Government Administration and Elections Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5553 / Bill Status / Public Hearing Testimony
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO AN ABSENTEE VOTING STATUTE.
Vote Date: 3/23/2026
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/18/2026
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to revise grammatical and technical discrepancies as well as consolidate redundant language within the statutes regarding absentee voting. This change is done to clean up errors and provide clarity on previously unclear surrounding statutes due to language.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Marian Hanson

Connecticut has been a leader on so many issues, but here we lag. Voters are not kids, who need a valid excuse for an absence. Citizens should have access to absentee ballots without asking for permission. It infantilizes our voting rights. Sadly, acts of violence against public officials has escalated in the past five years, and these public servants deserve protection.

Cheryl Marino

As a 70-year-old voter who has navigated name changes through two marriages, she finds the SAVE Act deeply concerning. Requiring natural-born citizens to provide specialized proof of citizenship is an unnecessary burden, particularly for working families already struggling to

manage life's logistical demands. This Act threatens to complicate election administration and creates 'unintended consequences' for officials. Non-citizen voting is already illegal and vanishingly rare; federal law already carries the heavy penalty of deportation for such offenses—a risk very few would ever take. The state should be making voting more accessible, not creating new bureaucratic barriers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Laura Neves

She strongly and highly opposes this bill.

Reported by: Diane Young-Rodney **Date: March 31, 2026**