

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5379

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Title: PROCEDURES RELATED TO REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.

Vote Date: 3/29/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/11/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill makes many changes to remove systems that are no longer in use or necessary. This bill would repeal section 9-192a of Connecticut General Statutes, this would remove the elections training unit that has not been in use since 2005. This bill would also make changes to sections 9-35a, 9-172a and 9-172b. In the past, voter registration lists were printed annually. This meant that voters only had one opportunity each year to change their voter registration information. The state currently uses the Connecticut Voter Registration System. This allows voters to change their information electronically making these sections unnecessary. This bill also makes changes to incorporate the electronic systems used during the election day process and remove language referencing procedures no longer used by the state.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Denise Merrill, Secretary of the State, State of Connecticut

SOTS Merrill opposes sections 14-17 and support the remainder of the bill. Sections 14-17 eliminate the requirements for Registrar of Voters to file hard copies with of election returns with the Office of the Secretary of the State. This can create negative outcomes with the state's Election Management System.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut, Legislative Committee

This bill removes practices and procedures that are no longer in place in Connecticut. The Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut is also asking for changes to section 9-16 of General Statutes. This would allow towns to share information about enrollment session on their websites.

Luther Weeks, Executive Director, CT Voters Count

CT Voters Count suggests changes to language interrupted counting. They suggest establishing a way to notify parties, candidates, and the public to be notified when voting resumes. Suggestions were made to change language to apply to the machines that the state currently uses rather than the lever machines used in the past. This will strengthen the state's ballot security.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Godbout Mr. Godbout expressed opposition to the bill due to disagreeing with the virtual procedure followed by the CGA for public hearings.

Reported by: Grace Carlos

Date: 3-29-22