

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

2003

<b>Act Number:</b>	099	
<b>Bill Number:</b>	6619	
<b>Senate Pages:</b>	2392, 2511-2512	3
<b>House Pages:</b>	2114, 2168-2169	3
<b>Committee:</b>	Government Admin. & Elections: 1010, 1115, 1116, 1142, 1146	5

Page Total:

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

Connecticut State Library

Compiled 2014

S-482

CONNECTICUT  
GEN. ASSEMBLY  
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS  
2003

VOL. 46  
PART 8  
2237-2567

pat

27

002392

Senate

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

SEN. LOONEY:

Calendar 320, PR.

Calendar 330, PR.

Calendar 331, PR.

On Page 25 of the Calendar, Madam President,  
Calendar 335 should be marked Go.

Calendar 337, PR.

Calendar 343, PR.

Calendar 348, PR.

Calendar 350, would move to refer this item to the  
Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. LOONEY:

Calendar 361, PR.

Calendar 362, Madam President, would move this item  
to the Foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. LOONEY:

Calendar 369, PR.

And Calendar 383, I would move this item to the HB6619  
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

pat  
Senate

146

002511

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Calendar Page 26, Calendar 383, Substitute for H.B.  
6619.

Mr. President, that completes those items  
previously placed on the First Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate is now voting on the Consent Calendar.  
The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the  
Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to  
the Chamber.

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the  
Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to  
the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Nickerson. Senator DeLuca. All Senators  
have cast their vote. The machine will be closed. The  
Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar No. 1.  
Total number voting, 35. Necessary for adoption,  
18. Those voting yea, 35; those voting nay, 0. Those  
absent and not voting, 1.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Consent Calendar is

002511

pat

146

Senate

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Calendar Page 26, Calendar 383, Substitute for H.B.  
6619.

Mr. President, that completes those items  
previously placed on the First Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate is now voting on the Consent Calendar.  
The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the  
Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to  
the Chamber.

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the  
Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to  
the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Nickerson. Senator DeLuca. All Senators  
have cast their vote. The machine will be closed. The  
Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar No. 1.  
Total number voting, 35. Necessary for adoption,  
18. Those voting yea, 35; those voting nay, 0. Those  
absent and not voting, 1.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Consent Calendar is

pat  
Senate

147

002512

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

adopted.

Mr. Majority Leader.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I would move that all items not otherwise acted upon be passed retaining their place on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Senator Looney.

SEN. LOONEY:

Mr. President, I don't know whether there are any other points of personal privilege or announcements. In the absence of that, I would move that the Senate adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair for a session tomorrow.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand adjourned subject to the Call of the Chair. Thank you.

On motion of Senator Looney of the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Senate at 6:48 p.m. adjourned, subject to the Call of the Chair.

H-892

CONNECTICUT  
GEN. ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS  
2003

VOL. 46  
PART 7  
1901-2285

gmh

5002114

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Representative Godfrey.

REP. GODFREY: (110<sup>TH</sup>)

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. GODFREY: (110<sup>TH</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, I'm about to  
move about fourteen bills to the Consent Calendar for  
action later today and actually the bill on the board  
isn't going to be one of them because two members have  
asked that one to be pulled off. So 114 will not go onto  
the Consent Calendar.

But what will go onto the Consent Calendar will be  
Calendar 316, Substitute for H.B. 6619;

Calendar 327, Substitute for H.B. 6513;

Calendar 334, Substitute for H.B. 6327;

Calendar 339, H.B. 6571;

Calendar 344, Substitute for H.B. 6661;

Calendar 347, Substitute for H.B. 6691;

Calendar 350, Substitute for H.B. 5841;

Calendar 367, S.B. 482;

Calendar 369, Substitute for S.B. 890;

Calendar 372, S.B. 924;

Calendar 373, S.B. 1017;

gmh

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

The resolution is adopted.

I would like to take -- call the Chamber to attention. We are going to do the Consent Calendar now because one of our members has to leave for a very emergency situation. So, please stay in the Chamber because, as you know, many, many votes.

If the Clerk would please call Calendar number 316.

CLERK:

On page 12, Calendar 316, Substitute for H.B. 6619, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AND HOME RULE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS. Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRITZ:

Representative Bob Godfrey of the 110<sup>th</sup>.

REP. GODFREY: (110<sup>TH</sup>)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, today's Consent Calendar consists of the fourteen items we moved onto it earlier today which were Calendars 316, 327, 334, 339, 344, 347, 350, 367, 369, 372, 373, 374, 102 and 175.

Madam Speaker, I would move passage of the bills on today's Consent Calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRITZ:

The question is on passage of the bills on the

- HB 6619
- HB 6513
- HB 6327
- HB 6571
- HB 6661
- HB 6691
- HB 5841
- SB 482
- SB 890
- SB 924
- SB 1017
- SB 1053
- HB 5627
- HB 6608

gmh

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Consent Calendar. Staff and guests to the Well of the House and the machine will be opened.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting today's Consent Calendar by roll call. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Have all members voted? If all members have voted, please check the machine and make sure your vote is properly recorded. The machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar

Total Number Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those voting Yea	147
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not Voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

The Consent Calendar passes.

Clerk, please call Calendar 194.

CLERK:

On page 32, Calendar 194, H.J.R. 78, RESOLUTION

JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS

GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
AND  
ELECTIONS  
PART 4  
946-1265

2003

REP. ADINOLFI: Are they licensed in those states, to meet the standards in those states?

KEN LEECH: I don't know because they don't have to be licensed. Some could be licensed, and some may not be licensed. We found it both ways, that on the jobs, people would be hired off the streets, even, to do the work, maybe it was something as small as pulling wires, where they could oversee the operation.

REP. ADINOLFI: Okay, thank you.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Thank you. Any other questions?

KEN LEECH: Thank you for your time.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Thank you for your testimony. We'll move on to Joe Camposio, followed by David Silverstone.

JOE CAMPOSIO: Good afternoon, Senator DeFronzo and members of the GAE Committee. My name is Joe Camposio, the legislative chair of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association, and the town clerk of Manchester. To my left is Barbara Tarbox, my co-chair, and also the town clerk of Groton.

We are here today to support HB6619, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED CHARTERS, CHARTER AMENDMENTS, AND HOME RULE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS. And also, HB6620, AN ACT CONCERNING IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTORS AT POLLING PLACES. And also, we would like to comment on HB6616, AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.

We laud the intent to clarify the responsibilities of the registrars of voters. We also believe that such an effort merits being evaluated by a committee, and should also include a study of the role of town clerks. As always, we would be willing to be a participant in that process.

With respect to HB6616, we believe there is a need for clarification and understanding. In particular, Section 1P, there is new language declaring registrars the administrators of

public water supplies from terrorism or other criminal acts, by protecting security related information from disclosure, under the state Freedom of Information Act.

At this time of heightened security, it is absolutely critical that law makers act swiftly to protect information that may jeopardize security of our water supplies and water infrastructure, from disclosure. Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, Connecticut water utilities have been responding to the urgent need for greater security.

We have been advised by federal authorities to proactively protect information such as vulnerability assessments, sabotage prevention plans, operational plans, and other documents from disclosure. Our water companies are currently reviewing documents that have been or will be submitted to state or local agencies, or released to the public, to determine whether such information poses a security risk.

In reviewing such information, it became evident that there was a need to amend Public Act 02-133, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF SECURITY INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, to include water companies and specify certain documents and information that must be protected from disclosure.

This proposed bill protects the following security sensitive information from disclosure. Vulnerability assessments, risk management plans, operational plans, water supply plans, inspection reports, technical specifications, and other materials that depict or specifically describe critical water company operating facilities, collection and distribution systems, or sources of supply, from disclosure.

Disclosure of this information to the public would clearly pose a security to Connecticut's public water supplies and water structure. Vulnerability assessments, for example, are required to be completed by water utilities, pursuant to federal law, to pinpoint areas within the water supply

system that are vulnerable to sabotage or contamination.

Water utilities are also required by state law to file individual water supply plans with the DPH, with copies provided to DEP, DPUC, OPM, municipalities, and regional planning agencies. These plans include such information as the location of wells, where chemicals are stored, sources of water supplies, backup wells, various interconnections. Clearly, this information should not be put in the hands of terrorists or criminals.

We have met with the Freedom of Information Act Commission, and they understand and have been very supportive of our efforts to protect this information from disclosure. We look forward to working with the Commission to be sure that the bill adequately protects a wide range of security related information, maintained and submitted by water companies to state and local agencies, without unduly jeopardizing the public's right to know.

To strengthen the bill's provisions, we will continue to meet with the Commission to further clarify and define the intent of the current language of the bill, and other materials that depict or specifically describe critical water company operating facilities, collection and distribution systems, and sources of supply.

We would also request that the bill be effective upon passage, due to heightened security concerns.

As previously mentioned, CWWA is also meeting with the state DPH to develop an information protocol for insuring that information submitted to the agency is kept secure, with access limited only to authorized personnel, similar to how classified documents are handled at the federal level.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the FOI Commission, the state DPH, and other agencies involved in developing procedures for protecting documents that may pose a security risk. Thank you for your attention, and I'll be more than happy to answer any questions.

REP. ADINOLFI: Are they licensed in those states, to meet the standards in those states?

KEN LEECH: I don't know because they don't have to be licensed. Some could be licensed, and some may not be licensed. We found it both ways, that on the jobs, people would be hired off the streets, even, to do the work, maybe it was something as small as pulling wires, where they could oversee the operation.

REP. ADINOLFI: Okay, thank you.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Thank you. Any other questions?

KEN LEECH: Thank you for your time.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Thank you for your testimony. We'll move on to Joe Camposio, followed by David Silverstone.

JOE CAMPOSIO: Good afternoon, Senator DeFronzo and members of the GAE Committee. My name is Joe Camposio, the legislative chair of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association, and the town clerk of Manchester. To my left is Barbara Tarbox, my co-chair, and also the town clerk of Groton.

We are here today to support HB6619, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED CHARTERS, CHARTER AMENDMENTS, AND HOME RULE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS. And also, HB6620, AN ACT CONCERNING IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTORS AT POLLING PLACES. And also, we would like to comment on HB6616, AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.

We laud the intent to clarify the responsibilities of the registrars of voters. We also believe that such an effort merits being evaluated by a committee, and should also include a study of the role of town clerks. As always, we would be willing to be a participant in that process.

With respect to HB6616, we believe there is a need for clarification and understanding. In particular, Section 1P, there is new language declaring registrars the administrators of

001115

Speaker 16 Line 5  
Tape 2 Side 1  
Pg. 8

---

**CONNECTICUT TOWN CLERKS ASSOCIATION  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Joseph Camposeo, Co-Chair, Manchester  
Barbara Tarbox, Co-Chair, Groton

Nancy Bray, Colchester  
George Buckbee, New Milford  
Deb Calamari, Chester  
Joyce Mascena, Vernon  
Irene Masse, Meriden



Sharon Miller, East Hartford  
Patrick O'Sullivan, Orange  
Therese Pac, Bristol  
Paula Ray, Farmington  
Patricia Strauss, Westport

---

**Testimony before the Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Re Bills 6616, 6619, and 6620**

March 21, 2003

**HB 6616 AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

We laud the intent to clarify the responsibilities of the Registrars of Voters. We also believe that such an effort merits being evaluated by committee and should also include a study of the election role of the Town Clerks. As always, we would be a willing participant in this study.

With respect to Raised Bill 6616, we believe there is a need for clarification and understanding. In Sec. 1(p), there is new language declaring that "registrars shall be the administrators of elections held in a municipality".

In light of existing statutes and the number of duties performed, Town Clerks are also "Administrators of Elections."

Our statutory election duties begin in January with a report to the Secretary of the State (SOTS) concerning Voting Machines, continue through July and August providing a List of Offices to be Filled to the political parties and to SOTS, Certification of Candidates to SOTS, and Certification of nominating petitions. It includes the publication of all Primary, Referendum, and Election Notices in local newspapers.

We prepare and print Voting Machine Ballots, Absentee Ballots and Sample Ballots, monitor and amend all changes in candidacies, and prepare explanatory text for referendum questions.

Our absentee ballot responsibilities range from blank ballots that go out 90 days in advance to military personnel, 45-day ballots, overseas ballots, presidential ballots, and of course the regular Absentee Ballots. We assist in training the absentee ballot counters and election officials.

We prepare all supplies for the Moderator's Kits, and train the Moderators in completing the Moderator's Return.

001116

We provide security for all returned absentee ballots, accounting for each serial numbered envelope that is issued by name, by address, and by district. We oversee campaign finance law compliance for local elections. After the election we secure all materials used for the election, the results, declare the sealing of voting machines and election materials as necessary, and call for certain recanvasses. We file numerous election reports with SOTS.

Town Clerks are the keepers of the voting machine keys. When an election is contested in court, the Town Clerks are subpoenaed since they are also the keepers of all the election materials.

And when the Registrars are not available, we accept and admit the registration of voters.

We believe these responsibilities demonstrate that Town Clerks are also "election administrators"!

In summary, the evaluation of election responsibilities can be useful, but not as indicated in Raised Bill 6616.

HB 6619 AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED CHARTERS, CHARTER AMENDMENTS AND HOME RULE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

The present requirement of publication of the proposed charters and amendments is very costly and time-consuming. Town Clerks have received many comments that the legal notice, because it is "published in full", is difficult to read and understand. We believe that indicating the availability of the full document in the town clerk's office is timely and meaningful, and in the overall best interests of the citizens. We support this bill on its merits.

HB 6620 AN ACT CONCERNING IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTORS AT POLLING PLACES

Town Clerks have always been concerned about identification for elections. It may be our experience with issuing birth certificates – primary evidence of citizenship among other things - that makes us a little more wary. We believe that a Social Security card alone as indicated in Sec. 1(a)(2)(A) is just not good enough. We also believe that a signature, often illegible, on a statement is hardly a deterrent to fraud. We realize that this is the purview of the Registrars of Voters for the voter in person, but town clerks often deal with this issue.

Respectfully submitted:

Joe Camposeo and Barbara Tarbox

HB 6653 SB 675 HB 6087 HB 6099<sup>001142</sup>  
SB 1129 HB 5335 HB 6619 Speaker ~~27~~<sup>25</sup> Line 24  
page 11  
HB 6661 HB 6622 HB 6657 Tape 2 Side 2



C O N N E C T I C U T

HB 6661 HB 6622 HB 6657

**Testimony of Andy Sauer**  
**Executive Director, Common Cause in Connecticut**  
**Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee**  
**Friday, March 21, 2003**

Good afternoon. My name is Andy Sauer, and I am the Executive Director of Common Cause in Connecticut. Common Cause in Connecticut is a nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' lobby that works to improve the way Connecticut's government operates. We have more than 4,000 members in Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views today.

Common Cause would like to thank the Co-Chairmen of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, Rep. Jim O'Rourke and Senator Don DeFronzo, and the other members of the committee for drafting and raising this important reform measure.

**The use of public money**

Public money is used for roads. It is used for education. It is used to stimulate economic growth. It is used to build parks. It is used to fund the arts. These are not arbitrary applications of public money. The appropriation of such funds represents the hopes and goals of all leaders — local, state and national. People and goods need to move throughout the state, therefore the state builds better roads. The state wants a vibrant economy, therefore state-backed loans are used to help first-time homeowners and start-up businesses. The state wants its population to have the best education possible, therefore it helps fund our schools.

Government demonstrates its priorities by the money it appropriates. Our tax dollars already pay for parts of the electoral process, from the hiring of staff at various state agencies for oversight, to the printing of ballots and setting up of voting booths. We believe the public should — and would support the election of candidates free of the taint of special interest influence.

As scandal and impropriety continue to erode the public trust in government, and lead to regular disappointments, such as our dismal 40 percent voter turnout in 2002, Connecticut is in a position where it needs to win the confidence of its citizens.

Citizen-funded election reform reduces the influence of big money and limits campaign spending by giving candidates the option of qualifying for public money to run their campaigns. To be eligible, candidates must agree to abide by spending limits and forgo raising private money once they have qualified for public funds. To qualify for public funds, candidates must demonstrate broad support in their state/district by raising a threshold amount of money in small contributions. If they are outspent

With the necessary changes, Common Cause urges you to support a "Clean Election" model for public financing for political campaigns. Common Cause believes that this kind of reform is a comprehensive, constitutional and reasonable way to reform our system of elections. Many who oppose this kind of reform will focus on the fact that the system is paid for through public financing. We believe the only way to ensure that our elections are democratically governed is to make them democratically financed.

**Legislation Common Cause supports:**

Common Cause supports the following pieces of legislation being heard before this committee today:

- S. B. No. 675— An Act Concerning Registrar Of Voters Who's Candidate In A Primary.
- H. B. No. 6087— An Act Concerning The Definition Of A "Minor Party".
- H. B. No. 6099— An Act Concerning The Effect Of Redistricting On Ballot Access.
- H. B. No. 6622— An Act Requiring New Voting Equipment To Accommodate Ranked Order Voting And Cumulative Voting.
- H. B. No. 6653— An Act Proposing Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform For State-Wide Constitutional Offices And The General Assembly.

**Legislation Common Cause opposes:**

Common Cause is opposed to the following bills:

- H. B. No. 6661— An Act Concerning Campaign Finance Reporting Requirements.
- S. B. No. 1129— An Act Concerning Mechanical Lever Voting Machines.
- H. B. No. 5335— An Act Prohibiting A Candidate Defeated In A Nominating Primary From Running As A Major Party, Minor Party, Or Petitioning Candidate For The Same Office In The General Election.
- H. B. No. 6619— An Act Concerning Publication Of Proposed Charters, Charter Amendments And Home Rule Ordinance Amendments.
- H. B. No. 6657— An Act Concerning The Latino And Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

**H. B. No. 6661.— An Act Concerning Campaign Finance Reporting Requirements.**

While we support some of the provisions in this bill, Common Cause has concerns about Section 2 of the legislation, which would disable the State Elections Enforcement Commission from auditing campaign records of a candidate in a previous campaign if he is seeking election at the time of the audit. This bill would also prevent the Commission from auditing a candidate's campaign from a previous election if it were the subject of a complaint brought within the 4-month period of the next succeeding election. Funds could be hidden by a campaign and not brought to the Commission's attention until months after that campaign is over. Common Cause believes this legislation would prevent the Elections Enforcement Commission from carrying out its state mandated duties.

**H. B. No. 6622.— An Act Requiring New Voting Equipment To Accommodate Ranked Order Voting And Cumulative Voting.** This piece of legislation is an important precaution to protect any