



General Assembly  
February Session, 2006

**Raised Bill No.**  
LCO No. 2097

403



Referred to Committee on  
**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS**  
Introduced by:  
(GAE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING WRITE-IN VOTES.**

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

- 1 Section 1. Section 9-175 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):
- 3 (a) The electors in the several towns in the state, at the state election
- 4 in 1964, and quadrennially thereafter, shall elect electors of President
- 5 and Vice President of the United States, not exceeding in number the
- 6 whole number of senators and representatives to which the state is
- 7 then entitled in the Congress of the United States. Voting shall be
- 8 conducted and the result declared, and the returns thereof made, as is
- 9 provided in respect to state elections. The Secretary of the State shall,
- 10 on or before the first Monday of October of the year in which such
- 11 presidential electors are to be elected, transmit blank forms to the
- 12 several town clerks for the return of the votes; and the lists and returns
- 13 of the votes shall be made out, certified and directed according to such
- 14 forms. When an election is to be held for the choice of presidential
- 15 electors, if any political party has nominated candidates for President
- 16 and Vice President of the United States, and presidential electors to
- 17 vote for such presidential and vice presidential candidates have been

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18 nominated by a political convention of such party in this state, or in  
19 such other manner as entitles the names of such electors to be placed  
20 upon the official ballots to be used in such election, the Secretary of the  
21 State and any other official charged with the preparation of official  
22 ballots to be used in such election, in lieu of placing the names of such  
23 presidential electors on such official ballots, shall place on such official  
24 ballots a space with the words "Presidential electors for (here insert the  
25 last name of the candidate for President, the word 'and' and the last  
26 name of the candidate for Vice President)"; and a vote cast therefor  
27 shall be counted, and shall be in all respects effective, as a vote for each  
28 of the presidential electors representing such candidates for President  
29 and Vice President.

30 (b) In the case of a write-in candidate for President of the United  
31 States, such candidate may register his candidacy with the Secretary of  
32 the State by submitting his name and the names of a vice presidential  
33 candidate and candidates for the office of elector in a number not  
34 exceeding the whole number of electors to which the state is then  
35 entitled. Such registration shall be on a form prescribed by the  
36 Secretary of the State, which form shall include a statement of consent  
37 to being a candidate by each proposed candidate for elector and by the  
38 candidate for Vice President. Such registration shall not include a  
39 designation of political party. A candidate for President may register at  
40 any time after January first of the election year and not later than four  
41 o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day preceding the election at which the  
42 offices of presidential elector and vice presidential elector are being  
43 contested. If a candidate has so registered, a vote may be cast by write-  
44 in ballot for such candidate by writing in the last name of the  
45 candidate for President and the last name of the candidate for Vice  
46 President or only the last name of the candidate for President; such  
47 write-in ballot shall be counted, and shall be in all respects effective, as  
48 a vote for each of the presidential electors representing such  
49 candidates for President and Vice President. No person nominated for  
50 the office of President, Vice President, or presidential elector by a  
51 major or minor party or by nominating petition shall register as a

52 write-in candidate for such office under the provisions of this section  
53 and any such registration of a write-in candidacy filed by such a  
54 person shall be void.

55 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,  
56 a person may cast a vote for a write-in candidate who has not  
57 registered with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the  
58 provisions of subsection (b) of this section and whose name does not  
59 otherwise appear on such ballot by writing in the full name of the  
60 candidate for President and the full name of the candidate for Vice  
61 President; such write-in ballot shall be counted, and shall be in all  
62 respects effective, as a vote for each of the presidential electors  
63 representing such candidates for President and Vice President.

64 Sec. 2. Section 9-265 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
65 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

66 (a) A write-in ballot for an office, cast for a person who has  
67 registered as a write-in candidate for the office pursuant to subsection  
68 (b) of section 9-175, as amended by this act, or section 9-373a, shall be  
69 counted and recorded. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a  
70 write-in ballot cast for a person who has not registered shall not be  
71 counted or recorded.

72 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, in the case of an  
73 office for which an elector may vote for only one candidate, a write-in  
74 ballot cast for a person nominated for that office by a major or minor  
75 party or by nominating petition shall be counted and recorded. In the  
76 case of an office for which an elector may vote for more than one  
77 candidate, a write-in ballot cast for a person nominated for that office  
78 by a major or minor party or by nominating petition shall not be  
79 counted or recorded.

80 (c) A write-in ballot for the office of Governor or Lieutenant  
81 Governor, cast for a person nominated for either of those offices by a  
82 major or minor party or by nominating petition, in conjunction with a

83 write-in ballot for the other such office cast for a person nominated for  
84 either office by a different party or petition, shall not be counted or  
85 recorded for either office.

86 (d) Except as hereinafter provided, a write-in ballot for the office of  
87 President or Vice-President cast for a person nominated for such office  
88 by a major or minor party or by nominating petition shall be counted  
89 and recorded and deemed to be a vote for each of the duly-nominated  
90 candidates for the office of presidential elector represented by such  
91 candidate for President or Vice-President. A write-in ballot for the  
92 office of President or Vice-President, cast for a person nominated for  
93 either of such offices by a major or minor party or by nominating  
94 petition, in conjunction with a write-in ballot for the other such office  
95 cast for a person nominated for either office by a different party or  
96 petition, shall not be counted or recorded for either office.

97 (e) If the name of a person is written in for the office of Governor or  
98 Lieutenant Governor, or President or Vice-President, as the case may  
99 be, and no name is written in for the other office, such write-in ballot  
100 shall be counted and recorded if it meets the other requirements of this  
101 section.

102 (f) A write-in ballot for an office, cast for a person who has not  
103 registered as a write-in candidate for the office pursuant to subsection  
104 (b) of section 9-175, as amended by this act, or section 9-373a, shall be  
105 counted and recorded provided the name of such person does not  
106 otherwise appear on the ballot for such office and the name of only one  
107 candidate for such office appears on the ballot.

108 [(f)] (g) A write-in ballot shall be cast in its appropriate place on the  
109 voting machine. A write-in ballot for Governor and Lieutenant  
110 Governor, or for President and Vice-President, as the case may be,  
111 shall be written in a single space, provided that if only one name is  
112 written in the space it shall be deemed to be a vote for Governor, or for  
113 President, as the case may be, unless otherwise indicated. A write-in  
114 ballot shall be written upon the paper contained in the receptacle or

115 device provided in the voting machine for such purpose. The registrars  
 116 of voters shall cause an adhesive label, provided by the Secretary of the  
 117 State, upon which shall be imprinted the words "write-in slides", to be  
 118 affixed to the upper left-hand corner of each voting machine, directly  
 119 opposite the write-in slides. The registrars shall (1) lock all write-in  
 120 slides if there are no registered write-in candidates for any office, or (2)  
 121 lock the write-in slides for multiple-opening offices if there are  
 122 registered write-in candidates only for single opening offices.

123 [(g)] (h) A write-in ballot which is not cast as provided in this  
 124 section shall not be counted or recorded.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2006	9-175
Sec. 2	October 1, 2006	9-265

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow voters to write-in the name of any person for any office so long as that person's name does not already appear on the ballot for that office and there is only one candidate for that office.

*[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.]*