

**PA12-193**

HB5022

Government	185, (211-212), 213, 218-	50
Admin. &	219, 231-233, 244-245,	
Elections	298-300, 312-315, 320-	
	321, 323-325, 331-333,	
	358-360, 375, 378-379,	
	413-415, 417-421, 465,	
	468-473, 516, 519, 527	
Senate	4497A-4497C, 4498-4499	5
House	<u>7777-7785, 7852-7854</u>	<u>12</u>
		<b>67</b>

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS  
PART 1  
1 – 325**

**2012  
INDEX**



## The Hartford Votes ~ Hartford Vota Coalition

February 27, 2012

Senator Gayle S. Slossberg and Representative Russell A. Morin  
 Committee on Government Administration and Elections  
 Connecticut State Legislature  
 Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Representative Morin and Senator Slossberg:

On behalf of the Hartford Votes ~ Hartford Vota Coalition, I write in support of three bills that are before your committee:

- Governor's Bill No. 5024: An Act Concerning Voting Rights
- Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 2: Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for No-Excuse Absentee Voting
- Governor's Bill No. 5022: An Act Increasing Penalties for Voter Intimidation and Interference.

The mission of the Hartford Votes ~ Hartford Vota Coalition is to increase voter engagement in the city of Hartford through voter education, voter information, and voter registration. The Coalition was formed three years ago and is comprised of fourteen nonprofit and governmental organizations. We feel strongly that voting is an essential right and civic duty of all citizens. The three bills before your committee will encourage and support those who are exercising that right.

Bill No. 5024, which will allow qualified individuals to register to vote on Election Day, is especially important in a city such as Hartford where voters move often and may be mistakenly purged from the voter rolls. Election Day registration would allow voters who are in this situation to re-register and cast their ballots at their polling place, thus preserving their right to vote.

No-excuse absentee voting, as proposed in Joint Resolution No. 2, will increase voting in Hartford and other cities and towns by eliminating barriers to voting posed by such factors as long workdays and the need to care for children and other family members. By enabling voters to anticipate Election Day difficulties and secure absentee ballots, we support their desire to participate in the democratic process.

Lastly, although we in Connecticut have not experienced the types of voter intimidation and vote suppression that have occurred in other states, we want to assure that such activities do not occur here. Therefore, we support an increase in penalties for voter intimidation and interference as proposed in Bill No. 5022.

We are grateful to the Legislature and the Governor for proposing this legislation and for establishing Connecticut as a leader in voter empowerment. We urge your positive action on the three bills.

Sincerely,  
 Linda A. Bayer  
 Hartford Votes ~ Hartford Vota Coalition

---

A Better Way Foundation - Hartford 2000 - CT Association of Nonprofits - Achieve Hartford!  
 City of Hartford Registrars of Voters - Connecticut Center for a New Economy - Co-Opportunity  
 CT Secretary of the State - Common Cause in Connecticut - Hartford Areas Rally Together  
 Hartford Public Library - MetroHartford Alliance - League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford  
 Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work

1

March 2, 2012

jkr/gbr

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

10:30 A.M.

CHAIRMEN:

Senator Slossberg  
Representative Morin

MEMBERS PRESENT;

SENATORS:

Meyer, McLachlan

REPRESENTATIVES:

Lesser, Hwang, Abercrombie,  
Alibis, Floren, Fox,  
Hetherington, Labriola,  
Luxenberg, Santiago

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Okay.

We'd like to call the public meeting to order and welcome, everyone. We're looking forward to hearing from everyone today, but first up for our speakers, we are delighted to welcome our esteemed Lieutenant Governor, Nancy Wyman, and our Secretary of State, Denise Merrill, to speak first.

And then I understand that the Lieutenant Governor -- we're so glad that she's here, but I understand she has to be leaving after she speaks, so we thank you, we welcome you back to the GAE Committee, look forward to hearing from you and recognize that you will be leaving us shortly.

NANCY WYMAN: Thank you, Senator Slossberg.

Representative Morin and the distinguished guests, members of the GAE Committee. It's good to see you, Representative Morin, I'll tell you. And for the record, if you don't know, I am Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, and I thank you for allowing me to speak for a few minutes.

(HJ2) (SB27)  
(HB5022) (HB5024)

You know, as you know, there is nothing more vital to the future of our state and our nation than ensuring that all our citizens have the power to vote. But across the country, many states are taking steps to put obstacles in the way of citizens' ability to exercise that right.

Here in Connecticut, we are doing just the opposite. Here in Connecticut, we fortunately have a Governor committed to reforming and modernizing our voting system so that more people can vote.

The reforms in this package will ensure that more of our residents have the power to decide who they want to represent them in government, the power to decide how they want to raise their taxes and who to do that and how those taxes are being spent, what kind of healthcare they want in the system, how they want their children to be educated and so many other aspects of their lives.

These proposals will allow more people to have their voices heard in a place where it truly matters, and that's the voting booth.

So I want to thank you for allowing me to be here with you today, and I know I'm leaving you in very capable hands, the capable hands of our great Secretary of State. Thank you

Bye, all.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you, Nancy. And please tell the Governor we said thank you very much for his support and his leadership on these very important reforms.

Here at the GAE Committee, we've been

March 2, 2012

jkr/gbr

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

10:30 A.M.

working for a long time on a number of these. Very exciting to have the leadership in the Governor's office and the Lieutenant Governor's office and the Secretary of State to make these things actually happen, so please say thank you. We can't wait [inaudible].

Madam Secretary of State, delightful to have you back before us again, and looking forward to hearing from you this morning.

DENISE MERRILL: Thank you very much. Good morning, Chairman Morin, Chairman Slossberg and members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Denise Merrill. I am Secretary of the State of Connecticut, and I wish to also thank Governor Malloy and Lieutenant Governor Wyman for their partnership in proposing and supporting the important reforms that are on your agenda this morning.

So my job will be to briefly address four bills raised by the Committee this morning, starting with the substitute language for House Joint Resolution 2. This amendment has been proposed before by my office and others. This year, Governor Malloy is proposing it with enthusiastic support.

SB27  
HB5022  
HB5024

The substitute language for House Joint Resolution 2 would amend the state constitution to remove the current barriers in the state constitution that allow voting by absentee ballot for only specified reasons.

I want to be very clear. This is not a proposal for a specific path. It is simply

So while I completely support the goal, I think it would require the collaboration of other offices, such as LCO, the Judicial Branch, Executive Branch agencies. I look forward to collaborating on this -- with this Committee and the Governor on how we achieve this and move regulation recordkeeping into the 21st century.

Raised Bill 5022, AN ACT INCREASING  
PENALTIES FOR VOTER INTIMIDATION AND  
INTERFERENCE.

This bill would take some important steps to safeguard our citizens' right to vote by equalizing penalties for the types of voter suppression or intimidation with penalties we currently impose for other types of voter fraud.

I want to make it clear that we in Connecticut really have no established track record of widespread consistent voter intimidation and or suppression, such as has been seen in other states, but it's important to remember by establishing a penalty for a criminal act, we make a public policy statement about how seriously we take the crime, and we should have absolutely zero tolerance for people who would do anything to intentionally intimidate or improperly influence the sacred right of a Connecticut citizen to cast their ballot privately and independently.

We feel we should take these crimes just as seriously as we take other election crimes so it will have a deterrent effect. We have a whole chart of specific penalties that address which specific crimes, but I'll give

you an example.

Under current state law, someone convicted of the felony of fraudulently misrepresenting themselves at the polls, so-called voter impersonation, faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. It's a fairly stiff penalty.

However, under current law, someone who by threat of force or bribery attempts to influence the choice of a voter would only face a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a fine of \$1,000.

We think it's important to send a message that we view the crime of tampering with the vote as equally egregious as the serious crime of voter fraud.

So this bill increases the maximum penalty for this type of voter intimidation and threatening or bribery to ten years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

This bill would, I believe, create a chilling effect on tampering with elections in Connecticut, and I urge passage.

Now I'll turn my attention to Raised Bill 5024, AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING RIGHTS.

I want to talk about this bill in two sections, sections that share the twin goals of expanding voter participation and removing barriers to the ballot.

It does two important things: It enacts election day registration in Connecticut, and it enables eligible voters in our state with a driver's license to register to vote



Governor before anything would ever change.  
Okay. Got that covered.

DENISE MERRILL: Absolutely.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Want to make sure that we  
can --

DENISE MERRILL: And I get asked that all the time  
as well.

And let me say -- I will go on the record as  
saying I think we need a lot more study of  
all of this. We have remarkably little  
information about our election system, when  
you get right down to it.

And that's why in another committee we're  
proposing something we're calling the  
democracy index, which is essentially, you  
know -- you all know of my interest in  
results-based accountability, which goes  
back a few years. We need to look at our  
outcomes. What are we looking for in our  
election system?

We need to study that and the cost and all  
kinds of other things before we really do  
anything along these lines.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Okay. Terrific.

Can I ask you a question about House Bill  
5022, which is the Act Increasing Penalties  
for Voter Intimidation and Interference,  
just a quick question, and that is, how did  
you come up with these -- these particular  
offenses versus any other?

DENISE MERRILL: These offenses -- which, by the  
way, you should have a table which explains

all the different offenses. These are the offenses that are on the record that essentially -- this would make these offenses equivalent to the other kind of voter fraud offenses that are already on the books.

These jumped out at us as inconsistent. And you'll see there's a list of these, and I might actually turn to my deputy, because he's done quite a study of all this, to talk about that a little bit.

This is -- this is my deputy, James Spallone.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: He looks vaguely familiar.

JAMES SPALLONE: Good morning, Madam Chair, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. It's a pleasure to be here this morning.

A little bit of history on this is we were approached by the Sentencing Commission, one of the working groups which was working on classifying unclassified criminal offenses under the Model Penal Code and under Section -- under Title 53A.

Criminal statutes generally have a classification, either misdemeanor or felony, and then an A through D felony or misdemeanor with specific consistent penalties attached, and the election offenses didn't except for one or two, which are here in the book.

And so as we were going through this with them, trying to classify some other -- some other offenses which are in their package, probably in the Judiciary Committee, we noticed a few that had penalties that didn't

appear to be -- to be carrying out the policies that the state would want to carry out with discouraging that kind of behavior, making the penalties consistent across the board with the types of offenses and proportionate to the offense.

So that's how we came up with these.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you very much.

I don't have any other questions for the Secretary or for the Deputy Secretary. Do you have any questions over here? I have a question -- Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you, Madam Secretary, for being here today.

I also want to note that you have two former distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee on staff with you, and we missed both of them. You -- you -- you found some good help.

DENISE MERRILL: Thank you. I think so.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: I must say -- I must say that I -- I would probably respectfully differ with you on the House joint resolution idea and -- and so I wanted to ask some questions, if I may, about your understanding of the history.

Why is -- why does our constitution include very specific language as it relates to voter law, election law, and also have it in statute?

What -- why did our previous legislation --

HJ2

REP. FLOREN: Oh, thank you.

DENISE MERRILL: We were able to do that, because both of them are examples of the exception. They were out of the district from all hours from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., but we still had to make those legislative exceptions clear, I believe.

REP. FLOREN: I don't think they've ever been challenged.

DENISE MERRILL: No, they haven't been challenged. That's probably the real answer.

But you're right, we're -- we're not doing it right. We're not doing it appropriately. It is not appropriate to keep making legislative changes that could possibly be in contravention of this constitutional requirement.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Representative Labriola.

REP. LABRIOLA: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Question first to Deputy Secretary Spallone. You and I served on the GAE Committee and Judiciary Committee together. We've talked about criminal law and both practiced in the criminal courts. I continue to. Did this morning. You no longer report to the criminal courts.

HB5022

But I'm just looking at these penalties for this -- for voter intimidation/interference, and given the context that not only is there not a widespread problem in Connecticut about -- I'm not even sure there is any problem of that.

And while the increase in the fines seems to make sense to comport with the level of whether they're felonies or not, Class D or Class C felonies, just what struck me in looking at this chart is that a couple of the -- a couple of the offenses, and I'll let you get the chart there, have minimum mandatory sentences of a year, of two them have that.

And then above, it seems to indicate that every Class C or every Class D felony has a minimum mandatory of a year, but I know there are exceptions to that. There's some unclassified felonies and so forth.

So it just strikes me given the context that there's not really a huge problem with this, that while, yes, we should raise the fines on some of these, do we really need to have a minimum one-year jail sentence for a couple of these?

I'm just wondering whether you would be open to maybe taking a look at that as the -- as the bill winds its way through.

JAMES SPALLONE: Absolutely. I'd be happy to work with you and the Committee on making sure that these set forth a viable proportionate policy for the state to follow.

REP. LABRIOLA: Thank you. And for Madam Secretary, I did have a couple of questions.

I know we've established a few times that bypassing the resolution, no actual policy would be enacted regarding either no-excuse balloting or early voting. I'm happy to support the no-excuse balloting, but I

HJ 2

STEVE CARBO: I did.

REP. SLOSSBERG: Okay, terrific. That's -- that's very helpful. And I see Representative Lesser has some questions.

REP. LESSER: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you for your testimony.

I did like that -- was very interested in that last point that you made, and I was wondering if you had any specific examples that you could point to, if there are other states that have done that, have been able to [inaudible] --

STEVE CARBO: Yeah, well, one of the states that has been out in the lead in online voter registration is Delaware.

REP. LESSER: Mm-hmm.

STEVE CARBO: And Delaware did start with a DMV-only system. And my understanding now is that they are transitioning to integrate with other state agencies so that they can expand the opportunity to register.

REP. LESSER: Thank you very much. I think we should look at that -- at that legislation. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Thank you for your testimony.

STEVE CARBO: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Andrew Rose, followed by Matthew Waggner.

REP. ROSE: Madam Chair, Mr. Chairman, members of

HJ2 HB5022  
HB5024

jkr/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION 10:30 A.M.  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

the Committee, thank you for affording me the opportunity to speak before you. My name is Andrew rose. I'm a resident of Naugatuck, Connecticut.

I'm here today to urge you to vote in favor of Joint Resolution No. 2, as well as Governor's Bills 5022 and 5024.

The Declaration of Independence tells us that governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

In a representative republic such as ours, that consent is given when citizens exercise their right to vote.

An increase in voting helps strengthen the fiduciary bond between the governed and their governors. I believe passage of this pending legislation will significantly increase voting.

Election day registration will lead to higher voter turnout. In the last presidential election, the five states posting the highest turnout all had election day registration.

When North Carolina passed its election day registration legislation, the result was a 13 percent increase in voter turnout in the following election.

Unfortunately, simply having a right does not automatically preclude logistical barriers to exercising that right. Election day registration benefits many, such as the economically disadvantaged, the elderly and the infirmed for whom registering in advance

at a town hall can be onerous.

Election day registration also helps those who have been mistakenly purged from their town's voting roles. It would prevent people from being turned away at the polling place and is far more cost-effective than having to review and validate provisional ballots.

For those, like me, who have had to travel for work, often with little or no notice, current requirements for absentee ballots often make it impossible to vet.

The legislation before you effectively addresses and eliminates these barriers. Your vote in favor of this legislation is a vote to strengthen democracy and a vote which allows all legislators to enhance the legacy they leave to our state.

Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Any questions? Thank you for your testimony.

Matthew Waggoner, followed by Carole Young-Kleinfeld.

MATTHEW WAGGNER: Before I start, I had planned to speak separately on the different bills. Would that be all right? Okay. Thank you.

Chairman and members of GAE, my name is Matt Waggoner. I'm a Registrar of Voters in Fairfield, Connecticut. Thank you for hearing testimony on these election bills today.

I'd like to speak on HJ 2, amending the



102

March 2, 2012

jkr/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

10:30 A.M.

ABE SCARR: Appreciate it. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Cheri Quickmire. I don't see Paul  
Filson, but he's next.

CHERI QUICKMIRE: Good afternoon, Representative  
Morin, Representative Floren and  
distinguished other members, if you happened  
to be watching on television. For the  
record, my name is Cheri Quickmire, and I'm  
the executive director of Common Cause in  
Connecticut.

We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit citizen's  
lobby that works to improve the way our  
government operates. We have more than 7500  
members in the State of Connecticut, and  
members and activists, and I'm a member of  
the Secretary of State's Election  
Performance Task Force and Civic Health  
Engagement Task Force.

I am here to applaud the Secretary of the  
State and Governor Malloy for introducing  
these important election reforms. I'm very  
pleased that this Committee is taking the  
time to consider how it can modernize and  
improve our election system by removing  
existing barriers, safeguarding our voting  
systems and ensuring the right to vote in  
free and fair election for all Connecticut  
residents.

I'm here to testify in support of House Bill  
5024, An Act Concerning Voting Rights, House  
Bill 5022, An Act Increasing penalties for  
Voter Intimidation and Interference, and the  
Governor's House Joint Resolution 2, A  
Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the  
State Constitution to Allow for No-excuse  
Absentee Ballot.

I will not go over all the details. You have my testimony electronically. I'm happy to provide it in writing if you need it in hard copy, if you prefer, but -- but just to say that in fact we think that this is the -- an important opportunity to support election day registration, sometimes called same-day registration.

This is a simple way that we can encourage voter participation. It allows eligible voters to register and cast a ballot on election day. This is a very simple -- simple option. There are nine states already in the country that have already passed this that have been discussed earlier. This is important, because we're a mobile society.

People, especially young people, move frequently. Our -- our registration does not follow us when we move, as one might think it does. That would be a good thing, but it doesn't. And particularly is of an assist to historically disenfranchised voters, voters who have faced discrimination historically are among the most likely to face registration errors, although it's often through no fault of their own.

And there are often, as you all know well, voters who are mistakenly purged from the voting roles, and we think this will address that as well.

And it counteracts arbitrary voter registration deadlines, it's cost-effective and easier for election officials to administer than provisional ballots, which was also detailed earlier by -- by other

folks.

We don't think as well this has been discussed, that it encourages voter fraud. An analysis that's been done recently, it showed very little evidence of that.

In addition, we support online voter registration as a way to streamline election administration and to increase participation, especially of young people, as Abe said earlier, and we -- we are very supportive of House Bill 5022, An Act Increasing Penalties for Voter Intimidation and Interference.

This is an important recognition, I think, of the significant challenges that certain voters may face, and I'm proud that we in Connecticut are leaders in the nation in our position to unnecessarily restrictive voter ID and proof of citizenship requirements.

This is a very important provision that we -- we would like to see this committee take to improve the security of elections without compromising our citizens' right to vote.

And finally, we support Governor's House Joint Resolution 2. This is an important modernization of our law to put decisions about precinct-based or non-precinct-based voting in the hands of the General Assembly.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify.

REP. MORIN: And thank you, Cheri. You had a question -- you answered it.

So, Representative Floren, anything?

Thank you very much. I don't see Paul Filson, so we'll move on to Senate Bill 27. Paul Donovan, followed by Pamela Booth.

PAUL DONOVAN: Good afternoon, Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Paul Donovan. I am a student intern at the National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter, and I am here to testify on SB 27, The Act Transitioning the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies to an Online Format.

The National Association of Social -- and you have your testimony [inaudible]. The National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter, is representing 3200 members, supports SB 27 as a way to make state government regulations more transparent and accessible to the public.

This proposal to place regulations online is long overdue and very much needed. In 2007, an NASW/CT had to hire an attorney to help us identify, print and analyze all the state regulations that govern the practice of social work in Connecticut.

We did this after spending numerous staff hours unsuccessfully trying to locate such state regulations. This guide is now used frequently by staff in answering inquiries from members and employers as to the rules regarding social work -- social work practice.

For this, the Chapter spent \$1,200, which was an unfortunate but necessary cost because of the difficulty of locating

110

March 2, 2012

jkr/gbr

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

10:30 A.M.

So we would propose that the agencies develop a robust, searchable, user-friendly web portal to their regulations [inaudible] the Secretary of State's.

If I may continue, I have one more big point to make.

REP. MORIN: [Inaudible].

PAMELA BOOTH: Having said all this, it is here that in the past while we got close to the finish line, it has always been the money, not the ideas, which tanked this project.

In 2008, DOIT estimated that the initial price tag would be over \$300,000 just for startup. This was looking at an outside source for help to development, did not include staffing or the maintenance of ongoing records, data storage, software update.

Anyway, the rest of my testimony is online, and I hope that the Committee will push this to its logical conclusion and pass this legislation with those exceptions. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Thank you.

PAMELA BOOTH: Any questions?

REP. MORIN: No, thank you. Ed, I had stepped away. Had Catharine Sturgess -- do you want to speak again? Followed by Paul Filson. We're moving on to House Bill 5022.

CATHARINE STURGESS: And I was wondering if I might have permission to testify on 5024 as well

while I'm here.

As you know, my name is Catharine Sturgess, and I'm the new government director for the League of Women Voters.

The League supports HB 5022 to impose stricter penalties for voter suppression, voter intimidation and voter interference. The League also supports stronger measures to protect the use of an absentee ballot from fraud and undue influence.

One person, one vote, can be very meaningful, particularly when elections are won not by landslides but by mere percentage points.

A person's right to vote as he or she wishes must be protected and preserved without -- without undo influence or interference. The League urges the Committee to support HB 5022. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regarding HB 5024, the League has been a longtime proponent of election day registration for all federal, state and local elections. States with election day registration, as we have heard, have voter turnout rates that are significantly higher than the national average, with little voter fraud.

In fact, election day registration encourages first-time voters, young people and new residents to cast their votes.

The League very much supports HB 5024 in that it calls for the establishment and maintenance of an online voter registration

While the League acknowledges that a voter does not have an opportunity to correct an overvoted ballot unless he discovers his mistake prior to handing in the ballot, but this process is the same as if an elector was using an absentee ballot.

To minimize such occurrences, the elector would be given instructions on filling out the ballot upon receipt of his or her ballot in the same way as they were given instructions when receiving an absentee ballot.

Thank you thank you for the opportunity to comment.

REP. MORIN: Thank you.

Appreciate your comments. Paul Filson.

PAUL FILSON: Good afternoon, Co-Chair Morin and Representative Floren. It's great to be here. My name's Paul Filson. I'm testifying in favor of Bills 5022, 5024 and the Joint Resolution No. 2.

I'm the director of the Service Employees International Union, Connecticut State Council. We represent over 55,000 members. We're the largest union in Connecticut.

SEIU is an organization that participates vigorously in our state's democracy and electoral system. The union is constantly engaged in registering our members to vote and educating them on electoral issues.

On election day, we have as many as 500 members volunteer to knock on doors and make calls to get out the vote. There's nothing

more frustrating than finding a member or one of their family members at home on election day without a current registration.

If Connecticut could join the other states that have election day registration, then every citizen interested in voting could vote.

SEIU believes in making voting as easy and as expansive as possible. It's often workers and the working poor who must work several jobs to make ends meet, who neglect to make time to keep their registrations current.

My own experience going door to door in places like Bridgeport or New Britain or Hartford is -- it's amazing when you -- you have a voter list and you knock on the door and every other person that you knock on the door doesn't live there anymore, and then you -- but somebody lives there, and they're usually citizens and they're not registered to vote because they don't even show up. So it would be great if they could register on election day and participate.

Statewide centralized computerized registration system will allow for a fair and secure election day registration system. SEIU has long advocated for an early voting system. Early voting would allow for a longer and more effective get-out-the-vote campaign, upping turnout, especially in non-presidential year elections and expanding our democracy.

SEIU is very much involved in working for Oregon's mail ballot system, which has been successful in raising turnout and getting



more people involved in the electoral process.

Anecdotally, colleagues I work with from Oregon that people like the convenience of voting by mail. Voters in Oregon also like to being able to say, hey, I already voted, leave me alone.

I mean, I don't know how many people when I knock on the door say "leave me alone" when we're -- when we're going around on election day. But that doesn't happen in Oregon so much.

A no-excuse absentee ballot system I believe was used in Oregon before they actually instituted their vote-by-mail system. So let's make voting easier in Connecticut by allowing for a no-excuse absentee ballot and allowing more people to vote by mail and to vote early.

Finally, SEIU in Connecticut has occasionally witnessed real voter suppression/intimidation campaigns, especially in the urban areas. Increasing penalties may give pause to those cynical operatives who try and subvert democracy to win elections.

So we support these bills and urge your support also. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Appreciate your testimony. Any questions? Thank you.

PAUL FILSON: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: We're going to move on to House Bill 5024. I see Aleta Looker and -- Catharine

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS  
PART 2  
326 - 639**

**2012**

121

March 2, 2012

jkr/gbr

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

10:30 A.M.

REP. MORIN: Ms. Ford. I think Mr. Andrew Rose is gone, but he's already testified. Matthew Waggner will be next.

PUA FORD: Representative Morin and members of the Committee, wherever you may be, thank you for having this hearing and hearing us.

My name is Pua Ford, and I have been a Registrar of Voters in Bethany for just over a year. Before this, I served as a poll worker and I had helped to register students at a regional high school for several years, and I'm here only to offer my own viewpoint and not that of my town or the Registrar's Office, but it is strongly favoring the support of HJ 2, HB 5022 and HB 5024 for their intent to increase citizens' participation in the voting process, whether at the polls or by absentee ballot.

I'm still new at the Registrar job, so I do try to listen to what my experienced colleagues and town clerks have to say about proposed changes. And you've heard, as I, you know, either the security of elections is threatened or the increase work and cost implied is unfair to election officials, I have more about that in my written testimony, because it's really big.

So today, I just want to address the basic question why election day registration -- why can't people just register beforehand?

Now, most of the people in this building have civic matters at the top of their personal things to do, but there are reasonable, caring, intelligent people who don't.

Before I was Registrar, my friends sometimes forgot to vote on local things. They weren't stupid -- pediatric nurse, a drug counselor, moms with kids, struggling moms trying to do the family business. And when they forgot about a referendum, they were chagrined.

When I reminded them, they were happy. So I know there are people with a load of everyday problems who often move civic duties to the back burner, including registering to vote.

Now, my prime example is my daughter, who just graduated college last year and got a job in New York. She found an opening for a roommate in Brooklyn, but she didn't know if it could work out, so she kept Bethany as her permanent address.

When she found out she was paying income taxes in both New York and Connecticut, she got rid of Bethany. She made Brooklyn her permanent address. So -- but I asked her if she had registered to vote in New York yet, and she said, oh, mom. She balked. So I went online. I looked up a New York voter registration form, I found a link to the Brooklyn clerk's contact information.

I sent everything to her by email. And it's in her hands now; she's a grownup. I know she wants to vote, but I also know she often doesn't get home from work until after 8:00 p.m.

Now, if we limit the vote to people with very little chaos in their lives or those with nagging mothers, then we don't have a truly representative government. So I ask

123

March 2, 2012

jkr/gbr

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

10:30 A.M.

you, please support these bills and to ask you -- thank you for hearing me.

REP. MORIN: Well, I certainly appreciate you coming to testify. Representative Floren?

Thank you very much. I believe Steve -- Matt, go ahead. And Cheri Young-Kleinfeld, if you want to come back.

MATTHEW WAGGNER: Chairman, Representative Floren, my name is Matt Waggnner, and my town of Fairfield has two colleges and over 35,000 voters. Let me start by saying that I strongly support EDR, and I do so primarily for the benefits it would hold for election integrity.

For those of you who may not know, Registrars conduct a canvass to update and remove voters with outdated addresses each spring. Now, many voters move between the date of this canvass and the election, and they do one of three things: Many will simply register to vote with their new address. Some others, about five percent, realize after the deadline that their forgetfulness or misunderstanding has made them ineligible to vote, and a few return to their prior district, show ID and cast the ballot for offices for which they are no longer eligible to vote.

A survey of several Connecticut towns found this to be one-quarter to one-half a percent of ballots cast.

These figures aren't just significant because elections can be decided by a handful of votes, but they're also much greater than even the wildest fraud

I mean, I think it makes a -- it -- again, I'm a guilty -- I'm a party -- I'm a member of the guilty party. If it weren't for my internship, I -- I didn't have any trust in local government. Now I do. Now I'm spreading the message.

But we have to have the experiences of how our voices can make a difference. And we have to have the experiences of how local government can make a difference for us.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: Thank you again for being here today, and I hope you indeed stay engaged in the political process.

AIMEE STUPAK: Thank you. I plan on it.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

REP. MORIN: Thank you, Senator, great questions.

Anyone else? Thank you. Brian Jud, followed by Jerri McMillan.

BRIAN JUD: Thank you, Committee Co-Chairs, Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and the honorable Committee members. My testimony actually relates to HB 5022.

My name is Brian Jud. I'm currently a master's student at the UConn School of Social Work, a member of Hartford Votes and a lifelong resident of Connecticut. Thanks for the opportunity to speak with you today.

As part of my school curriculum, I intern at the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work. Part of our institute's mission statement is to help

facilitate the political empowerment of clients. To achieve this, we at the Institute have done significant work to promote voter registration and voter turnout among eligible populations.

As a social worker, I take it upon myself to apply a human rights perspective to the work that I do. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the world's preeminent human rights document, all persons have the right to, quote, universal and equal suffrage, end quote.

Therefore, as a political social worker, I consider voter intimidation, interference and disenfranchisement to be significant and fundamental violations of any individual's human rights.

I feel that attempting to affect or influence an individual's vote in a forcible way, such as the situations described in the text of HB 5022, is both cowardly and low. Thus, I fully support this bill, which will make it a felony to engage in varying types of voter intimidation, interference and disenfranchisement.

Our country has had too much negative history around these issues to allow such situations to happen in the future. The State of Connecticut has historically had one of the best track records as far as voter intimidation and interference, and this bill will only serve to make our state an even better leader across the nation.

I'm very pleased that the legislature, the Governor and Secretary Merrill have proposed this legislation, and I urge its passage,

150

March 2, 2012

jkr/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

10:30 A.M.

which will keep Connecticut at the forefront  
of voter empowerment.

Thank you for your time.

REP. MORIN: Thank you very much. We appreciate  
your testimony. Any questions? Thank you,  
sir. Jerri McMillan.

JERRI McMILLAN: Hi. The last time I was in this  
building as an active participant as opposed  
to a spectator was in the Weicker  
administration. I had -- I had just  
recently retired, and it was not this room  
but a room with a big table and actually all  
of the seats were occupied by people in that  
one, and they started introducing themselves  
to my left and it was one big hoo-ha  
position after the other, and when it got to  
about there, I am thinking to myself I am so  
not going to say I'm Jerri McMillan, a mom.  
So by the time it got to myself, I said I'm  
Jerri McMillan, chief operating officer, 20  
Main Street.

Now, while that was technically the truth,  
it was deliberately misleading. However,  
I've gotten more comfortable in my role as  
Jane Q Public, which is how I come to you  
today, and I believe that it is -- it comes  
down to the Jane and John Q Publics,  
actually, to detect and prompt investigation  
into the prosecution of ineligible voters.

In other words, a legislation comes around  
making it easier to enfranchise a voting  
segment, but it actually comes down to the  
non-governmental organizations and just  
ordinary individuals, JQ Publics, to urge  
prosecution.

[HJ2]  
[HB 5024]



of registration, 1500. And once they were in the building at 8:00, we stayed to register them. This is when we had horrible phones, we had horrible computers, and we managed to do it. Verification. Listen, you do things today the same day -- the day before election that is not verified. Not at all. Okay?

That's it.

REP. MORIN: Thank you, Judi, any questions?

JUDI BEAUDREAU: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Okay. At this time, I'm going to recess the public hearing just for a short minute and we have to reconvene the -- our committee meeting. The clerk will read the tally of the votes.

(Committee meeting.)

REP. MORIN: We will reconvene the public hearing, and Chris Healy, you're up -- you're up with Ethan Senack on deck.

CHRIS HEALY: Well, Madam Chair, Mr. Chairman, thank you for conducting this hearing. My name's Chris Healy, I live at 27 Dorchester Road in Wethersfield, and I used to be somebody in politics, but I decided to come out here to testify on one bill that I've already submitted my testimony on, so I will not ore you with going through that.

I do want to make just a few comments based on what I've heard today and just -- and just put them in perspective on one -- on one issue.

HB5024  
HB5022

HJ2  
HB5027

moved across town or they moved in the state. They can't be bothered.

So we're going to bring the whole election process. We're going to bring another layer of work to people that are working a 14- to 20-hour day, we're going to say, oh, by the way, we're going to register these people, there's no way to validate it. There's no way to make sure it's right. We'll send you a card and maybe ten days later we'll verify it.

The election box is stuffed with potentially tainted ballots, and an election may be won or lost. And, guess what, the courts aren't going to throw those elects out. They never do. And with good reason. That's what this is all about.

So why are we doing it? I think it's very clear. Some people just think that they need so many votes, and if we need the votes, then most show up with people that may or may not be registered to vote and we'll sort it out later.

And that's really all that he going on here, and we do have inventory fraud in this state. Anyone who has read a newspaper in the last three or four years, we have voter fraud. That will add another layer to it. It will put pressure on good, hardworking people who will make mistakes or be put in a position where they might be sued because they don't suit somebody up on election day when there's plenty of time for them to do it.

So I think one thing on this -- these other two bills that you have before you, I think

HB 5022

it's -- I think it's great that we're making the fines that people are intimidating people into votes, at a polling, may I think that's great. I think the online stuff is great, but the online is only as good as the people that are running it to bring it up to speed.

And anyone who's been in a campaign knows you have lots of problems with people that die, people that move and the list aren't current, so it's a real full-time job to get that online thing working and ready, and I think that it a good investment.

I don't like the idea that we're moving away from an no-excuse absentee. Again, that puts another layer of distance between what we do as a society every year to come together to vote. We have provisions for people that can't make it. There's plenty of opportunities to -- to plan your day accordingly. And again, I just think you're just setting up more fraud and more distance between the people and the voting -- the actual act of voting.

HJ2

Voting is sacred. It's a right. It's a privilege, but I don't believe this body should be making things so simple and so easy and so trivial when we have present at this of time to register our franchise and take action. Thank you for letting me pontificate.

REP. MORIN: Does anyone have any questions?  
Representative Labriola.

REP. LABRIOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
Good to see you, Mr. Chairman.

State of Connecticut  
Government Administration and Elections Committee

Testimony of Brian Jud

March 2, 2012

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Gayle Slossberg, Rep. Russ Morin,  
and Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Brian Jud. I am currently a master's student at the UConn School of Social Work, as well as a lifelong resident of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

As part of my school curriculum, I intern at the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work. Part of our Institute's mission statement is to help facilitate the political empowerment of clients. To achieve this, we at the Institute have done significant work to promote voter registration and voter turnout among eligible populations.

As a social worker, I take it upon myself to apply a human rights perspective to the work that I do. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the world's preeminent human rights document, all persons have the right to "universal and equal suffrage." Therefore, as a political social worker, I consider voter intimidation, interference, and disenfranchisement to be significant and fundamental violations of any individual's human rights.

I feel that attempting to directly affect or influence an individual's vote in a forcible way, such as the situations described in the text of this bill, is both cowardly and low. Thus, I fully support this bill, HB 5022, which will make it a felony to engage in varying types of voter intimidation, interference, and disenfranchisement. Our country has had too much negative history around these issues to allow such situations to happen in the future. The State of Connecticut has historically had one of the best track records as far as voter intimidation and interference, and this bill will only serve to make our state an even better leader across the nation.

I am very pleased that the Legislature, the Governor, and Secretary Merrill have proposed this legislation and I urge its passage, which will keep Connecticut at the forefront of voter empowerment. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Brian Jud  
University of Connecticut School of Social Work

pg. 6, line 11



Town of Fairfield · Registrar of Voters Office  
611 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

Testimony of Matthew Waggoner, Registrar  
(203) 256-3115 | mwaggoner@town.fairfield.ct.us

**Testimony on HB 5022: An Act Increasing Penalties For Voter Intimidation And Interference**

Dear Co-Chairs Morin and Slossberg, Ranking Members Hwang and McLachlan, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

Thank you for taking up HB 5022, An Act Increasing Penalties for Voter Intimidation and Interference. I support this bill, and appreciate your recognition that voter intimidation deserves additional scrutiny as a distorting force in our election system. I don't know of any way to count the number of people who stay away from the polls because of fears associated with the behavior discussed in this bill, but there are routinely reports of those attempting to influence voters to stay away from the polls with misleading advice or threatening signage, and I hope that your efforts make enforcement of these matters a greater priority.

I would like to raise two points for you to consider as you work on this bill.

First, Section 4 discusses a window of time in which it is illegal to threaten or fire an employee or promise to hire a prospective employee in order to influence their vote – the sixty days before an election. I would respectfully submit that if it is illegal to threaten to fire someone on September 15th of an election year, then it should be equally illegal to do so on September 1st or November 30th. Please consider striking the window of time language to establish that employer intimidation of voters that work for them is always wrong.

Secondly, Section 3 discusses influencing the vote by bribery or corrupt means, and while it changes the penalty for these actions, it does not change the language defining them. It had come to my attention in 2010, when a campaign made an offer of free gifts to voters that came to their polling place, that SEEC staff did not feel the existing language gave them the authority to pursue the matter on their own. In that instance, as it was a federal office, the U.S. Department of Justice intervened, saying in part:

*Specifically, Section 1973i(c) of Title 42 of the United States Code makes it a federal offense to pay or offer to pay an individual a thing of value for voting. Violation of Section 1973i(c) is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000. Please note the Department's understanding that this statute prohibits a person from providing a thing of value — such as clothing — in return for an individual's participation in the voting process.*

There are less-publicized examples of local and state campaigns offering “things of value” to voters, such as gifts or meals at the polling place, and while at one time this was well-established practice in American elections, I believe there is now a consensus that this is inappropriate. I hope you will consider consulting with the SEEC to make Connecticut's vote-buying prohibitions on par with the federal statute.

pg. 5, line 24

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

## CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee

## Public Hearing

Comments provided by: Susan Voris, Election Laws Specialist, League of Women Voters of Connecticut

Support for: HB5022 - AA Increasing Penalties for Voter Intimidation and Interference.

My name is Susan Voris. I am the Election Laws Specialist for the League of Women Voters of Connecticut. As a state-wide organization with over 1,800 members, the League is dedicated to improving the electoral process.

HB5022 - AA Increasing Penalties for Voter Intimidation and Interference.

The League supports HB5022 to impose stricter penalties for voter suppression, voter intimidation or voter interference. The League also supports stronger measures to protect the use of the absentee ballot from fraud and undue influence.

One person, one vote means something, particularly when elections are won not by landslides, but by mere percentage points. A person's right to vote as he or she wishes must be protected and preserved without undue influence or interference.

The League urges the Committee to support HB5022.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Statement of Andrew Rose

Madam Co-Chair, Mr. Co-Chair, members of the committee, thank you for affording me the opportunity to speak before you. My name is Andrew Rose. I am a resident of Naugatuck, CT. I urge you to vote in favor of Governor's Bills 5022 and 5024, and Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 2 pertaining to voting rights and registration.

The Declaration of Independence tells us that "*...governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*" In a representative republic such as ours, that consent is given when citizens exercise their right to vote. An increase in voting helps strengthen the fiduciary bond between the governed and their governors. I believe passage of this pending legislation will significantly increase voting.

Election day registration will lead to higher voter turnout. In the last presidential election, the five states posting the highest turnout all had election day registration. When North Carolina passed its election day registration legislation, the result was a 13% increase in voter turnout in the following election.

Having a right does not automatically preclude logistical barriers to exercising that right. Election day registration benefits many, such as the economically disadvantaged, the elderly and the infirm for whom registering in advance at a town hall is onerous. Election day registration also helps those who may have been mistakenly purged from their town's voting rolls; it would prevent people from being turned away at the polling place, and is more cost-effective than having to review and validate provisional ballots. For those like me who have had to travel for work, often with little or no notice, current requirements for absentee ballots often make it impossible to vote. The legislation before you effectively addresses and eliminates these barriers.

Your vote in favor of this legislation is a vote to strengthen democracy, and a vote which allows all legislators to strengthen the legacy they leave to our state.

Thank you.

8 Valley Road  
Bethany, CT 06524-3410  
203-393-2184  
[pua4@hotmail.com](mailto:pua4@hotmail.com)

Government Administration and Elections  
Committee  
Room 2200, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: House Joint Resolution 2 (LCO# 1420)  
HB 5022 – AA Increasing Penalties for Voter Intimidation and Interference  
HB 5024 – AAC Voting Rights

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and members of the Committee:

is Pua Ford, and I have been a registrar of voters in Bethany for just over a year. Before this I served as a pollworker and helped register students at our regional high school for several years. I am here only to offer my own viewpoint, not that of my town or the registrars' office.

I strongly favor the purpose of these three bills to increase citizens' participation in the voting process, whether at the polls or by absentee ballot. I am still new in the registrar job, so I try to listen to what experienced colleagues and the town clerks have to say about the proposed changes. I hear two general objections to easier access to voting: either (1) the security of elections is threatened or (2) the increased work and cost implied is unfair to election officials at the municipal level.

My written testimony has more thoughts about those objections. I would like to address something basic: "Why Election Day Registration? Why can't people just register beforehand?"

Most people in this room have civic matters at the top of their personal list of things to do. But there are reasonable, caring, perfectly intelligent people who don't. Before I was a registrar, I saw that sometimes my friends forgot to vote on local things—not stupid people: a pediatric nurse, a drug counselor, moms with kids who struggled in school. When they forgot about a referendum, they were chagrined. When I reminded them, they were happy. People who have a load of everyday problems often move civic duties on the back burner. Reasonable, caring people also don't get around to registering.

My daughter graduated college last year and got a job in New York. She found an opening for a roommate in Brooklyn, but didn't know if it would work out, so she kept Bethany as her permanent address. When she found out she was paying income taxes to both NY and CT, she made Brooklyn her permanent address. I asked her if she had registered to vote in NY yet. She balked. I looked up a NY voter registration form online, found the link to the Brooklyn clerk's contact information and sent it all to her. I know she wants to vote. But I also know she often doesn't get home from work until 8 p.m.

If we limit the vote to people with very little chaos in their lives or those with nagging mothers, then we don't have a truly representative government. Please support these bills,

Thank you again for hearing me.

*Puanani Ford*



### Concerns about Security of the Vote

I believe that both HB 5022 and HB 5024 should alleviate security concerns. HB 5022 takes on a possible abuse of absentee ballots, one we have heard about in recent news. There should be time to address any other possible problems after amending our Constitution, as proposed in the first section of the substitute for HJ 2.

The proposed procedures in Section 1 of HB 5024 should quell most of the security objections to Election Day Registration. The detailed process of verifying an applicant's qualifications should deter any would-be double-voters. In fact, it may deter some people from taking advantage of EDR. It took me some time to work out the statutory language, so I made a flowchart to keep track of all the steps. EDR ballots would be no less secure than current absentee and overseas ballots. Sanctions for abuse of the elections process, for perjury on the ballot envelope, are already in place; if enforcement is a problem, then that should be addressed by administration.

But the intense security will mean additional labor or equipment expenses for the towns.

### Concerns about added work and expense

Everyone hates it when the boss hands them an extra task. I sympathize for the veteran registrars of voters and town clerks who see these bills as onerous. Since I am approaching this new, the addition of EDR would be just one more thing out many to learn. It doesn't frighten me in particular as much as the entire job.

When asked to serve, I hesitated to take on one more part-time job as a registrar. The scope of the job is daunting: The registrars of voters have to be comfortable with technology to handle the voter database and the ballot tabulators, know the statutes well enough to comply, and know enough about their local pollworkers to organize them effectively. In most small towns we only have to retain all this expertise for limited periods just before elections, and then we are free to attend our other jobs and duties and forget what we learned.

Managing human resources requires a delicate, less technical talent. Taking in a new voter registration card that's marked "interested in working at the polls" is like finding a gold nugget. We do our best to cultivate new people and make their civic contribution rewarding. We need to think about how to attract more pollworkers. We will need them in the polls and in the clerks' offices to get started on these additional tasks until we get the technology to make it easier.

As for the additional expense these initiatives would represent, it will be difficult in Bethany as it is in other places. I have discussed the possibility of extra fundraising for pollbooks with my registrar counterpart. Perhaps we can argue that the extra equipment is at least as important as the GIS system that the town approved for land records a few years back. The Vote is important, and we should try to make it available to all our qualified citizens.

Having the electronic systems in place to make EDR and the online registration (section 11 of HB 5024) secure and convenient for all is paramount. It will take time to get it right. One body that could help move e-Government forward is the Connecticut Broadband Internet Coordinating Council (CBICC), which has representatives from the academic, private business and government sectors. CBICC figures prominently in the CT Academy of Science & Engineering's report on improving broadband services in the state, including government services on the internet. But CBICC's establishing statute (Sec. 4d-100) was repealed last year in an amendment to the bill putting the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection together. I hope members of this committee will also support any effort to re-establish CBICC.

#### Beyond the Scope of the Bills

To reduce the burden of people lining up for EDR, we should make better use of the special voter registration sessions already in place. We need to take the registration process to prospective voters more than we do now. Currently we are required to hold the special Saturday sessions before elections in the registrars' offices. There are probably cities and towns where this makes sense, but in Bethany no one comes to Town Hall to register on Saturday, even when there are signs and balloons outside. If we had some leeway to set up voter registration at the town's recycling center or the bank, this might yield some voters and the town would not be wasting money to staff an office that no one enters.

#### Examples

Woodbridge registrars coordinate the voter registration drive at our regional high school with Bethany and Orange. We used to set up tables near the cafeteria during the lunch hours and attract the attention of the older students as they passed through the halls. Even when 17-year-olds were allowed to pre-register, this would only yield 1-2 dozen cards. More recently, with cooperation of school administration and staff, the Woodbridge registrars schedule a day or two to walk into classes, talk briefly with students, and distribute & collect registration. This has been much more successful.

In 2004, the grocery store chain A&P asked the League of Women Voters to hold voter registration drives at their stores. LWV Amity made arrangements for training in the registration process from SOTS staff. I spent several hours with another Leaguer on a Saturday at the A&P in Naugatuck, under an awning to stay out of the rain from the edge of Hurricane Ivan. We collected 40-50 registration cards for 4-5 towns. Most people said that they had just moved and hadn't gotten around to changing their registration yet. We hand-delivered the registration cards to registrar offices. I don't know if the local Leagues and businesses would do this again, but if this kind of project could help take some pressure off Election Day Registration.

I need to emphasize that this kind of registration needs properly trained workers. This week I heard a sad story about a college student who registered to vote on campus with his permanent home address, and then drove home across the state to vote on Election Day only to find that his registration card never made it to the office. If registrars and their staff were involved, it might help reduce that kind of problem.

pg. 6, line 24

## Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

### Committee Members

Antoinette Chick Spinelli –  
Waterbury, CH  
Essie Labrot, West Hartford,  
V. CH  
Jeff Barske, Thompson  
George Buckbee, New Milford  
Debra H. Denette, East Haddam  
Michele Grande, Redding  
Mary Stanton, Mansfield



### Advisory Board Members

Joyce Mascena, CTCA-Pres.  
Patty Strauss, 1<sup>st</sup> V-Pres.  
Patty Spruance, 2<sup>nd</sup> V-Pres.  
Joseph Camposeo, Imd. Past Pres.  
Bernice Dixon, Vitals Comm CH  
Kim Garvis, TechnologyComm.CH  
Lobbyist: Michael Dugan

### *2012 Legislative Committee*

---

#### Testimony Government Administration and Elections Committee March 2, 2012

Good morning Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and distinguished members of the GAE Committee. My name is Antoinette Spinelli and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerk's Association (CTCA). I am the legislative chair of the Town Clerk's Association and the Town Clerk of Waterbury. I am here today to testify in support of HB5024 – **An Act Concerning Voting Rights.**

While the responsibility for voter registration lies with the Registrar of Voters, the Town Clerk is and has been responsible for the issuing and processing of Presidential Ballots and we support the recommended changes which will allow the Clerks to continue to issue Presidential Ballots to those qualified citizens who are former residents of the town.

The Association also supports HB5022 – **An Act Increasing Penalties For Voter Intimidation and Interference.** We support harsher penalties for those who interfere or attempt to intimidate a voter.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Antoinette C. Spinelli, Waterbury Town Clerk  
Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee

## EDR, No Excuse Absentee Ballots, Voter Intimidation

March 2, 2012

CONNECTICUT  
STATE COUNCILSERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
CTW, CLC

Co-Chairs Senator Slossberg and Representative Morin, and distinguished members of the GAE Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in favor of bills, 5024, 5022, and Joint resolution No. 2. My name is Paul Filson and I am Director of the Service Employees International Union Connecticut State Council. SEIU represents over 55,000 members, and is the largest in Connecticut.

SEIU is an organization that participates vigorously in our state's democracy and electoral system. The union is constantly engaged in registering our members to vote and educating them on electoral issues. On election-day we have had as many as 500 members volunteer to knock on doors and make calls to get out the vote. There is nothing more frustrating than finding a member or one of their family members at home on election-day without a current registration.

If Connecticut could join the 8 other states that have Election Day Registration then everyone interested in voting could vote. SEIU believes in making voting as easy and as expansive as possible. It is often workers, and the working poor, who must work several jobs to make ends meet, who neglect to make time to keep their registrations current. My own experience, going door to door in Bridgeport, confirmed that residents there change residences quite frequently and that they often forget to update their registrations. Registration laws from the past are out of date and prevent many from participating in our democracy. The state-wide centralized computerized registration system will allow for a fair and secure Election Day registration system.

SEIU has long advocated for an early voting system. Early voting would allow for a longer and more effective get out the vote campaign – thus upping turnout, especially in non-presidential year elections, and expanding our democracy. SEIU was very much involved in working for Oregon's mail ballot system which has been successful in raising turnout and getting more people involved in the electoral process. Anecdotally, colleagues I work with from Oregon report that people like the convenience of voting by mail. Voters in Oregon also like being able to say "I already voted – leave me alone". A no excuse absentee ballot system, I believe, was used in Oregon before they actually instituted their vote by mail system. Let's make voting easier in Connecticut by allowing for a no excuse absentee ballot and allowing more people to vote by mail and to vote early.

Finally, SEIU in CT has occasionally witnessed real voter suppression/intimidation campaigns – especially in urban areas. Increasing penalties may give pause to those cynical operatives who try and subvert democracy to win elections.

Main Office:  
77 Huyslope Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860 251 6091  
Fax 860 548 1935

777 Summer Street  
5th floor, Suite 501  
Stamford, CT 06901  
203 602 6615  
Fax 203.964 0428



55 Oak Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860.549.1220  
860.549.5131 (fax)

**Testimony of Cheri Quickmire,  
Executive Director, Connecticut Common Cause  
Before Government Administration and Elections Committee  
March 2, 2012**

Good morning Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Cheri Quickmire, and I am the Executive Director of Common Cause in Connecticut. Common Cause is a nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' lobby that works to improve the way Connecticut's government operates. We have more than 7,500 members and activists in Connecticut. I am also a member of the Secretary of the State's Election Performance Task and Civic Health Engagement Task Force.

I applaud Secretary of the State Merrill and Governor Malloy for introducing these important election reforms. I am very pleased that this committee is taking the time to consider how we can modernize and improve our election system by removing existing barriers, safeguarding our voting systems and ensuring the right to vote in free and fair elections for all Connecticut citizens.

**I am here to testify in support of the following bills:**

- **HB 5024 An Act Concerning Voting Rights**
- **HB 5022 An Act Increasing Penalties for Voter Intimidation and Interference**
- **Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 2: Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for No-Excuse Absentee Voting**

**HB 5024, AAC Voting Rights:** Common Cause supports Election Day Registration (EDR), sometimes called "Same Day Registration" as a simple way Connecticut can encourage voter participation. EDR allows eligible voters to register and cast a ballot on Election Day.

Nine states allow voters to register to vote at their polling place on Election Day - Montana (passed in 1960), Maine, Minnesota, Wisconsin (1970s), Wyoming, Idaho, New Hampshire (1990s), Iowa (2007) Rhode Island allows it for presidential elections only, and North Carolina (2007) allows new voters to register and vote on the same day during an early voting period just prior to Election Day.

We are a mobile society and a mobile state. We suggest that Election Day Registration would offer many people an opportunity to exercise their right to vote:

- **People Who Move** -- Huge portions of the population move between Presidential elections. In many cases, especially for people who move frequently, updating voter registration is easy to forget. EDR ensures that mobile doesn't have to mean immobilized.
- **Young People** -- Young voters are a huge beneficiary of EDR in part because they move so often. States with Election Day Registration have noticed large surges in youth voting.
- **Historically Disenfranchised Voters** -- Voters who have faced discrimination historically are still among the most likely to face registration errors, often through no fault of their own.
- **Eligible Voters Mistakenly Purged from Voting Rolls** -- Allows them to cast a meaningful ballot.

**EDR counteracts arbitrary voter registration deadlines.** Voter registration deadlines vary from state to state and seem to have little bearing on smooth elections. 28 states close off voter registration 25 or more days before the election – well before the media and the public have given real attention to the races.

**EDR is cost-effective and easier for elections officials to administer than provisional ballots.** Elections are no more expensive to administer in EDR states than in non-EDR states. A 2007 survey of local election officials in EDR states – New Hampshire, Maine, Idaho, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Minnesota describe the incremental cost of EDR as minimal.

Many of us have stories of people turned away from the polls because their names mistakenly did not appear on the rolls on Election Day. After the 2000 presidential election, in which upwards of three million Americans were turned away from the polls because of voter registration problems and registry flaws, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act. As a non-SameDay Registration state we are required to offer provisional ballots to those citizens arriving at the polls who believe they are registered but whose names do not appear on registration rolls. As described by Demos, “the use of provisional ballots, though, doesn't ensure that every vote will count. In 2008, 2 million provisional ballots were again cast; only 1.44 million were counted. Connecticut *rejected* over 62 percent of provisional ballots cast in that presidential election, a reverse of the national average (nationwide, 61.8 percent of all provisional ballots were *counted* in full).”<sup>1</sup>

Allowing eligible voters to register and vote on the same day would cut down on the need to vote by provisional ballot, and save voters from the fear that their votes won't count. In states that adopted Election Day Registration there was a dramatic reduction in provisional balloting – potentially saving costs.

Details from Iowa and North Carolina, states with Same Day Registration, show a reduction in the post-election process of verifying registrations and/ or sending notifications to those whose votes were not counted – a time-consuming and expensive task for Voter Registrars. This would also cut down on voter frustration at the polls and problems for voluntary poll workers.

**Election Day Registration does not encourage voter fraud.** A recent analysis of 2002 – 2005 data from EDR states found very little evidence of voter fraud. And the great majority of local elections officials participating in EDR states rated current fraud-prevention measures sufficient to protect the integrity of elections.

**Election Day Registration can be a secure and easy way to register voters, and one that can dramatically improve turnout rates as proposed in this legislation.** Connecticut could potentially benefit from 10 point increase in voter participation and make it one of the states with the highest voter turnout in the country.

We all witnessed the remarkable turnout in the last Presidential election. Even more remarkable than voters lining up to exercise their right to vote on Election Day were the 40 million voters who voted before Election Day. This translates to thirty percent of the total voting! Colorado had the highest early voter turnout at 79.3%; Pennsylvania had the lowest at 4.1%. Common Cause supports early in-person voting.

**In addition we support Online Voter Registration as a way to streamline election administration and a way to increase participation of young people.** In order to modernize our election system to respond to our increasingly electronically connected age we agree that we must ensure that secure online voter registration is available as recommended in this bill

This strategy captures and transmits an electronic copy of the voter's signature in a secure manner. The data show we can increase participation, maintain efficient and accurate elections without increased administrative burden and without voter fraud.

Common Cause supports **HB 5022 An Act Increasing Penalties for Voter Intimidation and Interference.** This is an important recognition of the significant challenges that certain voters may face. I am proud that Connecticut is a leader in opposition to unnecessarily restrictive ID and proof-of-citizenship requirements. Our state is taking steps to improve the security of elections without compromising our citizens' right to vote.

Studies show that as many as 11 percent of eligible voters do not have government-issued photo ID. That percentage is even higher for seniors, people of color, people with disabilities, low-income voters, and students. Many citizens find it hard to get government photo IDs, because the underlying documentation like birth certificates (the ID one needs to get ID) is often difficult or expensive to come by. At the same time, voter ID policies are far more costly to implement than many assume. 3&4

We urge the Committee to vote this important anti-voter suppression bill out and commend the Governor for his leadership on this issue.

Finally, Common Cause supports **Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 2: Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution.** This is an important modernization of our law to put decisions about precinct based or non-precinct based voting in the hands of the General Assembly.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the GAE committee today.

###

1. Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action, Election Day Registration: A Ground Level View (November 2007), [http://www.demos.org/pubs/EDR\\_Clerks.pdf](http://www.demos.org/pubs/EDR_Clerks.pdf).
2. Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action, Election Day Registration. Voters Win with Election Day Registration (Winter 2009).
3. Brennan Center for Justice: Voter ID (via web), [http://www.brennancenter.org/content/section/category/voter\\_id](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/section/category/voter_id)
4. Brennan Center for Justice: Weiser, Gaskins & Iyer, "Citizens Without Proof", (September, 2011).

Appendix to Testimony of Secretary of the State Denise Merrill on House Bill 5022, "AN ACT INCREASING PENALTIES FOR VOTER INTIMIDATION AND INTERFERENCE"

Penalties for Improperly Influencing a Voter

Connecticut Felony & Misdemeanor Penalties	
Category	Imprisonment
Class A felony	Up to \$20,000 10-25 years
Class B felony	Up to \$15,000 1-20 years
Class C felony	Up to \$10,000 1-10 years
Class D felony	Up to \$5000 1-5 years
Class A misdemeanor	Up to \$2000 Up to 1 year
Class B misdemeanor	Up to \$1000 Up to 6 months
Class C misdemeanor	Up to \$500 Up to 3 months

Connecticut Penalties for Improperly Influencing Voters – Current & Suggested					
Crime	Current Fine	Current Imprisonment	Suggested Fine	Suggested Imprisonment	Suggested Classification
9-363. Circulating false or misleading voting instructions	Up to \$500	Up to 5 years	Up to \$5000	1-5 years	Class D felony
9-364. Influencing Elector to Refrain from Voting	Up to \$500	3 months to 1 year	Up to \$2000	Up to 1 year	Class A misdemeanor
9-364a. Acts prohibited (threat of force, force, bribery, etc. to influence voting)	Up to \$1000	Up to 1 year	Up to \$10,000	1-10 years	Class C felony
9-365. Employer threats	\$100-\$500	6-12 months	Up to \$2000	Up to 1 year	Class A misdemeanor
9-366. Tampering with ballots	None	Up to 5 years	Up to \$10,000	Up to 10 years	Class C Felony



DENISE MERRILL

SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT**GAE Committee  
Public Hearing Testimony  
March 2, 2012**SB27  
HB5022  
HB5024

Good Morning Chairman Morin, Chairman Slossberg and members of the committee. For the record my name is Denise Merrill and I am Secretary of the State of Connecticut. I wish to thank Governor Malloy and Lt. Gov Wyman for their partnership in proposing and supporting the important reforms that are on your agenda this morning. I would like to briefly address four bills raised before the committee this morning, starting with the substitute language for House Joint Resolution 2:

- **House Joint Resolution 2, Substitute Language:**

This amendment has been proposed before by my office and this year Governor Malloy is proposing it with my enthusiastic support. The substitute language for House Joint Resolution 2 would amend the State Constitution to remove the current barriers in the Connecticut Constitution that allow voting by absentee ballot for only specified reasons. Removal of these barriers would enable the General Assembly to consider other ways to cast a ballot without appearing at your poll on Election Day.

Additional types of non-precinct place voting could include voting by mail, early voting, regional voting, or what we call no excuse absentee balloting, where you would not need a specific reason to use an absentee ballot. This takes the first step towards moving CT into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by make voting

- **Raised Bill 5022 “AN ACT INCREASING PENALTIES FOR VOTER INTIMIDATION AND INTERFERENCE”**

This bill would take some important steps to safeguard our citizens' right to vote by equalizing penalties for the types of voter suppression or intimidation with penalties we currently impose for other types of voter fraud. I want to make clear that we in Connecticut really have no established track record of widespread, consistent voter intimidation or suppression such as other states have seen. But it is important to remember that by establishing a penalty for a criminal act, we are making a public policy statement about how seriously we take that crime.

And I think we should have absolutely zero tolerance for people who would do anything to intentionally intimidate or improperly influence the sacred right of a Connecticut citizen to cast their ballot privately and independently. We should take these crimes just as seriously as we take other election crimes, so this can serve as a deterrent effect. There is a whole chart of what specific penalties would address what specific crimes, but let me give you an example.

Under current state law, someone convicted of the felony of fraudulently misrepresenting themselves at the polls – claiming they are someone they are not – faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. However, under current law someone who by threat of force or bribery attempts to influence the choice of a voter would only face a maximum sentence of ONE year in prison and a fine of \$1,000. It is important to send the message that we view the crime of tampering with the vote as equally egregious as the serious crime of voter fraud. So this bill increases the maximum penalty for this type of voter intimidation and threatening or bribery to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

This bill would, I believe, create a chilling effect on tampering with elections in Connecticut and I urge passage.

- Let me now turn my attention to **Raised bill 5024 “AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING RIGHTS”**

Judith A. Beaudreau  
E-mail JudithBeaudreau@gmail.com  
Cell: 860-670-2159



# TOWN OF VERNON

Election Division  
Election Administrators  
Registrars of Voters

375 Hartford Turnpike # 117, Vernon, CT 06066  
Office (860) 870-3685  
Fax (860) 870-3583  
E-mail vernon.dem@gmail.com  
www.vernonelections.org

*Chairman Senator Slosseberg, Representative Morin, members of G A & E Committee  
My name is Judith Beaudreau, Registrar of Voters from Vernon. I am here today to testify in favor  
of HJ 2, HB 5022, & HB 5024.*

-----  
HJ 2

*Resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution to allow no-excuse absentee voting.*

*This is truly the only way that some of my electors in town will vote. At this time when they want to do an absentee ballot especially in a presidential election, when they do not want to go to the polling place, they have a hard time filling out the application. These electors do not believe that they are handicapped, disabled, have an illness, and they are not out of town. They will however sign the application if I help them make it out. They do not want to lie. Voting is very important to them and they always vote. Taking this out of the constitution will assist these Electors and they will be very happy I am sure.*

-----  
HB 5022

*AA Increasing Penalties For Voter Intimidation & Interference*

*Totally agree with these increases. No one should have to have anyone force them into any voting that the Elector does not want to do. A vote is secret & personal to each elector.*

-----  
HB 5024

*AAC Voting Rights*

*Thank you - Thank you - Thank you for having this bill drafted. I am sure by now you are all aware that I am defiantly for EDR. I believe that registration and not knowing our laws causes people not to vote. They seem to miss the cut off's all the time. It has been a long time, coming. EDR passed both houses in 2003 only to have our Governor at that time veto it. It seems to have been on this committee's agenda forever. Hopefully this is the year for passage. It is important that Electors get to cast a ballot. Some Electors actually get up on Election morning and decide that they want to vote. For years I have interviewed Electors who have shown up for Presidential Ballots. Just wanting to know why they waited till the last minute. Their reasons are all over the place but generally they just missed the cut off. They were too busy!!! I believe that EDR will increase voter participation. States that have done this for years have shown this to be true. These states did not have a centralized voter list. We are lucky at this time to have this resource available to us to use. But I want to say that it is only a tool. It should not be a mandate of using the centralized system for the voter to actually register on Election Day. The process that has been laid out in this bill seems to be cumbersome. Somewhere in here it should be stated that the*

**H – 1145**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2012**

**VOL.55  
PART 23  
7514 - 7863**

cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

599  
MAY 8, 2012

number of other bills that require amendments to be called and will be calling them afterwards.

But for right now, Calendar 219 would be the first -- first bill to add to the consent calendar. Calendar 219. The second is Calendar 455. Third is Calendar 510. Fourth is Calendar 513. And the fifth is Calendar 320.

HB 5148  
SB 62  
SB 61  
SB 353  
SB 320

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Thank you very much, sir.

The motion before us is to place the following items on the consent calendar for action later in the day: Calendar numbers are 219, 455, 510, 513 and 320.

Is there objection to the motion? Is there objection to the motion?

Hearing none, those items are placed on the consent agenda for action later today.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 90?

THE CLERK:

On page 37, Calendar 90, House Bill Number 5022, AN ACT INCREASING PENALTIES FOR VOTER INTIMIDATION AND INTERFERENCE, favorable report by the Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Morin, you have the floor, sir.

cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

600  
MAY 8, 2012

REP. MORIN (28th):

Good evening Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the joint committees' favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

The question is on acceptance of the joint committees' favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. MORIN (28th):

Yes, sir. Mr. Speaker, this bill and increases the maximum penalties for violating certain election laws concerning influencing or intimidating voters.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession -- has an amendment LCO 3712. I would ask that the Clerk please call the amendment, and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 3712, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A" ?

THE CLERK:

LCO 3712, House "A" offered by Representative Morin and Senator Slossberg.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to



cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

601  
MAY 8, 2012

summarize amendment.

Is there objection to summarization? Is there  
objection to summarization?

Hearing none, please proceed, sir.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This amendment just makes a few changes about the  
vandalism or marking up of the tables and booths used  
for voting and it changes the various criminal  
penalties from Class C crime to a Class D.

I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption  
of House Amendment Schedule "A."

Will you remark on the amendment? Will you  
remark further on the amendment?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in  
favor signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Representative Hetherington of the 125th, for

cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

602  
MAY 8, 2012

what purpose do you rise, sir?

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has in his possession LCO Number 4865. I asked that it be called, and I'd be permitted to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 4865, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "B"?

THE CLERK:

LCO 4865, House "B" offered by Representative Morin, Representative Hetherington.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment.

Is there an objection to summarization? Is there an objection to summarization?

Hearing none, please proceed, sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

This -- this amendment addresses line 16 to 19 in the underlying bill. As presently stated, the bill makes it a crime to attempt to influence anyone not to vote. And this bill would require -- this amendment would require that the effort be by force or threat bribery or corruption, fraudulent or deliberately

cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

603  
MAY 8, 2012

deceitful means.

And I move adoption, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "B."

Will you remark on the amendment?

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Yes. Mr. Speaker, as presently the provided -- this provides a flat prohibition and criminal penalty for attempting to influence anyone not to vote. This would have the effect of making it a crime to peaceably advise someone, urge someone not to vote. That is clearly an infringement of basic political free speech, and it requires that we add to it some culpable language -- some language of culpability and that's with this amendment does. So that it -- the simple peaceful urging of someone not to vote not be a crime, however, if it were coupled with force, threat, bribery, corrupt, fraudulent or deliberately fraudulent means, then it would be a crime. So I -- I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Thank you very much, sir.

Will you remark further on the amendment? Will

cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

604  
MAY 8, 2012

you remark further on the amendment before us?

If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Those opposed --

The amendment is adopted.

Representative Williams of the 68th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I guess, officially, good morning to you.

The Clerk is in possession of an amendment. It is LCO 5476. I would ask that he call it, and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 5476, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "C"?

THE CLERK:

LCO 5476, House "C" offered by Representative Hetherington, Morin and Hwang.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to

cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

605  
MAY 8, 2012

summarize the amendment.

Is there objection to summarization? Is there an objection to summarization?

Hearing none, Representative Williams, please proceed, sir.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Mr. Speaker, just briefly I want to make sure that we have the right amendment. The -- 5476 is offered by Molgano, Morin, and Hwang; is that right? Sorry. I didn't hear you. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment that is before us would here simply allow town clerks, registrars of voters and their staff to vote by absentee ballot during Election Day. As many of you know, a lot of the people who work in these capacities have to actually leave their job responsibilities to go vote because our law prohibits them from filling out a absentee ballot and this would allow them to fill out an absentee ballot on that day.

And I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "C."

Will you remark? Will you remark further on the

cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

606  
MAY 8, 2012

amendment before us?

If not, I would like to --

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Mr. Speaker, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just briefly this is an amendment that Representative Molgano, who is not here with us tonight due to illness, has asked us just do and has been working on for quite some time. I want to thank Representative Morin and Representative Hwang from the GAE committee from -- for letting us to this tonight.

Something that's important to him, something that I think makes good sense from a public policy standpoint and I would urge its adoption. Thank you.  
DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Will you remark further on the amendment before us?

If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Those opposed nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Would you remark further on the bill as amended?

cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

607  
MAY 8, 2012

Would you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move that this resolution be placed on the  
consent calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Thank you very much, sir.

The motion before us is to place that item on the  
consent calendar.

Is there objection? Is there objection?

Hearing no objection, the item is placed on the  
consent calendar.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 155.

THE CLERK:

On page 4, Calendar 155, Substitute for House  
Bill Number 5394, AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKE AND CARBON  
MONOXIDE DETECTORS AND ALARMS IN RESIDENTIAL  
BUILDINGS, favorable report by the Committee on Public  
Safety.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Dargan of the 115th, you have the  
floor, sir.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

674  
MAY 8, 2012

On page 7, Calendar 219, House Bill Number 5148,  
AN ACT CONCERNING AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATIONS TO  
VICTIMS OF THE CURRENT OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE  
THAT RESULTS IN DEATH OR SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY.  
DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

The distinguished Majority Leader, Representative  
Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good to see you up there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Thank you, sir.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Mr. Speaker, this represents the consent calendar  
and for everyone's edification, I will be listing off  
the calendar numbers in numerical order so that  
everyone can follow. I'll try keep it -- and make  
sure that I do it in numerical order. Thank you.

These will be: Calendar Number 90, Number 155,  
Number 219, Number 223, Number 290, Number 320, Number  
338, Number 345, Number 389, Number 430, Number 444,  
Number 455, Number 467, Number 470, Number 475, Number  
481, Number 485, Number 488, Number 489, Number 494,



cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

675  
MAY 8, 2012

Number 496, Number 497, Number 505, Number 510, Number 513, Number 525, and Number 531.

I move adoption, I move adoption.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the consent calendar. I move the consent calendar.

(Speaker Donovan in the Chair.)

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question before us is on passage of the bills on today's consent calendar.

Will you remark?

If not, staff and guests please come to the well the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be open.

THE 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 please.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

Please check the roll call board to make sure your vote has been properly cast.

cd/sg/lg/sd/ev  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

676  
MAY 8, 2012

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

The Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar

Total number voting	144
Necessary for passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	7

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The consent calendar passes.

Any announcements or introductions? Any announcements or introductions?

Is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

THE CLERK:

A list of Senate bills, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Brendan Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

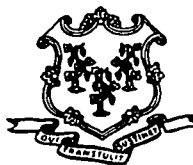
I move that we waive -- waive the reading of the bills and have these items placed immediately on the House calendar.

**S - 649**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2012**

**VOL. 55  
PART 14  
4223 - 4505**



## State of Connecticut

SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591  
(860) 240-0500

GAREY E. COLEMAN  
CLERK OF THE SENATE  
ERNEST J. COTNOIR  
ASSISTANT SENATE CLERK

TIMOTHY B. KEHOE  
PERMANENT ASSISTANT  
CLERK OF THE SENATE

Bills placed on the Consent Calendar on May 9, 2012

5358  
5148  
5394  
5326  
5025  
5534  
5539  
5320  
5462  
5394  
5511  
5283  
5437  
374  
5011  
5440  
5279  
5290  
5307  
5032  
5230  
5241  
5087  
5276  
5484  
5495  
5232  
5447  
5543  
5353  
5271  
5344  
5038



State of Connecticut

SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591  
(860) 240-0500

GAREY E COLEMAN  
CLERK OF THE SENATE  
ERNEST J COTNOIR  
ASSISTANT SENATE CLERK

TIMOTHY B KEHOE  
PERMANENT ASSISTANT  
CLERK OF THE SENATE

- 5233
- 5550
- 5258
- 5106
- 5355
- 5521
- 5248
- 5412
- 5319
- 5328
- 5365
- 5170
- 55440
- 5521
- 5298
- 5343
- 5504
- 418
- 5037
- 5467
- 5022
- 5259
- 5496
- 5360



**State of Connecticut**

SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591  
(860) 240-0500

GAREY E. COLEMAN  
CLERK OF THE SENATE  
ERNEST J. COTNOIR  
ASSISTANT SENATE CLERK

TIMOTHY B. KEHOE  
PERMANENT ASSISTANT  
CLERK OF THE SENATE

Bills from Senate Agenda Number 3 from the May 9th Senate Session that were placed on the Consent Calendar

HB5304  
HB 5342

rgd/tmj/gdm/gbr  
SENATE

319  
May 9, 2012

Good evening, Madam President.

I just want to clarify. I thought I heard the Clerk call House Bill 5034? Is that on the consent calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Do you know what page that is, sir?

SENATOR SUZIO:

No I -- he was reading so fast, Madam, I couldn't get it.

THE CHAIR:

It's -- yes it's 53 -- I don't know.

SENATOR SUZIO:

5034.

THE CHAIR:

5034, yes sir.

SENATOR SUZIO:

I object to that being put on the consent calendar, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Okay, that will be removed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Yes, just seeing that -- ask to remove that item from the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

rgd/tmj/gdm/gbr  
SENATE

320  
May 9, 2012

At this time we'll call a roll call vote on the consent calendar.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.  
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Coleman, we need your vote, sir.

Senator Kissel, Senator Kissel. Senator Kissel, will you vote on the consent calendar please?

All members have voted?

If all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you call the amendment -- I meant the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's 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 has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I believe the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 6 for today's session.