

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5310

AN ACT CONCERNING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS AND THE

**Title:** CERTIFICATION OR DECLARATION OF ELECTION RESULTS.

**Vote Date:** 3/22/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/4/2024

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration & Elections Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would ensure that Presidential electors vote in the way they have committed to vote and would create a procedure to ensure that the election results are certified in an efficient manner.

The substitute language allows the judicial branch to refer fact-finding on election certification decisions to the Superior court.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Stephanie Thomas, Connecticut Secretary of The State: Supports this bill because it establishes a faithless elector provision that could establish consequences for presidential electors who fail to vote the way they are required. This could include nullifying their vote and barring them from serving in that office in the future. States that there are concerns with Section 2 (a) Lines 55-57 and requests that the office of the Secretary of The State be removed from those lines. Also requests that the language allowing a resident to bring an action against the Secretary be removed, as such an allowance could lead to frivolous litigation.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Yvonne Senturia, Dr, CT League of Women Voters: Supports this bill because it protects the rights of voters by requiring presidential electors to cast their vote for the candidate chosen by the voters.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

No sources of opposition were provided.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Lee Ross, Deputy Director, Judicial Branch External Affairs Division: States that they have a concern that the bill would allow residents to file a complaint and compel certain officers to get involved in the certification and election results.

Debra Owens: States that this bill is well intended but will not address dying of democracy in America and the west's rise towards fascism.

**Reported by: Gabriel Marques, Assistant Clerk      Date: 4/3/2024**