



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Proposed Bill No. 154

LCO No. 521



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Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
SEN. KASSER, 36th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING RIGHTS.

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

1 That title 9 of the general statutes be amended to provide that (1)
2 beginning at least two weeks prior to the day of an election, and
3 immediately upon receipt of a returned absentee ballot, local election
4 officials shall, prior to such day of election, (A) process such returned
5 absentee ballot by removing the inner envelope from the outer envelope
6 and confirm that the statement on the inner envelope has been signed,
7 but shall not open such inner envelope or remove the absentee ballot
8 therefrom, and (B) enter such processed absentee ballot into a public
9 online database for the purpose of advising the elector who returned
10 such absentee ballot (i) of its receipt by such local election officials, and
11 (ii) of any deficiency identified in its processing so that such elector may
12 rectify such deficiency, (2) local election officials shall count each such
13 returned and processed absentee ballot beginning the morning of such
14 day of election, (3) the Secretary of the State shall (A) mail an absentee
15 ballot to each elector without requiring such elector to submit an

16 application for such absentee ballot, or (B) create an online portal
17 through which any elector may submit an electronic application for an
18 absentee ballot, and (4) no person may possess a firearm (A) in any
19 polling place, or (B) within a radius of two hundred feet of any polling
20 place.

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) implement several changes designed to increase access to absentee ballots, (2) minimize the number of absentee ballots that are rejected, (3) improve timely tabulation of absentee ballots, and (4) prohibit the presence of firearms in or near polling places.