



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5533

LCO No. 2829



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING PROTECTION OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION PROCESSES, ELECTIONS SITES, ELECTION
WORKERS AND ELECTORS.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Election" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1 of the
3 general statutes;
- 4 (2) "Elections site" means (A) a polling place on the day of an election,
5 primary or referendum, (B) a location designated for the conduct of
6 early voting during the period of early voting at an election or primary,
7 (C) a location for same-day election registration on the day of a regular
8 election, or (D) a drop box designated for the deposit of absentee ballots
9 during the period beginning on the first day of issuance of absentee
10 voting sets and ending at the close of the polls at an election, primary or
11 referendum;
- 12 (3) "Primary" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-372 or 9-

13 463 of the general statutes, as applicable; and

14 (4) "Referendum" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1 of
15 the general statutes.

16 (b) (1) No officer or agent of any organization or entity authorized by
17 the federal government or by any state to use force against, search,
18 detain or arrest individuals, and no person authorized by the federal
19 government or by any state to order, bring, keep or have under such
20 person's authority or control any such officer or agent, shall (A)
21 knowingly be within two hundred fifty feet of any elections site, unless
22 (i) the Governor deems such force necessary to repel armed enemies of
23 the United States or of the state, (ii) in the case of any such search,
24 detention or arrest, such officer, agent or person (I) is acting in an official
25 capacity, (II) has given notice to the Secretary of the State and the
26 Attorney General not less than twenty-four hours prior to such search,
27 detention or arrest, and (III) is authorized by a judicial warrant or
28 judicial order of a court of competent jurisdiction to specifically conduct
29 such search, detention or arrest within two hundred fifty feet of such
30 elections site, and at the specific location at which such search, detention
31 or arrest is to be conducted, provided such officer, agent or person is
32 within such two hundred fifty feet only for as long as reasonably
33 necessary to conduct such search, detention or arrest, (iii) exigent
34 circumstances reasonably require the presence of any such officer, agent
35 or person to protect against a serious threat to life or property, provided
36 such officer, agent or person is within such two hundred fifty feet only
37 for as long as reasonably necessary to protect against such threat, or (iv)
38 the Secretary of the State or moderator (I) requests such force to
39 suppress disorder, or (II) has given permission for such an officer, agent
40 or person to be present and such permission has not been withdrawn,
41 (B) knowingly be within three hundred feet of an elections site for the
42 purpose of attempting to examine the qualifications to vote of any
43 individual at such elections site, or (C) knowingly loiter or remain in or
44 about the elections site building or grounds.

45 (2) Nothing in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be construed to
46 prevent any officer, agent or person described in said subdivision, when
47 off duty, from voting in accordance with the provisions of title 9 of the
48 general statutes or otherwise engaging in protected political expression.

49 (c) No person shall wear any mask or other covering that obscures
50 the face, head or identity of such person within two hundred fifty feet
51 of any elections site, unless such mask or other covering is medically
52 necessary or of religious significance.

53 (d) (1) No person shall be required to present any form of
54 identification within two hundred fifty feet of any elections site.

55 (2) Nothing in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be construed to
56 prevent any election, primary or referendum official from performing
57 any duty under title 9 of the general statutes.

58 (e) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
59 guilty of a class C felony and shall be disfranchised.

60 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,
61 "person", "possess", "firearm", "deadly weapon" and "peace officer" have
62 the same meanings as provided in section 53a-3 of the general statutes;
63 "election" and "referendum" have the same meanings as provided in
64 section 9-1 of the general statutes; and "primary" has the same meaning
65 as provided in section 9-372 or 9-463 of the general statutes, as
66 applicable.

67 (b) A person is guilty of possession of a weapon near an elections site
68 when, knowing that such person is not permitted by law to do so, such
69 person possesses a firearm or deadly weapon within two hundred fifty
70 feet of any (1) polling place on the day of an election, primary or
71 referendum, (2) location designated for the conduct of early voting
72 during the period of early voting at an election or primary, (3) location
73 designated for same-day election registration on the day of a regular
74 election, (4) central location designated for the counting of absentee

75 ballots, early voting ballots or same-day election registration ballots at
76 an election, primary or referendum, as applicable, (5) place where a
77 recanvass is being conducted, or (6) drop box designated for the deposit
78 of absentee ballots during the period beginning on the first day of
79 issuance of absentee voting sets and ending at the close of the polls at
80 an election, primary or referendum.

81 (c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to
82 the otherwise lawful possession of a firearm or deadly weapon:

83 (1) On private property that is not part of any elections site described
84 in subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section;

85 (2) That is (A) not loaded, and (B) in a locked container, or a locked
86 firearms rack, that is on a motor vehicle;

87 (3) In the case of any elections site described in subdivisions (1) to (6),
88 inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section that is in or on the real
89 property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary
90 school, by a person (A) for use in a program approved by school officials
91 in or on such school property, (B) in accordance with an agreement
92 entered into between school officials and such person or such person's
93 employer, or (C) while traversing such school property for the purpose
94 of gaining access to public or private lands open to hunting or for other
95 lawful purposes, provided such firearm or deadly weapon is not loaded
96 and the entry on such school property is permitted by the local or
97 regional board of education;

98 (4) By a peace officer while engaged in the performance of such peace
99 officer's official duties; and

100 (5) By a person passing within two hundred fifty feet of an elections
101 site described in subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of
102 this section only for as long as necessary to be within such two hundred
103 fifty feet while on the way to a place or location other than such elections
104 site.

105 (d) Possession of a weapon near an elections site is a (1) class D felony
106 for a first offense, and (2) class B felony for any subsequent offense.

107 Sec. 3. Section 9-364a of the general statutes is repealed and the
108 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

109 (a) As used in this section, "election worker" means any municipal
110 clerk, assistant municipal clerk, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of
111 voters, election official described in section 9-258, primary official
112 described in section 9-436 or recanvass official described in section 9-
113 311, and "personal identifying information" has the same meaning as
114 provided in section 53a-129a.

115 (b) Any person who influences or attempts to influence by force or
116 threat the vote, or by force, threat, bribery or corrupt means, the speech,
117 of any other person at a primary, caucus, referendum, convention or
118 election; any person who influences or attempts to influence by force,
119 threat or harassment any election worker in the performance of any duty
120 under the provisions of this title related to election administration at a
121 primary, referendum, election or recanvass; any person who wilfully
122 and fraudulently suppresses or destroys any vote or ballot properly
123 given or cast, whether so given or cast by mail, by deposit in a secure
124 drop box or in person at a polling place or designated early voting or
125 same-day election registration location, or, in counting such votes or
126 ballots, wilfully miscounts or misrepresents the number thereof; and
127 any presiding or other officer of a primary, caucus or convention who
128 wilfully announces the result of a ballot or vote of such primary, caucus
129 or convention, untruly and wrongfully, shall be guilty of a class C
130 felony.

131 (c) Any person who, with intent to harass, terrorize or alarm any
132 election worker, or to improperly influence any election worker in the
133 performance of any duty under this title related to election
134 administration at a primary, referendum, election or recanvass, publicly
135 discloses the personal identifying information of such election worker

136 shall be guilty of a (1) class A misdemeanor for a first offense, and (2)
137 class C felony for any subsequent offense.

138 (d) Any election worker described in subsection (b) or (c) of this
139 section, as applicable, shall have a civil cause of action against the
140 person who, with respect to such election worker, violated said
141 subsection.

142 Sec. 4. Section 9-352 of the general statutes is repealed and the
143 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

144 (a) Any election official who, with intent to cause or permit any
145 voting tabulator to fail to correctly register all votes cast thereon, (1)
146 tampers with or disarranges [such tabulator] in any way such tabulator
147 or any part or appliance thereof, or (2) causes such tabulator to be used
148 or consents to its being used for voting at any election with knowledge
149 of the fact that the same is (A) not in order, or (B) not perfectly set and
150 adjusted to correctly register all votes cast thereon, [or] shall be guilty of
151 a class D felony.

152 (b) Any election official who, for the purpose of (1) defrauding or
153 deceiving any elector, or [of] (2) causing it to (A) be doubtful for what
154 candidate or candidates or proposition any vote is cast, or [causing it to]
155 (B) appear upon such tabulator that votes cast for one candidate or
156 proposition were cast for another candidate or proposition, removes,
157 changes or mutilates any ballot shall be guilty of a class D felony.

158 (c) Any election official who provides to any third party that has not
159 been authorized by the Secretary of the State any tabulator or any part
160 or appliance thereof shall be guilty of a class D felony.

161 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any person who knowingly (1)
162 tampers with, alters, destroys or unlawfully carries away a drop box
163 designated for the deposit of absentee ballots; (2) changes or destroys a
164 ballot after it has been deposited in such a drop box; (3) adds one or
165 more ballots to those which have been lawfully deposited in such a drop

166 box, whether before or after such ballots have been counted, by
167 fraudulently depositing such additional ballot or ballots into such drop
168 box in a manner not authorized by law and falsely claiming that such
169 additional ballot or ballots were lawfully deposited into such drop box,
170 with the intent to interrupt or invalidate an election, primary or
171 referendum; or (4) adds one or more ballots to those which have been
172 retrieved from such a drop box by fraudulently introducing such
173 additional ballot or ballots while such ballots are being counted or
174 recanvassed, with intent to affect the result of an election, primary or
175 referendum or to enter any ballot into evidence at any hearing held
176 pursuant to chapter 149 or 152 of the general statutes for the contest of
177 such election, primary or referendum, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

178 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) If any municipal official,
179 including any election worker, as defined in section 9-364a of the
180 general statutes, as amended by this act, receives from any private or
181 governmental entity, individual or official a subpoena, warrant or other
182 request for or to inspect any record or recording of or produced at, or
183 any tabulator, ballot box or other device used in the conduct of, any
184 election, primary or referendum, such municipal official shall, not later
185 than thirty-six hours after the receipt of such subpoena, warrant or other
186 request, provide a copy of such subpoena, warrant or other request to
187 the offices of the Attorney General and the Secretary of the State. The
188 offices of the Attorney General and the Secretary of the State shall post
189 notice, on each of said offices' Internet web sites, of the methods by
190 which a municipal official may provide such copy to said offices. In the
191 case of the Secretary of the State receiving such a subpoena, warrant or
192 other request, the Secretary shall immediately provide a copy of such
193 subpoena, warrant or other request to the office of the Attorney General.

194 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,
195 "election worker" means any municipal clerk, assistant municipal clerk,
196 registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters or election official
197 described in section 9-258 of the general statutes.

198 (b) The Attorney General may seek preliminary or permanent
199 injunctive, declaratory or other appropriate equitable relief to prevent
200 or redress interference in connection with any election for presidential
201 electors, a senator in Congress or representative in Congress by bringing
202 a complaint to any judge of the Supreme Court, in which the Attorney
203 General shall set out the claimed interference. The Attorney General
204 shall file a certification attached to the complaint indicating that a copy
205 of the complaint has been sent by first-class mail or delivered to the
206 Secretary of the State, the State Elections Enforcement Commission and
207 any other interested party. If such complaint is made prior to such
208 election, such judge shall proceed expeditiously to render judgment on
209 the complaint and shall cause notice of the hearing to be given to the
210 Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission.
211 If such complaint is made subsequent to the election, it shall be brought
212 not later than fourteen days after the election. Upon receipt of such
213 complaint, such judge shall forthwith order any injunctive or
214 declaratory relief necessary to preserve or restore the status quo,
215 including, but not limited to, ordering that an election worker retain
216 custody of any record or recording of or produced at, or any tabulator,
217 ballot box or other device used in the conduct of, such election. Upon a
218 showing of exigent circumstances, such judge may issue an immediate
219 ex parte order granting such relief as such judge deems appropriate.
220 Such judge shall forthwith order a hearing to be had upon such
221 complaint, upon a day not more than five or less than three days from
222 the making of such order, and shall cause notice of not less than three or
223 more than five days to be given to any candidate or candidates whose
224 election may be affected by the decision upon such hearing, to any
225 election worker who may be affected by the decision upon such hearing,
226 to the Secretary of the State, to the State Elections Enforcement
227 Commission and to any other party or parties whom such judge deems
228 proper parties thereto, of the time and place for the hearing upon such
229 complaint. Such judge, with two other judges of the Supreme Court to
230 be designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on the day fixed
231 for such hearing and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the

232 parties. If sufficient reason is shown, such judges may order that the
 233 State Elections Enforcement Commission maintain custody of any
 234 record or recording of or produced at, or any tabulator, ballot box or
 235 other device used in the conduct of, such election. If sufficient reason is
 236 shown, such judges may order permanent injunctive, declaratory or
 237 other appropriate equitable relief in connection with the State Elections
 238 Enforcement Commission or election worker custody of any record or
 239 recording of or produced at, or any tabulator, ballot box or other device
 240 used in the conduct of, such election.

241 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 3-129g of the 2026 supplement to the
 242 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
 243 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

244 (a) The Attorney General may investigate, intervene in or bring a civil
 245 or administrative action in the name of the state, seeking injunctive or
 246 declaratory relief, damages, and any other relief that may be available
 247 under law, whenever any person is or has engaged in a practice or
 248 pattern of conduct, or has established a policy, that:

249 (1) Subjects, or causes to be subjected, other persons to the
 250 deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the
 251 constitutions or laws of this state or the United States; or

252 (2) Interferes, or attempts to interfere, by threats, intimidation, [or]
 253 coercion or physical obstruction, with the exercise or enjoyment by other
 254 persons of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the
 255 constitutions or laws of this state or the United States.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-364a
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-352
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	3-129g(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) establish prohibitions on certain conduct, including the possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, at or near certain elections-related locations, (2) impose criminal penalties for harassment of election workers and tampering with or unauthorized sharing of election equipment, and (3) allow for Attorney General involvement in matters relating to subpoenas, warrants, other requests and alleged interference with elections.

[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.]