

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS

Public Act 12-57, "An Act Concerning Permanent Absentee Ballot Status for the Permanently Disabled" created permanent absentee balloting status for certain individuals and became effective January 1, 2013.

To be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status, an elector must file an absentee ballot application together with a doctor's certificate stating that they have a permanent disability and are unable to appear in person at their polling place. The doctor's note should be on letterhead. There is no prescribed form—the doctor's note and the absentee ballot application would satisfy the requirement of the law.

Permanent absentee ballot status enables the elector to receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary, and referendum* in the municipality in which they are eligible to vote. Absentee ballots are available 21 days before a Primary and 31 days before an Election. *The only exception to the automatic receipt of a ballot is in those instances where there is less than 3 weeks' notice for a referendum. Statutes prohibit the mailing of ballots for these referendums instead an application will be sent to the elector outlining their options to have someone pick up a ballot in the Town Clerk's office.

ELIGIBILITY

In January of each year the Registrars of Voters will send written notice to each elector with permanent absentee ballot status to determine if the elector continues to reside at the address on the permanent absentee ballot application. If the elector fails to respond to the notice, the permanent absentee ballot status will be removed, but the elector will remain on the voter registration list.

For more instructions and an absentee ballot application, please see the Town Clerk Page on the Town Website at www.mansfieldct.gov or call the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302.

Absentee ballot applications are available online at <http://www.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?q=489910> or in paper copy form at the Town Clerk's Office.

A copy of the language from the Public Act is available on the second page of this document.

Public Act No. 12-57

AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS FOR THE PERMANENTLY DISABLED.

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

Section 1. Section 9-140e of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2013*):

(a) Any elector who is permanently physically disabled and who files an application for an absentee ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that such elector is permanently physically disabled and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated polling location, shall be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status and shall receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary or referendum conducted in such elector's municipality for which such elector is eligible to vote. Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status shall remain in effect until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official registry list of the municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee ballot status pursuant to the provisions of this section, or (3) requests that he or she no longer receive such permanent absentee ballot status.

(b) The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each such elector with permanent absentee ballot status in January of each year, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, for the purpose of determining if such elector continues to reside at the address indicated on the elector's permanent absentee ballot application. If (1) such written notice is returned as undeliverable, or (2) not later than thirty days after such notice is sent to the elector, the elector fails to return such notice to the registrars of voters, as directed on the form, the elector in question shall be removed from permanent absentee ballot status. If such elector indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides at such address and the elector's new address is within the same municipality, the registrars of voters shall change the elector's address pursuant to section 9-35 and such elector shall retain permanent absentee ballot status. If the elector indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides in the municipality, the registrars of voters shall remove such individual from the registry list of the municipality and send such individual an application for voter registration. Failure to return such written notice shall not result in the removal of an elector from the official registry list of the municipality.