

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

SB1092	PA 154	1997
SENATE	1103, 1757-1765, 1785-1786, 2703-2704, 2759-2760	(16)
HOUSE	3312-3327	(16)
CITE	831-833, 837-838, 842, 844-845, 849-850, 884, 886, 905-907, 914-915, 925, 936, 939, 945-946, 951-953	(25)
		Total (57)

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

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CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS
1997

VOL. 40
PART 4
1083-1433

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004103

Senate

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. JEPSEN:

Calendar 175, File 209, SB1218, I move referral to
the Committee on Government, Administration and

Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. JEPSEN:

Page 14, Calendar 176, File 208, Substitute for
SB1092, I move referral to the Committee on Judiciary.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. JEPSEN:

Calendar 177, File 211, Substitute for SB1149, I
move to the Committee on Labor.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. JEPSEN:

Calendar 178, File 218, Substitute for SB1112, I
move referral to the Committee on Judiciary.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. JEPSEN:

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CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
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PROCEEDINGS
1997

VOL. 40
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1434-1795

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153

Senate

May 7, 1961 001757

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Senate Amendment Schedule "B", LC07531. Total number voting, 36; necessary for adoption 19. Those voting "yea", 17; those voting "nay", 19. Those absent and not voting, 0.

THE CHAIR:

The amendment fails. Will you remark further on the bill as amended by Senate Amendment "A"? Will you remark further? Senator Colapietro.

SEN. COLAPIETRO:

Thank you, Madam President. The bill has been discussed prior to Doc's amendment. I would move it, if there's no further discussion, to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is to refer this item to the Consent Calendar. Without objection, so ordered.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Page 29, Calendar 176, File 208, Substitute for SB1092 An Act Amending the Election Laws. Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections and Judiciary. The Clerk is in possession of five amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

pat
Senate

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May 7, 1907 001758

SEN. LEBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage. Will you remark?

SEN. LEBEAU:

Yes, Madam President. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO8058.

THE CLERK:

LCO8058 which will be designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A". It's offered by Senator LeBeau of the 3rd District et al.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau, the amendment is in your possession.

SEN. LEBEAU:

Madam President, I move adoption of the amendment and move to waive the reading.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark?

SEN. LEBEAU:

Yes, I would, thank you. We're removing Section 12 of this bill which essentially is not needed because the current law does not prohibit certain actions in

pat
Senate

155
May 7, 1990 001759

Section 12. This amendment would unduly restrict town clerks who presently provide this information to registrars by use of automatic computer programs.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption of Senate Amendment "A". Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, all those in favor indicate by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed, "nay". Ayes have it. Motion carries.

Senate "A" is adopted.

Senator LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU:

Madam President, I would yield to, please stand at ease for a brief moment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel, will you accept the yield?

SEN. KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Madam President. At this time, I'd like to ask the Clerk to call LC05276.

THE CLERK:

LC05276 which will be designated Senate Amendment Schedule "B". It is offered by Senator Fleming of the 8th District.

pat

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Senate

May 7, 1990 001760

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel. The amendment is in your possession.

SEN. KISSEL:

Thank you very much. I move adoption of the amendment and permission to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark please?

SEN. KISSEL:

Okay, and I offer this in light of the fact that there will be a couple of other amendments offered after this, but essentially the salient point of this amendment is that it is deleting that section which states, or more children who are, and what it does it makes it clear that the parent or guardian in the voting booth would have one such child accompany them inside the voting booth.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption of Senate Amendment "B". Will you remark? Will you remark? Senator LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU:

I would speak in favor of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

pat

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Senate

May 7, 1900 001761

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?
If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor
indicate by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed, "nay". Ayes have it. Senate "B" is
adopted. Senator Sullivan.

SEN. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Madam President. I wonder if we might
stand at ease for just a couple of minutes, please.

THE CHAIR:

The Chamber will please stand at ease. Senator
LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU:

Madam President, I would yield again to Senator
Fleming.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fleming.

SEN. FLEMING:

I accept the yield, Madam President, thank you.
Madam President, the Clerk has LCO7516. Could the
Clerk please call the amendment.

THE CLERK:

LCO7516 which will be designated Senate Amendment

pat
Senate

158
May 7, 1900 1762

Schedule "C". It's offered by Senator Fleming of the
8th District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fleming, the amendment is in your
possession.

SEN. FLEMING:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Madam President,
I would move adoption of the amendment and request
permission to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Please proceed.

SEN. FLEMING:

Yes, Madam President. What this amendment would
do is to require that the youngsters that are going
into the voting booth be either the children or the
ward of the voter.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption of Senate Amendment
"C". Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, I'll
try your -- Senator LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President. I would also stand in
favor of this amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Sir. Will you remark further? If not,

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Senate

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May 7, 1960 001763

all those in favor indicate by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Those opposed, "nay". Ayes have it. Motion carries. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Senator LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU:

Madam President, I would yield to Senator Kissel.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel, do you accept the yield?

SEN. KISSEL:

Yes, Madam President. I accept the yield. Would the Clerk please call LC07955.

THE CLERK:

LC07955 which will be designated Senate Amendment Schedule "D". It's offered by Senator Kissel of the 7th District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SEN. KISSEL:

Thank you. I move adoption of the amendment and permission to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Please proceed.

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Senate

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May 7, 1997 001764

SEN. KISSEL:

Essentially what this does is change the age of the child or ward that can be allowed in the voting booth from 17 down to 15 and I propose that and that when a child attains the age of 16, quite often in their high school courses they are made aware of the democratic process and voting and so they're exposed to the issues that way.

And also, when a child goes from the age of 15 to 16, they are in doubt, they are given more further responsibilities such as the ability to drive and it seems more appropriate and I would urge acceptance of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark?

Senator LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU:

Madam President, again, I would stand in favor of this amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Sir. The question is on adoption of Senate Amendment "D". Will you remark further? If not, all those in favor indicate by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

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Senate

May 7, 1977 001765

THE CHAIR:

All those opposed, "nay". Ayes have it. The motion carries. Senator LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU:

Madam President, I would move this item to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is to refer this item as amended, to the Consent Calendar. Without objection, so ordered.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Page 32, Calendar 241, File 81,
Substitute for HB6745 An Act Concerning the Recording, Copying and Maintenance of Certain Public Records.
Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections, Planning and Development, and Judiciary. The Clerk is in possession of one amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage. Will you remark?

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Senate

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May 7, 1970 001785

Calendar 366, Substitute for HB6596.

Calendar 367, Substitute for HB6744.

Calendar 21, Calendar 371, Substitute HB5598.

Calendar 372, Substitute for SB213.

Calendar 372, Substitute for SB537.

Calendar 374, Substitute for SB655.

Calendar Page 22, Calendar 376, SB1307.

Calendar Page 27, correction, Calendar Page 26,

Calendar 119, Substitute for SB1140.

Calendar Page 27, Calendar 131, SB608.

Calendar Page 29, Calendar 176, Substitute for
SB1092.

Calendar 31, Calendar 231, Substitute for HB6915.

Calendar 32, Calendar 241, Substitute for HB6745.

Calendar 112, Substitute for SB619.

Madam President, that completes the Second Consent
Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

That is the Consent Calendar. Is there any
objection to any item? Senator Fleming.

SEN. FLEMING:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page
14, I would like to ask that Calendar item 306 be
removed from the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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Senate

May 7, 1990 001786

That item is removed from the Consent Calendar.

I'd remind members again we're voting on the Second Consent Calendar. The machine will be opened.

If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk please take a tally. The Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Adoption of the Second Consent Calendar. Total number voting, 36; necessary for adoption 19. Those voting "yea", 36; those voting "nay", 0. Those absent and not voting, 0.

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar is adopted. Would the Clerk please call the item that was taken off the Consent Calendar, Calendar 306. And announce a roll call vote, please.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Page 14, Calendar 306, SB83 An Act Concerning Withdrawal of Towns from Regional School Districts and Dissolution of Regional School Districts. Favorable Report of the Committee on Education as amended by Senate Amendment Schedules "A" and "B".

THE CHAIR:

The Clerk please announce a roll call vote. The machine will be opened.

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GEN. ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
1997

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PART 9
3090-3474

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Clerk, please call Calendar 541.

THE CLERK:

On page 22, Calendar 541, Substitute for SB1092,
An Act Amending the Election Laws, as amended by Senate
Amendment Schedules A and B and C and D. Favorable
report of the Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Mr. Speaker, I urge acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report, passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Question on acceptance and passage. Will you
remark further?

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

This bill would allow registrars to permit non-
political activities in a separate --

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals, would you hold it a minute?

Proceed.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker.

This bill allows registrars to permit non-
political activities in a separate room at a polling

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

place and raises the age of children allowed to accompany parents and guardians into the voting booth.

It grants jurisdictions to the State Election Commission and Superior Court over alleged violations occurring at non-partisan primaries held pursuant to special acts, making them subject to the same provisions as other primaries.

It allows residents and former residents of Connecticut towns to obtain a presidential ballot up the close of polls on election day.

It provides for a minority representation purposes that a voter is considered a member of his or her former party for three months after disenrolling.

It repeals the statute providing for removal of party -- from party enrollment of an elector whose name appears on the ballot exclusively under the label of a party other than the party in which he is enrolled.

It deletes the requirement that absentee ballot applications be on a form provided by the Secretary of State, so that towns can copy the form if they so desire.

It authorizes emergency absentee ballots for voters who are hospitalized. Allows family members to return absentee ballots in person.

It clarifies that an elector must live in the

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

district in which he is voting.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would now like to call the Senate Amendments -- the Clerk has an amendment LC08058, previously designated Senate Amendment A. I would like to have that amendment called and be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Clerk, please call LC08058, designated Senate Amendment A and the Representative has asked leave to summarize.

THE CLERK:

LC08058, Senate A offered by Senator Sullivan, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Senate A strikes Section 12 of the bill, which is unnecessary. It authorizes town clerks to put an A next to the name of a voter who had voted by absentee ballot. They are already allowed to do this.

I, however, urge rejection of this amendment, because we have a bipartisan omnibus amendment that takes care of this, as well as some of the other issues addressed in the Senate amendments.

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

So I am asking for rejection of Senate A.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Motion to reject Senate A. Will you remark on the
motion?

If not, we'll try your minds. All those in favor
of rejection of Senate A, signify by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Those opposed? Ayes have it. Senate A is
rejected.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk also has LC05276, previously designated
Senate B. I would like to have this called and be
allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Clerk, please call LC05276, previously designated
Senate B.

THE CLERK:

LC05276, Senate B offered by Senator Fleming.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

This amendment restricts to one the number of children that a voter may take into the voting booth with him or her and I urge rejection.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Motion is to reject Senate B. Will you remark on Senate B?

If not, we'll try your minds. All those in favor of rejection of Senate B, signify by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Those opposed? Ayes have it. Senate B is rejected.

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk also has LC07516, previously designated Senate C. I'd like to have this called and be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Clerk, please call LC07516, designated Senate C. The Representative has asked leave to summarize.

THE CLERK:

LC07516, Senate B, I'm sorry, Senate C, offered by Senator Fleming.

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This adds to the provision about taking children into the polling booth, that the elector must be the parent or legal guardian of the child.

We do support this, however, I am again asking that this amendment be rejected because it is included in the bipartisan amendment, which I will be offering once we have finished with the Senate amendments.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move rejection of this amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Questions on rejection. Would you remark?

If not, we'll try your minds. All those in favor of rejection, signify by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Those opposed? Ayes have it. Senate C is rejected.

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

The Clerk also has an amendment, LCO7955, previously designated as Senate D. May this amendment be called and I be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Clerk, please call LCO7955, Senate D.

THE CLERK:

LCO7955, Senate D, offered by Senator Kissel.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This amendment makes the maximum age 15, rather than 17 for bringing children into the polling place. And, again, this is included in the House amendment that I will be calling shortly and so I urge rejection of Senate D.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Questions on rejection. Will you remark?

If not, we'll try your minds. All those in favor rejection, signify by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Those opposed? Ayes have it. Senate D is rejected.

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk has an amendment, 4745. Will the Clerk please call and I be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Clerk, please call LCO4745, designated House A. And the Representative has asked leave to summarize.

THE CLERK:

LCO4745, House A offered by Representatives Bysiewicz and Belden.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This amendment allows children 15 and under to accompany a parent or guardian into the polling -- into the voting booth. It clarifies that it is immediate family that may transport an absentee ballot for a hospitalized person or a person who becomes ill or disabled in the last six days before an election.

It requires agencies dealing with the mail registration form to transmit them immediately to the Registrar of Voters.

It adds several new sections. One of them allows

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

the Secretary of the State to notify local registrars of voters of duplicate registrations on the computerized voting list, so that they can determine in which town the voter should be registered.

It clarifies the responsibilities of Registrars with regard to the active and inactive registry lists and eliminates the fee for late filing.

And it allows the Registrars to ask voters whose date of birth is missing from their records to furnish this information voluntarily.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Questions on adoption of House A. Will you remark on House A? Representative SanAngelo.

REPRESENTATIVE SAN ANGELO: (131st)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in support of this amendment. It was an agreement worked out by both sides of the aisle.

Quite frankly, it does a number of things that I think are important. One of them is allowing children to go in the polls with their parents. The original bill would have stopped a mother from bringing both of her children into the polls with her.

So I think this is a good compromise. It does a number of technical things that the Secretary of

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

State's office wanted and I think this amendment should pass, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Will you remark further on House B? Will you remark further on House B? House A, excuse me.

Representative Diaz.

REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: (130th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, a question to the proponent of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Proceed.

REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: (130th)

On line 62, Section 21, there's -- it says here that a completed application may be mailed or returned in person to the Office of Registrar of Voter or the Office of the Town Clerk applicant's town of residence. That's 61 through 64.

The applicant -- that's current law, right, that the application can still be done by that currently.

All right. Now, up a little higher on line 55 and 56, it says that if a person cannot -- 57, on line 57, it says require that the application be executed in the state and applicant who is unable to write his, may cause his name to be signed on the application form by a authorized agent."

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Would that authorized agent also be able to bring that application in or will it have to be mailed in in that case?

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That is current law and I don't believe this amendment makes any change in that. And I don't see that it's addressed here.

There was certainly no prohibition that the person who the authorization could not deliver it in person rather than mailing it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Diaz.

REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: (130th)

I'm sorry. I didn't catch the end of what she said.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals. I think he said that he didn't understand.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I understand your question, your question is whether the authorized agent who assists the person is

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

unable to sign his name could deliver the application
in person or would have to mail it?

REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: (130th)

Okay. I --

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Is that --

REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: (130th)

No, no. I think what I really meant is where it
says if the applicant trusts his application to another
person or agency for mailing or return to the Registrar
of Voters, such person or agency shall immediately mail
or return the application.

Are we now saying that an agency, could you define
what the word agency is?

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

These are the agencies such as the Department of
Motor Vehicles, where voter registration services are
available by law that we passed here years ago.

It has become apparent that these applications
that are executed at some of these agencies have not
been transmitted as quickly as they should have. And
so that's why we felt the need to put in that they need
to be transferred immediately, either by mail or

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

delivered.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Diaz.

REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: (130th)

Does that in any way affect the mail-in registrations that we have now where a person can now mail in the white cards or the blue cards?

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Beals.

REPRESENTATIVE BEALS: (88th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is what we are talking about. The mail registration form which may be executed at one of a number of agencies, such as Motor Vehicles and I know there is a list of others.

That is the mail registration form and those agencies have the responsibility of either mailing it or delivering it and this simply says that they have to do it immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Diaz.

REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: (130th)

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Will you remark further on House A? Will you
remark further on House A?

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

If not, we'll try your minds. All those in favor
signify by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Those opposed? Ayes have it. House A is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests to the well --

Representative Roraback.

REPRESENTATIVE RORABACK: (63th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to speak in support of the bill as amended, particularly that provision of the bill which is going to enable local registrars in a bipartisan fashion to permit non-partisan activity at town hall on election day, provided that activity doesn't take place in the room where the machines are located.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, one of the towns in my district was anxious to administer flu shots on election day this year and the Secretary of State's office was not able to permit them to do that. And this bill will remedy that shortcoming.

So I urge its passage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

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Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Will you remark further on House A?

Representative SanAngelo.

REPRESENTATIVE SAN ANGELO: (131st)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also rise in support of this particular bill. Like Representative Roraback, a particular section is important to me.

A group of citizens from my district were up here to testify on behalf of allowing children to learn a little bit about our election process. And to be able to accompany their parent into the voting machine.

I think it's an important step to allow our children to learn about the election process and I'm glad to see that the kids came up here and testified and learned a little bit about our process, too.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Will you remark further on House -- will you remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests to the well of the House, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call, members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call, members to the Chamber, please.

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Have all members voted? If all members have voted, please check the machine, make sure that your vote is properly recorded.

The machine will be locked. Clerk will take a tally. Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

SB1092 as amended by House Amendment Schedule A.
Total number voting, 148; necessary for passage, 75.
Those voting "yea" 139, those voting "nay" 9, absent not voting, 3.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Bill as amended passes.

Clerk, please call Calendar 520.

THE CLERK:

On page 43, Calendar 520, HB6338, An Act
Concerning the Preservation of Lighthouses. Favorable
report of the Committee on Transportation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Knopp.

REPRESENTATIVE KNOPP: (137th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION
AND
ELECTIONS
PART 3
637-1051

1997

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GAE COMMITTEE

February 24, 1997

problematic without a secure technological system. May I propose that a committee bill be written in cooperation with the Secretary of State and the Connecticut Registrar of Voters Association that would permit the phase in of same day registration as the Secretary of State authorizes, but no later than Election Day, November, 2000 and that pilot programs be tried in 1998 and 1999 with existing technology.

I am pleased to report that I have been advised by the President of the Connecticut Registrar of Voters' Association, Judith I. Beaudreau, of Vernon, that the Association supports the concept of same day voter registration providing the technology is in place and the system secure.

HB6046 is self-explanatory. I would be happy to answer any questions. I have copies.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Thank you very much and do we have any questions for (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

REP. THOMPSON: Thank you.

SEN. LEBEAU: Representative Thompson. Do you have a copy of your testimony?

REP. THOMPSON: Yes, I do. Thank you.

SEN. LEBEAU: Okay. Thank you.

REP. THOMPSON: Thank you.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Give those to the clerk. Thank you very much. Representative Roraback to be followed by Secretary Rapoport to be followed by Jeff Garfield.

REP. RORABACK: Representative Bysiewicz, Senator LeBeau, members of the GAE Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today in support of SB1092. I also want to convey my gratitude to the Secretary of State who has (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON) legislative package this year (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON) should command your attention.

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Specifically, the reason that I am here today is to encourage you to (TESTIMONY NOT RECORDED - TAPE STOPPED RECORDING -- CONTINUES WITH THE TESTIMONY OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT LANDINO, ALREADY IN PROGRESS)

REP. LANDINO: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Good afternoon. Just real quick Andy, would this also apply to non-profit or charitable activities within the 75 foot?

REP. RORABACK: Yeah, interestingly the statute that is now written permits PPO's to have bake sales at town hall election (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON), but that's the only activity which explicitly enumerated as permissible in the statutes.

The Elections Enforcement Division has traditionally taken a position that any other activity constitutes a (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON) So what this bill would do would enable the Republican and Democratic Registrar -- if they can agree that an activity is non-political in nature, they will be allowed unilaterally to permit that activity to take place within the 75 foot limit.

REP. LANDINO: Thank you. Good idea.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: So, Representative Roraback, you are saying that cookies and vaccinations are okay under this bill?

REP. RORABACK: And I think that you will probably find a whole host of other activities which will benefit from this (TESTIMONY NOT RECORDED -- RECORDING MACHINE STOPPED RUNNING)

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Senator LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU: Don't you think that opens it up a little wide to any kind of activity? I mean, your intent is to allow vaccinations when --

REP. RORABACK: Senator LeBeau, my bill would be limited to flu shots, but I think the Secretary of State demonstrated (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON) to see that we don't want to be back here every year with

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another bill, but rather -- (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON) if the Democratic Registrar and the Republican Registrar can agree that an activity is a worthwhile thing for the community, I certainly have confidence in their judgment not to let (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON) which is the intent behind the bill, initially.

SEN. LEBEAU: I have one town (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

REP. RORABACK: I clearly feel the personalities of registrars do enter the picture, but I think that that risk is a lesser risk than the risk of having our programs administered (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON) flu shots be prohibited.

SEN. LEBEAU: Thank you very much.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Representative Landino.

REP. LANDINO: Just real quick for the record. In Clinton this year we had a food drive in which a complaint was filed that the activity for the food drive occurred within the 75 foot offset and the complaint was that the First Selectman was campaigning on my behalf when he was actually just organizing the food drive.

But I think this would apply in that case and I think it is very appropriate. Thank you.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Any further questions? Thank you very much.

REP. RORABACK: Thank you.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Next we have Secretary Rapoport to be followed by Jeff Garfield, to be followed by Sabina Androcovich.

SECRETARY MILES RAPOPORT: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Mr. Chairman.

I am very happy to be before you today. There are a number of bills that together constitute the Secretary of the State's package for this year.

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a two-prong step which is number one, to remove those restrictions from the Constitution so that it leaves the decision to the General Assembly as to whether or not we ought to expand these forms of voting and then I strongly would support the creation of the task force. You have two bills -- however you would want to do it, we certainly would like to be part of it to decide whether it's an appropriate public policy. I guess, from my point of view, we ought to at least, in terms of the Constitution, make sure that we can proceed if we want to proceed and then decide from there.

SB1092, the last one of the Secretary of the State's package is sort of a -- what I would call generally, a minor cleanup bill. This is a lot of different concepts that have surfaced where it would be -- where either glitches in the law or things that would be procedurally easier need to get taken care of.

The first piece, the very first section, is the section that Representative Roraback and Representative Landino referred to and those actually were the two instances that occasioned us to putting this bill in. I read about the Clinton food drive and it seemed like that was a reasonable thing to try to do on Election Day. Flu shots also seem like a good idea.

Actually, an interesting thing -- a third problem that would be alleviated by this bill is that in some places where the town hall only has one entrance, some towns have interpreted that they must close for business on Election Day because it's a non-election related thing that requires 75 feet. So this would also take care of that problem and allow town halls that currently don't function on Election Day to do so within the law. So I think that's a nice piece.

A couple of very -- this bill also grants jurisdiction to the State Election Enforcement Commission in the course of non-partisan primaries. We discovered that in the Hartford Board of Election Primary a couple of years ago. There was no statutory oversight over that process. It sort

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of had escaped the notice of the General Assembly for the last 200 hundred years. So this will at least make sure that the Secretary of State and Election Enforcement has jurisdiction over all primaries.

One other concept here is to allow for people who want to get a presidential paper ballot. Only this would obviously not be in effect until the year 2000, could do that up to and including the day of election. Again, some people showed up at the polling places and found out they couldn't vote and were particularly disturbed that they couldn't cast a vote for president. This would allow us, without getting in a situation of any local contested race, to allow people to cast their vote for president even if they have not registered up until that point. Currently, there is a five day gap here.

I think those are the only -- the others -- there are a couple of concepts at the end, the tail end of the bill had been suggested to us by the town clerks, which we thought were good ones to allow hospitalized voters to use emergency absentee ballots even if they have left the hospital within six days of the election to allow family members to return absentee ballots. Currently, they have to be mailed. Those two concepts, I think, are also good ones.

Let me just, if I may, just very briefly comment on a couple of the other bills that are here that are not from us.

On Representative Thompson's bill, HB5546, I have been a supporter and continue to be a supporter of same day voter registration. The states where they allow that are the highest registration in states anywhere and we ought to move to that, but it is important, I think, for us to do it in conjunction with the technology for it.

As you know, we are developing the computerized voter lists. We are making good progress on it. The presidential ballot and the allowing of people to register up until the day before the election if they have cast their ballot, all make progress in

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better the next time. So this is a way of giving the registrars an opportunity to allow those people to register and to vote where before all they could do is tell very irate and unhappy people that they couldn't register.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Further questions? Representative Beals.

REP. BEALS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. In SB1092, the provision about the presidential ballot -- am I correct that a person would have to go to town hall to get that? You wouldn't get it at the polling places or could you also get it at the polling places?

SECRETARY MILES RAPOPORT: You go to town hall.

REP. BEALS: Okay. And would they be -- would there be any requirement that they show that they were a resident of the town?

SECRETARY MILES RAPOPORT: The presidential ballot -- we are not changing current law and current law -- do they have to show it? They do have to show that they are in town, yes.

REP. BEALS: Okay. So they just couldn't go around doing in a number of different towns?

SECRETARY MILES RAPOPORT: No.

REP. BEALS: Okay. Thank you.

SECRETARY MILES RAPOPORT: And by the way, Senator Nielson, in the case of the person who has registered, one of the things that they have to swear, under penalty of felony, is that they have not and will not vote in any other jurisdiction. So, I don't think we are opening it up to people that are going and voting in multiple places. At least, not without risking severe criminal penalties.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Further questions from committee members? Representative Dickman followed by Representative Knopp.

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REP. KNOPP: Thank you, Madam Chair. Miles, since you are bandaged (INAUDIBLE) I hesitate to ask who won that fight.

On a rather small matter, HB6748, which you said you would support in terms of being the repository of the maps, this was the main legislative recommendation of our task force on redistricting and just to clarify, in fact that bill is not asking you to do anything other than be the repository of the map. And in fact, directs that the purpose of your having the maps is to make them available to the General Assembly pursuant to its constitutional duties on redistricting and not - and does not ask you to referee any district disputes other than what authority you already have under the law. Just clarify the things you don't want to do, are, in fact, not in the bill.

SECRETARY MILES RAPOPORT: I understand that. I understood that and I am supportive, just would not want it to be extended further in the course of the legislative debate on it.

REP. KNOPP: That's next year.

SECRETARY MILES RAPOPORT: Next year. Okay. That's what I was worried about.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN: Thank you, Madam Chair. A couple of quick questions regarding bills that you did mention.

SB1092, the first thing that that bill would do would be to permit non-political activity within 75 feet of polls. Are you at all concerned that a voter who is trying to put together his or her thoughts and get to the polls might find it distracting and troublesome to have someone asking them to sign up for something or soliciting, giving a petition or soliciting support for something that close to the polls even if it is a non-political matter? Do you think that potentially could be troublesome to voters?

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SECRETARY MILES RAPOPORT: Well, the specifies that it is in a separate room. So really this goes to -- we are not opening it up for additional activities in the kind of hub-bub of the polling place itself. In the case of the flu shot that Representative Roraback mentioned, they wanted to do it in a separate room, but because the entrance was common, the people had to pass through within the 75 feet.

So I think that the two safeguards we have on this is number one, it has to be a separate room and number two, both registrars have to agree and they are in control of keeping order at the polling places. So I think those two safeguards put together are quite enough to make sure that we are not going to start confusing voters in the polling places.

REP. FLEISCHMANN: Okay. And the other small matter in terms of raising the age of children who are allowed to permit the parents into the voting booth. As someone who is a parent of teenagers and has been in the past, I wonder if you are at all concerned about the different dynamic of a ten year old being in the booth with a parent versus a seventeen year old who might actually have strong differences of opinion with their parent, potentially and a potential desire to exercise the franchise in a circumstance where we, as a state, have said that they don't yet the franchise. I was just wondering if you could remark upon that, given not only your position as Secretary of State, but your knowledge of adolescence.

SECRETARY MILES RAPOPORT: Yes. Yes. With my knowledge of adolescence, I would say this, that where the severe differences of opinion existed, I would probably just leave the kid home. I wouldn't wait until he got into the polling booth to decide that we are going to have a fight about it.

So, -- but I think this, actually. As the parent of a 15 year old, we have had -- wanted always to bring him to be part of that process and the closer he gets to it, the more interested he is. So I sort of feel like to put a cutoff of ten years old, I think we are missing an age group of people as I

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SECRETARY MILES RAPOPORT: If I could just make, to the committee, an introduction of the new Deputy Secretary of the State, Howard Rifkin, who many of you may know, but I am sure you will be seeing him out here on occasions.

Thank you very much, Susan.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JEFF GARFIELD: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Jeff Garfield and I am the Executive Director and General Counsel for the State Elections Enforcement Commission. I am here to speak to you about several bills on your agenda today.

First, the Commission does support the proposals made by the Secretary of the State in SB1092, especially those which empower the Commission and the courts to handle cases involving primaries held pursuant to a special act. This proposal was contained in HB5625 last year, unanimously approved by this committee, but due to time constraints was not addressed in the Senate.

There were alleged problems concerning the Hartford Board of Education non-partisan primary in 1995 which neither the Commission nor the courts could handle. That was the case of Zeven vs. the City of Hartford and this proposal cures the inadvertent void in the law.

We also support provisions extending voter I.D. requirements to referenda. The stronger identification requirements as provided by the Commission in SB1025 should apply to referenda.

We also support the repeal of mandatory party erasure provisions in as much as the courts have already adjudged them to be invalid. And we agree that family members should be allowed to return absentee ballots which is a proposal that comes from the Connecticut town clerks.

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We suggest that a definition of "family member" be included for clarity and enforcement purposes.

We also suggest that registrars be authorized to permit non-partisan rather than non-political activities in a separate room within a building a polling place. We do believe that existing permits an emergency absentee ballot to be issued to a hospitalized voter and so that part of the bill may be unnecessary.

Lastly, we enthusiastically agree with the Secretary of the State that Section 9-172 concerning voter residency requirements be clarified to ensure that one lives in the district in which the election is held.

The Commission also supports the provisions of HB6749 concerning voter registration, especially those which require intermediaries to transmit mail-in applications forthwith.

There were problems in the most recent election and this requirement would at least provide the Commission with some means of redressing those issues against known intermediaries to fail to submit voter registration applications to the registrars.

We also support the concept of allowing one who has applied by mail, but whose application is not received by the registrars by the deadline to re-apply up to the day prior to an election. We agree with you, Senator Nielson. We think that the identification in that bill should be tightened up and that the identification be the same as the Commission has proposed in SB1025. That is, the applicant would have to provide an I.D. or combination thereof which contains his name, address, and either signature or photograph and that the registrars keep a copy of that application for the files so that if there is a problem the Commission can investigate.

Finally, we wholeheartedly support the provision which permits the Secretary of the State to notify registrars of duplicate registrations on the

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We are given a lot of responsibilities and I think we handle them well. I think the Registrars of Voters also handle them well, but I am not sure that I agree that they are the head of the elections. I would have to argue that point.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Thank you. Questions? Seeing none, thank you very much.

SEN. LEBEAU: Thank you.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Tony Mein to be followed by Rob Daves.

TONY MEIN: Good afternoon, Senator LeBeau, Representative Bysiewicz and committee members.

My name is Tony Mein. I reside in Hartford. I am the Legislative Chair for the Registrar of Voters Association.

I am here today to testify on several proposed bills, specifically HB5546, AN ACT CONCERNING SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION WHICH AUTHORIZES THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO PROVIDE SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION. Basically, we are in favor of that bill except that we would like to see that the statewide voter registration system is on line before we move that far ahead.

The next bill is AN ACT CONCERNING NAMES OF 17 YEAR OLDS ON THE REGISTER LIST and you have heard testimony before that we think it's a good idea if those names could be printed, but not within the body of the list, at the end of the list so that there won't be any confusion at the polling place if a 17 year old just happened to show up to vote.

HB6749, AN ACT CONCERNING VOTER REGISTRATION which allows Registrars to accept registration application up to noon the day before an election. We think that it's a good bill except that it may allow someone to commit fraud by coming in and saying that they had registered previously, but their registration card got lost in the mail. What I see is candidates coming in with a bunch of electors and saying that all these people's registration cards got lost in the mail and we

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SB1092, AN ACT AMENDING ELECTION LAWS, basically in -- this one deals with the municipalities having primaries or referendums that are local and the State statutes do not cover any irregularities and we would like to see the State Election Enforcement Commission or the court have some jurisdictions to deal with irregularities.

As far as allowing activities within the 75 foot marker, we would also be in favor of that. Other activities besides bake sales and stuff like that and have just one more thing. We heard Representative Gonzales testify about not allowing candidates to run if they are just moving to the district. In Hartford, I kind of support that because right now she mentioned the word "carpet baggers". Every single election we have people jumping from one district to the next and it creates a lot of confusion for the voters. And it maybe unconstitutional, but we would like to see something done with that so that it limits or prevents that activity from taking place.

And with that, I would like to thank you for your indulgence and I urge support of these bills.

SEN. LEBEAU: Tony, thank you for coming today. We are talking about these mail-in voter registrations for primaries. What would you consider to be (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON - QUIT WORKING) SB1089

TONY MEIN: I say the Friday before the Tuesday. At least we have the week-end to go through and check it out, but you can't do it on a Saturday because - - although we are open, it really doesn't give us a lot of time to -- if you have hundreds of cards coming in, and basically what happened with the cards is that each candidate -- they want to hold onto the cards as long as they can so that the other side doesn't know who their voters are going to be. So each side -- if you have five or six candidates like we do in Hartford at times in one district, they are all holding onto the cards and they all bring them in at the same time.

SEN. LEBEAU: Now I thought you all you had (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

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Thank you. Any questions?

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON) I messed up. Judy Beaudreau. (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Which bills do you want me to testify on?

SEN. LEBEAU: Judy, go for it.

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Okay.

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Okay. I am going start on -- good afternoon, members of the committee.

My name is Judy Beaudreau. I am the President of the Registrar of Voters Association. I am going to start by just going over my whole testimony.

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Do you want me to start with that one?

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Okay. Names of the seventeen year olds post o-s on the list.

AB6744

This is needed because of the pre-registration of the 17 year olds. Right now the law says that they have to go on where they live, with the date of birth after them, which means, that on election day there are 17 year olds who are not qualified to vote and they are on this list. It should not be left up to the official checker to determine whether that person is eligible to vote or not. By leaving it at the end of the list, gives us, as Registrars, a category to say no, these are not eligible people to vote.

We will also fit into the new data base that we are designing with the State because this is where we have put these people to be, at the end of the voter list.

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SEN. LEBEAU: Judy, I wanted to raise a question on that. Why are they are on the list when they can't vote?

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Because the law says they have to on the list.

SEN. LEBEAU: The law says they have to go on the list when they register--

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Yes.

SEN. LEBEAU: -- even though they have --

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Yes. Yes.

SEN. LEBEAU: -- have not matured yet?

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Yes. Yes. So this just clarifies where we can put them because we don't want them in the whole body of that check off list.

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Well, yes, but --

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JUDY BEAUDREAU: I would say that's pretty good, but I'm not the one who makes and breaks the laws. I mean, I have to go by what is in writing and that's what's in writing right now.

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Okay.

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Tell me which ones and I will go for it.

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JUDY BEAUDREAU: SB1092? Okay. AN ACT CONCERNING AMENDING THE ELECTION LAWS. The Registrar of Voters Association is in favor of everything in

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this bill. The activities allowing inside or near the polling area is something that needs to be looked at, but it gives the Registrar of Voters to the discretion of not or to have it, which is very nice if somebody wants to have a food drive. Incidentally, I did have one in Vernon last election and it did produce a lot of canned goods for the needy and it was a very worthwhile thing.

As far as the ballots and everything, we definitely, we were going to come forward with the presidential ballot type thing also because we had many voters who came forward prior to the cut off of presidential ballots. I mean, after the cut off of the presidential ballots and couldn't vote because they couldn't get a ballot and we felt bad about that and sent them over to the Town Clerk's office and the Town Clerk offices, no you can't have one. So it just opens the process.

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON)

JUDY BEAUDREAU: Okay. SB1088, AN ACT CONCERNING OLDER CHILDREN TO ACCOMPANY VOTERS INTO THE BOOTH. Well, we aren't strongly opposed to this, but what we would like to see happen -- because we have restricted our teachers and we said to our teachers who educate our children, you can only come in during certain hours and you can only bring certain children in. And these are the ones who are supposed to be teaching our children. The Registrar of Voters make themselves very available to the school systems to do education. They very rarely call. There are kids voting. There is a lot of mechanism there for teaching children how to vote. If this is to go in, that 17 year old -- up to 17 year olds can, we want to see it similar to what I testified the other day on the assisting in the voting booth, that it be a prescribed form from the Secretary of State's office that the voter signs that says that they are taking this person into the voting booth with them. We want some kind of paper trail because now we have nothing.

Does this mean by this bill because there is no limitation, that we are going to have -- how many kids can we stuff in a voting booth? I can see

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I think it all should be the same. I think \$15 is probably -- and I think some of the members of the Public Health Department are in agreement. I think John Betkoskio, but I am not sure that anything is in writing.

REP. BEALS: Thank you.

SEN. LEBEAU: Thank you.

LOIS PONTBRIANT: Thank you.

SEN. LEBEAU: (INAUDIBLE - MICROPHONE NOT ON) Donna DiMartino.

DONNA DIMARTINO: Good afternoon, Senator LeBeau, Representative Bysiewicz and members of the committee.

My name is Donna DiMartino. I am a nurse and coordinator of the SPARC Program, Sickness Prevention Achieved Through Regional Collaboration.

We are a group of health care agencies, public health authorities and local organizations who come together to increase access and utilization of clinical preventive services of which adult immunizations, flu and pneumonia are two.

I am here to speak in support of SB1092. Pneumonia and Influenza rank number six among ten of the leading cause of death in the United States. In those over 65, they account for about 90% of the deaths.

There are many things in medicine we know -- we are not sure of the efficiency of. We know the efficiency of pneumonia and flu shots and in allowing these clinics to be held at places of voting we will be able to have sort of an opportunity for older adults to have a one-stop shopping. That is, to vote and vaccinate at the same time.

There are many barriers to people trying to get out to get their immunizations. They include transportation. They include unfamiliarity with

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the area in which the flu clinics are occurring. And if they are allowed to occur at a polling place, these are places that people know about and many times they are already dependent upon a neighbor to take them to vote so that it's one trip and they can get both things done.

The timing is perfect in that the Center for Disease Control recommends flu shots be given between October 1st and November 30th. So voting that occurs in November is an opportune time for this to occur.

I would encourage your support of SB1092. And I think it will benefit all of our communities with a healthier population.

Questions?

SEN. LEBEAU: Questions? Thank you very much. Sid Garvais.

SID GARVAIS: My volunteer board and I, as the volunteer would be very disappointed if I couldn't say a few words about direct primary today.

Common Cause has supported direct primary for many years now and we strongly support HB6742. Under current law, candidates for municipal office and single town legislative offices can qualify for the primary ballot by collecting petition signatures from registered party voters. There is no legitimate reason why this option should not be extended to candidates for all other state and federal offices.

Under this bill party delegates would still endorse and mobilize support for their favorite candidate, however, a candidate with significant public support could petition for a primary election at which the delegates' choice would either be ratified or rejected by the full party membership. And I've given, in this testimony, four reasons why we believe Connecticut should adopt such a system for all state and federal offices.

The first is that Connecticut's primary system is

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**Highlights of Testimony by
Secretary of the State Miles S. Rapoport
Public Hearing
Committee on Government Administration and Elections
February 24, 1997**

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before the committee. Today, I would like to just briefly highlight a number of the bills that are part of the Secretary of the State's legislative package, and comment on a number of other bills that would affect the Secretary of the State's office.

► *Comments on bill proposed by the Office of Secretary of the State:*

SB 1088 (Raised) An Act Allowing Older Children To Accompany Voters Into Voting Booths. This bill was really the idea of the students of the Rochambeau Middle School in Southbury, some of whom are here today to testify. When they were not permitted to enter the voting booth with their parents on Election Day, after learning all about the election process in school, they were disappointed and upset. They wrote to their local newspaper, and expressed their views. I agree with them, and proposed this bill to permit children older than age 10 -- the current limit -- to enter the voting booth with a voter. I believe this is important if we are to continue our efforts to interest young people in the election process. Many young people, at this age, become interested in elections, both in discussions at home and in school, and I believe we should extend to them the opportunity to see votes being cast first-hand.

HB 6747 (Raised) An Act Authorizing Municipalities To Hold Binding Or Nonbinding Referenda. This proposal did pass the House last year, but was not taken up in the Senate at the end of the session. It is a very important concept that comes to you because of an increasing number of occasions where municipalities have wanted to hold referendums, but were advised by our office that current law did not permit them to do so. Examples in recent years include a presidential preference ballot and balloting related to the establishment of gaming. This bill would clearly authorize the legislative body of a municipality to permit a binding or non-binding referendum, and would ensure that such referenda are conducted under the rule of state election law.

I also support **Proposed HB 5843 An Act Concerning Local Referenda On School Construction Projects.**

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HB 6749 (Raised) An Act Concerning Voter Registration

This bill would include community action agencies as voter registration agencies -- a designation they are seeking -- and authorize state colleges, universities and community colleges to offer voter registration services. It would require timely transmittal of voter registration applications, and take an important step in preventing individuals from being disenfranchised through no fault of their own by allowing registrars to accept voter registration applications up until noon the day before an election if an application was filled out prior to the voter registration deadline but not received by the registrar. This registration would occur at town hall with appropriate identification, and the individual must swear that they had previously sent in a voter registration card, and would not be registering in any other location.

HJ 96 (COMM) Resolution Proposing A Constitutional Amendment Concerning Voting Without Appearing At A Polling Place. In the future, Connecticut may wish to consider a mail-in or computerized voting experiment, such as the mail-in voting which occurred last year in Oregon's U.S. Senate race. In Connecticut, we have particular problem in that our constitution would prohibit such a pilot project. This proposal would remove that restriction, and leave to the General Assembly the decision as to whether or when to initiate such a project. I strongly support the establishment of a task force, such as proposed in SB 1087 and Proposed HB 6049, to review the issue of mail in registration, and I would urge the committee to take these two steps -- first to move forward with the constitutional amendment to make it possible if we decide we want to proceed, and second, to establish a task force, to review the specific issue of mail-in voting.

SB 1092 (Raised) An Act Amending The Election Laws. This bill includes a number of revisions to the election process. It would allow the registrars of voters to permit nonpolitical activities in a separate room at a polling place, extend the deadline for a resident who has not registered to vote on time to obtain a Presidential paper ballot until the polls closing on Election Day, extend the jurisdiction of the Elections Enforcement Commission to nonpartisan primaries, authorize emergency absentee ballots for hospitalized voters, and allow family members to return absentee ballots. Also, on line 761, the bill should read absentee ballot *applications*.

000929



OFFICE OF THE *Town Clerk* - PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

BERNADETTE M. DILLON, CMC
TOWN CLERK



February 24, 1997

To: The Government Administration and Election Committee:

From: Bernadette M. Dillon
CTCA Legislative Chairman
Portland Town Clerk

I am in support of the following bills:

H. B. # 6749 - An Act Concerning Voter Registration

H. B. # 1092 - An Act Amending The Election Law

H. B. # 6745 - An Act Concerning the Recording, Copying and Maintenance of Certain Public Records
Mainly a Technical Change to include state of the art methods.

H. B. # 1090 - An Act Concerning the fee for filing Trade Name Certificates.
Technical Change was omitted in the last revision of Town Clerks fees. 7-34a

H. B. 6746 - An Act concerning fees for Certifications of Birth Registration and certified copies of Vital Statistics Certificates.
To amend statute to read \$10.00 per copy and to bring the State copies of vitals to \$10.00 for equality.

Bernadette M. Dillon

0009452

STATEMENT OF JEFFREY B. GARFIELD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL
OF THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
AT A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE JOINT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS

February 24, 1997

In Support of S.B.30, S.B. 1092, H.B.6749, H.B. 4

In Opposition to H.B. 6350, H.J.R. 96 - *Partis Co. Rapoport amend const.*

And Comments Regarding S.B. 1087, 1088, H.B. 5037, 5546
H.B. 6043, 6046, 6054

The State Elections Enforcement Commission supports the proposals made by the Secretary of the State in S.B. 1092, especially those which empower the Commission and the Courts to handle cases involving primaries held pursuant to a special act. This proposal was contained in H.B. 5625 last year and was unanimously approved by G.A.E. but due to time constraints was not addressed in the Senate. There were alleged problems concerning the Hartford Board of Education non partisan primary in 1995, which neither the Commission nor the Courts could address. (See Zevin v. City of Hartford.) This cures the inadvertent void in the law. We further support provisions extending voter identification requirements to referenda. The stronger identification requirements as provided by the Commission in S.B. 1025 should apply to referenda. We further support the repeal of mandatory party erasure provisions inasmuch as the Courts have already adjudged them invalid. And we agree that family members should be allowed to return absentee ballots. We suggest that a definition of family member be included for clarity and enforcement purposes. We also suggest that the registrars be authorized to permit "non partisan" rather than "non political" activities in separate

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rooms within the building of a polling place. We do believe that existing law permits an emergency absentee ballot to be issued to a hospitalized voter, and so that part of the bill may be unnecessary. Lastly, we enthusiastically agree with the Secretary of the State that Section 9-172 concerning voter residency requirements be clarified to ensure that one lives in the district in which the election is held.

The Commission also supports the provisions of H.B. 6749 concerning voter registration, especially those which require intermediaries to transmit mail-in applications forthwith. There were problems in the most recent election, and this requirement would, at least, provide the Commission with some means of redress against known intermediaries who fail to submit voter registration applications to the registrars. We also support the concept of allowing one who has applied by mail but whose application was not received by the registrars by the deadline to reapply up to the day prior to an election. We strongly recommend that the identification required of the applicant be the same as the Commission has prepared in S.B. 1025. That is, the applicant would have to provide an I.D. or combination thereof which contains name, address, and either signature or photograph before the application could be accepted, and the registrars should keep a copy of the I.D. for their records in case of a problem. An amendment to Line 150 of the bill would accomplish this. Finally, we wholeheartedly support the provision which permits the Secretary of the State to notify registrars of duplicate voter registrations on the statewide computerized voter registration list.

000951

Support for Bill # 1092

Pneumonia and influenza rank sixth among the ten leading causes of death in the United States - with approximately 90 percent of deaths from these illnesses occurring in persons age 65 and older.¹ In each of ten U.S. epidemics between 1972 and 1991, influenza caused an estimated 20,000 excess deaths.² Pneumococcal infections are the most common cause of bacterial pneumonia requiring hospitalization, and cause an estimated 40,000 deaths annually in the United States.³

Many of these deaths are preventable through immunizations. Flu shots have been shown to reduce rates of hospitalization for pneumonia and influenza (and for all acute and chronic respiratory conditions), and to lower death rates by 39 to 54 percent ($P < 0.001$).⁴ Although some physicians have expressed uncertainty regarding the preventive value of pneumococcal immunization, the vaccine has been shown to be more than 57 percent effective against invasive pneumococcal disease.⁵

The population most at risk for influenza and pneumonia are those 65 and older and those with chronic disease, regardless of their age. Multiple barriers exist that prevent older adults from receiving these immunizations. In Litchfield County a collaboration of providers, hospitals, AARP, public health nurses, civic leaders, church leaders and senior citizen have come together under SPARC, Sickness Prevention Achieved through Regional Collaboration to increase access to adult immunizations as well as other clinical preventive services. As a result of our efforts, in 1995 Litchfield County was the only County in Connecticut to make a significant gain in influenza immunizations, and is now the top ranked county in the State in delivering flu shots to Medicare beneficiaries.

Barriers faced by people who live in our community include transportation and access. By utilizing the polling place as an additional clinic site we can:

1. Target those 65 and older who are a large percentage of those who vote.
2. Meet target dates for influenza immunization. (October 1 - November 15).
3. Decrease barriers related to access (the polling place is centrally located and well known).
4. Utilize transportation systems in place for transporting older adults to the polls.

This approach has been successfully implemented in Mecklenberg County, North Carolina. I urge you to vote yes on Bill number 1092. The registrars in each town are capable of recognizing those activities that have political overtones. They should be vested with the authority to make decisions that benefit the public welfare. Adult immunizations are not a political issue and, can only serve to benefit each community with a healthier population of voters.

000952

1. CDC. Pneumococcal and influenza vaccination levels among adults aged ≥ 65 years - United States, 1993. *MMWR* 1996;45:40, 853-9.
2. CDC. Prevention and control of influenza: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR* 1996;45(no.RR-5).
3. CDC. Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine. *MMWR* 1989;38:64-8,73-6.
4. Nichols KL, Margolis KL, Wuorenma J, et al. The efficacy and cost effectiveness of vaccination against influenza among elderly persons living in the community. *NEJM* 1994;331:778-84.
5. Butler JC, Breiman RF, Campbell JF, Lipman HB, Broome CV, Facklam RR. Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine efficacy: an evaluation of current recommendations. *JAMA* 1993;270:1826-31.

000953



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW RORABACK
SIXTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

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RANKING MEMBER
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Testimony of Rep. Andrew Roraback
S.B. 1092 AN ACT AMENDING THE ELECTION LAWS.
February 24, 1997

Kindly accept this testimony as my statement in strong support of S.B. 1092. I am grateful that the Secretary of the State has perceived the need to empower local officials to permit non-political activity within 75 feet of the polls provided such activity takes place in a room other than the one in which voting machines are located.

I testify today because last November there was a concerted community-centered initiative to administer flu shots to individuals who had yet to receive them at the Salisbury Town Hall on Election Day. The "vote and vax" concept is a good one because it allows public health nurses to reach a targeted population, at a time when it is appropriate, at a place where this population is readily found. It was a considerable disappointment to the many who worked with the Sickness Prevention Achieved Through Regional Collaboration (SPARC) in connection with this effort and the Salisbury Public Health nurses who stood ready to administer it when they were told it would be unlawful to do so in Town Hall.

Passage of S.B. 1092 will allow this initiative to proceed in years to come. I urge your support.