence above).

296 (3) I am a permanently physically disabled person and my permanent physical  
297 disability prevents me and will continue to prevent me from appearing in person at your  
298 office.

299 (4) I am a United States Citizen who has attained the age of eighteen. [and my electoral  
300 privileges are not forfeited by reason of conviction of any disfranchising crime.]

301 Dated at ....., Connecticut, this .... day of ....., 20...

302

303 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 9-35 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
304 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

305

306 (b) At such session and on any day except on the day of an election or primary, the  
307 registrars shall remove from the list the name of each elector who has died [, who has  
308 been disfranchised] or who has confirmed in writing that the elector has moved out of  
309 the municipality, except electors entitled to remain on such list under the provisions of  
310 this chapter. An elector shall be deemed to have confirmed in writing that the elector has  
311 moved out of the municipality if (1) the elector has submitted a change of address form  
312 for purposes of a state motor vehicle operator's license, unless the elector states on the  
313 form that the change of address is not for voter registration purposes, (2) the elector has  
314 submitted a change of address form to a voter registration agency, as defined in section  
315 9-23n, as amended by this act, and such agency has provided such change of address to  
316 the registrars of voters, or (3) the registrars of voters have received a cancellation of  
317 previous registration from any other election official indicating that such elector has  
318 registered as an elector outside such municipality.

319

320 Sec. 14. Section 9-158b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
321 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

322

323 (a) Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age [,] and is a  
324 former resident [and who has not forfeited such citizen's electoral privileges because of a  
325 disfranchising crime,] may vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors, but for no  
326 other offices, in the town in this state in which such citizen formerly resided in the manner  
327 provided in sections 9-158c to 9-158m, inclusive.

328  
329 (b) Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age; who resides  
330 outside the United States and who, immediately prior to moving outside the United  
331 States, was a bona fide resident of a town in this state; who is not registered to vote and  
332 is not voting in any other state or election district of a state or territory or in any territory  
333 or possession of the United States [,] and who has a valid passport or card of identity and  
334 registration issued under the authority of the Secretary of State of the United States or  
335 alternative form of identification [and who has not forfeited his electoral privileges  
336 because of a disfranchising crime,] may vote in federal elections in the town in this state  
337 in which he formerly resided immediately prior to his departure from the United States  
338 in the manner provided in sections 9-158c to 9-158m, inclusive. The exercise of any right  
339 to vote in federal elections by any citizen outside the United States shall not affect the  
340 determination of his place of residence or domicile for purposes of any tax imposed under  
341 federal, state or local law.

342  
343 (c) Each citizen of the United States born outside of the United States who is at least  
344 eighteen years of age, whose parent or guardian was a bona fide resident of a town in  
345 this state immediately prior to moving outside the United States, who is not registered to  
346 vote and is not voting in any other state or election district of a state or territory or in any  
347 territory or possession of the United States [,] and who has a valid passport or card of  
348 identity and registration issued under the authority of the Secretary of State of the United  
349 States or alternative form of identification [and who has not forfeited such citizen's  
350 electoral privileges because of a disfranchising crime,] shall be eligible to vote pursuant  
351 to this section. Such citizen may vote in federal elections in the town in this state in which  
352 the citizen's parent or guardian formerly resided immediately prior to the parent's or  
353 guardian's departure from the United States, in the manner provided in sections 9-158c  
354 to 9-158m, inclusive.

355  
356 Sec. 15. Section 9-158d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
357 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):  
358

359 (a) The application for a presidential ballot shall be a form signed in duplicate by the  
360 applicant under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting, which shall provide  
361 substantially as follows:

362

363 To the Town Clerk of the Town of ..., Connecticut

364

365 I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting that  
366 the following statements are true:

367

368 1. I am a citizen of the United States.

369 [2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction of a disfranchising  
370 crime.]

371 [3.] 2. I was born on ..., and on the day of the next presidential election, I shall be at  
372 least 18 years of age.

373 [4.] 3. FORMER RESIDENT. I am a former resident of the above town, to which I am  
374 making this application, and resided at ... Street therein. I moved from such town to my  
375 present town and state of residence on the ... day of ..., 20.., being within thirty days  
376 before the date of the next presidential election, and for that reason I cannot register to  
377 vote in said presidential election in my present town and state of residence. I am now a  
378 bona fide resident of the Town of ..., in the state of ..., now residing at ... Street therein.

379 [5.] 4. I hereby apply for a “presidential ballot” for the election to be held on ..., 20... I  
380 have not voted and will not vote otherwise than by this ballot at that election. I am not  
381 eligible to vote for electors of President and Vice-President in any other state.

382 [6.] 5. The said ballot is to be given to me personally or mailed to me at

383 ... (bona fide mailing address)

384 Dated at ..., this ... day of ... 20...

385 ... (Signature of applicant)

386 (b) The application for an overseas ballot shall be the federal application permitted  
387 under section 9-153a or a form signed by the applicant under penalty of false statement  
388 in absentee balloting which shall provide substantially as follows:

389 To the Town Clerk of the Town of ..., Connecticut

390 I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting that  
391 the following statements are true:

392 1. I am a citizen of the United States.

393 [2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction of a disfranchising  
394 crime.]

395 [3.] 2. I was born on ..., and on the day of the next federal election, I shall be at least  
396 eighteen years of age.

397 [4.] 3. I was a resident of the above town, to which I am making this application, and  
398 resided at no. .... Street therein. I moved from such town to my present residence on the  
399 ... day of ..., 20... I now reside in ..., at no. .... Street therein.

400 [5.] 4. I have a valid passport or card of identity and registration issued under the  
401 authority of the Secretary of State of the United States or alternate form of identification.

402 [6.] 5. I hereby apply for an overseas ballot for the

( ) Primary

( ) General Election

( ) Special Election

403 to be held on ..., 20... I do not maintain a domicile in any other state or election district of  
404 any state or territory or any territory or possession of the United States. I have not voted  
405 and will not vote otherwise than by this ballot at such election or primary for which I  
406 now apply for an overseas ballot. I am not eligible to vote in any town in Connecticut or  
407 in any other state or election district of any state or territory or any territory or possession  
408 of the United States.

409 [7.] 6. The said ballot is to be mailed to me at ...

410 .... (Mailing address)

411 Dated at ..., this ... day of ..., 20...

412 .... (Signature of applicant)

413

414 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 9-159p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
415 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

416

417 (a) Any elector may challenge the right of any person offering to vote by absentee ballot  
418 based upon false identity [, disenfranchisement for conviction of a felony] or lack of bona  
419 fide residence. The failure of an elector to challenge, pursuant to this section, the right of  
420 a person to vote by absentee ballot shall not bar such elector from bringing an action to  
421 contest the primary or election under section 9-323, 9-324, 9-328 or 9-329a, based on the  
422 alleged invalidity of the absentee ballot cast at such primary or election.

423

424 Sec. 17. Section 9-170 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
425 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

426

427 At any regular or special town election any person may vote who is registered as an  
428 elector on the revised registry list of the town last completed and he shall vote only in the  
429 district in which he is so registered, provided any person may vote whose name is  
430 restored to the list under the provisions of section 9-42 or whose name is added on the  
431 last week day before a regular election under the provisions of section 9-17. Each person  
432 so registered shall be permitted to vote unless he is not a bona fide resident of the town  
433 and political subdivision holding the election. [or has been convicted of a disfranchising  
434 crime.] Any person offering to vote and being challenged as to his identity or residence  
435 shall, before he votes, prove his identity with the person on whose name he offers to vote  
436 or his bona fide residence in the town and political subdivision holding the election, as  
437 the case may be, by the testimony, under oath, of at least one other elector or by such  
438 other evidence acceptable to the moderator.

439

440 Sec. 18. Section 9-171 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
441 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

442

443 In all cities, unless otherwise provided by law, any person entitled to vote at city  
444 elections who is registered on the revised registry list last completed, and any person  
445 having a legal right to vote at such elections whose name is entered on a copy of such list  
446 before voting, may vote therein in the district for which such registry list is made;  
447 provided those persons may vote whose names are restored to the list under the  
448 provisions of section 9-42 or whose names are added on the last week day before a regular  
449 election under the provisions of section 9-17. Each person so registered shall be permitted  
450 to vote, unless he has lost his right by removal from such city since he has registered. [or  
451 by conviction of a disfranchising crime.] Any person offering so to vote, and being  
452 challenged as to his identity or residence, shall, before he votes, prove his identity with

453 the person on whose name he offers to vote or his bona fide residence in such city, as the  
454 case may be, by the testimony, under oath, of at least one other elector or by such other  
455 evidence acceptable to the moderator. The names of those voting shall be checked on such  
456 copy of such list, and such copy so checked shall be kept on file in the office of the town  
457 clerk, as in the case of state elections.

458

459 Sec. 19. Section 9-172 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
460 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

461

462 At any regular or special state election any person may vote who was registered on the  
463 last-completed revised registry list of the town in which he offers to vote, and he shall  
464 vote in the district in which he was so registered; provided those persons may vote whose  
465 names are restored to the list under the provisions of section 9-42 or whose names are  
466 added on the last weekday before a regular election under the provisions of section 9-17.  
467 Each person so registered shall be permitted to vote if he is a bona fide resident of the  
468 town and political subdivision holding the election, [and has not lost his right by  
469 conviction of a disfranchising crime.] Any person offering so to vote and being challenged  
470 as to his identity or residence shall, before he votes, prove his identity with the person on  
471 whose name he offers to vote or his bona fide residence in the town and political  
472 subdivision holding the election, as the case may be, by the testimony, under oath, of at  
473 least one other elector or by such other evidence as is acceptable to the moderator.

474

475 Sec. 20. Section 9-192 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
476 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

477

478 Each registrar of voters immediately after his election shall appoint a deputy registrar  
479 of voters to hold office during his pleasure and may, at any time, fill any vacancy in said  
480 office. He shall file with the town clerk a certificate of each such appointment and the  
481 town clerk shall record the certificate with the records of town meetings. Each deputy  
482 registrar of voters shall assist his principal when required, discharge his duties in his  
483 absence or inability to act and, in case of the death, removal or resignation of such  
484 principal, shall become registrar of voters and appoint a deputy, and shall file with the  
485 town clerk a certificate of such appointment, which shall be recorded with the records of  
486 town meetings. If a vacancy exists in the office of registrar of voters in consequence of a  
487 refusal or failure to accept the office or a failure of the registrar to appoint a deputy  
488 registrar, the town committee of the same political party as the registrar of voters who so

489 refused, failed to accept or failed to appoint, or other appointing authority specified in  
490 local party rules shall fill such vacancy by the appointment of some suitable person, who  
491 shall belong to the same political party as the registrar of voters who so refused, failed to  
492 accept or failed to appoint. Each registrar of voters in any town may, as needed, appoint  
493 and employ not more than four assistant registrars of voters for each voting district  
494 therein, who shall serve at the pleasure of the registrar of voters and assist such registrar  
495 in the performance of his duties, and, for purposes of any admission session held  
496 pursuant to section 9-19b or subsection (a) of section 9-19c, as many special assistants as  
497 are necessary to carry out the duties of such session. Such registrar shall file with the town  
498 clerk a certificate of each such appointment, which shall be recorded with the records of  
499 the town, and shall appoint such other assistants as are necessary for the performance of  
500 duties required by sections 9-12 to [9-45] 9-43, inclusive, on election day and the six days  
501 preceding. Unless otherwise provided by subsection (b) of section 9-19b, in the absence  
502 of either registrar of voters, his deputy or any of his assistants, except special assistants,  
503 shall have all the powers conferred, and may perform any of the duties imposed, upon  
504 such registrar by any of the provisions of the statutes. Each deputy, assistant or special  
505 assistant registrar shall be an elector of the municipality in which he is appointed. Each  
506 deputy registrar shall also, at the time of his appointment and during the six months  
507 immediately preceding his appointment, be an enrolled member of the same party as the  
508 registrar who makes such appointment.

509

510 Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 9-236b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
511 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

512

513 (a) The Secretary of the State shall provide each municipality with sufficient quantities  
514 of a poster size copy, at least eighteen by twenty-four inches, of a Voter's Bill of Rights,  
515 which shall be posted conspicuously at each polling place. The text of the Voter's Bill of  
516 Rights shall be:

517 "VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

518 Every registered voter in this state has the right to:

519 (1) Inspect a sample ballot before voting;

520 (2) Receive instructions concerning how to operate voting equipment, on sample  
521 voting equipment before voting;

- 522 (3) Cast a ballot if the voter is in line when the polls are closing;
- 523 (4) Ask for and receive assistance in voting, including assistance in languages other  
524 than English where required by federal or state law;
- 525 (5) Vote free from coercion or intimidation by election officials or any other person;
- 526 (6) Cast a ballot using voting equipment that accurately counts all votes;
- 527 (7) Vote by provisional ballot if the individual registered to vote and the individual's  
528 name is not on the voter list; and
- 529 [(8) Be informed of the process for restoring the individual's right to vote if the  
530 individual was incarcerated for a felony conviction; and]
- 531 [(9)] (8) Vote independently and in privacy at a polling place, regardless of physical  
532 disability.

533  
534 If any of your rights have been violated, you have the right to file an official complaint  
535 with the State Elections Enforcement Commission at .... (toll-free telephone number) or  
536 the United States Department of Justice at .... (toll-free telephone number). In addition,  
537 before leaving the polling place you may notify the moderator of the violation.”

538  
539 Sec. 22. Section 9-355 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
540 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

541  
542 Any person who, without reasonable cause, neglects to perform any of the duties  
543 required of him by the laws relating to elections or primaries and for which neglect no  
544 other punishment is provided, and any person who is guilty of fraud in the performance  
545 of any such duty, and any person who makes any unlawful alteration in any list required  
546 by law, shall be fined not more than three hundred dollars or be imprisoned not more  
547 than one year or be both fined and imprisoned. [Any official who is convicted of fraud in  
548 the performance of any duty imposed upon him by any law relating to the registration or  
549 admission of electors or to the conduct of any election shall be disfranchised.] Any public  
550 officer or any election official upon whom any duty is imposed by part I of chapter 147  
551 and sections 9-308 to 9-311, inclusive, who wilfully omits or neglects to perform any such  
552 duty or does any act prohibited therein for which punishment is not otherwise provided  
553 shall be guilty of a class E felony.

554

555 Sec. 23. Section 9-358 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
556 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

557

558 Any person who, upon oath or affirmation, legally administered, wilfully and  
559 corruptly testifies or affirms, before any registrar of voters, any moderator of any election,  
560 primary or referendum, any board for admission of electors or the State Elections  
561 Enforcement Commission, falsely, to any material fact concerning the identity, age,  
562 residence or other qualifications of any person whose right to be registered or admitted  
563 as an elector or to vote at any election, primary or referendum is being passed upon and  
564 decided, shall be guilty of a class D felony. [and shall be disfranchised.]

565

566 Sec. 24. Section 9-360 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
567 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

568

569 Any person not legally qualified who fraudulently votes in any town meeting, primary,  
570 election or referendum in which the person is not qualified to vote, and any legally  
571 qualified person who, at such meeting, primary, election or referendum, fraudulently  
572 votes more than once at the same meeting, primary, election or referendum, shall be fined  
573 not less than three hundred dollars or more than five hundred dollars and shall be  
574 imprisoned not less than one year or more than two years. [and shall be disfranchised.]  
575 Any person who votes or attempts to vote at any election, primary, referendum or town  
576 meeting by assuming the name of another legally qualified person shall be guilty of a  
577 class D felony. [and shall be disfranchised.]

578

579 Sec. 25. Section 9-361 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
580 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

581

582 The following persons shall be guilty of primary or enrollment violations: (1) Any  
583 person unlawfully voting or participating or attempting to vote or participate in any  
584 primary in which he is not eligible to vote or participate; (2) in towns divided into voting  
585 districts, any elector who registers or votes at any primary in a voting district other than  
586 the district in which such elector is legally entitled to vote at the time of such primary; (3)  
587 any elector who signs the name of another to a written application to register, without  
588 the knowledge and consent of the person whose name is signed thereto, or who falsely  
589 represents the contents of any written or printed form of application for enrollment with  
590 intent to secure the application of an elector for enrollment upon a list other than that of

591 his true political preference; (4) any registrar or deputy registrar of voters who fails to  
592 hold sessions as provided in sections 9-51 and 9-53 or who fails to register an elector upon  
593 the oral or written application for enrollment of such elector, except as provided by law,  
594 or who fails to erase an elector's name as provided in section 9-59 or who registers any  
595 elector upon an enrollment list other than that declared by such elector in his application  
596 as his political preference, or who removes or erases the name of any elector from any  
597 enrollment list except as provided by law; (5) any person who fails to properly serve any  
598 notice or citation required by sections 9-60 and 9-61 when directed so to do by any  
599 registrar or deputy registrar, or who makes any false return as to any such notice or  
600 citation; and (6) any moderator of a primary of the enrolled electors of a specified party,  
601 such primary being legally called for the nomination of candidates for any public elective  
602 office, who fails to comply with the requirements of chapter 153. The penalty for any such  
603 violation shall be a class D misdemeanor, except that any person found to have violated  
604 subdivision (1) or (2) of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony. [and shall be  
605 disfranchised.]

606

607 Sec. 26. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
608 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

609

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

614

615 Sec. 27. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
616 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

617

618 Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or the Secretary of the  
619 State and filed with the Secretary of the State under the provisions of sections 9-453a to  
620 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall contain a statement as to the residency in this state  
621 and eligibility of the circulator and authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed under  
622 penalties of false statement, by the person who circulated the same. Such statement shall  
623 set forth (1) such circulator's residence address, including the town in this state in which  
624 such circulator is a resident, (2) the circulator's date of birth and that the circulator is at  
625 least eighteen years of age, (3) that the circulator is a United States citizen, [and not on  
626 parole for conviction of a felony,] and (4) that each person whose name appears on such

627 page signed the same in person in the presence of such circulator and that either the  
628 circulator knows each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself to the  
629 circulator. Any false statement committed with respect to such statement shall be deemed  
630 to have been committed in the town in which the petition was circulated.

631

632 Sec. 28. Section 1-25 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
633 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

634

635 The forms of oaths shall be as follows, to wit:

636 FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, EXECUTIVE  
637 AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS.

638 You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will support the  
639 Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut, so long  
640 as you continue a citizen thereof; and that you will faithfully discharge, according to law,  
641 the duties of the office of .... to the best of your abilities; so help you God.

642 FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC.

643 You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will support the  
644 Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut; and  
645 that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the office of notary  
646 public to the best of your abilities; so help you God.

647 FOR ELECTORS.

648 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will be true and faithful to  
649 the constitutions and governments of the State of Connecticut and the United States of  
650 America; and that the statements made in your application for admission as an elector  
651 are true and complete; [and that your privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason  
652 of conviction of a felony;] so help you God.

653 FOR ATTORNEYS.

654 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will  
655 do nothing dishonest, and will not knowingly allow anything dishonest to be done in  
656 court, and that you will inform the court of any dishonesty of which you have knowledge;  
657 that you will not knowingly maintain or assist in maintaining any cause of action that is

658 false or unlawful; that you will not obstruct any cause of action for personal gain or  
659 malice; but that you will exercise the office of attorney, in any court in which you may  
660 practice, according to the best of your learning and judgment, faithfully, to both your  
661 client and the court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

662 FOR PETIT JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

663 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will,  
664 without respect of any persons or favor of any person, decide this case between the state  
665 of Connecticut and the defendant (or defendants) based on the evidence given in court  
666 and on the laws of this state, as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other  
667 about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the  
668 other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone  
669 else, or allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case until you have been discharged  
670 by the court; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until  
671 it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

672 FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

673 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that, if you  
674 become a member of the jury for this case, you will, without respect of any persons or  
675 favor of any person, decide this case between the state of Connecticut and the defendant  
676 (or defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state, as  
677 explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed  
678 to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in  
679 deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else  
680 to speak to you about this case until you have been discharged by the court; and that  
681 when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in  
682 court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

683 FOR JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

684 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will  
685 decide this case between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants)  
686 based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state as explained by the  
687 judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that  
688 you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about  
689 this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to speak to you,  
690 about this case; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision  
691 until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

692

FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

693 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that, if you  
694 become a member of the jury for this case, you will decide this case between the plaintiff  
695 and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants) based on the evidence given in court and  
696 on the laws of this state as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other  
697 about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the  
698 other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone  
699 else, or allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case; and that when you reach a  
700 decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you God  
701 or upon penalty of perjury.

702

VOIR DIRE.

703 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will  
704 answer truthfully all questions that you are asked, none of which will be about the merits  
705 of the case for which the jury is being selected; so help you God or upon penalty of  
706 perjury.

707

FOR WITNESSES.

708 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that the  
709 evidence you shall give concerning this case shall be the truth, the whole truth and  
710 nothing but the truth; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

711

FOR INVESTIGATORY GRAND JURY WITNESSES.

712 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that the  
713 evidence you shall give concerning this investigation into the commission of a crime or  
714 crimes, shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God or  
715 upon penalty of perjury.

716

FOR WITNESSES TWELVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

717 You promise that you will tell the truth.

718

FOR AN INTERPRETER IN A CRIMINAL CASE.

719 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will  
720 interpret accurately the information (or indictment) that charges the accused with a crime  
721 and all questions that the accused may be asked under the direction of the court in a

722 language the accused can understand and speak; that you will interpret accurately the  
723 pleas of the accused to the information (or indictment) and the answers of the accused to  
724 the court (or to the court and jury) in English; and that you will make all interpretations  
725 to the best of your skill and judgment; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

726 FOR AN INTERPRETER IN COURT.

727 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will  
728 interpret accurately the oath to be administered to the witness and all questions that the  
729 witness may be asked under direction of the court in a language the witness can  
730 understand and speak; that you will interpret accurately the answers of the witness to  
731 the court (or to the court and jury) in English; and that you will make all interpretations  
732 to the best of your skill and judgment; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

733 FOR AN INTERPRETER FOR A  
734 JUROR WHO IS DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING.

735 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will  
736 interpret accurately to a juror who is deaf or hard of hearing the juror orientation  
737 program, any oath to be administered to the juror, all testimony and other relevant  
738 conversation, and all questions that the juror may be asked under the direction of the  
739 court; that you will interpret accurately the answers of the juror to the court in English;  
740 that you will not participate in any manner in the deliberations of the jury other than  
741 making an accurate interpretation of the remarks of the jurors during deliberations; that  
742 you will make all interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; and that you will  
743 not communicate with anyone outside the jury concerning the business or matters before  
744 the jury; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

745 FOR ASSESSORS, TO SUBSCRIBE UPON ABSTRACT.

746 I, ..., assessor of the town of ..., do solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm,  
747 as the case may be, that I believe that all the lists, and the abstract of said town for the  
748 year 20., are made up and perfected according to law; so help me God or upon penalty  
749 of perjury.

750 FOR PLAINTIFF, WHEN INDIFFERENT PERSON IS  
751 AUTHORIZED TO SERVE WRIT.

752 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you  
753 believe the plaintiff is (or plaintiffs are) in danger of losing the debt (damage or other

754 thing) in this writ, unless an indifferent person is authorized to immediately serve this  
755 writ; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

756 FOR MEMBERS OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

757 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will truly try and  
758 determine, according to the evidence given in court, the matters depending between this  
759 state and the officer (or officers) now to be tried; that you will not divulge the sentence of  
760 the court until the same shall have been approved or disapproved, according to law;  
761 neither will you, at any time, disclose the vote or opinion of any member of the court,  
762 unless required by due course of law; so help you God.

763 FOR THE JUDGE-ADVOCATE OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

764 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will not, at any time  
765 whatever, disclose the vote or opinion of any member of any court-martial in which you  
766 may be called to act, unless required by due course of law, nor divulge the sentence of  
767 any such court, unless the same shall have been approved or disapproved, according to  
768 law; and that you will faithfully and impartially do the duty of judge-advocate, according  
769 to your best ability; so help you God.

770 FOR OFFICIALS APPOINTED TO SERVE IN ANY POLLING  
771 PLACE IN ANY ELECTION OR PRIMARY.

772 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will faithfully discharge,  
773 according to law, your duties as ...., to the best of your ability; and that you will serve in  
774 this election or primary as the case may be, as an official, completely impartial with  
775 respect to any candidate or any political party; so help you God.

776 FOR ALL OTHER PERSONS OF WHOM AN OATH IS REQUIRED.

777 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will  
778 faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as .... to the best of your abilities; so  
779 help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

780

781 Sec. 29. Sections 9-45, 9-46 and 9-46a of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July*  
782 *1, 2021*)

783

784 **Statement of Purpose:**

785 To (1) provide for the restoration of the right to become a registered voter and the  
786 electoral privileges of persons who are incarcerated for a felony conviction and the  
787 retention of such right and privileges by persons who may be incarcerated for a felony  
788 conviction in the future, and (2) support the civic participation of individuals committed  
789 to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional  
790 facility, by (A) requiring the Commissioner of Correction to provide to such persons  
791 voting information and materials concerning voter registration and absentee voting and  
792 (B) authorizing presumptive absentee ballot status for interested and eligible incarcerated  
793 persons under which absentee ballots would be mailed to them for each election, primary  
794 and referendum.