



Legislative Action Bulletin

September 23, 2009



An Update on State Election Legislation from **The Canvass®**

2009 By the Numbers

- 5 states currently in session
- 2 states currently in recess
- 43 states adjourned for the year
- 2,297 election bills introduced
- 213 enacted
- 597 pending in chamber of origin
- 31 pending in second chamber
- 15 awaiting gubernatorial action
- 526 carried over to 2010 session
- 906 failed to pass
- 9 vetoed

NCSL Resources

[Election Bills Database](#)

[2009 Session Calendar](#)

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California Adjourns

California adjourned for the year on September 12, having passed five election related bills and sending another 17 to Governor Schwarzenegger for his consideration. Among the 17 are:

- AB 30 - pre-registration for 17 year-olds
- AB 84 - free access system for vote-by-mail status
- AB 330 - public notice requirement for voting machine testing
- AB 1228 - mail voting pilot program

Another 25 bills were carried over to the 2010 session. These bills must be passed by their chamber of origin no later than January 31, 2010, in order to be considered in the 2010 session.

Massachusetts Passes U.S. Senate Vacancy Bill

The legislature has passed [HB 656](#), allowing the governor to make a temporary appointment to fill a vacant U.S. Senate seat until a special election is held. The governor is expected to sign it on Wed. 9/23, and a new U.S. Senator could be appointed before the end of the week.

Illinois: Governor Signs [SB 1801](#)

Requires that certain permanent early voting polling places must remain open additional hours on holidays during the early voting period and on the final weekend of the early voting period.

North Carolina: Governor Signs [HB 908](#)

Provides pre-registration for 16 and 17-year-olds; requires a public hearing before a local government can adopt instant run-off; makes various changes to laws regarding voting equipment, preparation of ballots, and duties of state and local election officials.

New York: Governor Vetoes [A 584](#)

The bill would have required that all polling places be accessible to the physically disabled and ADA-compliant.

Recess is Over

The Wisconsin Legislature concluded its summer recess on Sept. 15. 12 election bills are pending, and hot issues include felon voting rights and continuity of government in periods of emergency.

New Jersey comes back from summer recess on Sept. 24, with about 150 election-related bills pending.

New!

2010 primary dates and seats up are now posted on [NCSL's website](#).