

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 2234	PA 442 <del>for</del>	1957
Elections	127-129	(3)
House	2533-2534	(2)
Senate	2871-2872	(2)
	Total	(7) p.

Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate  
and House of Representatives Proceedings

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JOINT  
STANDING  
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HEARINGS

LECTIONS

CONN.  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
1957

SPEC. SESSION  
MARCH 1958

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ELECTIONS

PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1957

127

Presiding: Senator David Johnstone  
Representative Rodney Eielson

Members present: Senators: Chm. Johnstone  
Representatives: Chm. Eielson, Budd, Covell,  
Curtiss, Kennedy, Lewis, Luce, Prokop,  
Suarez.

Chm. Johnstone: The hearing will come to order, and we will take the bills up in the order they are listed in the bulletin. Are there any Senators or Representatives who have any particular bill they want to speak on? If not, we will proceed to the first bill, H.B. 2200 (Committee) AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING MACHINE BALLOT LABELS FOR THE BIENNIAL ELECTIONS OF THE TOWN OF ANDOVER. Is there anyone wishing to speak for the bill? Anyone in opposition to the bill? If not, we'll close on this bill, and proceed to H.B. 2234 (Committee) AN ACT CONCERNING ENROLLMENT OF ELECTORS. Anyone wishing to speak for the bill?

Amelia Toro, Office of the Secretary of State: This bill apparently incorporates many of the suggestions that were made by the town clerks and registrars of voters at their various seminars for the purpose of studying the changes of the election laws. Now the basic purpose of this bill is to conform the provision of our election laws relating to the enrollment of electors to the provisions of our new primary law. In the first section it is provided that in every town in the state, in the even number years, there must be a session for enrollment. Unless the registrars decide otherwise at the session required to be held on the second Friday in June in each even number year, the registrar shall not only add names to the enrollment list but they shall correct the existing enrollment list. On the second Friday in January a session is held for enrollment for the sole purpose of adding names to the enrollment list. Now, if the registrars desire it in any particular town they may provide that the session in January shall be the one for the correction of the list instead of the session in June. In the odd number years it is provided that in each municipality which holds a municipal election there shall be a session for enrollment, both for purposes of adding names to the enrollment list and for purposes of correcting the list, on the Friday of the fourteenth week before each municipal election. Now, the bill goes on to provide that in those towns or municipalities which do not have a municipal election in the odd number year, there shall be a session for enrollment on the second Friday of June in such odd number year, both for the purpose of adding names to the enrollment list and for the purpose of correcting the list. Now with respect to those

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Amelia Toro, Office of Secretary of State: (cont.) towns which do not hold a municipal election in the odd number years, it has been suggested that the sessions for enrollment, that the law should not require that such session be both for addition and for correction, but that it shall be only for addition unless the registrars deem it desirable that it should also be for correction. The purpose of the suggestion that has been made is to eliminate the cost of printing a corrected list in the event that there is no need for it in the particular town. It would appear that that is a sound suggestion.

Now the third section of this bill continues the additional discretionary enrollment sessions. And there, of course, it is within the discretion of the registrar as to whether or not they are needed and as to whether or not they should be held.

The next section relates to the notice that must be given of these various sessions for enrollment. The fifth section relates to the preparation and distribution of enrollment lists and it also clarifies the rights of those enrolled party members who move from one voting district in a municipality to another voting district in a municipality. The sixth section relates to the registry list which is to be used at primaries. The next section relates to application for enrollment, and again I've already indicated that a great deal of time and study has gone into this bill on the part of the municipal officials whose work is with elections, and after further deliberation this section as it now stands would eliminate the affidavit and would provide for enrollment, it would provide for a statement under penalty of perjury and when the application is not made at the offices of the registrar or in person to the registrars, it further requires that it be witnessed by another elector. Now certain registrars, after further study of this section, are reluctant to do away with the affidavit because they consider it a safeguard and they have concluded that it would be best to continue the affidavit, so Section 7 as it appears in this bill, in their opinion should be modified by providing once more for the affidavit on the part of the applicant for enrollment. Now, of course, the rest of this section which prescribes what the application should require, it would appear, should remain unchanged because it seems to be very sound.

Now, another thing that has been added in this enrollment bill is, and which apparently has been the practice in many of our towns in the state, provides that at sessions for making voters registrars of voters may be present

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Amelia Toro, Office of the Secretary of State (cont.)

not only for their existing duties under the law, but also for accepting applications for enrollment on the part of newly made voters. Section 12, I think is also worthy of your attention. It defines what enrollment list shall mean, and I think it is a noble effort to try to define that term.

Mr. Herbert Loewith, Registrar of Fairfield, Vice President of Registrars Association: The registrars heartily concur with this bill for enrollment, for the changes, and particularly the last section where they could take enrollment at the time that the voters are registered.

Mr. Walter Willie, Registrar in Norwich: I wish to register in favor of the bill.

Mr. Henry Claffey, Registrar of Hartford: I'm in favor of this bill and I talked to Ken Larson who represents us, and I couldn't get ahold of MacLarney yesterday, but neither one of them can be here. Larson is taking his wife to the hospital and MacLarney had a death in the family so they could not come up. They would like to make arrangements to get together with you to talk before you do anything definite on these bills.

Mr. Everett Dow, Town Clerk of West Hartford, President of Town Clerks Association of Connecticut: I participated in the initial studies on this enrollment problem. I would like to call your attention to the fact that an effort such as this bill makes to clarify the laws in relation to enrollment has become necessary by virtue of the primary law. It didn't matter so much previously but it's very easy to visualize the possibilities of difficulties that might eventually go to court in relation to primary contests. The Town Clerks Association is in favor of this bill.

Mr. Herbert Loewith: I wish to file this with the committee. It is a letter from the President of the Registrars Association.

Mr. Nicholas Spellman: Whether it means anything or not, I would suggest that the committee give consideration to maintaining the status quo on the notarizing these applications. There have been some pretty sad recollections in the past of people being registered when they didn't know it. It doesn't hurt the process any to have them notarized, and I suggest that they maintain the notarization.

Chm. Johnstone: Is there anyone else wishing to speak for the bill? Is there anyone wishing to speak in opposition to the bill? If not, we will close on H.B. 2234

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HOUSE

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2427-2922

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MR. FARNAM: (WALLINGFORD)

The Clerk has an amendment.

THE CLERK:

House Amend. Sched. "A" as offered by Mr. Farnam of Wallingford, to Sub. H.B. 2215, File 1089. In Section 1, lines 13 to 23 delete all italicized matter.

MR. FARNAM:

This reflects the change of thinking upon the masterminds of the dairy industry, and eliminates a particular type of milk which would be called low-fat milk. I urge the adoption of this amendment.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on the adoption of the amendment. Remark further. The 'ayes' have it. The amendment is adopted, AND under the rules of the House this bill as amended must go back to the Legislative Commissioner's office.

THE CLERK:

Cal. 1524. File 1088. H.B. 2234. Concerning enrollment of electors.

ELECTIONS.

MRS. KENNEDY: (WASHINGTON)

I move for acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

The essential purpose of this bill is to clarify the provisions of our existing law with respect to party enrollment of electors, and to amend such provisions and conform the same to

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our new primary law in order that both may work more smoothly and more effectively. This bill insures that a session of the registrars of voters will be held at least once each year. It prescribes the for enrollment sessions and requires that in a municipality divided into voting districts an enrollment session be held at uniform hours. Clarifies the notice to be given of sessions and the officials responsible for holding such sessions; it clarifies the right of and the restrictions upon an elector transferring from one party to another party, and of an enrolled member moving from one district to another. It qualifies the duties of the registrars of voters and the assistant registrars, with respect to sessions for enrollment and preparation of enrollment lists, particularly in municipalities divided into voting districts. It clarifies the rights and privileges to applicants for enrollment or transferred enrollment. In Sec. 7 and 10 it prescribes the requirements for application for party enrollment, erasure or transfer. It permits newly made electors to apply for enrollment prior to the close of adjournment of the session of which they were admitted as electors and immediately <sup>acquire</sup> ~~apply~~ privileges of party enrollment. It requires registrars during the last week in June of each year to notify the Sec. of State of the total number of electors enrolled on each party enrollment list. I recommend its passage.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further. If not, question is on acceptance and passage. The 'ayes' have it. Bill is passed.

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THE CLERK:

1414? 1414 was passed and 1415 passed.

THE CHAIR:

It will be passed.

THE CLERK:

Cal. No. 1416, File No. 1088, House Bill 2234. An Act concerning enrollment of electors. Favorable report, Elections.

THE CHAIR:

The Senator from the 20th.

SENATOR JOHNSTONE:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and the passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on acceptance of the committee's favorable report and the passage of the bill. Remarks?

SENATOR JOHNSTONE:

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the provisions that were existing in all the respective party enrollment of electors and to amend certain provisions and conform the same to our new primary law in order that we, that both may work smoothly and more effectively.

THE CHAIR:

Are there further remarks? The question is upon acceptance of the committee's favorable report and the passage of

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the bill. All those in favor signify by saying AYE, opposed? The report is accepted and the bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Cal. No....

SENATOR WATSON:

That's the end of my motion, before. I would now ask the Clerk to call under suspension of the rules, the top four Finance bills on Page 23.

THE CHAIR:

If there are no objections, the rules are suspended.

THE CLERK:

Was there a request on 418 on Page 20, Senator Watson?

SENATOR WATSON:

No, we stopped at 417.

THE CLERK:

Page 20, 23, Page 23. Cal. No. 1434, File No. 875, Substitute for House Bill 912. An Act concerning the University of Connecticut Auxiliary Services Fund. Amended by House Amendment Schedule "A". Favorable Report, Finance.

THE CHAIR:

The Senator from the 25th.

SENATOR MARSILIUS:

Does the Clerk have the amendment?