PA12-056

HB5024

Government Admin. & Elections	185, (211-212), 213, 219-230, 278-281, 293-300, 303, 309-315, 320-358, (361-363), 365-390, 417-473, 513, 516, 519-524, 527	170
House	3777-4053	277
Senate	3426-3528	113
		550

JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS
PART 1
1 – 325

2012
INDEX

VOTE 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

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

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.

SB 27
HB 5022
HB 5024

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

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

online from any computer. These are very simple steps. They have been adopted in a number of other states with great success and have higher voter turnout to show for it.

I've been traveling the state, listening to voters and election administrators for almost two years now. I'm heartened many people think these reforms are long overdue modernizations of how we vote.

Others are going to tell you that these reforms go too far. I'll explain to you why I believe these steps are needed and can readily be accomplished within our current election administration framework in Connecticut.

Let's look first at online voter registration. It has the potential not only to mean much more convenience for Connecticut voters, but it will also mean more accurate voter lists and a significant savings for Connecticut taxpayers.

I want to be absolutely clear about this. Online voter registration does not mean online voting, and it does not replace the paper registration system for the simple reason that only people with driver's licenses would be able to do this, and I'll explain why. Here's how it works -- and, by the way, nine states have already implemented this with great success, so we have lots to look at.

Currently there are about 2.5 million Connecticut residents who have a driver's license or some form of state ID issued by DMV. We have just under two million

registered voters in Connecticut.

In order to get a driver's license, you need to give identifying information to the DMV, your address, date of birth, whether or not you're a citizen and your signature, which goes on file as an electronic signature.

When you're issued a license, you get a driver's license number. This is the same information you're required to give in order to vote. So the simple idea behind this is we have two databases. We get them to talk to each other.

We don't make people input everything twice. Since an eligible voter who has a driver's license already has their information contained in one state database, why should they need to start from scratch in order to register to vote? That's the basic idea.

So through this legislation, a voter would go online to our website, sots.ct.gov, log in to a page where they can register to vote. This is like we do a lot of other things in our lives now, right?

They would be asked for certain identifying information, name, date of birth, and driver's license number. They would then hit "submit," and instantaneously their information would be cross-checked with their information on file with DMV.

If the information matches, a pre-populated voter registration form will appear on the voter's computer screen. This form will contain the image of the voter's electronic signature as it appears on their license.

You then fill on the -- fill out the form, attest you're a US citizen. You're asked if you want to register with a political party, the exact same form that you fill out now, only it's online.

You then click "submit," and this completed voter registration form is sent in the form of an attachment to the local Registrar of Voters in your town.

They then review the registration. If everything looks good, they click "accept," and with the click of a mouse, the voter is now registered and directly entered into our centralized voter system.

There will be tight security safeguards in place, and if any of the information entered doesn't match or is not correct, that registration will not be processed.

So this has the potential, I believe -- and has been proven in other states -- to make our voter registration lists far more accurate. It's obvious why. The voters themselves are entering the information,

So frequently now, what you have is an awful lot of data entry at the local level from handwritten cards, and frequently there's handwriting mistakes and error entries.

This way, the voter themselves are putting it in, and we would have ways to do it, the way credit cards and others do, where, you know, if you don't fill it in correctly, a little red light comes on and they say, whoops, you know, go back to the beginning, you know.

So this would -- really could make our lists far more accurate, and that, I believe, is one of the biggest problems in our system; that it's very difficult to keep track of people.

There's a lot of mobility. People move a lot. They -- you know, so this way, I think electronically we have far more chance of getting more accurate lists.

One of the things I think we need to do and one of the recommendations from our election performance task force is I think we need to study the cost of elections in this state.

What came through to us is we know very little, really, about what these things are costing. There's a strong likelihood that we would save a great deal of money per registration on this kind of a system.

In Arizona, they showed that online voter registration brought a significant cost savings. They estimated there that the paper voter registration system cost about 85 cents per paper ballot registration to process.

Again, in their state, also the local government bears that cost. But once they implemented online voter registration, the cost dropped to three to four cents per application. It's a dramatic cost savings.

That is a significant savings for our town. And if you look at hundreds of thousands of new voters that are processed every year, especially in a presidential election, this could be a tremendous cost savings.

One other point I want to make on this is budgetary. My office has already received bond funds to make technological upgrades to our centralized voter registration system. We can -- we could implement this new system right away with the existing funds we have.

Now, the other aspect of Raised Bill 5024, election day registration, this is not a new concept to this committee or to the General Assembly.

It has passed several times in the House over the years. In fact, my deputy sat in that seat right there as co-chair of this committee the last time it was raised in 2009. It's certainly not new in the United States, been in law in Maine since 1971 and Wisconsin since 1976 and has passed three new states in the last couple of years.

It's not a red or a blue state issue. It's not a political issue. Red states, such as Idaho, North Carolina, Montana, as well as our fellow New England states of New Hampshire and Maine, as previously mentioned, all have passed election day registration. I think you get the concept. You come, you register and you vote on election day.

This bill has changed over the years to reflect concerns from Registrars and clerks about the process on election day, so this would -- I'll just describe it briefly. And others might, you know, know more detail about this if you have questions.

But basically, this means -- the way this is drafted, it would mean that the voter would only be able to do this in one place, and

that is where the centralized voter registration system is.

In Connecticut, we are still on a hard line voter registration system, that is, each town has one station. It's all closed-loop system. So this would only be allowed at the place that machine was, so this would not be in the precincts for the very reason that this would operate is that they can -- it's a more secure option, because you enter the voter directly into the state database.

The Registrar can tell instantly if the voter registered in another town. It would also make the voter list more accurate, cut down on inadvertent spelling errors. We talked about that before.

In any case, once the voter is registered and votes in a secure room at town hall, they then place their ballot in an envelope, which is given to the Registrar of Voters.

Once taken out of the envelopes, the election day registration ballots are counted the same way absentee ballots are counted.

I'll just talk about a few benefits of this. First of all, we will clearly open the door to more voter participation. One case for Connecticut is the presidential ballot. As it is now, as you know, you are by federal law required to get a presidential ballot if you come in on election day on presidential election day and want to just vote for the president without actually registering.

In 2008, we had about 35,000 presidential ballots issued in Connecticut. In that same

year, states with election day registration reported a seven percent higher turnout than those without election day registration.

Those who benefit most, populations with higher mobility, including young, students, minorities and low-income populations.

In November of 2011, nearly 60 percent of Maine citizens voted in a referendum to restore election day registration after legislation repealed it, and we feel that election day registration may actually deter voter fraud for several reasons.

It's conducted in person with election officials as witnesses, as opposed to being permitted to submit a registration through mail or a third party.

Those registering on election day are required to submit proof of their identity and residence to election officials. Registrars are required to check the statewide centralized voter registration system.

If the applicant is registered in another town, the registrar must immediately notify the other town's Registrar, who will remove the voter from that list, verify whether the applicant has already cast a vote in his previous town, and it will reduce problems on election day.

For example, we think that it will dramatically reduce the number of potential challenged ballots and other ways we have of trying to deal with those little problems that come up on election day, most of which revolve around a voter coming in, thinking

they're on a list for whatever reason and they're not there. Either they're supposed to be in another polling place across town or they've moved and they didn't realize they were supposed to reregister, all those kinds of things, so we really think it will make it a lot easier on election day.

EDR can help with the situation involving a change of name, mis-entered data, other confusion that arises in a human-run system.

If enacted, this would first be able to be used in 2013, so this would not be contemplated for the presidential election.

That's -- that's probably a good thing, because it's coming up really soon. We want time to really make sure this is implemented properly. A relatively low turnout municipal election would probably be a better time to do this the first time.

Then it could be used again in the state election of 2014, another municipal year election later, and finally for the presidential election of 2016.

So plenty of time to work out any problems we might have before we get to another high-turnout election.

Let me wrap up by simply saying I believe the biggest crisis we have today in our voter system is voter participation. There's just low voter turnout in our country and in our state. One in three eligible voters isn't even registered to vote.

Now, I realize that this is a complex

problem. It's not just going to be solved by us making it easier for people to get to the polls on election day. But certainly shouldn't we be doing that? It's certainly got to help.

It's a complex problem we're all going to have to work on. It probably revolves around a lot more civic education. And simply, you know, it's beyond apathy, I think, at this point. It really is a disenchantment with government, and we in government know about this. There's been a drumbeat for years about -- about public service and -- and government is bloated and inefficient.

So I think that's one of the reasons that we need to show that our voting system is efficient, that it's working for people, and we're taking the voters into account, not just the bureaucracy of what makes the vote happen.

I also feel strongly that we need to look at our election system as a whole. We need investment in the system. You know, this is the most important thing we do in -- in government, and we're just going to have to modernize the system and bring it up to people's expectations if we're going to think that we're going to keep their faith in us.

And -- and I think we need to look at that over the next few years.

Obviously the towns right now aren't in a position to be able to pay for a lot more infrastructure. Maybe the state ought to look at making some investment in laptops at

the polls, for example.

I mean, isn't it time we had a more electronic system? It -- it's far less costly in the long term. It's much more accurate and much more efficient.

So I just don't think there's any reason for us to lag behind all the other states that are doing these things. We have systems we can look at, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Oregon, even, where they do mail-in voting.

There are models out there. We know how much they cost, we know how they're working, and we have time to look at them and really assess if we want to go down this path.

So thank you very much, and I'm sorry for the length of this, but there were a lot of bills. And thank you for letting me put them all together.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you, Denise, and thank you for being here.

I just wanted to clarify just for the record, because this comes up no matter what we do, every time this -- you know, we've discussed starting off with a resolution to amend the constitution, and I'm going to ask it again even though I know you said it. HJ2

Let's say we pass this -- this language, it ends up on the ballot in 2012. The voters then pass it.

Does anything change after that?

DENISE MERRILL: No.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Okay.

DENISE MERRILL: Nothing changes.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Okay.

DENISE MERRILL: It simply means the General Assembly would be able to debate it or possibly make changes in future legislatures.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Okay. So this does not authorize early voting?

DENISE MERRILL: No.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: It doesn't preclude anybody from appearing at a polling place who's voted earlier, like a poll worker or anything like that, just by virtue of passing this amendment?

DENISE MERRILL: No, because the language that's in the constitution is also in statute, so that -- that law stands. It's just that we're removing the language in the constitution that stops us from being able to change the statutes, even.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Okay.

Thank you for making that very clear, because
This -- no matter what we say, that continues to come up over and over and over again, so all this does is takes the language out of the constitution and puts it into, you know, the policy hands of the legislature, then, who have to formulate the policy, debate that, pass language, pass a statute, pass a bill, get it signed by the

Chris Drake.

KACHINA WALSH-WEAVER: Good afternoon, Representative Morin, members of the Committee, Kachina Walsh-Weaver for the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

I'm going to talk quickly on a couple of bills before you. First and foremost, I want to talk about our support for Senate Bill 27. We certainly see this as a first step in transitioning all state agency regulations and public notices to be published online.

CCM supports this more efficient and cost-effective mechanism for making notice of and hosting final versions of state regulations. HB5024

Providing important information online makes it more widely accessible to people across the state and elsewhere and also in a much timelier manner.

While considering this proposal, CCM urges the Committee to also advance legislation that would provide significant savings to local governments by modifying the requirements for posting legal notices in newspapers and allow municipalities the ability to public notice of the availability of a particular document on their website instead of having to publish the entire document.

We have spoken to the Committee on this particular issue for almost all of the years that I've been working for CCM. We urge the Committee to understand that times have changed, technology has changed, and so did

the habits and practices of our population.

Despite these advances and several years of explaining the issue, Connecticut's home towns continue to be mandated to legally post their notices in newspapers. The overall statewide cost on this is in excess of $2 million, and that's based on a survey that we did two to three years ago with about 75 percent of the towns responding, so we certainly anticipate that this is a much larger cost statewide.

Both the proposal contained in the bill and CCM's urging of you to modify it, we'd like to point out the following: The Internet is accessible to everyone. Internet sites can be accessed from anywhere in the world at any point in time.

Public notices can be done online at minimal costs, and public notices placed on Internet sites can remain there indefinitely, whereas newspapers goes away.

Lastly, we are supportive of the Secretary of State and the Governor's bill, An Act Concerning Voting Rights. HB5024

We do want to be on record, though, that CCM has always raised concerns about election day registration and the fact that it could impact the fiscal resources and the administrative resources of local Registrars' offices, but we think this in conjunction with other proposals that are being forwarded could be beneficial to the state as a whole.

We just certainly urge the Committee and the General Assembly as a whole to be mindful of

these constraints and to do anything possible to help with the -- with financial resources in meeting these needs.

Thank you.

REP. SLOSSBERG: Thank you very much for your testimony, Kachina. And I just caught the end of it, so I apologize, but I just want to ask you, does CCM have any research or evidence that shows that election day registration increases the cost at the local level?

KACHINA WALSH-WEAVER: I wouldn't say that we've done research on it. It's just that what we've been -- what has been explained to us by Registrars and other local officials is that the Registrars have a very extremely busy day on election day and their attention is drawn in many different directions, and if you're going to have people coming in to the Registrar's office on that day, then you're going to need some extra staff to address that.

What the actual costs are, I -- I don't know, and that's why we are just -- we want to just raise the issue and make sure that people are keeping in mind the potential additional administrative and fiscal costs to those offices.

REP. SLOSSBERG: Okay. But we don't actually know that it's going to cost more money?

KACHINA WALSH-WEAVER: Not necessarily, no.

REP. SLOSSBERG: Is there anymore questions? Yes, Representative Abercrombie. Nice to see you.

REP. ABERCROMBIE: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Just a quick question. Do you know what the average cost is to a community for the publication, like on a monthly basis?

KACHINA WALSH-WEAVER: We have tried very difficult -- very diligently to try to get a full handle on the cost.

And because towns maintain their budgets between various different local agencies, and there isn't necessarily a central repository, that it's hard to kind of gauge that entirely, but we are hearing that cities like Bridgeport and Hartford spend around $400,000 a year on it, some small towns may spend a few thousand dollars a year on it.

It really depends. And it also -- there is a disconnect sometimes at local agencies in terms of understanding what -- when we've asked for this data, what would -- what items would fall into that.

And so we really think that the estimate that we have is conservative.

What I would I be happy to share with you and the rest of the Committee is the data that we do have on file, and I believe it's 2009 or 2010, reports from towns, and I can share that with you.

REP. ABERCROMBIE: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. SLOSSBERG: Okay. Are there further

REP. SLOSSBERG: It's afternoon. It goes by fast here.

STEVE CARBO: Time flies.

Well, thank you, Chairwoman and members of the Committee for the opportunity to speak here today this morning or this afternoon on behalf of HB 5024.

My name is Steven Carbo, and I'm a senior program director at the Democracy Program at Demos. We're a national, nonpartisan public policy and advocacy organization that works to -- with policymakers and others in pursuit of a vibrant democracy with high levels of voting and civic engagement, and I'm happy to say that I -- I'm proud to say that I have worked now for over ten years with Miles Rapoport, who is the president of Demos, and one of the former chairs of the sub -- of this committee and Secretary of State.

I want to start by applauding the Governor, Secretary of State and I hope members of this committee for championing HB 5024 and same-day registration, which is a proven reform that can substantially increase voter turnout among eligible voters without compromising the integrity of elections and substantially increasing costs.

As we know, America is a highly mobile society. Over 35 million individuals changed residence in 2011.

Many of these individuals failed to register to vote before the registration deadline and find themselves unable to cast a ballot on election day.

Others have timely submitted their voter registration applications, but will find on election day that their names have not been added to the voter rolls and that their votes will not be counted.

Same-day registration remedies both of these problems. Voters simply register to vote on election day or during the early voting period in some states and cast a ballot that will be counted.

Same-day registration states, election day registration states as a group have historically boasted higher voter turnout rates than all others. The five states with the highest voter turnout rate in 2008 were all same-day registration states.

North Carolina, after adopting the reform, saw the largest single increase in voter turnout of any state between the 2004 and 2008 presidential elections.

Same-day registration also offers a ready cure for the shortcomings of our current voter registration system.

Requiring voters to register well in advance of elections is unworkable for many Americans. Add to that the fact that voter registration systems break down. Upwards of three million Americans were turned away from the polls because of voter registration problems and registry flaws in the 2000 presidential election.

In 2008, several states reported problems in transferring voter registration applications in a timely manner and timely submitted to

the DMV, to local election office officials in time for election day.

Provisional ballots are no answer for system breakdowns like these. Where individuals register to vote on time but their applications aren't received in time to be added to the voter roles, these provisional votes simply won't be counted.

Allowing eligible voters to register and vote on the same day drastically reduces the need for provisional balloting and saves voters fear that their votes won't count.

Iowa and North Carolina, the two states that most recently adopted same-day registration, saw a steep decline in provisional balloting after they adopted the reform.

Implementing same-day registration also requires little to no additional expense. In the last presidential election, the State of Iowa spent less than $40,000 to introduce same-day registration for its 99 counties. The cost of same-day registration for Iowa's counties was also minimal.

In the recent Demos study, nearly half of Iowa counties responded or reported no direct costs or only minimal costs associated with same-day registration.

Most of the respondents did not require additional staffing at the polls on election day.

North Carolina counties noted some additional staffing needs at poll sites as the most notable cost associated with same-day registration.

But most counties there reported adding staff -- but most counties that reported adding staff for same-day registration were unable to disaggregate same-day registration costs from overall costs to run the elections.

As we've heard -- and I'll try to quickly summarize -- the -- we have spoken to election officials in many states, and the great majority of them who we surveyed report that their current antifraud measures are sufficient to maintain integrity of the elections.

The added check in 5024 of the Connecticut statewide voter registration system adds another layer of security.

I do want to take a quick moment to -- to add -- to suggest an improvement to the bill. It's clear that -- I think it's clear that Connecticut can expect to see increased voting with same-day registration, as is proposed in 5024.

However, you're not going to see, I don't believe, the same kind of benefits in terms of voting that you've seen in other states for the simple fact of its limited availability.

In most states, same-day registration is available at every polling place. So I would recommend that you consider if there's a way to expand what's provided for here so that same-day registration is available at more than one location on the -- in each town on election day.

And if I may, I just want to make a quick comment on the online voter registration provision of the bill.

And the comment is that, you know, online voter registration does have the potential to greatly increase voter access to voting, but it's -- that potential is really going to only be seized unless you have a multiple -- a multitude of state agencies that are participating in the program.

I mean, the issue with voter registration -- online voter registration systems is capturing a signature, and when you restrict -- when you restrict the signature capture provision to Departments of Motor Vehicles, you're restricting that new opportunity to register to vote to individuals who have a driver's license or a state-issued DMV card.

So what that is excluding is seniors who are no longer driving, low-income individuals that don't have a car, people with disabilities. So what I would suggest is -- is if the measure is approved, that you look for a way to construct a system that can encapture signatures for multiple state agencies and not just DMVs and therefore kind of reinforce some of the stratification of the electorate along the lines of ability, age and class.

Thank you.

REP. SLOSSBERG: Thank you very much for your testimony.

I'm assuming that you submitted this in writing as well?

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

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 Waggner, 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 Waggner. 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

REP. MORIN: Thanks so much. Carole Young-Kleinfeld, followed by Luther Weeks.

CAROLE YOUNG-KLEINFELD: Good afternoon, Representative Morin and members of the Committee. I submitted testimony on 5024 as well as HJ 2, but I will just limit my remarks to HJ 2 at the moment and make them very short, because Secretary Merrill said everything I was planning to say anyway.

I just want to add my voice to supporting the changes in Sections 1, 2 and 3 in the bill, which remove restrictive language on absentee voting on the state constitution, thereby allowing the legislature to consider the form in which absentee voting should take place in Connecticut.

Thank you very much.

REP. MORIN: Thank you very much, Carole. Any questions?. Luther Weeks, follows by he Essie Labrot.

LUTHER WEEKS: Chairs and members of the Committee, my name is Luther Weeks from Connecticut Voters Count, Glastonbury, Connecticut. We oppose expanded mail-in voting in any form, including no-excuse absentee voting. HJ2

As I testified last year, we have no objection to a constitutional amendment authorizing the General Assembly to legislate early voting provided that voters are clearly informed of the amendment's intent.

The primary reason to avoid expanded mail-in or no-excuse voting is the opportunity or in

one thing that I want to add to the testimony.

It's -- having listened to the -- our Secretary Merrill this morning when she was giving her testimony, she stated basically that this was going to be a very long process; that this HJ 2 is just the first step to a very long process, and I would hope that once HJ 2 has been passed, that once the process investigating different forms of election process begins, that I would hope that rollback would be a prominent member in defining the election process in the future.

REP. MORIN: You can count on that. Any comments? Appreciate your comments and waiting.

SUE LARSEN: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Abe, and then Cheri Quickmire.

ABE SCARR: Chairperson Slossberg, Chairperson Morin and members of the Committee, my name is Abe Scarr. I'm director of ConnPIRG, the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 5024 and Joint Resolution 2, An Amendment to State Constitute [inaudible], the no-excuse absentee voting.

ConnPIRG is a statewide student- and citizen-funded consumer advocacy organization working to protect public health and safety, financial security and an engaged and responsive democracy.

Democracy works best with the active

participation of its citizens, and voting is the most basic way to participate in civic life and also is a building block to more active participation in our society. We should make every effort to make better participation increased through easy access to voter registration and voting.

I will save some of my remarks that have already been repeated. I'd like to speak for a minute about some points on online voter registration that I believe have not been made.

We increasingly live our lives online. People conduct business, communicate with friends and family and get most of their news and information online. We pay our taxes online. We should be able to register to vote online as well.

In states that have adopted online voter registration, it's utilized not surprisingly by younger voters. In Washington state, 60 percent of online voter registrations come from voters under the age of 34. Further, people who register online are more likely to vote, particularly with younger voters. In Arizona, 93 percent of voters who registered online voted while 73 percent who voted on paper voted.

So again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I've included written testimony that further extends my remarks.

This is my first opportunity to testify before the Assembly, and given ConnPIRG's mission and history between nonpartisan voter registration drives over the last 28 years, I think it's very appropriate to be

testifying on for the first time.

I myself have spent the last ten years working to engage young people in the democratic process. I've run my fair share of voter registration and mobilization campaigns.

Many of the students that I've worked with, and some of the best students, including one who will be testifying later today, got their start with voter registration drives, worked to get their peers out to the polls, and I think passing these reforms will lead to a more engaged citizenry from consistent voters to community leaders.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify. I look forward to working with you to pass these important reforms.

REP. MORIN: Thank you, Abe, and it's our pleasure to have you here. Appreciate the work you're doing, and, you know, I just want to -- sometimes it can be frustrating for people waiting because our colleagues are here and there and there's other committee meetings going on and people have different responsibilities, but I want everyone to be assured that we have your testimony that you submitted, it's online, and we all have the ability and willingness to take the time to -- to go over it.

So we want you to -- I want to ensure you that your testimony is very important to help us get through this committee and draft good legislation.

So thank you very much.

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 then 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

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

system and an implementation of election day registration, two of our key goals.

The League supports the maintenance with an accurate, reliable statewide electronic and centralized voter registration system. Without a verbal -- verifiable, excuse me, working voter registration system that is accessible to all Registrars and their designees, EDR cannot work.

While the League supports polling place EDR, election day registration as proposed would allow those electors who have not registered to vote to go to a centralized system and register and vote in much the same way as they would if they were using a presidential ballot.

While this is not an ideal system, it is definitely a good first step for the initial years.

Those who would accept and certify the election day registrations would be specifically trained and assigned to work in a centralized location. Access to the state voter registration system can be more easily handled in a centralized location compared to the polling places, which may or may not have Internet access.

Also, there are protocols already in place that are used for absentee ballot counting that can be applied to EDR ballots. Also, election day ballots should be able to be read by the same machines that the absentee ballots and processed throughout the day so as not to cause a major delay at the end of the day.

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 elect 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

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Sturgess want to come back next -- she -- no? Okay. And I believe it's -- the last name is Ford would be next.

ALETA LOOKER: Good afternoon. I regret there are fewer people here than I thought would be, but I'm Aleta Looker, and I am one of the Registrars of Voters in Cheshire. Now I am in my eighth year in this position.

I spent the previous four years as the Deputy Registrar, and I've been one of the people who worked very hard to preserve the integrity of the election process, so you can represent me here in Hartford.

Sad to say, there are very few Registrars who have moved on to become legislators, so relatively few of you have a concept of what the job entails.

I want you to know that election day voter registration is a very bad idea, especially in this small, well-populated and highly transient State of Connecticut. It sounds grand as a concept, but there are a lot of compelling reasons why it should not happen, and I'm here to tell you some of the most urgently important ones.

Anyone who is a citizen of the United States of America has the right -- indeed, the privilege -- to vote, as long as he or she follows the rules set forth within the state in which they reside.

The current law in Connecticut permits a citizen to register as young as age 17 and vote in a primary prior to the general election if his or her birthday occurs on or before the date of the general election, and

if he or she is enrolled in a political party.

Over the years, the laws have been relaxed over and over again and now allow a person who cannot read to vote and to register in person up to noon on the day before any election if they have just turned 18 or moved into a new town within the past week, or just been naturalized.

Even people held in a prison prior to a trial may vote. And once a convicted felon has been released and er served the terms of his or her parole, he or she may register to vote again.

Having a half day to add names to a supplemental list of voters who may go to the polls the following day is enough of a burden to place on the Registrars without further complicating their overly busy workday on election day.

Registration laws are so simple to follow and access to registration forms so easy, there is very little to prevent a person who really wants to vote from registering any day of the year simply by downloading a registration form from any computer.

Forms are written in Spanish and English. Registrars abide by published hours to be present in their offices throughout the year. They keep their offices open on prescribed and advertised Saturdays and late evening to help people who work during regular office hours.

If a person knows that he can procrastinate about registering until the day of election,

it encourages this counterproductive behavior. Chaos would result. Certain civil servants in the Secretary of the State's Office collect data regarding the number of eligible voters and want an exact accounting.

Other civil servants within the same office want voting results as fast as possible before election day is over, or no later than the day afterwards.

These demands are difficult to comply with under the best of conditions and would become extremely overwhelming if people could register and vote on election day.

There is a potential for fraud -- I guess I'll stop and --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

ALETA LOOKER: All right. There is a potential for fraud in permitting election day registration, especially if the registrants take advantage of the proximity of neighboring states and travel from Connecticut over the town -- over the line to Massachusetts, New York or Rhode Island.

There is no nationwide computerized voting list. Connecticut does have a statewide system, but there's still the possibility of registering and voting in several towns or cities without being caught immediately.

A Registrar of Voters could explain to a would-be registrant that there are fines and potential imprisonment for people who falsely register. If there is a long line of people waiting to register on election

day, however, this warning may be given very short shrift.

Most towns are facing severe budgetary problems. We are concerned about the cost of having this extra registering polling place, which would have to be manned at nearly the same level as an actual polling place and have computer and telephone installations.

We are never given enough money. The state computer system is slow to be upgraded and finding workers who are willing to deal with the grueling 14-plus-hour day is difficult.

When I came to this state 52 years ago, I had to wait to register until six months had passed. And then when I finally was able to register, I had to prove I could read.

And then I moved within the state, and the same rules applied. In those days, registering and voting really meant something important. Now it has become as simple as waiting in line at McDonald's, and the significance has been lost in the process.

My message is simple. Stop tinkering with the election process, at least until technology catches up, and take some time to appreciate what you already have.

REP. MORIN: Thank you. Any questions? Representative Floren.

REP. FLOREN: Thank you for your testimony and your -- and your point of view.

I -- you might not be the person to answer

this, but I was under the impression that the polling place was going to be centralized, and I wondered why if we hadn't thought about it why it couldn't be the town clerk that would handle that.

ALETA LOOKER: The town clerk is already up to her ears.

REP. FLOREN: On election day?

ALETA LOOKER: Yes. What we had done with presidential elect -- presidential election times is where we have a presidential balloting place separate but in the town hall, we -- this would probably be the only way it could work, is to continue to have that sort of thing.

But remember, this inference that you can only -- you can do with one extra person is not accurate at all. You have to have somebody that's going to be dealing with the person who's registering, somebody else dealing -- and I know there will be a line. I -- there will be -- there will have to be a computer hookup there so they can communicate within the state with other Registrars to find out when and if this person moved, you know, or if they really just -- whimsical idea that they can vote anyplace they like.

And there will -- there will be a need for more than -- it will be similar to a regular polling place.

REP. MORIN: Thank you very much for testifying.

ALETA LOOKER: You're welcome.

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

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 Waggner, 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

allegations.

In our states, over 40 percent of election day registrations are voters changing their address in state from one town to another.

EDR will change our culture from one that penalizes frequent movers to one that promotes the integrity of our results and reduces the impact of voter misunderstanding of our election laws.

I would also like to suggest a change to HB 5024 which proposes centralized election day registration held at one location in each town.

In this proposal, each voter waits while their form is typed in while Registrars -- with Registrars calling each voter's former polling place before offering them a ballot.

While Registrars prepare year round to ensure election day runs smoothly, that day really is about solving problems and directing voters to the polls.

This proposal would disrupt the duties of four different election officials, tie up three telephone lines and extend waiting time for voters for each new registrant and delay the advice we give to poll workers and candidates.

Further, in EDR states, on average over 12 percent of votes are by election day registrants in presidential years. You will find data in my written testimony on these states and estimates for each of Connecticut's towns based on size and college population.

In Fairfield, we would expect over 5,000 EDR voters in a presidential year, requiring about 20 additional computers, phones and staff for data entry with an average of three calls coming out from our office interrupting the voting in other towns in each minute of the 14-hour election day.

Fortunately, Registrars already have staff to register voters at the polls without disrupting our duties. We appoint two assistant Registrars in each district who would each on average handle under ten registrations per hour.

Further, when offset by savings and preelection staffing, polling place EDR may represent a modest cost savings over current law.

In Connecticut, a voter is registered when we examine and accept their credentials, not when they were entered on a computer.

I'd urge you to consider whether having EDR at a central location serves a meaningful purpose relative to the problems that it would cause. I think you'll find that a polling place process, combined with sensible auditing and provisional ballot components and use elsewhere will produce a system with the best security and voter convenience with the minimum of cost and disruption.

Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

REP. MORIN: Thank you.

REP. FLOREN: Thank you. I just had one question. If basically you're saying this influx of new voters is going to be young people, people that are in the colleges in your town, either they're at the same poll place because the campuses are side by side, or, at the most, in two. So I don't understand your algorithm.

MATTHEW WAGGNER: Actually, if you look at my written testimony, you'll see the -- the relationship between the size of a college town and -- like the number of students and the added participation in EDR. The majority of those would not be students.

Like just as an example, in Greenwich, you would expect about 3800 EDR registrants, and so, you know, Fairfield would have a somewhat higher number because of our college populations, but it wouldn't really be overwhelming.

The reason I put together this college factor and I looked at -- there are 1100 jurisdictions where EDR is in effect now. Ninety-six of them have full-time college populations, and the reason I put that together was to try and come up with a good estimate for what Mansfield would expect, because their student population wildly outnumbers their registered voter population now.

REP. MORIN: Matt, thank you. As always, I appreciate your testimony. You've given me -- I'm going to -- certainly look through your testimony and as we start crafting things take it into consideration.

MATTHEW WAGGNER: Great. And I'm happy to provide

sort of a source material of any of the stuff if you're interested in it.

REP. MORIN: Thank you, sir.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, if you want to come back, followed by Luther.

CAROLE YOUNG-KLEINFELD: Good afternoon again, Representative Morin and members of the Committee. I'm Carole Young-Kleinfeld, one of the Registrars of Voters from the Town of Wilton, and thank you for the chance to present testimony in support of 5024.

I strongly believe that it's time Connecticut join the ranks of other states with this move forward to enact election day registration, to increase turnout, assist young people and newly relocated people in participating in their democracy and to address possible errors in processing voter applications.

In my experience as a registrar, a deputy registrar before that and long-time poll worker, before that I've seen many instances of citizens otherwise eligible to vote denied the opportunity because they missed a deadline to register or found themselves not on the voter list even though they were sure that they had submitted their voter registration materials.

Just to give you one real-life example from two presidential elections ago, I was working at a polling place, and a young man walked in, a UConn student, from Storrs. He had registered to vote at a college fair on his -- on his campus. I don't know who sponsored it, but his voter registration

materials never reached the Wilton Registrar's Office.

So not knowing that, he got into his car and drove two hours to Wilton, where his parents lived, where he resided, and walked into his proper polling place and unfortunately I, as Assistant Registrar on that day, would not be able -- was not able to register him to vote or allow him to cast a vote.

This young man had done everything right, had taken the opportunity to participate in his democracy, or so he thought, and luckily I was able to tell him that he could go to the town hall and cast a presidential ballot, but
That was really not a full ballot, and he was someone who was very interested in becoming a full voter.

So this is the kind of voter that is going to be disenfranchised if we don't do something about election day registration and really that one lone voter could have been one who -- voter who swung an election in a very close situation one way or the other.

Every voter application form contains a sworn statement signed by voters under penalty of perjury. Studies from other states show no evidence that voters abuse EDR by impersonating other voters or that they spend election day driving from one town to another trying to vote twice.

All of us who believe in the importance of voter participation know just how difficult it is to get voters to vote once, much less multiple times, risking felony convictions.

I think that our voter registration system can handle voter registration on election day. Our town rarely experiences any problems with our system, and the Secretary of the State's Office has always been readily available on election day for any problem that comes up.

So I urge you, because this proposal allows local officials a year's time to prepare for implementation in 2013, I urge you to decide the fate of EDR from the standpoint of the voter and not from the standpoint of the convenience of local officials.

Thank you very much.

REP. MORIN: Thank you.

You know, I guess the one thing that keeps coming back on this matter, and many of the Registrars have come up, is the concern of really what will happen in the day-to-day operations on election day and how are they going to deal with such a large influx and --

CAROLE YOUNG-KLEINFELD: Well --

REP. MORIN: And I think that frankly is the battle that we're going to -- we're going to face.

CAROLE YOUNG-KLEINFELD: Yes.

REP. MORIN: But from your perspective, how do you see it?

CAROLE YOUNG-KLEINFELD: From our perspective -- in our -- in our town, and I know that towns really are very different, but in our town,

our town clerk hires extra people on a part-time basis to handle absentee ballots and also presidential ballots on election day, and we work very closely with them.

We feel that probably the number of presidential ballots cast is kind of a good measure of what we might expect to see on election day.

We had four years ago 85 presidential ballots cast. Only one of those was cast by someone who was registered in another community, so we had one phone call to make to determine that they had not voted already, one phone call and that was it.

So we probably would share resources with the town clerk's office. They probably would see a decrease in the number of presidential ballots cast because I think people, like that young man I mentioned, would probably come into our office, instead register to vote and want to cast a full ballot.

So from our point of view, I think it would be shifting resources, perhaps, from the town clerk's budget or whatever to our budget for that day, and -- and I -- I think that we would be able to work that out.

And that, I think -- we have three hookups to the converse system *. We probably only use one at a time on election day, and very rarely do we have to do that. So I'm -- I'm certain that our town or towns of our size would have very little problem in implementation.

REP. MORIN: Thank you.

CAROLE YOUNG-KLEINFELD: Okay.

REP. MORIN: Anyone else? Very good. Appreciate it.

CAROLE YOUNG-KLEINFELD: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Luther, followed by Antoinette Spinelli.

LUTHER WEEKS: Good afternoon. In addition to what I said earlier, I am a retired computer scientist software engineer and systems director. I have experience in evaluating projects based on sketchy information, and that sketchy information is a strong indicator that caution and a full evaluation would be prudent before proceeding.

And I associate myself with Matt Waggner's testimony. 5024 proposes initiatives for two concepts that I fully support in theory. I support the proposal for online voter registration, and I have some things to pause about that, but I recommend against this proposal for election day registration.

It lacks sufficient detail to protect the rights of EDR voters, the rights of all voters and the integrity of elections.

A structure that is proposed by its nature portends chaos in future critical and high-interest elections. The bill specifies EDR in small, crowded Registrars' offices already beehives of activity on election days.

In a large city, in a popular election, 5,000 or more voters may descend on election

day, many more than in most polling places, adding somehow thousands of calls in and out with a registration process much more complex and time consuming than polling place check-in.

It is not a polling place. Voters fill out something short of an absentee ballot, place it in a ballot box with no requirement for ballot clerks, ballot box attendance, no room for privacy booths or training in how to vote.

And scratch the next sentence. The proposal requires counting in a manner similar to absentee ballots, requiring opening and counting several times the current volume of absentee ballots.

Statewide, the results of many reasonably close elections would depend on the results of over 200,000 EDR ballots with many processed after 8:00 p.m.

Will citizens be permitted to register and vote if they were in line at 8:00 p.m., or will they be denied since they are not voters?

Based on a sketchy law with no requirements or regulations or procedures to be created or followed, we will have 169 EDR systems. In fact, today we've heard testimony of promises of some of the things that I mentioned that aren't in the bill.

So some citizens may have those things like ballot clerks and privacy booths and others might not. So expect chaos, legal challenges and complaints.

These are predictable, like results of this EDR plan. I cannot support EDR as proposed in this bill. And, you know, one definition of insanity we get from Einstein is doing the same thing over and over and expecting the same result.

In this case, we have EDR systems that are successful in other states, but we're doing something different, so we can't necessarily expect the same result. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Thanks, Luther. Any questions? Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And, Luther, thank you for your testimony.

You said in your testimony you feel like EDR does not protect the rights of voters. What do you mean by that.

LUTHER WEEKS: We cannot [inaudible] EDR itself. Remember, I support EDR as a concept, but not this.

It doesn't provide that voters are going to have a real polling place experience, that they're going to get a ballot with ballot clerks, privacy booths, be able to submit that ballot to a machine and have that opinion reject it if they've overvoted, et cetera.

So they may be in a crowded Registrar's office. They may be in line for a long time. They may be in line at 8:00 p.m. and that Registrar determines no, I'm not going to take anymore, because you're not a voter in line, it's not a poll place. I don't have to accept registrations after 8:00 p.m.

Another town, they may do that. But then let's say I'm in town and it's 8:45 and I'm still registering people. Are the other towns going to be on the phone when they call to say whether the person's registered there or not? Are they going to be able to call their polling place?

How late do all the polling places in Connecticut have to stay open so they can accept that call to say that this voter registered before? I'm not saying that's a good idea, you know, to have to that requirement.

What I'm saying is that you have that requirement, and if you have different things going on in different towns, you're not only going to have lines and things like that, you're also going to have unfairness.

Some towns decide to do this, some towns decide to do that. some voters are disenfranchised, some are overfranchised, depending on how you look at it.

We have been lucky in Connecticut to buy optical scanning machines. We don't have those lines like we've seen in other states. This would cause those kind of lines. If we had an election like 2010, you know, very controversial, it depended on 6,000 votes, what if you've got 10,000 voters around the state standing in line, 20,000 standing in line at 8:00 p.m.?

REP. MORIN: Thank you.

LUTHER WEEKS: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Antoinette Spinelli, followed urania Petit.

ANTOINETTE SPINELLI: Good afternoon, Representative Morin and members of the GAE Committee. I'm Antoinette Spinelli. I'm the chair of the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Town Clerks, and I'm the town clerk in Waterbury.

I'm here today to testify in support of House Bill 5024, 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 issuing or processing presidential ballots, and we support those recommended changes which will allow the clerks to continue to issue presidential ballots to those qualified citizens who are former residents of the town.

We also -- the associate supports House Bill 5022, as we support harsher -- harsher penalties for those who interfere or attempt to intimidate voters.

Thank you. Very short, very brief.

REP. MORIN: I guess so. Is there -- is there any comments? Thank you so much.

ANTOINETTE SPINELLI: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Urania -- and I'm going to say followed by Daria Hart.

URANIA PETIT: Good afternoon, my name Urania petit, and I'm here to testify on HB 5024.

Chairpersons Slossberg, Representative

Floren and members of the GE, election day registration is a necessary tool for cities like Hartford to serve the needs of our community and democracy. It has been stated that voting is our fundamental right. But in exercising that right, we sometimes experience barriers, such as registration deadline, hard to understood removal procedures and requiring our citizens to appear at an office, the Registrar of Voters, that they may have never heard about.

In Hartford, we have about 120 different languages, and I would think that of the 120 different languages, we may have 120 different ways of voting. And Registrar of Voters probably was something I never heard of when I came to this country. I consider my job -- I consider voter education to be a major part of my job as a Registrar in Hartford, but I favor eliminating these barriers to voting when it will help our citizens exercise their rights more freely.

With fortune [inaudible] responsibility, but I believe it is our responsibility to give to our voters the right to deliver the tools to their votes. With every vote comes so much power, but when our residents get turned away from the polls for reasons they don't understand, it can make them feel powerless.

One thing that Hartford experiences is a high transient population. It has been said in the past eight years 70,000 of Hartford residents of will 83,000 renters have moved at least once.

Our office and a nonprofit advocate have

taken steps to address this. What we are trying to do is to put in an ordinance that will allow rental offices to provide new renters voter registration cards, because I believe our residents deserve and expect more on election day.

However, I am not sure of a single public location we can possible use for the large number of people that we want to register on election day. City hall and downtown areas have limited parking and requirement payment at meters.

Our schools in the City of Hartford is open on election day. Their lots are already filled and -- because the staff and faculty are using this.

Secretary Merrill pointed out in her testimony on Monday that a large number of our residents simply do not drive, and she said, and I quote, However, eliminating certain polling places becomes problematic in cities and neighborhood polling places is important because people get there by foot. Eliminating a polling place in a city neighborhood can create voter confusion and place for hardship on the voter who does not have a car if he or she needs exercise that right.

I agree with EDR, but I just feel like it should be in the polling places. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Thank you, and I -- we appreciate your input and we'll be studying all the -- the testimony and the different ideas that have come forth.

URANIA PETIT: Okay, thank you.

REP. MORIN: Thank you.

URANIA PETIT: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Daria Hart, followed by Melissa Russell.

DARIA HART: Good afternoon to the Committee. My -- I'm here today as a Registrar of Voters. I'm giving my personal opinions, but also to speak for the very real voters who we're talking about who I have seen since I became a Registrar in 2008 who are disenfranchised.

And currently, the Registrars have no remedy when a voter walks in and they -- and they say to us, well, I registered at the DMV. I thought my registration moved with me. An elderly person who has moved in with their parent, with their children, and says but I've always been registered, but they don't realize it didn't follow.

This gives us a remedy. Registrars take their jobs very seriously. We work in conjunction with the Secretary of State to ensure if EDR is passed, they will be given regulations, they will be given opinions, and keeping it as uniform as possible.

Our town has about 5,000 voters. We're going -- we're using our presidential polling numbers to think maybe we'll have 200. It will make an impact, EDR but that's our job. We're in the office by statute all day, and it's our job to serve the voters.

After all, voting is a right, not a privilege. It's our privilege to serve the

voters. And that's all. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Representative Floren.

REP. FLOREN: Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

What town are you from?

DARIA HART: New Hartford.

REP. FLOREN: New Hartford, thank you.

DARIA HART: Okay, thank you.

REP. MORIN: I appreciate your support. Let's see, Melissa Russell roughly, followed by Aimee from Hartford.

Hello, Melissa.

MELISSA RUSSELL: Hello. Good afternoon, Representative Morin, members of the Committee. I'm here today to testify about 5024. There is two components I'd just like to briefly address.

The first is online registration. ROVAC supports the concept of online registration. Its day has probably come, and we look forward to working with the Secretary of State's Office to make sure that whatever program is implemented preserves the same checks and balances that are there now for in-person registration, and also makes it a smooth transition for both the voter and for our office. So we do look forward to working with them on creating this.

The second component of this bill, election day registration. As you're I'm sure well

aware of by now, if you weren't before, Registrars are deeply divided on this issue, and so I would just like to address some of the concerns that my members at ROVAC have on this issue. They fall into three categories: Cost, logistics and integrity.

We've been talking a little bit about the cost of this. Most cases, there's going to have to be extra manpower hired, in some cases extra computers purchased, to be able to, you know, be on the centralized voter system.

In all cases, ballots will have to be ordered and envelopes for those ballots will have to be ordered.

So depending on the size town and the number they're going to process, there will be extra costs incurred.

The second concern of our members is a logistics of implementation. Registrars in large towns and cities may have difficulty in finding a location that's -- they may not have room in their office and they may have difficulty finding an appropriate location to do this. They'll also need to deal with people who are -- have registered in another community.

They have to call that other community, call the other registrar. The registrar has to call their moderator in the polling place where the person should have voted. That moderator has to go get the checker and make sure that they didn't vote and transmit all that back up the line. Meanwhile, that voter is waiting to have their registration processed.

So this could cause quite a lot of logistical hassle, especially if you're talking about the numbers that Matt Waggner was talking about, that could be quite a long line.

And the last -- the third concern has to do with the integrity of the election process. One of the most important safeguards we have in our system is to verify an individual's eligibility to vote by sending out that letter of confirmation and having it, you know, go through smoothly.

When a letter comes back undeliverable -- excuse me, okay -- then we know that that person doesn't live there; there's a problem. That gets, you know, turned over to the investigative authorities or their -- their registration does not, you know, go through.

By counting these ballots at the polling place that day, there's no time to do that verification process, so -- and -- and these -- this could swing the results of the election by having even just two or three, you know, non-eligible people voting in certain municipalities. That can make the difference.

You've got my written testimony which goes into more detail about this, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

REP. MORIN: Melissa, you hit the nail right on the head. I've been listening to all the testimony, and you're right, we're divided and it's going to require us --

MELISSA RUSSELL: Yes.

REP. MORIN: -- to do more work. But we appreciate your work.

MELISSA RUSSELL: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: And what you're doing with this money.

Anybody have comments? Thanks so much.

MELISSA RUSSELL: Thanks so much.

REP. MORIN: And Aimee, I apologize, I just can't read your last name. You'll tell me, won't you?

And Brian Jud is -- is on deck.

AIMEE STUPAK: I'll keep it short and sweet. Good afternoon, so I appreciate this opportunity to testify on behalf of election day registration. My name is Aimee Stupak.

REP. MORIN: Stupak.

AIMEE STUPAK: I'm from the UConn Social [inaudible],and I'm a resident of West Hartford. I'm an intern at the Registrar of Voter's Office in Hartford, and I'm writing to testify in favor of election day registration.

I was born and raised in Connecticut, and I worked as a teacher in Texas for several -- several years prior to applying to graduate school in my home state of Connecticut. And as a graduate student of UConn, I have firsthand experience as a young voter who has had to change her address several times in the past couple of years.

Prior to beginning my internship with the Registrar of Voters, I was unaware of the requirement that one must fill out a new registration card in order to vote. And had I not been made aware, I wouldn't have been able to vote at my local elections on November 8th, which thankfully I was able to do.

I was under the impression that my registration was updated automatically once I notified the US Postal Office of my relocation.

And if it wasn't for discussion that I had with my supervisor, Urania Petit, I would have presented myself at the polling place that day and been unable to vote.

As an intern for the City of Hartford, I learned the striking statistic that only 20 percent of the registered voters in the United States are aged 18 to 24. This is disappointing, to say the least, as voters of the youth population have the power to be extremely effective in both the influence and implementation of change for our nation.

I'm confident that the representation from my age group is growing and has the potential to reach an all-time high for the upcoming presidential election.

The State of Connecticut must recognize the fact that its younger residents are more likely to change their addresses several times throughout the course of their secondary education experience.

Furthermore, the current job market demands

that we be ready to relocate when an opportunity presents itself. And in order for our voices to be heard on election day, we must be able to take advantage of our privilege to vote on issues that matter to us.

I urge the State of Connecticut to pass House Bill 5024 regarding election day registration, and I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my support of online voter registration contained in Section 11 of House Bill 5024, as members of the youth population are more likely to register if they have the option to do so through the use of technology.

Thank you.

REP. MORIN: I thank you for your perspective and you taking the time to come here to testify. Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you very much for your testimony and your advocacy. I'm always encouraged when young people are engaged in the political process. And I'm curious if you could share with me your viewpoint on why we have this challenge of young people in voting.

AIMEE STUPAK: I simply think that the system is too dated. We were just talking with the Secretary of State outside, and one thing that we talked about was if these registration cards had an email address box in them, giving the opportunity to have you contact us via email, we simply have a new way of communicating. And the system's so dated that we're not as accessible as -- as the older age groups.

So I think that we have to be -- the system has to reflect what our generation is becoming used to.

And it simply is just dated. That's what I believe.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: Okay. And I certainly can understand that new technology is important.

AIMEE STUPAK: Mm-hmm.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: Is it -- let me change the focus a little bit --

AIMEE STUPAK: Okay.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: -- away from necessarily the process of voting in Connecticut as we know it today, but I guess more a general question of what is it that we as elected officials are failing do to engage the youth in the democratic process.

AIMEE STUPAK: Okay. Well, I can say that prior to getting this internship with Urania at the Registrar of Voters, my involvement in the political process was very minimal, and I think that it had to do with how far removed I felt from the system.

Now, we are taking an active role in going to different locations around the City of Hartford and engaging people in the conversations about why it's important to vote, why it's important to have a voice in this process. And it blows my mind how many people don't even have a clue what a republican is versus what a democrat is.

The fact is that the language isn't as

accessible to a lot of people, especially in the City of Hartford.

And I find that the human connection is what's missing. So when we go out -- we were at CCAR last week, and just having a conversation with someone at a table, they always think of elected officials as unattainable, someone that they can't connect with.

Having that opportunity, you could see that they were so ready to get out there and vote and get out there, because they believed that their voice actually mattered.

So I -- I honestly, I feel like my generation has learned that we don't -- we don't -- our voice doesn't count. I feel empowered through my graduate experience so far that I can make it count, but I think that it's a learned helplessness, really.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: Interesting. Through you, Mr. Chairman, one other observation, it's my understanding, although I'm not a political scientist, that the 2008 presidential election engaged the highest percentage of young voters in history of the United States.

AIMEE STUPAK: Mm-hmm, and I have read that as well.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: And yet they didn't stay engaged after that.

AIMEE STUPAK: Mm-hmm.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: They didn't come back for the local elections.

AIMEE STUPAK: Right.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: They didn't come back for the gubernatorial election in the State of Connecticut in 2010, and they didn't come back this past year in 2011 for another cycle of local elections.

And so why is that? I mean, why -- it -- I understand it's a national thing and -- and the young voters were engaged in the presidential politics of that year of 2008.

AIMEE STUPAK: Mm-hmm.

SENATOR McLACHLAN: But we can't seem to keep them engaged beyond that.

AIMEE STUPAK: No, and I --

SENATOR McLACHLAN: And I'm hopeful that there's -- that they remain engaged in this presidential cycle, but why -- why won't they pay attention who the mayor of their city is?

AIMEE STUPAK: You know, I don't think it's just an issue with the youth -- with youth. I think it's an issue overall, that people come out to vote for presidentials because that's what they hear the most about. That's what they pay the most attention to.

I don't think that many people are -- and a lot of the people that I'm friendly with even have an understanding of why local government is so important, why local elections actually matter, why your voice in a local election is a lot more important than your voice in a presidential election.

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

I'm here to tell you we have our hands full already. We don't need additional opportunities for -- for voter fraud. Voter fraud is, if it is pursued at all, proved after the fact, after the vote has been counted, after the election has been certified.

Now, nationally, over the -- the overwhelming majority of ineligible voters who evaded detection used, you guessed it, election day registration, which currently has no mechanism to detect or prevent ineligible voters.

The second area, the second highest incidence of voter fraud is, oh, by the way, absentee ballots.

The primary source of viable evidence of false identity voting comes from return postal verification cards. Again, this is clearly after the fact if you have election day voting. They're not going to get those cards back for ten to twelve days, if you get them back at all. And -- and at that point, the vote has been counted. The election has been certified. So forget prosecution.

I have to ask, why add more uncertainty to this process when the Pew report that came out on Valentine's Day this year suggests that 24 million, or one out of eight voter registrations, in the US are no longer valid or are significantly inaccurate?

More than 1.8 million deceased individuals are listed as voters, and approximately 2.75 million people are registered in more than one state.

Now, if you were serious about addressing voting rights, I would ask that you place as much emphasis on not disenfranchising voters, place additional or at least as much emphasis on not mis-enfranchising voters. Make sure that each eligible voter who votes does not have that vote compromised by the admission of ineligible votes and address your current abuses before thinking of expanding the opportunity for fraud, which can only be detected after the fact, when it's really too late.

I'll give you one example -- I'm the last one here. I've been here the whole time, could I do some more?

REP. MORIN: Tell you what, you are not the last, but you can wrap. You can summarize. Please do. Please do. I appreciate that you have been sitting here.

JERRI McMILLAN: I'm seriously sorry that I -- that I clarified that I was on this part of it.

But anyway, in 2008 in Troy, New York, there -- there has now come out that their -- 48 witnesses testified that they were stolen. This is three years after the fact. It's way too long to go back and -- and recertify or readdress that whole issue.

It was suggested here that Connecticut doesn't have an incidence of voter fraud. Well, that is completely an inaccurate statement. I -- I would point you to the Connecticut Post article of October 2011. It only address -- and it was a long article. It only addressed absentee voter fraud in Bridgeport. It's a long article.

Voter fraud exists here in Connecticut.

I would -- I -- if a tree falls in a forest and no one's there to hear the sound, does it make a noise? Yes, it does. If voter fraud occurs but it is not detected, does it still impact the election? Yes, it does.

I would urge you to avoid adding to the possibility of voter fraud by having election day registration. Thanks.

REP. MORIN: Well, thank you for waiting all day to testify. Anyone have any questions? We do appreciate it. Thank you.

Is Abe Scarr still here? Okay, he's gone. Okay. We're going to move on. We have Bob Fishman, followed by Peter Gostin. This is the late signup list now, so if you signed up on there, there is light.

BOB FISHMAN: Thank you, Senator Slossberg and Representative Morin and members of the Committee. My name is Robert Fishman. I'm the executive director of JFACT, Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut, and I'm here to say that we have concerns on the Governor's elimination of CONNIX, the Connecticut-Israel Exchange Commission, as we know it.

This is House Bill 5027 in Section 33. CONNIX was established in 1988 and has assisted in growing the amount of business between our state and Israel dramatically; and to meet the objectives of the state and rapidly increasing high-tech biomedical and stem cell research, Israel is a natural partner.

REP. MORIN: Thank you, Bob. Any questions? We appreciate it.

BOB FISHMAN: Thanks.

REP. MORIN: Peter Gostin, followed by Americo Santiago.

PETER GOSTIN: Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and members of the GAE Committee, good day. My name is Peter Gostin. I'm Registrar of Voters in New Britain and a member of the board of directors for ROVAC.

I speak to you today about House Bill 5024. The portion of the bill I'll focus my testimony on is Sections 1 through 10 pertaining to election day registration.

Although I come here today as an individual Registrar, like the majority of ROVAC members, I am in opposition to EDR for a host of reasons, but I'll focus on just a couple of them along with providing you some research information that I undertook regarding the last presidential election in 2008.

First, I'd like to share the following facts from New Britain about the 2008 election. The number of provisional ballots that were issued were 657. The applicants who registered, only 117 or 18 percent. The applicants who did not register, 483, or 74 percent. Applicants with then-deliverable addresses 35, or five percent, and duplicate applications or those who had already -- had registered previously were 22 or make up three percent.

The fact that New Britain had a five percent

return of undeliverable mail addresses and another three percent with duplicate registrations should cause all of us great concern, as we know elections are many times won or lost by a handful of votes.

While EDR would do away with unregistered people casting ballots, imagine if every town in Connecticut this year experienced the same level of undeliverable mail as statistically they might. The number of questionable ballots cast by voters not getting proper addresses across the state would likely register in the thousands, certainly must have to bring into question the appropriateness and even the legality of the votes cast for president.

This leads to us a second issue relating to identity verification. The current laws of Connecticut are too lax and should be revisited for strengthening. The fact that someone can register to vote simply upon presenting a driver's license, the last four digits of their Social Security number or a current utility bill which shows their residential address is no certain proof of their citizenship.

While the Registrar's office is a place to extend our constitutional rights and welcome as many new voters as possible, it should also be a protecter of those rights by ensuring a thorough review of a person's status as a citizen prior to them becoming a registered voter.

The third issue pertains to the voter turnout increases and decreases in the nine states who utilized EDR in 2008 and whether they were considered swing states.

In the attached chart that I have provided in test -- previously comparing the EDR performances from 2008 versus 2004, the data shows six of these states having only one percent growth or less, with three of them actually decreasing in voter turnout.

In contrast, eight states in the top ten with increased voter turnout were from states that do not have EDR.

The research garnered from these states revealed that the increases in their voter turnout actually have more to do with them being swing states with competitive candidate races rather than whether or not they utilized EDR.

In summary, EDR may provide an initial boost that increases a state's voter participation -- if I may, I'm nearly done -- but it hasn't yet proven to be a surefire way of keeping that interest. Having competitive races appears to be the better barometer of gauging voter participation.

While EDR would do away with the problem of getting people to register after submitting their ballots, the current relaxed requirements for proving citizenship at the time of registration begs the following question: How can we assure the legitimate electors of our state that their votes aren't being diluted by the votes of those whose eligibility may be in question?

Without a longer period of time for Registrars to investigate an election day registration by setting aside the ballot

cast, much like the process currently allowed with provisional ballots, I am in agreement with many other Registrars that current laws regarding registration in general should be strengthened first before any possible consideration of the EDR is attempted.

Thank you for your time.

REP. MORIN: Any questions? Thank you, Peter.

PETER GOSTIN: Okay.

REP. MORIN: Americo Santiago I don't believe is here. Matthew Podolsky I don't see. Sue Larsen, followed by N. Terry Hall.

SUE LARSEN: Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and now Representative Floren, I'm hear to speak in support of the Governor's bill. I apologize, we had a little bit of an oops, so the -- my testimony didn't get to you, but I will send it this evening, but I'll kind of sum raise a few things. HB5024

I listened to the Secretary of the State this morning talk about the DMV process. Originally had a little concern about it, although I love the idea of doing it, but she kind of straightened that out, that -- said by allowing the reg -- the -- I would say the voter when they're inputting their own data rather than it coming straight from a DMV tumbleweed type system.

I'm from South Windsor, so I'm one of the Windsors, so when we get a lot of information from this tumbleweed system, it doesn't always put South Windsor or East Windsor. We just get Windsor.

And so for voter cancellation or moving, that's okay. But my concern was basically if a card came through and it only had "Windsor" on there and the Windsor Registrar put the -- sent their letter, it would come back as undeliverable, so that voter would then be put on the inactive list, whereas -- and then the voter would then show up in South Windsor, where they are legitimate, and their card wouldn't be there, and so we would be disenfranchising that one voter for something simple.

So having the voter actually checking the -- the verification of the address for online registration is perfect with me.

The next issue that I wanted to talk about was basically the issue of having to have the Registrars call the -- the new -- the old voting location to find out whether or not the -- this voter voted in two locations.

The voter is signing an affirmation stating that they did not vote in another location. I'm satisfied with that. I think that should be enough for the voter to be able to get the ballot and cast the ballot.

Matt Waggner talked about having it done in the polling places. While that may be an option, too, but again, the -- the whole process is to get the voter in and out in a timely manner, and I just think that it's too cumbersome for -- for the whole process to have the Registrars going back and forth and back and forth as to whether or not this -- this voter is eligible to -- to vote.

The concern about validating the residency, well, we have primaries right now that a voter can come by noon the day before the -- the primary, fill out the card and register to vote. There's no way you're getting the card back in time for the next day.

So if we're acceptive of that, I think we should be accepting of EDR as -- and basically that's what I was trying to say. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: And you did say it. Thank you.

Any questions? Appreciate your testimony. Terry -- N. Terry Hall, followed by Judi Beaudreau.

N. TERRY HALL: My full name is Nathaniel Terry Hall. I come from Mystic, Connecticut, was a previous resident of Goshen on the opposite end of the state, so I've covered both sides of the picture.

I am here mainly because I just found out last night that the Connecticut Public Transportation Commission is to be removed from -- in Bill 5027, and it's in Sections 12, 15 and 57.

Probably the main reason I'm concerned about that is that there is no process in place for the public to get opinions in concerning public transportation. A lot of people don't recognize in this state the amount of public transportation that there actually is, especially forms of transportation for -- for invalids and for people who have special problems, and -- and that is a very interesting part of this.

I've been a -- I was a member of the Connecticut Public Transportation Commission for about 11 years, 12 years, maybe, but I -- I got -- I got off it mainly because of my age few years ago, and I am now -- but I still try to attend their meetings because I have transportation available to me, and I can find out what is going on.

My main concern in getting rid of the commission is how we as public are to find out what is actually happening in the -- in the transportation world and actually get our comments taken care of, our concerns.

And one of the big items in transportation is quality, quality of service has a big part in that.

It happens to be in the computer side of the picture, it's very well handled; but in the rest of the state, it's very hard for people to find where to go to register a complaint.

And that's one of the things that I found that the Connecticut Public Transportation Commission was helpful in handling.

So I thank you very much.

REP. MORIN: Thank you very much. Any questions? Thank you for waiting and being here.

N. TERRY HALL: [Inaudible].

REP. MORIN: Judi Beaudreau, followed by Chris Healy.

JUDI BEAUDREAU: Good afternoon. I love being last or near the end, you know, because then it

HB5024

gives me the opportunity to give you everything I know in three minutes, so -- and that's not much. But it also gives me the chance to listen to everybody else's testimony and even though you have my testimony, I can then talk about other things.

So I'm Judi Beaudreau, Registrar of Voters in Vernon, and I want to hit mostly on EDR, of course.

Have we not been talking about this for years, guys? I mean, this is something. And have I not been a big proponent of this for years? Uh-huh, absolutely.

What I want to say is that the cost, people have talked about the cost, the cost only is going to be in the employees that we have to hire for that day to help you process the whole rigmarole, okay?

It's not a lot more expense. You have added poll workers. That's it. And they're just going to be processing these, you know, applications in their office.

I say you have to leave it in the office to begin with because you have a whole bunch of Registrars out there who really think that there's fraud and they don't want it to go into the polling place.

I think taking baby steps is nice. And if we can get them to go along with it for election day in their office, then we can maybe go later to the polling place.

I think that it is very interesting that back in 1995, then-former Secretary of

State, Miles Rapoport, and myself developed that presidential ballot that everybody hates. Not the Voting Rights Act of '67, but the one that says, oh, you know, I can just drop into town hall and vote for the president.

It came about because I had some unruly voters in my polling place who actually put a moderator up against the wall because in the Paulie and Keezer days, we had to have those voter registration cards notarized, and this gentleman, who had done all the things he wanted to or should do, card never got to me, and he really was irate.

So I went to Miles Rapoport, and I said, please, just give me something that -- to fill out, because we all know it's not the popular vote that helps the -- that elects the president.

And so we created this. It was supposed to have been in the Registrar's office. Had it gone to the Registrar's office, now today we could go to EDR very easy and they would have learned how to do it.

In my town, I have been doing presidential ballots for the last, I don't know, umpteen years. The first year, no, but then after that, my town clerk supervises and I hired the individuals to do it. I used high school kids.

We set it up with eight -- I have anywhere from 400 to 500 on a presidential.
So I'm figuring that's what EDR is going to bring out at its highest point.

We set it up with eight stations, and they

each have their own specific job to do. It goes very smoothly. I don't want to see you tie it to this centralized database, nor the phone call.

These are tools. The affidavit has been wonderful in the other states who didn't have centralized databases to be able to process same-day registration. So what am I to do if the statewide centralized system is down or, better yet, my phones are down, like they were last November, okay? What do I say, oh, excuse me, you can't vote today because my computer's down or my phones aren't working.

My bank -- my local bank works when the computers are down. So if banking can continue, so should registration.

If I fill out an affidavit and I'm swearing to it, that should be all there is to EDR. Having the statewide centralized list and having the phone calling and everything else is a wonderful tool, but it shouldn't be a stopgap from letting somebody to vote.

Can I taken little bit or do I have to stop? I know you all [inaudible]. Can I continue a little bit?

REP. MORIN: Could you wrap up, Judi, we have --

JUDI BEAUDREAU: I'll try and wrap up.

REP. MORIN: -- a few more people and we have some business we have to take care of. Please.

JUDI BEAUDREAU: All right. Then I will wrap it up with I want to go back to the days when I registered 1500 new voters on the last day

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.

HB5024
HB5022
HJ2
HB5027

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.

One thing that I sometimes gets lost on all this, and I hate to be corny, is that I think everybody in this room certainly knows someone who has served in our armed forces defending our right to vote, and I think that this bill, 5024, demeans the value of voting, and I'll tell you why.

Rough count, there be probably 250, 260 days out of the year where you can walk in or somehow register to vote. It is easier than picking up your dry cleaning. It is easier than getting a fishing license. It's easier than getting what we used to have, a DVD rental car.

Each and every day, we try to make this an easier task when it doesn't -- this isn't not a problem. Now, I was state party chairman for four years. I've run more campaigns than I care to admit. I've been on [inaudible] side of this. I've been through two recounts, a congressional, a statewide, and I think I have a perspective of what campaigns are about and what the elections are about

And you've heard from some of the people here today, the Registrars, you know, there are people that talk about these things in a conceptual way. They wish this is the way the world would be.

But the actual conduction -- conducting of an elect is a very sacred process. It's the one day of the year we all come together and vote. And I'm concerned that the more we make this an exercise in expediency, we sort of demean the whole process.

When you turn 18, you should go down and

vote -- you should go down and register. If you don't do that and if you don't take the time to understand what this country is it about, then shame on you. It's not the job, I don't believe, of the government to walk everyone by the hand to register to vote. That should be taught in our schools.

And since I understand we're going to be teaching the history of labor in our schools now, maybe we can take another course in the history of voting and what that means.

So I don't think this is appropriate. You can register up until noon before. You can register at the DMV. You can get up off the couch and go down and fill it out. It is not -- there are -- I mean, I have yet to find --

Where are the teaming hoards of people who were denied access to register to vote? Who -- who are all these people that have been disenfranchised?

I haven't seen lawsuits, I haven't seen them show up. I see a lot of people that advocate for them, and I respect that, but I think this is just fraught with problems.

On election day, it is enough to get people to come in and to certify who they are, to get through the process and then to vote, and then to make sure that that vote is counted accurately.

Now we're going to have a situation where people present themselves because they can't be bothered, they can't be bothered for 250-plus days to go down and vote or they can't be bothered to change it when they

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 it 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 HB5022

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.

CHRIS HEALY: It's goods to be seen anywhere.

REP. LABRIOLA: You know, I made the point in this committee before that in the last couple of decades since the fall of the Soviet Union and other parts of the world, so many countries have been given the right to vote, have given their people the right to vote, and those people have voted under a newly democratic government in record numbers.

And in those nations, they don't have election day registration. Those people don't have -- don't show up on election day to vote, and yet they vote in massive percentages, 80, 90 percent.

And so I just -- I agree with you that it is such an insignificant burden to require people to register a few days before the election or even under the new online system, if that passes, and I just want to see if you could comment on that.

CHRIS HEALY: There are also people that have voted under the hail of gunfire.

We've seen people with -- famous pictures of Afghanistan and Iraq of people voting if fingers ink. I'd like to bring that back to Connecticut. I think that's a nice touch but people -- and let's just talk a little real quickly this issue of, you know, people don't vote, outrage which should be stopped.

Competitive campaigns, good candidates, make turnout large: If people are properly motivated, if we -- if we as republicans and democrats are doing our job in terms of turning outside candidates that are engaged, we're running real campaigns, if we're

talking to people, whether they're running for selectmen or state rep or state senator or Congressman, that will drive turnout.

But if the voter looks at their choices and either they think the race is over or they don't like the challenger or they're bored or turned off because they're not talking about their issues, then no one's going to vote.

And you could try to march them around at the point of a gun and they're not going to vote, and they're not going to register to vote on election day.

The -- one of my previous speakers, my good friend from New Britain, made a good point that was put out by some other folks today, that somehow this had turned up participation with same-day registration. That's a canard.

Large turnouts in federal elections are due because they are swing states, and that's where the money is and that's where the action is. It doesn't turn it out.

Now, you know, if we could do more to educate kids and young adults about why they should be voting because it's the only thing -- where they have skin in the game, I'm all for that, but I just think this is just another dismal attempt to get more bureaucracy, more lawsuits, more fraud and more data about the outcomes of elections.

REP. LABRIOLA: Through, Mr. Chairman, just a couple of questions that I asked the Secretary of State earlier.

With regard to process, perhaps you were in the room when I talked about how -- I painted the scenario where it's 6:00, 5:30, 6:00. This vanload of voters show up at town hall ready to register and vote. Under the law, the -- the officials have to contact other municipalities to see if these individuals -- each one of the people has voted already today, that day, on election day, and I just want to see if you would comment on the chaos, based on all of your experience, I know you've been involved in a lot of recounts and you've been right there --

CHRIS HEALY: Unfortunately lost both of though recounts.

REP. LABRIOLA: Yes.

CHRIS HEALY: But what are you going to do?

REP. LABRIOLA: I didn't mention that part.

CHRIS HEALY: Still looking for those 82 from the second district, but you know, what are you going to do.

REP. LABRIOLA: Eighty-two votes. But if you wanted to comment on whether you think chaos would reign or would be possible, that there would be a lot of people would end up voting under this provisional or, you know, possibly controversial ballots, and -- and that it would be an unworkable or chaotic situation.

CHRIS HEALY: Well, I think it's an unfair situation. We all know who are working in the election halls of -- a lot of them are volunteers, a lot of them are people that do

it because they believe in it. They're not paid a king's ransom.

You have people coming in at the peak hours. You have peak that come in that have legitimate questions about their -- where they live, where they're voting. Those are all legitimate issues, and certainly there are people with special needs, you want to accommodate for them.

You only have a limited window to vote. Why are you asking people to come -- what is the pressing public need to allow people to march in at any given time during the day, particularly later in the election day, to say I want to register to vote so I can vote.

Well, that puts a huge pressure on everybody, when you're trying to sort things out, and -- and verify that person hasn't voted someplace else or they're legitimate or they don't have a felony count or whatever.

So again, it's practical application. You can't dismiss that. And if anything, it -- again, it demeans or undercuts, whatever issue you -- you're talking about here, but I -- I was wrong in my testimony when I made reference to certain sort of identification when you're trying to register, and I apologize. I didn't read it as well as I should, but I get excited sometimes when I see these things, so I sometimes glare over.

But in fairness, people want an accurate, fair vote for people that are entitled to vote. I think that -- I think every republican or democrat agrees with that.

They should, unaffiliated.

So why are we creating another situation of uncertainty? We don't need to. There's plenty of time. The window is big. People have a certain responsibility to register to vote. And to -- I mean, one final point. When we move, we always try to -- we send this change of address form so that our bills -- well, most of us, so that our bills will catch up with us, right?

We don't want a bill hanging out there for 60, 90 days, we say, oh, you know, I forgot to tell you. Well, that's on to you make that correction so your -- so your bills are paid. It's the same thing with voting. People have a responsibility, and why are we continuing to let people off the hook for something as this sacred as a vote? I think it's a sacred thing. People have died for on it our behalf so that we can prance around every year and do this.

REP. LABRIOLA: Finally, one final question, Mr. Chairman, the other question that I asked the Secretary of State is with regard -- and you made reference to it, of how rarely a judge will overturn an election or equal for a new election.

It -- it almost never happens, and it really is a situation where it's too late. I mean, in the history of America, has -- has there ever been a stolen election? Has there ever been voter fraud?

CHRIS HEALY: No.

REP. LABRIOLA: Has there ever been any fraud in Connecticut?

CHRIS HEALY: I would say -- my democratic friends would say 2000, and I used to say, well, we're all even, because you stole 1960, so we're all even here.

But Stalin once said it's not who votes, it's who counts the votes. So I put it to you that way. And I think the issue here is real simple. Do we as -- as legislators, elective leaders, think it's the responsibility of citizens to take ownership of their citizen responsibilities? And do we provide every opportunity for them to register and to exercise that franchise?

And are we eliminating reasonable -- you know, are we eliminating barriers that we agree have become impediments, and that includes people that have special needs, that includes people with special language considerations, everything under the sun.

We've done that. We're a very open and transparent society in Connecticut on that. We do -- we have a good record. And yeah, there's fraud, et cetera.

But if you start raising the -- the legitimacy of an election for whatever office, it's a poisonous effect, and it will turn down subsequent turnout in elections, because people won't think they're on the up and up.

REP. MORIN: You're welcome, Representative. Anyone else? Thank you, Chris, appreciate your testimony.

CHRIS HEALY: Oh, one think final thing, on that -- on that bill about the commissions, I was on

HB5027

the Boxing Commission for three years and I'll be damned if I know what the hell it was all about, so you can definitely get rid of that one, roll that one up, because I got put on that by Lou Deluca. We met three times and I still don't know what it was all about, so --

REP. MORIN: That's something to do with Boxing Day in Canada.

CHRIS HEALY: Yes, exactly, go for it on that one. I don't think you have any, you know --

REP. MORIN: Thank you for the input. Ethan Senack, followed by Tom Swan, followed Rafie.

ETHAN SENACK: Thank you. Did you guys hear me for the first part? Okay.

Campus delivery systems have a serious effect on the critical role in confirming voter registrations and providing them with important election information. And so now if a college student doesn't want to mail in their form, they actually have to deliver the form or go fill one out in person at the Registrar's office. HB5024

At UConn, as well as at many other universities, most -- the majority of students, especially freshmen and sophomores, are actually unable to have cars on campus or to have the transportation means necessary to actually bring them to the Registrar's office and things like that.

So overall, these barriers mean one thing: Students don't register to vote on their own.

And that's why we've had to work so hard over the past few years. But then even then, the fight isn't over. Dozens of students are turned away from the polls every year because of issues with their registration. So the biggest one -- and I heard this mention by a number of the Registrars here today, is -- is often typos or handwriting or things like that, and as it stands, bad handwriting in one section of a voter registration form -- I'll finish up -- can actually invalidate the registration or cause it to be entered incorrectly, preventing that student to vote.

And if the Registrar can't get in touch with that student, that means they're not voting on election day, and that happens to hundreds of students every -- every year.

Online voter registration would alleviate all of these issues. It would reduce paperwork. The town Registrars don't always appreciate it when we drop off thousands of voter registration forms at a time. It reduces physical barriers to voting, and it reduces the possibility of error.

As the Secretary mentioned earlier, over 3,000 students turned out at the UConn campus in Storrs to vote in 2008. Many of them stood in line for three to four hours just to place their vote. And it's because of that that I know that students will vote if we just give them the opportunity to do so.

So that's why I'm asking the Committee to move forward with the times, to reduce the barriers to the right to vote, and to allow

online inventory registration in Connecticut. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Thank you, Ethan. You know, I think -- just to prove that we did hear what you said at the beginning, you may have mentioned that you're one of the disenfranchised with regards to voting, and I think Senator McLachlan asked a previous person why.

And, you know, I have young people, I have kids that are just out of college and one that's just getting ready to go to college, and I think, you know, in my town, we -- we have civics classes in the higher school. I don't think we do a good enough job really bringing people together, making them understand why it's so important. I believe that. But, you know, when President Obama was running for years ago. There was an excitement. Young people -- if you his don't press, you heard the rock star status type of thing.

And then we get back to what everybody else is doing, a municipal election, which one might argue -- and I've heard it said today -- is probably the most important vote you will cast. It directly effects what you pay in your property tax and stuff.

So why? Why are young people -- what -- and I know you probably can't answer, but why would you -- what's going to draw you to vote and what's going to make you say I don't want -- you know, this isn't that important.

ETHAN SENACK: Well, absolutely, I think the problem youth engagement and youth voter

turnout is a bit of a cyclical problem that we're just going around and around, and the reality is that at some point somewhere in the circle, either it was, you know, politicians stopped reaching out to the youth vote and stopped engaging them and working on issues that, you know, they were interested in, or maybe it was the students that stopped voting first.

But the reality is that, you know, the students and the youth is one of the lowest -- I think it's the lowest voting block in the United States.

And what that does is it just prompts politicians not to spend their time and resources engaging those students. I mean, if you're running a campaign, you're not going to focus on people who aren't going to vote.

So I think the problem really is rather cyclical, and the reason that President Obama's campaign was so successful is that he deliberately reached out to students. You know, he made much of his campaign messaging about issues that pertained to, you know, students, whether it was the cost of higher education or things like that.

And so I think it's an issue on -- on both sides there. It's partly, you know, students neat to go get up and to break that cycle, to actually get out to vote and to go and, you know, make themselves a voting block, and it's also the responsibility of politicians to -- to reach out to youth like they do with many other groups in the United States.

REP. MORIN: Thank you. Any -- anyone else? I appreciate you being here, Ethan. Thank for waiting.

ETHAN SENACK: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: I don't see Tom Swan, but I do see Rafie, and I know you had signed up previously.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Rafie.

REP. MORIN: Rafie, I'm sorry. And it's good to see you and thanks -- thanks for coming back.

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: Thank you very much. I'm sorry. This happens around here all the time, you have conflicting schedules.

My name is Raphael Podolsky. I'm a lawyer with the Legal Assistance Resource Center in Hartford, a private legal aid program. We represent low-income Connecticut residents in a variety of civil circumstances.

I wanted to speak on two bills, and I'm also speaking on behalf of Attorney Shirley Berger of Connecticut Legal Services, who was unable to come today. We've each filed written testimony on -- on each of two bills.

SB27

The first one is House Bill No. 5027, and my comments are directed specifically towards Section 46 which deals with the Low-Income Energy Assistance Board. The request that we make to the Committee is that you retain the existing version of subsection D, that's D, as in David, of Section 46 and not make the changes proposed in that section. The

Pg. 4, line 26

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.

pg. 6, line 9 000418

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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. Butt 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.

Pua 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 2

Testimony RE: HB 5024
By Aleta Looker
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I am Aleta Looker, one of the Registrars of Voters in Cheshire, and I am in my eighth year in this position. I had spent the previous four years as the deputy registrar and have been one of the people who work very hard to preserve the integrity of the election process so you can represent me here in Hartford. Sad to say, there are very few registrars who have moved on to become legislators, so relatively few of you have a concept of what the job entails.

I want you to know that Election Day Voter Registration is a very bad idea, especially in this small, well populated, and highly transient state of Connecticut. It sounds grand as a concept but there are a lot of compelling reasons why it should not happen. I am here to tell you some of the most urgently important reasons.

1. Anyone who is a citizen of the United States of America has the right, indeed the privilege, to vote as long as he or she follows the rules set forth within the state in which they reside. The current law in Connecticut permits a citizen to register as young as age 17 (and vote in a primary prior to the general election if his or her birthday occurs on or before the date of the general election, and if the person has enrolled in a political party). Over the years, the laws have been relaxed over and over again, and now allow a person who cannot read to vote, and to register in person up to noon on the day before an election if they have just turned 18 or moved into a new town within the past week or just been naturalized. Even people held in prison prior to a trial may vote. And once a convicted felon has been released and served the terms of his or her parole, he or she may register to vote.
2. Having a half day to add names to the supplemental list of voters who may go to the polls the following day is enough of a burden to place on the registrars without further complicating their overly busy workday on Election Day.
3. Registration laws are so simple to follow and access to registration forms so easy, there is very little to prevent a person who really wants to vote from registering any day of the year simply by downloading a registration form from any computer. Forms are written in Spanish and English.
4. Registrars abide by published hours to be present in their offices throughout the year. They keep their offices open on prescribed and advertised Saturdays and late evenings to help people who work during regular office hours.
5. If a person knows he or she can procrastinate about registering until the day of Election, it encourages this counterproductive behavior. Chaos would result.
6. Certain civil servants in the Secretary of the State's office collect data regarding the number of eligible voters and want an exact accounting. Other civil servants within the same office want voting results as fast as possible before Election Day is over—or no later than the day afterwards. These demands are difficult to comply with under the best of conditions and would become extremely overwhelming if people could register and vote on Election Day.

7. There is potential for fraud in permitting Election Day registration, especially if the registrants take advantage of the proximity of neighboring states and travel from Connecticut over the line to Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island. There is no nation-wide computerized voting list. Connecticut does have a statewide system, but there is still the possibility of registering and voting in several towns or cities without being caught immediately.
8. A Registrar of Voters can explain to a would-be registrant that there are fines and potential imprisonment for people who falsely register. If there is a long line of people waiting to register on Election Day, however, this warning might be given short shrift.
9. Most towns are facing severely budgetary problems. We are concerned about the cost of having this extra registering/polling place, which would have to be manned at nearly the same level as an actual polling place and have computer and telephone installations. We are never given enough money, the state computer system is slow to be upgraded, and finding workers who are willing to deal with the grueling 14 plus hour day is difficult.
10. Is the possibility of getting more votes worth the risk of doing something illegal or unethical, especially if the voters in question have no particular interest in political issues and are only behaving like sheep?

When I came to this state 52 years ago, I had to wait to register until six months had passed, and when I finally was able to register, I had to prove I could read. Then I moved within the state and the same rules applied. In those days, registering and voting really meant something important. Now it has become as simple as waiting in line at McDonald's and the significance has been lost in the process.

My message is simple. Stop tinkering with the election process—at least until technology catches up—and take some time to appreciate what you already have.

pg. 5, lined

Town of Fairfield · Registrar of Voters Office
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Testimony of Matthew Waggner, Registrar
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Testimony on HB 5024: An Act Concerning Voting Rights

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

My name is Matt Waggner, Registrar of Voters in Fairfield. We're a town with about 60,000 residents, 35,000 voters, and two universities. I appreciate the chance to share my perspective and research on Election Day registration as proposed in HB 5024.

First, I am a strong supporter of Election Day registration, and I support it primarily for the benefits it would hold for election integrity.

Following guidelines established in both state and federal law, Registrars conduct an annual canvass of our voters to update or remove voters who have changed their address in the prior year. This process concludes in May of each year, and touches from 3% to 5% of our voters. Of course, voters will often change addresses between our canvass and the election, and when they do, one of three things happen.

> First, many will register to vote in their new town or apply to change their address within town through one of the mechanisms available to them.
>
> Second, a number of voters realize that, due to forgetfulness or misunderstanding of the law, that they are ineligible to vote despite remaining on the rolls at their former address of residence. The U.S. Census Current Population Survey found that in 2008, 5.5% of registered voters who failed to vote did so because of a problem with their registration being out of date, as well as 3.6% of those who failed to vote in 2010.[1]
>
> Third, some others will return to their familiar polling place, where they remain on the active list until the following year's canvass, presenting their license with their old address, and casting a ballot that in many cases contains offices for which they are no longer eligible to vote. I had the opportunity, following the 2010 election, to examine the canvass lists of several towns to ascertain the number of voters who voted in the wrong district despite having moved prior to the November election. This number was between 0.25% and 0.5% of ballots in those towns.

This number is not just significant considering that Connecticut elections are routinely tied or decided by a small handful of votes, but is also several orders of magnitude more significant than even the wildest assertions of fraudulent activity.

Both the voter who stays away from the polls because their information is out of date and the voter who should vote elsewhere but doesn't understand the importance of voting the correct ballot at the correct place have a distorting effect on our election process, making it fundamentally less representative.

Other states that have Election Day registration have found that 40% to 60% of Election Day registration activity is from voters who are not new registrants, but rather are changing their address in-state from one town or county to another.[2] Election Day registration will help change our civic culture from one that penalizes frequent movers to one that promotes the integrity of our local and district-level results and reduces the impact of voter misunderstanding of our election laws.

[1] Current Population Survey Attachment 13-1, Question 4, November 2008 and November 2010. http://www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsnov08 pdf, http://www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsnov10.pdf

[2] 2008-2011 Election Day Registrations Report from Maine Secretary of State, 7 February 2012
Election Day Late Registrations 2006-2010 Report from Montana Secretary of State's Office, as of 13 April 2011.

I also would like to recommend a change to the proposal before the committee. HB 5024 introduces "centralized" Election Day registration, which is held at a single location in each municipality. My hope is that you will consider a polling-place based process, which is in use in eight of the current nine Election Day Registration states. The process outlined in 5024 would have several steps:

1) The prospective voter travels to Town Hall or another designated location

2) The voter fills out a voter registration card

3) While the voter waits, the Registrar's office enters the voter's information into the state voter registration database (also known as "CVRS")

3a) If the voter was previously registered in a different location in Connecticut, the Registrar places a call to the voter's prior town

3b) The Registrar in the prior town calls the Assistant Registrar in the polling place where that voter was previously registered

3c) The Assistant Registrar in that polling place interrupts the Official Checker from checking in voters to ascertain whether the voter in question had voted

3d) The Assistant Registrar would communicate back to their Registrar that the voter had not yet voted

3e) The Registrar in the prior town would call back the Registrar in the new town, and clear the voter to receive a ballot

4) The voter is given a ballot, completes it, and returns it

5) The next voter is then allowed to come forward to register and vote. Repeat steps 1-5.

This process is complicated, and adds nothing of value to election integrity. Under Connecticut law, a voter becomes registered when we examine and accept their credentials, so it is human judgement – not a computer – that is the basis for our system. Per the Help America Vote Act, we check a driver's license or social security number on the computer only for the mailed-in registrations of new voters, not for existing voters or in-person registrants. Further, the computer entry requirement assumes that there are individuals seeking to fraudulently vote multiple times with sufficient forethought to forge credentials, yet who lack sufficient forethought to make those credentials with a different name or date of birth, and are brazen enough to do all of this in-person rather than through the mail. All of this seems very unlikely relative to the risk of intimidation, disenfranchising strategies, the ability to vote by mail in total anonymity, and of course the more reasonable cost-to-benefit ratio associated with simply convincing others to vote for one's preferred candidates through legitimate and legal means such as volunteering or donating to campaigns.

However, the costs for this system to the orderly process of voting will be tremendous. It will:

- ***force needless travel by voters*** – many, including the undergraduates at both of Fairfield's universities, do not have a vehicle, and will likely have to take several trips after learning that they aren't registered at their neighborhood polling place;
- ***disrupt the duties of four different election officials for each voter transfer*** – the Registrars in two towns, the Assistant Registrar at the polling place, and the Official Checker (who would have to stop checking in the voters in their line to look up the recently-moved voter) will be engaged in the process, with extended investigations required for "John Smith"-type duplicates, junior-senior mixups, and erroneous cross-offs;
- ***extend waiting times for voters in the polling place and for those waiting to register***; and
- ***curtail the ability of Registrars to provide advice and solve problems*** for voters, poll-workers, and political entities on Election Day – a task which generally commands the full attention of the Registrar's office in a normal election.

If this were to happen a handful of times each day, it would be inconvenient, but workable. However, I've prepared a survey which is attached to the written testimony you've received outlining participation rates in the eight states which had EDR in 2008 and 2010. I collected data from 1121 jurisdictions, 96 of them with full-time university populations, and found that on average, 5 6% of all votes cast in a federal non-Presidential year are from voters registering on election day, while 12.9% of all votes in Presidential elections are from election day registrants If you limit the comparison to New Hampshire and Maine, two New England states with municipally-run elections and comparable in demographics, turnout, population per district, and mobility rates to Connecticut, the averages are 8.7% and 4.4% in presidential and non-presidential years. The share of voters registering or transferring between towns on Election Day increases in larger jurisdictions and in those with an above-average share of full-time college students.

You will also find in my written testimony estimates for each town in Connecticut based on towns of similar size and college student population elsewhere in the country as to the number we should anticipate in Presidential and Gubernatorial years. In Fairfield, that number is 5,043 in a Presidential year, which would require at least 20 additional terminals, personnel, and phone lines for data entry, and would result in an average of 3 calls disrupting the voting in other towns in each *minute* of the 14-hour Election Day.

Again, I favor Election Day registration, but I think it's important to understand what we're talking about in terms of the volume of people who will use it once it has become central to our system, and to impress upon you the extent to which the centrally-based registration proposal before you will crowd out other election administration functions on Election Day.

Fortunately, Registrars already have personnel available at polling places that could handle Election Day registration in a manner similar to other states. Connecticut law requires that we appoint a minimum of two Assistant Registrars for each district to perform voter transfers and restorations. These officials are the only pollworkers required to be registered voters in our towns, as we already delegate certain of our powers as Registrars to them. As our current transfer and restoration process would be largely supplanted by EDR, these officials could be tasked with registering voters who live in their district without disrupting their other duties during the hours of voting.

On average, the volume in each district for a Presidential election would be 275 voters – less than 10 per Assistant Registrar per hour. For most towns, this would represent no extra costs whatsoever. There are a few towns – those with a much larger population per polling place – that would require an increase in polling place workers to manage the additional voters in Presidential years. However, in each of these towns the increase in personnel would be substantially below what would be required with centralized EDR, and I anticipate would be easily offset by the reduction in office hours in the weeks prior to the election. I hope you will consider asking OFA to evaluate the impact of polling place EDR as compared with centralized EDR – it seems to me that a polling-place based policy would represent a modest cost savings compared to current law.

Finally, conducting Election Day registrations at polling places would not compromise the ability of Registrars, SOTS, or SEEC to investigate abuse – other states have policies that set certain ballots aside pending verification or refer returned voter address verification letters to the state's attorney for prosecution, and Connecticut may consider steps such as auditing a small percentage of voter addresses or making copies of documents presented by Election Day registrants. You will find a short survey of EDR security policies in use elsewhere attached to this testimony. Any of these measures would represent a significant increase in security over current policy without compromising the voting experience for our constituents, and could be easily performed by Registrars in the days or weeks following an election.

I'd urge you to carefully consider whether conducting EDR at a central location serves a meaningful purpose relative to the problems it would cause. I think you will find that a polling place process can be combined with the tried-and-tested integrity components in use elsewhere to achieve a system with the best security and voter convenience with a minimum of cost and disruption.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

000427

Summary of Existing Election Day Registration Policies by State

State	EDR Location	Pre-Ballot Data Entry	Contacts Prior District	Security Measures
Idaho [1]	Polling Place	No	No	Non-forwardable mailing Proof of identity and residence required for new voters
Iowa [2]	Polling Place	No	No	Notice of legal obligations of felons provided to each EDR applicant Proof of residence and identity or "attesting" by registered voter in precinct required Non-forwardable mailing Returned letters submitted to County Attorney and Secretary of State for investigation Voters without ID given provisional ballot
Maine [3]	Polling Place	No	No	Proof of residence and identity required for new voters Non-forwardable mailing Mandatory disclosure of previous address Voters without ID have ballots kept separately, may be challenged until end of recounts
Minnesota [4]	Polling Place	No	No	Proof of residence and identity or "vouching" by registered voter in precinct required Non-forwardable mailing Registration official must be different than official providing ballot
Montana [5]	County Office	Yes	No	Voters transferring between districts are given provisional ballot
New Hampshire [6]	Polling Place	No	No	Place of birth or naturalization location required Driver's license or partial Social Security number required Non-forwardable mailing to voters without ID Returned letters sent to AG for investigation and prosecution Investigation results of returned letters published annually on Secretary's website
Washington, D C [7]	Polling Place	No	No	All EDR ballots are provisional Ballots are returned to office and counted after election
Wisconsin [8]	Polling Place	No	No	Proof of residence or "corroborator" statement by resident with required for new voters No provisionals available to those without proof of residence or "corroborator" Non-forwardable mailing Post-election audit Observers may challenge new voters EDR applicants checked against "ineligible voter list"
Wyoming [9]	Polling Place	No	No	Voters without ID are given provisional ballot; must furnish ID by day following election Duplicate investigation at time of data entry

Sources:

[1] *http://www.sos.idaho.gov/ELECT/Law/Election%20Laws.pdf*
[2] *http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/peo/Guide.pdf*
[3] *http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/21-A/title21-Ach3sec0.html*
[4] *http://Www.sos.state.mn.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentId=5060*
[5] *Interview with Alan Miller, Elections Specialist at MT Secretary of State office*
[6] *http://nhvotes.sos.nh.gov/course/category.php?id=1*
[7] *http://www.dcboee.org/faq/election_day.asp*
[8] *http://elections.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=6010&locid=47*
[9] *http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/statutes.aspx?file=titles/Title22/T22CH3.htm*

Summary of Existing Election Day Registration Participation by State and Jurisdiction Size

Jurisdiction Size	Voters (2008)	# Districts	Voters per District	2008 Votes	2008 EDR	2008 EDR %	2010 Votes	2010 EDR	2010 EDR %
Extra Large *>150,000 voters*	3,478,248	2,155	1,614	2,866,118	487,320	17.00%	2,088,222	159,640	7.64%
Large *30,000 to 150,000 voters*	4,512,348	3,336	1,353	3,591,647	462,235	12.87%	2,545,620	147,152	5.78%
Medium *5,000 to 30,000 voters*	3,800,700	4,957	767	3,055,670	326,599	10.69%	2,236,111	89,589	4.01%
Small *<5,000 voters*	1,090,858	1,422	767	835,093	62,301	7.46%	632,980	22,044	3.48%

State	Enacted in Year	Voters (2008)	# Districts	Voters per District	2008 Votes	2008 EDR	2008 EDR %	2010 Votes	2010 EDR	2010 EDR %
Idaho	*1994*	790,622	922	858	667,499	116,655	17.48%	457,748	41,609	9.09%
Iowa	*2007*	2,124,742	1,774	1,198	1,546,453	45,929	2.97%	1,133,495	16,516	1.46%
Maine	*1973*	1,065,064	562	1,895	744,456	49,846	6.70%	580,584	22,201	3.82%
Minnesota	*1974*	3,087,082	4,135	747	2,920,214	541,876	18.56%	2,123,369	71,980	3.39%
Montana	*2005*	632,996	793	798	497,599	7,419	1.49%	367,096	3,735	1.02%
New Hampshire	*1996*	945,341	314	3,011	719,403	76,755	10.67%	461,423	23,512	5.10%
Wisconsin	*1971*	4,023,961	2,911	1,382	2,996,869	459,549	15.33%	2,188,396	229,930	10.51%
Wyoming	*1994*	212,346	459	463	256,035	40,426	15.79%	190,822	8,942	4.69%

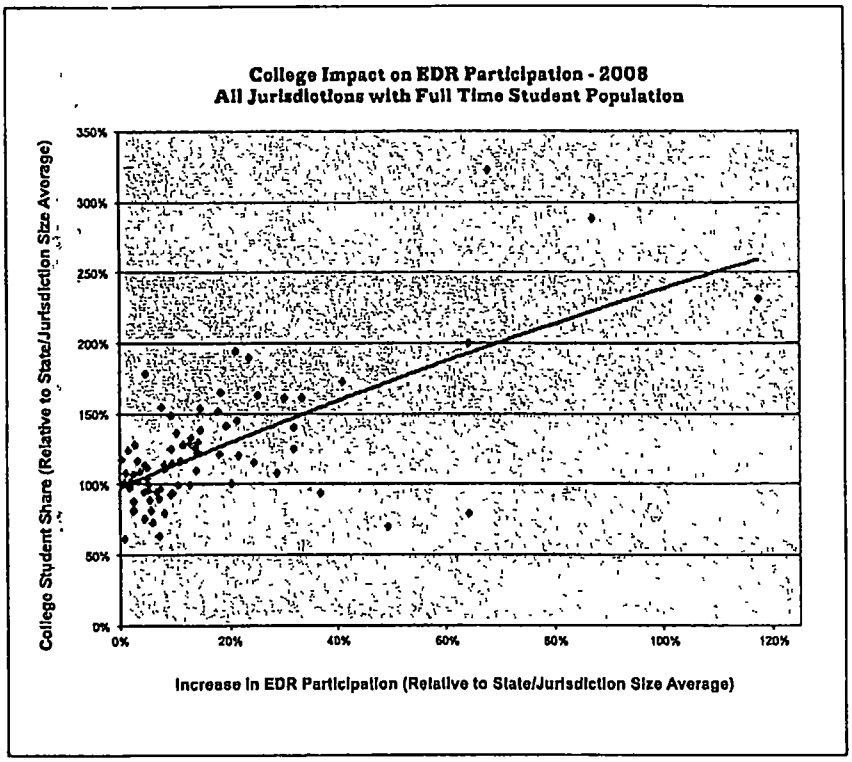
	Voters (2008)	# Districts	Voters per District	2008 Votes	2008 EDR	2008 EDR %	2010 Votes	2010 EDR	2010 EDR %
Total (All EDR States)	12,882,154	11,870	1,085	10,348,528	1,338,455	12.93%	7,502,933	418,425	5.58%
New Hampshire and Maine Only	2,010,405	876	2,295	1,463,859	126,601	8.65%	1,042,007	45,713	4.39%

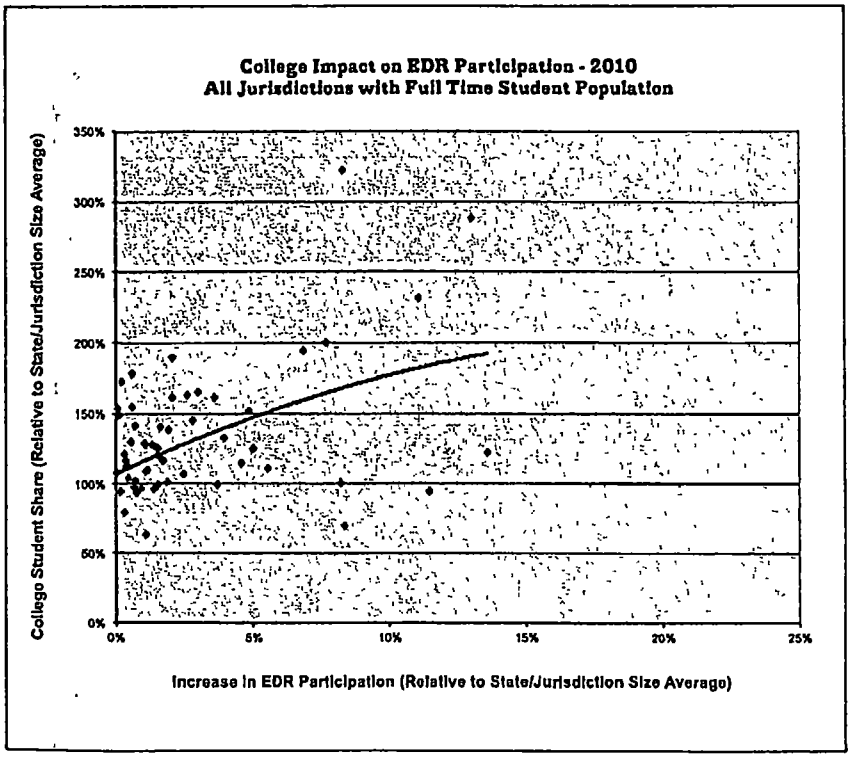
Note. Washington D.C. is not included, as their EDR policy began in 2010, and the DC Board of Elections and Ethics has not made EDR participation data available. New Hampshire and Maine totals are provided separately for comparison purposes, as their election system (municipally-administered, large polling place populations), homeowner and renter mobility rates, and total voter population are similar to that of Connecticut. Connecticut, however, is demographically unique in comparison to existing EDR states, especially with regard to our state's substantially higher levels of racial and ethnic diversity.

Detail of Existing Election Day Registration Participation by State and Jurisdiction Size

Idaho	Voters	# Polling Places	Voters/ District	Votes 2008	EDR in 2008	2008 EDR %	Votes 2010	EDR in 2010	2010 EDR %
Total - Small Jurisdictions	40,559	105	386	34,697	4,121	11.88%	25,337	1,901	7.50%
Total - Medium Jurisdictions	257,734	396	651	215,525	33,429	15.51%	149,805	11,262	7.52%
Total - Large Jurisdictions	276,972	279	993	235,621	40,826	17.33%	160,431	13,339	8.31%
Total - Extra Large Jurisdictions	215,357	142	1,517	181,656	38,279	21.07%	122,175	15,107	12.37%
Iowa	**Voters**	**# Polling Places**	**Voters/ District**	**Votes 2008**	**EDR in 2008**	**2008 EDR %**	**Votes 2010**	**EDR in 2010**	**2010 EDR %**
Total - Small Jurisdictions	24,672	43	574	17,696	385	2.18%	14,218	141	0.99%
Total - Medium Jurisdictions	962,838	1,004	959	684,752	17,862	2.61%	513,680	6,126	1.19%
Total - Large Jurisdictions	866,833	544	1,593	628,254	21,427	3.41%	443,442	8,054	1.82%
Total - Extra Large Jurisdictions	270,399	183	1,478	215,751	6,255	2.90%	162,155	2,195	1.35%
Maine	**Voters**	**# Polling Places**	**Voters/ District**	**Votes 2008**	**EDR in 2008**	**2008 EDR %**	**Votes 2010**	**EDR in 2010**	**2010 EDR %**
Total - Small Jurisdictions	535,670	454	1,180	382,247	24,190	6.33%	305,069	9,728	3.19%
Total - Medium Jurisdictions	469,489	92	5,103	325,148	22,372	6.88%	248,548	10,724	4.31%
Total - Large Jurisdictions	59,905	16	3,744	37,061	3,284	8.86%	26,967	1,749	6.49%
Minnesota	**Voters**	**# Polling Places**	**Voters/ District**	**Votes 2008**	**EDR in 2008**	**2008 EDR %**	**Votes 2010**	**EDR in 2010**	**2010 EDR %**
Total - Small Jurisdictions	43,310	318	136	40,218	4,586	11.40%	32,322	1,152	3.56%
Total - Medium Jurisdictions	739,349	2,030	364	693,446	115,287	16.63%	524,889	18,308	3.49%
Total - Large Jurisdictions	889,074	919	967	834,404	157,931	18.93%	608,104	22,255	3.66%
Total - Extra Large Jurisdictions	1,415,349	868	1,631	1,352,146	264,072	19.53%	958,054	30,265	3.16%
Montana	**Voters**	**# Polling Places**	**Voters/ District**	**Votes 2008**	**EDR in 2008**	**2008 EDR %**	**Votes 2010**	**EDR in 2010**	**2010 EDR %**
Total - Small Jurisdictions	64,451	186	347	53,410	668	1.25%	44,034	403	0.92%
Total - Medium Jurisdictions	190,078	333	571	151,678	2,366	1.56%	116,669	1,010	0.87%
Total - Large Jurisdictions	378,467	274	1,381	292,511	4,385	1.50%	206,393	2,322	1.13%
New Hampshire	**Voters**	**# Polling Places**	**Voters/ District**	**Votes 2008**	**EDR in 2008**	**2008 EDR %**	**Votes 2010**	**EDR in 2010**	**2010 EDR %**
Total - Small Jurisdictions	335,793	194	1,731	261,374	22,738	8.70%	175,763	7,030	4.00%
Total - Medium Jurisdictions	458,925	89	5,156	345,007	37,225	10.79%	215,562	11,304	5.24%
Total - Large Jurisdictions	150,623	31	4,859	113,022	16,792	14.86%	70,098	5,178	7.39%
Wisconsin	**Voters**	**# Polling Places**	**Voters/ District**	**Votes 2008**	**EDR in 2008**	**2008 EDR %**	**Votes 2010**	**EDR in 2010**	**2010 EDR %**
Total - Small Jurisdictions	15,013	30	500	11,675	1,393	11.93%	7,609	437	5.74%
Total - Medium Jurisdictions	574,946	677	849	459,661	67,370	14.66%	334,912	24,290	7.25%
Total - Large Jurisdictions	1,856,859	1,242	1,495	1,408,968	212,072	15.05%	1,000,037	93,130	9.31%
Total - Extra Large Jurisdictions	1,577,143	962	1,639	1,116,565	178,714	16.01%	845,838	112,073	13.25%
Wyoming	**Voters**	**# Polling Places**	**Voters/ District**	**Votes 2008**	**EDR in 2008**	**2008 EDR %**	**Votes 2010**	**EDR in 2010**	**2010 EDR %**
Total - Small Jurisdictions	31,390	92	341	33,776	4,220	12.49%	28,628	1,252	4.37%
Total - Medium Jurisdictions	147,341	336	439	180,453	30,688	17.01%	132,046	6,565	4.97%
Total - Large Jurisdictions	33,615	31	1,084	41,806	5,518	13.20%	30,148	1,125	3.73%

Summary of College Population Impact on EDR Participation Rates





000431

Estimates of Connecticut EDR Participation in Federal Elections

							ALL EDR STATES ESTIMATE				NH/ME ONLY ESTIMATE			
Town	Size	Districts (2010) [1]	Voters / District	Full-time Students [2]	2008 Voting [3]	2010 Voting [4]	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District
Andover	S	1	2,231		1,733	1,448	127	127	51	51	124	124	51	51
Ansonia	M	9	1,147		7,568	5,116	792	88	207	23	659	73	245	27
Ashford	S	1	2,885		2,301	1,766	168	168	62	62	164	164	62	62
Avon	M	3	4,075		10,768	8,528	1127	376	344	115	938	313	408	136
Barkhamsted	S	2	1,324		2,248	1,664	164	82	58	29	161	80	58	29
Beacon Falls	S	1	3,774		3,138	2,354	229	229	83	83	224	224	83	83
Berlin	M	5	2,665		11,262	8,667	1179	236	350	70	981	196	414	83
Bethany	S	1	3,950		3,357	2,613	245	245	92	92	240	240	92	92
Bethel	M	5	2,291		9,531	6,818	998	200	275	55	830	166	326	65
Bethlehem	S	1	2,822		2,304	1,819	168	168	64	64	165	165	64	64
Bloomfield	M	6	2,508		12,364	8,990	1294	216	363	60	1077	179	430	72
Bolton	S	1	3,608		3,070	2,393	224	224	84	84	219	219	84	84
Bozrah	S	1	1,748		1,392	1,037	102	102	36	36	99	99	36	36
Branford	M	7	2,769		15,028	11,175	1573	225	451	64	1309	187	534	76
Bridgeport	L	25	2,798	3,216	41,244	23,158	5199	208	1349	54	5404	216	1665	67
Bridgewater	S	1	1,384		1,199	940	88	88	33	33	86	86	33	33
Bristol	L	10	3,472		28,214	17,930	3557	356	1044	104	3697	370	1289	129
Brookfield	M	2	5,277		9,260	6,640	969	485	268	134	807	403	318	159
Brooklyn	S	1	4,827		3,674	2,632	268	268	92	92	262	262	92	92
Burlington	M	1	6,152		5,160	4,038	540	540	163	163	449	449	193	193
Canaan	S	1	773		635	463	46	46	16	16	45	45	16	16
Canterbury	S	1	3,444		2,720	2,056	199	199	72	72	194	194	72	72
Canton	M	1	7,022		5,923	4,706	620	620	190	190	516	516	225	225

Sources:
[1] District and precinct counts from November 2010 Statewide CVRS Export
[2] US Department of Education Full-Time Student count data, 2008.
http //ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/Rankang.aspx
[3] Connecticut Secretary of the State, 2008 Statement of Vote
[4] Connecticut Secretary of the State, 2010 Statement of Vote

000432

							ALL EDR STATES ESTIMATE				NH/ME ONLY ESTIMATE			
Town	Size	Districts (2010)	Voters / District	Full-time Students	2008 Voting	2010 Voting	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District
Chaplin	S	1	1375		1,116	860	82	82	30	30	80	80	30	30
Cheshire	M	7	2,639		13,849	12,053	1450	207	487	70	1206	172	576	82
Chester	S	1	2,652		2,262	1,687	165	165	59	59	162	162	59	59
Clinton	M	1	9,370		7,288	5,208	763	763	210	210	635	635	249	249
Colchester	M	3	3,301		8,117	6,009	850	283	243	81	707	236	287	96
Colebrook	S	1	1,131		906	706	66	66	25	25	65	65	25	25
Columbia	S	1	3,646		3,223	2,515	236	236	88	88	230	230	88	88
Cornwall	S	1	1,091		969	765	71	71	27	27	69	69	27	27
Coventry	M	2	4,069		6,686	4,979	700	350	201	100	582	291	238	119
Cromwell	M	1	9,417		7,582	5,746	794	794	232	232	660	660	275	275
Danbury	L	16	2,161	4,704	27,009	19,347	3895	243	1357	85	4048	253	1675	105
Darien	M	6	2,106		11,039	8,304	1156	193	335	56	962	160	397	66
Deep River	S	1	3,251		2,693	2,005	197	197	70	70	192	192	70	70
Derby	M	2	3,467		5,365	3,482	562	281	141	70	467	234	167	83
Durham	M	2	2,516		4,194	3,485	439	220	141	70	365	183	167	83
East Granby	S	2	1,733		2,986	2,242	218	109	79	39	213	107	79	39
East Haddam	M	1	5,765		4,942	3,770	517	517	152	152	430	430	180	180
East Hampton	M	1	8,518		6,898	5,724	722	722	231	231	601	601	274	274
East Hartford	M	7	3,922		20,357	12,265	2131	304	495	71	1773	253	587	84
East Haven	M	7	2,300		12,488	8,547	1307	187	345	49	1088	155	409	58
East Lyme	M	3	3,967		8,721	7545	913	304	305	102	760	253	361	120
East Windsor	M	2	3,792		4,966	3,855	520	260	156	78	433	216	184	92
Eastford	S	1	1,152		982	793	72	72	28	28	70	70	28	28
Easton	M	1	5,389		4,511	3,366	472	472	136	136	393	393	161	161
Ellington	M	2	4,758		7,739	5,769	810	405	233	116	674	337	276	138

000433

							ALL EDR STATES ESTIMATE				NH/ME ONLY ESTIMATE			
Town	Size	Districts (2010)	Voters / District	Full-time Students	2008 Voting	2010 Voting	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District
Enfield	M	6	4,467		19,593	13,617	2051	342	550	92	1707	284	651	109
Essex	S	1	4,692		4,140	3,417	303	303	120	120	296	296	120	120
Fairfield	L	13	2,864	7,778	31,745	22,474	5043	388	1789	138	5242	403	2209	170
Farmington	M	6	2,883		14,073	11,064	1473	246	447	74	1226	204	529	88
Franklin	S	1	1,285		1,070	826	78	78	29	29	76	76	29	29
Glastonbury	M	6	3,877		19,845	14,294	2078	346	577	96	1729	288	684	114
Goshen	S	1	2,146		1,800	1,485	132	132	52	52	129	129	52	52
Granby	M	2	3,672		6,450	5,118	675	338	207	103	562	281	245	122
Greenwich	L	21	1,697		30,374	22,132	3829	182	1289	61	3980	190	1591	76
Griswold	M	2	3,439		5,074	3,619	531	266	146	73	442	221	173	87
Groton	M	8	2,560	556	15,028	10,109	1573	197	408	51	1309	164	483	60
Guilford	M	5	3,181		13,367	10,384	1399	280	419	84	1164	233	497	99
Haddam	M	3	1,940		4,760	3,743	498	166	151	50	415	138	179	60
Hamden	L	11	3,200	6,623	28,423	20,080	4397	400	1545	140	4571	416	1907	173
Hampton	S	1	1,278		1,106	866	81	81	30	30	79	79	30	30
Hartford	L	23	2,209	2,216	35,351	18,685	4456	194	1088	47	4632	201	1344	58
Hartland	S	1	1,582		1,263	970	92	92	34	34	90	90	34	34
Harwinton	S	2	1,994		3,346	2,639	245	122	93	46	239	119	93	46
Hebron	M	1	6,390		5,301	4,139	555	555	167	167	462	462	198	198
Kent	S	1	2,044		1,789	1,384	131	131	49	49	128	128	49	49
Killingly	M	8	1,164		6,634	4,312	695	87	174	22	578	72	206	26
Killingworth	S	1	4,632		3,914	3,039	286	286	107	107	280	280	107	107
Lebanon	S	1	4,765		3,914	2,956	286	286	104	104	280	280	104	104
Ledyard	M	2	4,644		7,775	5,295	814	407	214	107	677	339	253	127
Lisbon	S	1	2,702		2,248	1,646	164	164	58	58	161	161	58	58

000434

							ALL EDR STATES ESTIMATE				NH/ME ONLY ESTIMATE			
Town	Size	Districts (2010)	Voters / District	Full-time Students	2008 Voting	2010 Voting	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District
Litchfield	M	4	1,588		5,072	3,842	531	133	155	39	442	110	184	46
Lyme	S	1	1,841		1,585	1,227	116	116	43	43	113	113	43	43
Madison	M	2	6,783		10,963	8,602	1148	574	347	174	955	477	411	206
Manchester	L	10	3,295		24,676	17,827	3111	311	1038	104	3233	323	1282	128
Mansfield	M	3	4,350	20,456	10,392	15,776	3286	1095	834	278	2734	911	988	329
Marlborough	S	1	4,364		3,658	2,891	267	267	101	101	261	261	102	102
Meriden	L	17	1,984		23,750	15,718	2994	176	915	54	3112	183	1130	66
Middlebury	M	1	5,130		4,526	3,521	474	474	142	142	394	394	168	168
Middlefield	S	1	3,167		2,647	2,130	193	193	75	75	189	189	75	75
Middletown	M	14	1,838	2,928	21,565	14,467	2502	179	673	48	2081	149	798	57
Milford	L	14	2,404		27,387	18,615	3452	247	1084	77	3588	256	1339	96
Monroe	M	4	3,298		11,150	7,869	1167	292	318	79	971	243	376	94
Montville	M	6	1,665		8,147	5,878	853	142	237	40	710	118	281	47
Morris	S	1	1,688		1,392	1,129	102	102	40	40	99	99	40	40
Naugtuck	M	10	1,798		13,435	8,753	1407	141	353	35	1170	117	419	42
New Britain	L	17	1,990	8,422	22,778	13,860	3799	223	1174	69	3949	232	1450	85
New Canaan	M	3	4,276		11,176	8,217	1170	390	332	111	974	325	393	131
New Fairfield	M	2	4,698		6,930	5,366	726	363	217	108	604	302	257	128
New Hartford	S	2	2,261		4,285	3,237	313	157	114	57	306	153	114	57
New Haven	L	35	1,880	22,380	43,435	27,200	8015	229	2613	75	8331	238	3225	92
New London	M	3	4,037	2,587	9,059	4,892	1202	401	272	91	1000	333	322	107
New Milford	M	7	2,569		13,811	9,117	1446	207	368	53	1203	172	436	62
Newington	M	8	2,398		14,500	11,714	1518	190	473	59	1263	158	560	70
Newtown	M	4	4,292		15,275	11,170	1599	400	451	113	1331	333	534	134
Norfolk	S	1	1,176		887	792	65	65	28	28	63	63	28	28

000435

							ALL EDR STATES ESTIMATE				NH/ME ONLY ESTIMATE			
Town	Size	Districts (2010)	Voters / District	Full-time Students	2008 Voting	2010 Voting	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District
North Branford	M	2	4,567		7,508	5,366	786	393	217	108	654	327	257	128
North Canaan	S	1	1982		1,543	1,042	113	113	37	37	110	110	37	37
North Haven	M	5	3,265		13,535	10,422	1417	283	421	84	1179	236	498	100
North Stonington	S	1	3,687		2,967	2,129	217	217	75	75	212	212	75	75
Norwalk	L	14	3,573		37,549	24,452	4733	338	1424	102	4920	351	1758	126
Norwich	M	10	2,025		14,022	9,054	1468	147	366	37	1221	122	433	43
Old Lyme	M	1	6,077	87	4,840	3,785	507	507	153	153	422	422	181	181
Old Saybrook	M	2	3,772		6,306	4,947	660	330	200	100	549	275	237	118
Orange	M	2	5,146		8,432	6,501	883	441	262	131	734	367	311	155
Oxford	M	1	8,403		6,889	5,150	721	721	208	208	600	600	246	246
Plainfield	M	5	1,830		6,095	4,125	638	128	167	33	531	106	197	39
Plainville	M	4	2,634		8,163	6,261	855	214	253	63	711	178	299	75
Plymouth	M	2	3,886		5,670	3,905	594	297	158	79	494	247	187	93
Pomfret	S	1	2,682		2,245	1,726	164	164	61	61	160	160	61	61
Portland	M	1	6,298		5,170	3,894	541	541	157	157	450	450	186	186
Preston	S	1	3,717		2,735	1,857	200	200	65	65	195	195	65	65
Prospect	M	2	3,065		5,222	4,056	547	273	164	82	455	227	194	97
Putnam	M	2	2,629		3,752	2,506	393	196	101	51	327	163	120	60
Redding	M	2	3,404		5,628	4,224	589	295	171	85	490	245	202	101
Ridgefield	M	3	5,573		14,448	10,510	1513	504	424	141	1259	420	503	168
Rocky Hill	M	3	3,943		10,147	7,374	1062	354	298	99	884	295	353	118
Roxbury	S	1	1,761		1,520	1,211	111	111	42	42	109	109	43	43
Salem	S	1	2,749		2,250	1,697	164	164	60	60	161	161	60	60
Salisbury	S	1	2,967		2,364	1,789	173	173	63	63	169	169	63	63
Scotland	S	1	1,159		934	705	68	68	25	25	67	67	25	25

000436

							ALL EDR STATES ESTIMATE				NH/ME ONLY ESTIMATE			
Town	Size	Districts (2010)	Voters / District	Full-time Students	2008 Voting	2010 Voting	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District
Seymour	M	3	3,438		7,869	5,606	824	275	226	75	685	228	268	89
Sharon	S	1	1,919		1,567	1,234	115	115	43	43	112	112	43	43
Shelton	M	6	4,229		20,484	14,613	2145	357	590	98	1784	297	699	116
Sherman	S	1	2,683		2,181	1,672	159	159	59	59	156	156	59	59
Simsbury	M	4	4,148		14,662	11,206	1535	384	452	113	1277	319	536	134
Somers	M	2	3,122		4,644	3,872	486	243	156	78	405	202	185	93
South Windsor	M	5	3,298		14,224	10,901	1489	298	440	88	1239	248	521	104
Southbury	M	12	1,215		10,468	8,919	1096	91	360	30	912	76	427	36
Southington	M	5	5,710		22,669	16,726	2373	475	675	135	1975	395	800	160
Sprague	S	1	1,778		1,492	1,188	109	109	42	42	107	107	42	42
Stafford	M	3	2,664		6,227	4,495	652	217	181	60	542	181	215	72
Stamford	L	23	2,582	848	48,493	32,831	6113	266	1912	83	6354	276	2361	103
Sterling	S	1	2,037		1,523	1,049	111	111	37	37	109	109	37	37
Stonington	M	5	2,575		10,839	7,667	1135	227	310	62	944	189	367	73
Stratford	L	13	2,474		24,497	16,993	3088	238	990	76	3210	247	1222	94
Suffield	M	1	8,630		7,507	5,573	786	786	225	225	654	654	267	267
Thomaston	S	1	4,936		4,069	3,006	297	297	105	105	291	291	106	106
Thompson	M	4	1,379		4,508	2,992	472	118	121	30	393	98	143	36
Tolland	M	2	5,015		8,514	6,532	891	446	264	132	742	371	312	156
Torrington	M	8	2,482		16,218	11,602	1698	212	468	59	1413	177	555	69
Trumbull	M	10	2,481		19,874	14,661	2081	208	592	59	1731	173	701	70
Union	S	1	610		536	443	39	39	16	16	38	38	16	16
Vernon	M	6	2,765		14,048	9,721	1471	245	392	65	1224	204	465	77
Voluntown	S	1	1,616		1,279	907	93	93	32	32	91	91	32	32
Wallingford	M	9	2,933		22,548	16,001	2361	262	646	72	1964	218	765	85

000437

							ALL EDR STATES ESTIMATE				NH/ME ONLY ESTIMATE			
Town	Size	Districts (2010)	Voters / District	Full-time Students	2008 Voting	2010 Voting	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District	Pres. Year EDR Total	Pres. Year EDR Per District	Gov. Year EDR Total	Gov. Year EDR Per District
Warren	S	1	985		846	652	62	62	23	23	60	60	23	23
Washington	S	1	2,378		2,226	1,670	163	163	59	59	159	159	59	59
Waterbury	L	23	2,468	2,985	36,116	22,067	4589	200	1300	57	4770	207	1605	70
Waterford	M	4	3,335		10,892	7,839	1140	285	316	79	949	237	375	94
Watertown	M	4	3,666		11,503	8,412	1204	301	340	85	1002	250	402	101
West Hartford	L	20	2,025	6,404	34,157	26,015	5078	254	1900	95	5278	264	2345	117
West Haven	L	12	2,670	4,047	22,123	13,860	3147	262	954	79	3270	273	1178	98
Westbrook	S	2	2,262		3,771	2,902	276	138	102	51	269	135	102	51
Weston	M	2	3,193		5,800	4,247	607	304	171	86	505	253	203	102
Westport	M	6	3,068		15,838	11,492	1658	276	464	77	1380	230	550	92
Wethersfield	M	10	1,785		14,847	11,076	1554	155	447	45	1293	129	530	53
Willington	S	1	3,763		3,124	2,314	228	228	81	81	223	223	81	81
Wilton	M	3	3,999		10,448	7,716	1094	365	311	104	910	303	369	123
Winchester	M	1	7,136		5,086	3,668	532	532	148	148	443	443	175	175
Windham	M	2	6,953	4,189	8,818	5,409	1296	648	342	171	1079	539	405	203
Windsor	M	7	2,903		16,517	11,822	1729	247	477	68	1439	206	565	81
Windsor Locks	M	2	3,978		6,166	4,383	646	323	177	88	537	269	210	105
Wolcott	M	3	3,640		8,499	6,509	890	297	263	88	740	247	311	104
Woodbridge	M	1	6,450		5,482	4,225	574	574	171	171	478	478	202	202
Woodbury	M	2	3,444		5,466	4,531	572	286	183	91	476	238	217	108
Woodstock	M	1	5,193		4,374	3,278	458	458	132	132	381	381	157	157

pg. 6, line 24

CITY OF HARTFORD

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE

Democratic Registrar
Olga Iris Vázquez

Working Families Registrar
Urania Petit, MSW

Republican Registrar
Salvatore Bramante

March 1, 2012

Testimony of Urania Petit on HB 5024: An Act Concerning Voting Rights

Dear Chairpersons Slossberg and Morin and members of GAE,

Election Day Registration is a necessary tool for cities like Hartford to serve the needs of our community and democracy.

It has been stated that voting is our fundamental right, but in exercising that right we sometimes experience barriers, such as registration deadlines, hard-to-understand removal procedures, and requiring our citizens to appear at an office – the Registrar of Voters – that they might never have heard about. I consider voter education to be a major part of my job as a Registrar in Hartford, but I favor eliminating these barriers to voting when it will help our citizens exercise their rights more freely.

With voting comes responsibilities – but it is *our* responsibility to give our voters the right tools to deliver their votes. With every vote comes so much power, but when our residents get turned away from the polls for reasons they don't understand, it can make them feel powerless.

One thing that Hartford experiences is a very high transient population. It has been said that in the past 8 years, 70,000 of Hartford's 83,000 renters have moved at least once. Our office and non-profit advocates take steps to address this, including pursuing an ordinance for rental offices to have voter registration cards for new tenants. Because of how often residents move, I expect that Election Day Registration will be very popular in our city.

However, I am not sure what single public location we could possibly use for the large number of people that would want to register on Election Day. City Hall and Downtown areas have limited parking and require payment in meters. Our schools are open on Election Day, and their lots are already full with staff and faculty. And, as Secretary Merrill pointed out in her testimony on Monday, a large number of our residents simply do not drive. She said:

> "However, eliminating certain polling places becomes problematic in cities where the neighborhood polling place is important because people can get there by foot. Eliminating a polling place in a city neighborhood can create voter confusion and place a hardship on a voter who does not have a car if he or she wants to exercise their right to vote."

I agree, and would add that after attempting to vote at the neighborhood polling place and taking two or more bus trips to where the Registrars decide to allow EDR, it may be two, three, or more hours before they complete their vote and can return to home or work. This kind of experience would lead to discouragement and disenfranchisement for these voters. To be successful both for voters and for Registrars, and our town and city governments, I feel that Election Day Registration can and should be done at the polls.

Thank you for the chance to testify.

pg. 8, line 10

Testimony by Christopher Healy
HB 5024 – An Act Concerning Voting Rights
Government, Administration and Enforcement Committee
Legislative Office Building
March 2, 2012

I am Christopher Healy, and I live in Wethersfield, CT. I have been a registered voter since the age of 18 and am currently a member of the Wethersfield Republican Town Committee. I have also had the honor to serve on the GOP State Central Committee as well as serve as State GOP Party Chairman from 2007 to 2011. I have also worked and volunteered on more campaigns than I care to admit and been involved in two recounts on the Congressional and statewide levels.

I am very concerned with several components of **HB 5024 - An Act Concerning Voting Rights**

The proposed legislation would create uncertainty about the veracity of votes cast in Connecticut elections. The bill has one credible and useful provision – requiring the Secretary of the State Office to develop and maintain an on-line data system to track new voters and use it to ensure that a voter is not registered elsewhere. This is long overdue and will make great strides toward an accurate list of legitimate voters.

But the provision allowing Election Day registration of voters is an answer to a problem that doesn't exist. And the loosening of credible identification requirements is another recipe for fraud.

Voting is a right and a privilege, which countless Americans have fought and died to protect. Civil Rights activists, who marched through a gauntlet of nightsticks and police dogs, also gave their lives to make sure all Americans have the right to freely and safely exercise their choices on the one day that all our citizens share as a national experience.

Is it asking too much for citizens to take some responsibility to register to vote in advance of Election Day, given all the options available to them? Connecticut citizens may register by mail or in person with relative ease and with plenty of time to complete this task. We ask more of people who are trying to obtain a fishing license, public assistance or a membership in a health club than is required to register to vote. Where are the voices of people who have been

denied the right to register or feel the system is too cumbersome? The law has been flexible for anyone who wishes to be part of the voting public.

And it seems counter-intuitive to require the Secretary of the State's office to maintain an on-line registry of voters to protect against double-voting but allow a would-be voter to present themselves at a polling place on Election Day and automatically enjoy the rights of a voter.

Registrars and Election Day staff are saddled with tasks that put a strain on existing resources. If these Election Day teams are additionally required to process new voters, including a search of their status in an on-line system that may or may not be accurate, the polling area will be consumed with even longer lines, short tempers and mistakes.

If that proper identification isn't presented to the Registrar, then the damage is already done to the legitimacy of the Election.

The Judicial system is very reticent to take up Election matters and with good reason. This law would potentially allow illegal votes to be cast on Election Day with no option to challenge an outcome if it were revealed that someone who registered on Election Day was not entitled to vote for any number of reasons.

This approach to voter registration will only overburden Election Day operations and potentially cast doubt on the legitimacy of the vote.

If we are concerned about voter participation, then the focus should be through the education system. It is there where tomorrow's voters should be enlightened on the importance of voting and on the basic requirements to join the ranks of active legitimate voters.

This law trivializes and belittles the sanctity of the ballot box and dishonors those who have fought to preserve this right.

pg. 6, line 19

H.B. 5024 - Revised Testimony

Government Administration and Elections Committee
Testimony – March 2, 2012

Luther Weeks
Luther@CTVotersCount.org
334 Hollister Way West, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Chairs and members of the Committee, my name is Luther Weeks, Executive Director of CTVotersCount. I am a retired computer scientist, software engineer, and systems director. I spent my entire career leading the building, evaluating, buying and selling software for large organizations, evaluating projects, and advanced technologies. I have served in three elections as a central count absentee ballot Moderator. **I have experience evaluating projects based on sketchy information. In fact, sketchy information is a strong indicator that caution and a full evaluation would be prudent before proceeding.**

I associate with the testimony of Matt Wagoner on this bill.

H.B 5024 proposes initiatives for two concepts that I fully support in theory.

I support the proposal for Online Voter Registration, although I would rather see costs and more details specified. Everyone should be aware that development and maintenance costs will accrue to the state, while savings will accrue to municipalities.

I recommend against this proposal for Election Day Registration. It lacks sufficient detail to protect the rights of EDR voters, the rights of all voters, and the integrity of elections. The structure that is proposed, by its nature portends chaos in future critical and high interest elections, such as those we have experienced in 2006, 2008, and 2010.

This bill specifies EDR in small, crowded registrars offices, already beehives of activity on election days. In a large city, in a popular election, 5,000 or more voters may descend on election day, many more than in most polling places, adding thousands of calls in and out, with a registration process much more complex and time consuming than polling place check-in.

It is not a polling place, voters fill out something short of an absentee ballot, place it in a ballot box, with no requirement for ballot clerks, ballot box attendant, no room for privacy booths, or training in how to vote.

The proposal requires counting in a manner similar to absentee ballots – requiring opening and counting several times the current volume of absentee ballots. Statewide the results of many reasonably close elections would depend on the results of over 200,000 EDR ballots with many processed after 8:00pm. Will citizens be permitted to register and vote if they are in line at 8:00pm or will they be denied, since they are not voters?

Based on a sketchy law with no requirements for regulations or procedures to be created or followed, we will have 169 EDR systems based on the interpretations of 169 municipalities.

Expect chaos, legal challenges, and complaints. These are predictable, likely results of this EDR plan. I cannot support EDR as proposed in this bill.

Thank you.

Outline of a better, centralized EDR alternative

I understand that one of the reasons for this proposal's structure is that it is deemed too difficult or too expensive to provide a full polling place environment for voters, primarily because the voter registration system is tethered to the registrars' offices. Expense would be necessary to provide access to the voter registration system for a single existing polling place in small municipalities or access in a larger room in a central location for multiple-polling place municipalities. Focusing on that expense is poor economy and archaic thinking. EDR voters deserve the facilities of a traditional polling place. All voters deserve the integrity protection of a polling place, ballots counted by machine and subject to post-election audit.

- Where towns have a single polling place, accomplish the registration in the same building, or building complex as the polling place, let voters vote like all other voters in the same polling place. There is no value in separate reporting, so all voters could use the same tabulator.
- Where towns have several polling places, conduct central registration in a single polling place with EDR registration, voting like all other voters, using a tabulator set up just like the central AB machine, able to handle all ballots from all districts. Or conduct EDR in each polling place.
- Specify more details in the law and/or require regulations and procedures be created by the Secretary of the State and that those regulations and procedures by followed by officials
- Include election day registration ballots in post-election audits.
- Like EDR as specified in this bill, the alternative would add costs to the election process. Much, if not all, of the expense of providing a polling place for EDR, would be offset by tabulator counting, rather than machine counting of ballots, while providing integrity and convenience for voters.

Volume of registrations and cost in one state, from a PEW Report:

http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Election%20Reform%20Briefing%2016;%20Election-Day%20Registration%20A%20Case%20Study.pdf

> *Minnesota, which has offered polling-place EDR for more than 30 years, has recorded* ***between 10 and 20 percent of voters*** *registering and casting ballots on Election Day. Officials noted that EDR can make ordering ballots more difficult and lines can get long in some areas...*
>
> *When EDR was first authorized, the state provided funds to assist local jurisdictions with implementation. The state initially authorized $125,000. Local jurisdictions soon discovered it was far from enough. In all, $800,000 was required for that year. Eventually, the state left jurisdictions to fund EDR themselves as part of regular election expenses* **[Note: Minnesota has about double the voters in Connecticut today, but the $800,000 was in 1973 dollars and without the requirement of checking against an online voter registration file]**

EDR Issues with the specification in the current Bill

Crowded registrars offices unable to handle volume, provide privacy

- Other states have experienced EDR registration of 10% to 20% based on the interest in elections. Presumably as voters understand that they can register on election day, more will choose to do so that today would register earlier.
- Presumably more voters would use EDR in large cities where traditionally more voters move in and out, and move within the same city. A city such as Bridgeport might have 5,000 to 7,000 EDR voters in a high interest election. That represents four to six times the number of absentee ballots in November 2010 and five to seven times the number of voters in an average polling place in that election.
- Perhaps the volume will be lower with this centralized system, with a reputation for longer lines and less convenience than other states, yet a smaller volume that would still likely represent multiples of the current number of absentee votes.
- The EDR process takes several times as long as the polling place check-in process.
- In addition to placing additional calls to other towns, many additional calls would need to be accepted and responded to 'immediately' from other towns, and in those towns calls 'immediately' to polling places. Presumably this could take some time, before voters transferring between towns can be given a ballot, adding to the time and congestion.
- Since the bill does not define the registrars' offices as polling places, presumably there would be no requirement for privacy booths, ballot clerks, and voter training.
- There would be no law restricting the rights of media, citizens, and candidates from closely observing the process.
- Presumably citizens will be given the opportunity to spoil ballots and receive a new one. This can be a significant process in a crowded area, especially when it involves several ballot styles.
- Since citizens in line are not voters, would registrars be required continue the process beyond 8:00pm to serve all those in line? Would other towns be required to stay open to process incoming calls from other towns after 8:00pm and keep officials on duty at each polling place to respond 'immediately' to required calls?

Voting process that may disenfranchise EDR voters

- Like absentee voters, EDR voters would not have the benefit of a tabulator to reject ballots with an overvote. Many EDR voters will be first time voters.
- There is no requirement for staffing to assist voters in understanding how to vote. Many EDR voters will be first time voters.
- There is no requirement for IVS machines to assist voters with disabilities.
- Long lines may discourage many from registering and voting.
- There may be charges of and the reality of voters being disenfranchised by unequal processes, wait times, and voting after 8:00pm or not, in different municipalities.

Additional concerns

- The law does not specify how EDR votes are to be reported (only EDR ballots). Would they be a separate category on each district, and head moderators returns? Presumably, they must be counted and reported separately from absentee ballots, since absentee ballots are required to be reported separately from other votes.
- There is no requirement for regulations and procedures to define the process, nor that any such regulations and procedures be followed by officials.
- There is no requirement for minimum levels of the printing of EDR ballots and envelopes
- There is no requirement for post-election audit of EDR ballots whether counted by hand or machine.

- There is no specification of requirements for recanvassing EDR ballots and envelopes.
- The law requires feedback from the Secretary of the State and State Elections Enforcement Commission. It does not include feedback from voters – hopefully there will be hearings or some other way voters can provide feedback on the process. While the law specifies EDR for elections, the feedback is specified as being based on primary elections.

P. 7, line 26

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS ~ 27 WEST MAIN STREET ~ ROOM 507 ~ NEW BRITAIN, CT ~ 06051 860-826-3310

Date: March 2, 2012

Testimony on Raised Bill No: 5024

Peter J. Gostin, Board of Directors, ROVAC

AAC Election Day Registration (EDR)

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, and members of the GAE Committee. Good day. My name is Peter Gostin, I'm a Registrar of Voters from New Britain, and a member of the Board of Directors for ROVAC. I speak to you today about HB 5204.

The portion of the bill I will focus my testimony on is Sections 1 – 10 pertaining to Election Day Registration. Although I come here today as an individual Registrar, like the large majority of ROVAC members I am in opposition to EDR for a host of reasons. But I will focus on just a couple of them along with providing you with some research information that I undertook regarding the last presidential election in 2008.

First, I'd like to share the following facts from New Britain in the 2008 election:

Number of Provisional Ballots Issued:	657
Applicants Who Registered	117 (18%)
Applicants Not Did Not Register	483 (74%)
Applicants With Undeliverable Addresses	35 (5%)
Duplicate Applications (already voters)	22 (3%)

The fact that New Britain had a 5% return of undeliverable mail addresses and another 3% with duplicate registrations should cause all of us great concern, as we know elections are many times won or lost by a handful of votes. While EDR would do away with unregistered people casting ballots, imagine if every town in CT this year experienced the same level of undeliverable mail, as statistically they might. The number of questionable ballots cast by voters not giving proper addresses across the state would likely register in the thousands, certainly enough to bring into question the appropriateness and even the legality of the votes cast for president.

This leads us to a second issue relating to identity verification. The current laws of CT are too lax and should be revisited for strengthening. The fact that someone can register to vote simply upon presenting a drivers license, the last four digits of their social security number, or a current utility bill which shows their residential address is no certain proof of their citizenship. While the Registrar's office is a place to extend our Constitutional rights and welcome as many new voters as possible, it should also be a protector of those rights by ensuring a thorough review of a person's status as a citizen prior to them becoming a registered voter.

The third issue pertains to the voter turnout increases / decreases in the nine states who utilized EDR in 2008 and whether they were considered swing states. In the attached chart comparing the EDR performances from 2008 vs. 2004, the data shows six of these states having only one percent growth or less, with three of them actually decreasing in voter turnout. In contrast, eight states in the top ten with increased voter turnout in 2008 were from states that do not have EDR! The research garnered from these states revealed that the increases in their voter turnout actually had more to do with them being swing states with competitive candidate races than whether or not they utilized EDR.

In summary, EDR may provide an initial boost that increases a state's voter participation but it hasn't yet proven to be a sure-fire way of keeping that interest. Having competitive races appears to be the better barometer of gauging voter participation. While EDR would do away with the problem of getting people to register after submitting their presidential ballots, the current relaxed requirements for proving citizenship at the time of registration begs the following question: How can we assure the legitimate electors of our state that their votes aren't being diluted by the votes of those whose eligibility may be in question? Without a longer period of time for registrars to investigate an election day registration by setting aside the ballot cast - much like the process currently allowed with provisional ballots - I am in agreement with many other registrars that current laws regarding registration in general should be strengthened first before any possible consideration of EDR is attempted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter J. Gostin
Registrar of Voters (R)
New Britain

State	Turnout %	Turnout Rank 2008	Increase or Decrease Over 2004	EDR and /or Swing State
Minnesota	77.9	1	0.9	EDR; SS
Maine	73.0	2	-0.6	EDR
New Hampshire	71.7	4	1.0	EDR; SS
Iowa (2008)	69.7	5	-0.5	EDR; SS
Montana	67.2	13	4.4	EDR; SS
North Carolina (2008)	66.0	21	11.4	EDR*; SS
Wyoming	65.9	22	1.3	EDR; SS
North Dakota	65.5	23	0.4	EDR**
Idaho	63.2	27	-2.2	EDR
Top 10 Voter Increases				
North Carolina	66.0	1	11.4	EDR*; SS
South Carolina	58.8	2	11.0	Neither
Virginia	67.6	3	9.9	Neither
Alabama	61.8	4	7.9	Neither
Georgia	67.8	5	7.6	Neither
Nevada	59.4	6	6.9	Neither
Indiana	59.2	7	6.3	Neither
Rhode Island	62.7	8	6.0	Neither
Maryland	67.0	9	5.2	Neither
Montana	67.2	10	4.4	EDR; SS
Connecticut	67.1	18	2.9	None
USA	61.5			

SDR* - Same Day Registration and Voting with 16 Day Early Voting Period
EDR** - No Voter Registration

Source: Voter Turnout 2008: www://nonprofitvote.org/voterturnout2008

pg. 7, lines

March 2, 2012

ROVAC Testimony on Raised Bill No. 5024

Melissa Russell, Exec. VP ROVAC

AAC Voting Rights

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, and members of the GAE Committee. My name is Melissa Russell, and I'm a Registrar of Voters in Bethlehem, as well as the Executive Vice President of ROVAC. I'm speaking today about HB 5024.

This bill has two main components that affect Registrars which I'd like to address here today. The first is online voter registration, as laid out in Sec. 11of this bill. ROVAC supports the concept of allowing individuals to register to vote online, provided equal checks and balances be implemented in an online system that are now in place in our current system. ROVAC looks forward to working with the Secretary of the State's office in implementing a system that will work smoothly and efficiently both for the voter and in our offices.

The second main component of this bill deals with Election Day Registration (EDR). As the Committee may be aware, our organization is deeply divided on this issue. The last time EDR came up for consideration, ROVAC took a vote at its 2010 Annual Meeting, with a result that a large majority of those voting were against any form of EDR.

The concerns Registrars have about EDR fall into three categories: cost, logistics, and integrity.

The first concern of our members is the cost of implementation. In this atmosphere of zero increase budgets each year for many of our offices, Registrars are concerned about hiring the extra manpower needed to process those registering on election day, the cost of purchasing and installing at least one extra computer that is hooked up to the physical router needed to operate CVRS (Centralizes Voter Registration System), and the cost of printing an extra set of election day ballots and envelopes.

The second concern of our members is the logistics of implementation. Registrars in large towns and cities may have difficulty in finding locations that are equipped with routers, phone lines, and the space needed by a large number of applicants coming to register. There is also the fairly long process of verifying with a previous municipality that an applicant has not already voted that day -- the registrar in the new town would have to call the registrar in the previous town, who would then have to call their moderator in the polling place where the voter had previously been eligible to vote, who would then have to interrupt the checker in order to check

the list to see if the voter had already cast a ballot. Then that information would have to be transmitted back to the registrar in the old town, who would then let the registrar in the applicant's new town know if the person had already voted. (Sec. 1-e-2-A) Even if no one's phone was busy, and everything went smoothly, this is a process that would take a considerable amount of time.

The third concern of Registrars has to do with the integrity of the election process. One of the most important safeguards our system has for verifying an individual's eligibility to vote, is the sending of a confirmation letter via the US Mail, to the registrant's home address. In the case where someone has not been truthful about their place of residence, the Post Office returns that piece of mail to Registrars as undeliverable. With the EDR process, the Registrars will have no way of knowing whether those who registered on election day actually reside at the place where they say they do, until well after their ballots are election results are in. In the case of many municipal and state races, a very few votes can make the difference as to who has won the election. Many of our members have grave concerns about this issue.

As you can see from my testimony today, this bill is a mixed bag for ROVAC, and many of our members have serious and valid concerns about EDR. It is my hope that you consider carefully the issues I have raised here when making the decision whether to pass this out of this committee. Thank you for your time and your patience.

pg. 7, line 2

Daria K. Hart
Election Administrator / Democratic Registrar of Voters
Town of New Hartford, Connecticut

Modernization of the voter registration process to ensure that that all citizens who are eligible to vote can exercise that right is essential to keep the public an integral part of the electoral process, and a key component is **Election Day Registration.**

Statistics show that voters are not turning out in the numbers they once did. According to the PEW Research Center, the number of unregistered adults is 22% of the population. To reverse this trend, we must eliminate any and all road blocks to the individual's right to vote. The voters we need to reach are often the young, mobile and/or poor. The Brennan Center for Justice found that "Election Day registration boosts turnout by approximately 5–7 points in those states that allow eligible citizens to register on Election Day—with a decreased dependence on provisional ballots and without any reported increase in voter fraud."

As society and technology changes, it is critical that the voter registration process is modified to accommodate these changes without compromising the integrity of the election process. We have the tools to do this – the central voter registration system will allow registrars to look up who is or is not registered in the state. The bill before you allows Registrars to check with any town when applicants are found to be registered elsewhere and be sure that they have not voted in that town.

Registrars are already required by statue to be in the office during the election – registering voters on Election Day is a natural extension of our job. Further, the deadline for voter registration was developed to ensure that Registrars had enough time to prepare the voter registration lists. With the central voter registration system, lists can be printed easily and quickly.

The bottom line is that voting is a right – not a privilege. As elected members of state and local government, we have the privilege to serve all the voters; the rules adopted by government should ensure maximum participation by eliminating artificial barriers to voter registration.

pg. 4, line 20

Dēmos
IDEAS & ACTION

Hearing of the Connecticut General Assembly

Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 2, 2012

H.B. 5024, An Act Concerning Voting Rights

Testimony of Steven Carbó, Demos

Thank you Chairpersons Slossberg and Morin, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, for this opportunity testify in support of H.B. 5024. My name is Steven Carbó, Senior Program Director in the Democracy Program at Demos. We are a non-partisan public policy center that works with policy makers, elections officials, and advocates in pursuit of a vibrant democracy with high levels of voting and civic engagement. Achieving this level of inclusivity requires reducing barriers that prevent all eligible citizens from exercising their right to vote.

I applaud Governor Dan Malloy, Secretary of State Denise Merrill, and members of this committee for championing H.B. 5024 and Same Day Registration (SDR) – a proven reform that can substantially increase voter turnout among eligible voters without compromising the integrity of elections or substantially increasing costs. By enacting H.B. 5024, Connecticut would become the 10th state to permit eligible citizens to both register and vote on Election Day and/or during the early voting period.[1] The District of Columbia has also enacted Same Day Registration. I will primarily address Section 1 of H.B. 5024, the portion of the legislation that pertains to Same Day Registration. I also offer support for the online voter registration provisions provided for in Section 11 of the bill.

Benefits of Same Day Registration

America is a highly mobile society. According to the US Census Bureau, over 35 million individuals changed residences in 2011.[2] Many of these individuals fail to register to vote before the registration deadline, and find themselves unable to cast a ballot. Others who have timely submitted their voter registration applications will find on Election Day that their names had not been added to the voter rolls and that their votes will not be counted. Same Day Registration remedies both these problems. Voters simply register to vote on Election Day or during the early voting period, and cast a ballot that will be counted.

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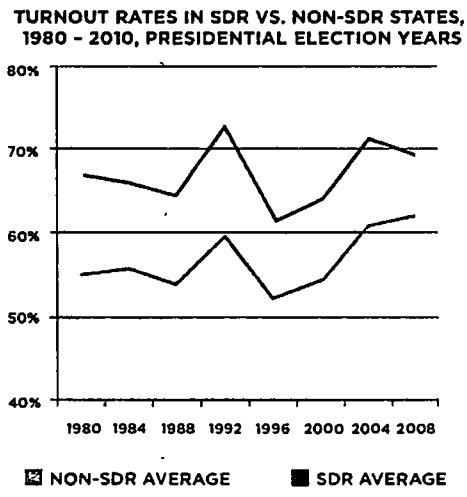
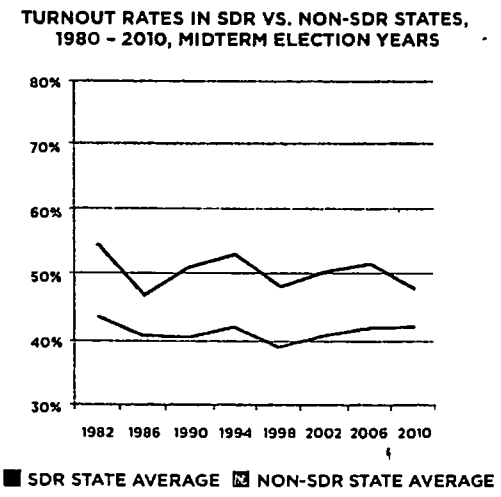
SDR Boosts Turnout

States with Same Day Registration show that the system works. SDR states as a group have historically boasted an average voter turnout rate of 10 to 12 percentage points higher than non-SDR states.[3] Academic studies show that a significant part of this difference is directly attributable to SDR. Experts predict that a state's adoption of SDR can increase turnout by a full three to six percentage points.[4] And increased voter participation can be achieved without administrative burden or increased incidence of voter fraud.[5]

Over a million Americans used SDR to vote on or before November 4, 2008. Voter turnout was seven percentage points higher in the nine states that permitted registration and voting on the same day in that election.[6] The five states with the highest turnout - Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maine, New Hampshire, and Iowa – were all SDR states.[7] And North Carolina, after having recently adopted the reform, boasted record turnout this past presidential election, with 253,000[8] voters using same day registration, placing that state at number 19 in the nation after having been historically ranked among the *worst* 15 states for voter participation. That figure represents the largest single increase in voter turnout of any state Studies show that "if all states transitioned to [SDR] . . . the national registration rate would increase to almost 82%, a 6% increase over the current national voter registration rate [of 76%]."[9]





Source: United States Election Project, http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout_2010.xls

SDR Eliminates Unnecessary Administrative Barriers to Voting and Reduces Need for Provisional Ballots

The requirement to register well in advance of an election is unworkable for many Americans. Many millions of individuals move to a new home or school each year. About one in eight Americans moved during the 2008 and 2010 election years, and were most likely to have registration difficulties at the polls.[10] And with the national economic recession – and the skyrocketing increase in foreclosure rates – more and more Connecticut residents can expect to be displaced. When you have just moved to, or are jumping from one job to the next while raising a family, registering to vote in advance of an election may not be at the forefront of one's to-do list.

The Pew Center on the States just released a report that found that current voter registration systems "are plagued with errors and inefficiencies that waste taxpayer dollars, undermine voter confidence, and fuel partisan disputes over the integrity of our elections."[11] National experts at four universities found that problems with registration resulted in 2.2 million votes lost in the 2008 general election;[12] another study showed that 5.7 million people faced a registration-related problem that needed to be resolved before voting.[13]

Administrative accidents happen. 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, requiring non-Same Day Registration states to offer provisional ballots to those citizens who believed they had registered but whose names didn't appear on registration rolls. Use of provisional ballots, though, doesn't ensure that every vote will count. In the following presidential election, in 2004, over one third of the nearly 2 million provisional ballots cast were not counted.[14] 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).[15]

One can imagine the disappointment a voter feels in finding out his vote did not count. Administrative error can't be eliminated, but Same Day Registration can help correct for several common mistakes. Evidence exists that purges and failures to input voter registration information abound. during the 2008 presidential election, several states reported problems in transferring voter registration applications timely submitted to the DMV to local elections officials in time for Election Day.[16] 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.

Iowa and North Carolina, the two states that most recently adopted Same Day Registration, saw a steep decline in provisional balloting with SDR – a potential cost savings. Iowa voters cast 15,000 provisional ballots in the 2004 presidential election, before SDR was available. Less than 5,000 provisional ballots were cast in 2008, after SDR was enacted -- a 67 percent reduction in provisional balloting. North Carolina saw 23,000 fewer provisional ballots in 2008 than in 2004, post- and pre-Same Day Registration. This trend also held in mid-term elections. Provisional balloting declined in both states by nearly 50 percent between the 2006 and 2010 election.

These two SDR states show that Same Day Registration can be a boon for Connecticut's Registrars, dramatically reducing the complicated post-election process of verifying registrations and/ or sending notifications to those whose votes were not counted – a time-consuming and expensive task. Several surveyed elections officials also claimed that Same Day Registration helped defuse confrontations with voters whose names were missing from the registration lists – the same people who would have to vote by provisional ballots.[17] Without Same Day Registration, the clerk of a New Hampshire town of 30,000 said, "we'd have a lot of unhappy people" at the polls.[18]

SDR is a cost-effective way to increase voter participation while maintaining the integrity of the vote

Implementing SDR may require little to no additional expenditures. In the last presidential election, the state of Iowa spent less than $40,000 to introduce Same Day Registration for its 99 counties. The single biggest cost incurred - $26,000 – was for producing a training video used statewide by auditors and precinct officials. An additional $9000 was spent on SDR precinct kits, including registration forms, oath forms, and instructions; and $1568 was spent on SDR information brochures.[19] All in all, SDR was implemented in a cost-effective manner – one that could easily be duplicated.

The cost of SDR implementation for Iowa's 99 counties was also minimal. In a recent Demos study, nearly half of the Iowa county respondents reported no direct costs, or only minimal costs associated with Same Day Registration.[20] Most of the respondent counties did not require additional staffing at the polls on Election Day. And while some counties hired additional precinct officials to handle SDR, most new expenses were associated with additional printing and mailing of SDR-related forms.[21] North Carolina counties noted some additional staffing needs at one-stop sites as the most notable cost associated with Same Day Registration. In general, most counties that reported adding staff for SDR were unable to disaggregate Same Day Registration costs from overall early voting expenses.[22]

The experience in Iowa is typical of the long-standing SDR states; one authoritative study indicates that elections are no more expensive to administer in SDR states than non-SDR states.[23] Indeed, in a telephone survey conducted by Demos of local election officials in the SDR states of Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, most respondents described the incremental cost of SDR as "minimal."[24] Where costs did exist, they were used for training and employing additional staff to help with registrations and inputting data in the following days on the permanent voter registration rolls.[25] Note, though, that respondents stated that SDR *did not add* work or expense but instead shifted the cost burden from one time and place to another.[26]

Elections administrators agree that SDR does not invite fraud.[27] In fact, the great majority of local elections officials in SDR states who participated in two Demos surveys reported that current fraud-prevention measures suffice to ensure the integrity of elections.[28] There's no reason to think otherwise: states impose heavy penalties for voter fraud; voters are required to show documentation for proof of residency; and they must sign an oath attesting to their identity and citizenship. And unlike registration by mail, SDR requires eligible voters to attest to their identity face-to-face before an elections official. Audits conducted after an election add an additional level of identity verification – and those who get caught will certainly pay a penalty.

Current election procedures ensure against significant voter fraud. As a practical matter, few occurrences of voter fraud have occurred. An analysis of SDR states conducted by Lorraine Minnite, then a professor at Barnard College of Columbia University, revealed that between 2002 and 2005 *just one case of voter impersonation* occurred at the polls nationwide.[29] And when Attorneys General from both New Hampshire and Wisconsin investigated Election Day votes from the 2004 election, neither found any fraud attributable to SDR.

Improving H.B. 5024's Same Day Registration Provisions

Connecticut can expect to see an increase of voter participation with enactment of H.B. 5024. That said, the state will likely not see the robust impact seen in other Same Day Registration states without further improvement of the bill. The chief problem is the limited availability of SDR on Election Day. Most Same Day Registration states provide for registration and voting at every poll site.[30] In contrast, H.B. 5024 would only require Same Day Registration at *one* location in each town on Election Day. Many Connecticut residents simply won't have the time or means to travel to the one designated SDR site on Election Day, particularly in larger cities and among those with limited transportation options. I

therefore urge the committee to consider amending H.B. 5024 to allow for Same Day Registration at neighborhood polling places. The added costs may be minimal, or none at all.

On-Line Voter Registration

Demos supports Connecticut's efforts to increase citizen access to voter registration through online voter registration systems, as proposed in Sec. 11 of H.B. 5024. We encourage Connecticut to fully seize the authority provided there, ensuring that a multitude of state agencies are participating in the online voter registration program.

As Sec. 11 makes clear, the ability to capture and transmit an electronic copy of an individual's signature is a linchpin of the online voter registration system. No online voter registration can be effectuated without it. Regrettably, the typical signature-capture procedures in states with online voter registration systems narrowly relate to interactions between state departments of motor vehicles (DMV) and elections offices.[31] Signatures for online voter registration can only be captured for persons with active driver's licenses or DMV-issued identification cards. Many seniors, persons with disabilities, low-income citizens, and others who do not own a motor vehicle or otherwise frequent DMVs are effectively excluded. Demos strongly recommends that multiple state agencies develop and maintain a database of electronic signatures that can be tapped for the purpose of online voter registration. Online voter registration should help to overcome rather than reinforce the current stratification of the electorate along the lines of age, ability, and income.[32]

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[1] SDR states are Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

[2] U.S. Census Bureau, Geographical Mobility 2010-2011, Tables 1, available at http://www.census.gov/hhes/migration/data/cps/cps2011.html.

[3] Demos, *Voters Win with Election Day Registration* (Updated January 2010), available at http://www.demos.org/publication/voters-win-same-day-registration.

[4] See Stephen Knack, "Election Day Registration: The Second Wave," *American Politics Quarterly* 29(1), 65-78 (2001); Knack and White 2000; Craig L. Brians & Bernard Grofman, "Election Day Registration's Effect on U.S. Voter Turnout," *Soc. Sci. Q.* 82(1); 171-83 (March 2001); Mark J. Fenster, "The Impact of Allowing Day of Registration Voting on Turnout in U.S. Elections from 1960 to 1992," *American Politics Quarterly* 22(1)(1994): 74-87.

[5] See, for example, R. Michael Alvarez and Stephen Ansolabehere, *California Votes: The Promise of Election Day Registration*, Dēmos: A Network for Ideas and Action, 2002; R. Michael Alvarez, Jonathan Nagler and Catherine Wilson, *Making Voting Easier: Election Doy Registration in New York*, Dēmos: A Network for Ideas and Action, 2004, available at http://www.demos.org/publication/making-voting-easier-election-day-registration-new-york; M.J. Fenster, "The Impact of Allowing Day of Registration Voting on Turnout in U.S. Elections from 1960 to 1992," *American Politics Quarterly* 22(1) (1994): 74-87; B. Highton, "Easy Registration and Voter Turnout," *The Journal of Politics* 59(2), 565-575 (1997); Lorraine C. Minnite, An Analysis of Voter Fraud in The United States, Dēmos: A Network for Ideas and Action, 2004, available at http://archive.Demos org/pubs/Analysis.pdf; Dēmos: A Network for Ideas and Action, *Election Day Registration: A Ground Level View* (2007), available at http://www.demos.org/publication/election-day-registration-ground-level-view; S. Knack, "Election-Day Registration: The Second Wave," *American Politics Quarterly* 29(1) (2001), 65-78.

[6] Demos, *Voters Win With Election Day Registration*, op. cit. Note that voter turnout figures were derived by the number of votes cast for the highest office and the voting-eligible population, as reported by the United States Election Project at http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout_2008G html.

[7] See http://elections.gmu edu/Turnout_2008G.html.

[8] About half registered and voted for the first time; the other half used SDR to change an address and then vote.

[9] Alvarez and Ansolabehere, *California Votes: The Promise of Election Day Registration*, op. cit., at 15.

[10] See, U.S. Census Bureau, "Mover Rate Reaches Record Low, Census Bureau Reports," November 15, 2011, cited in The Pew Center on the States, *Inaccurate, Costly, and Inefficient: Evidence That America's Voter Registration System Needs an Upgrade*, February 2012, at http://www.pewcenteronthestates org/uploadedFiles/Pew_Upgrading_Voter_Registration.pdf.

[11] Pew Center on the States, *Inaccurate, Costly, and Inefficient*, op. cit.

[12] R. Michael Alvarez, Stephen Ansolabehere, Adam Berinsky, Gabriel Lenz, Charles Stewart III, and Thad Hall, *2008 Survey of the Performance of American Elections, Final Report* (2008). Available at http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Final%20report20090218 pdf, cited in Pew Center on the States, *Inaccurate, Costly, and Inefficient*, op. cit.

[13] Stephen Ansolabehere, "Voting Experiences," PowerPoint presentation, July 30, 2009. This presentation reported findings originally published in the Cooperative Congressional Election Study (Cambridge, MA: Common Content, Release 1, 2009), cited in Pew Center on the States, *Inaccurate, Costly, and Inefficient*, op. cit.

[14] *Id.*

[15] US Election Assistance Commission, *2008 Election Administration and Voting Survey*, Table 35, available at http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Documents/2008%20Election%20Administration%20and%20Voting%20Survey%20EAVS%20Report.pdf.

[16] http://voices.washingtonpost.com/annapolis/2008/10/a_word_on_registering_to_vote.html

[17] Id.
[18] Id. at 4
[19] [Former] Iowa Secretary of State Michael A. Mauro, *Iowa Secretary of State 2008 Report*, on file at Demos.
[20] Laura Rokoff, Emma Stokking, *Small Investments, High Yields: A Cost Study of Same Day Registration in Iowa and North Carolina*, Demos (February 2012), available at http://www.demos.org/publication/small-investments-high-yields-cost-study-same-day-registration-ia-and-nc .
[21] Id.
[22] Id.
[23] Alvarez, Ansolabehere, and Wilson, *Making Voting Easier: Election Day Registration in New York*, op. cit.
[24] Demos, *Election Day Registration: A Ground-Level View*, op. cit.
[25] Id.
[26] Id.
[27] Lorraine C. Minnite, *The Myth of Vater Fraud* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2010); Demos: A Network for Ideas & Action, *Election Day Registration: A Study of Voter Fraud Allegations and Findings on Voter Roll Security*, available at http://www.demos.org/publication/election-day-registration-study-voter-fraud-allegations-and-findings-voter-roll-security.
[28] Demos, *Election Day Registration: A Ground-Level View*, op. cit.
[29] Lorraine C. Minnite, The Myth of Voter Fraud (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2010); Demos: A Network for Ideas & Action, *Election Day Registration: A Study of Voter Fraud Allegations and Findings on Voter Roll Security*, available at http://www.demos.org/publication/election-day-registration-study-voter-fraud-allegations-and-findings-voter-roll-security . (A 17 year-old in New Hampshire was caught casting his father's ballot in a 2004 Republican presidential primary. This fraud was unrelated to EDR because the father was already registered and on the rolls.) Additionally, an initiative by the Department of Justice in prosecuting voter fraud has resulted in only 40 prosecutions nationwide for election crimes related to illegal voting between 2002 and 2005. Id. Wisconsin was the only EDR state where a federal investigation led to any voter fraud prosecutions. Four voters were charged with double voting and 10 were charged for voting while disfranchised following a felony conviction. Charges against the "double voters" were dropped or exonerated, and only half the felon voters were convicted. Considering DOJ's otherwise 90-percent conviction rate, such failure to convict – for a minute number of cases to begin with – provides strong evidence that voter fraud simply does not attend EDR.
[30] Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Wyoming all require Same Day Registration at every poll site. Maine has effectively adopted that practice since the law went into effect in 1973. North Carolina allows for Same Day Registration during the early voting period at the offices of the county clerks, and at satellite early voting sites. Only Montana restricts SDR to one location – the offices of the county clerks.

[31] See, e.g., Cal. Elec. Code Sec. 2196 (2012); MD Code, Election Law, § 3-204.1 (2012).
[32] See, e.g., Sidney Verba, Kay Lehman Schlozman, and Henry E. Brady, *Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics*. Harvard University Press. 1995.

pg. 5, line 6

H.B. 5024 - Revised Testimony

Government Administration and Elections Committee
Testimony – March 2, 2012

Luther Weeks
Luther@CTVotersCount.org
334 Hollister Way West, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Chairs and members of the Committee, my name is Luther Weeks, Executive Director of CTVotersCount. I am a retired computer scientist, software engineer, and systems director. I spent my entire career leading the building, evaluating, buying and selling software for large organizations, evaluating projects, and advanced technologies. I have served in three elections as a central count absentee ballot Moderator. I have experience evaluating projects based on sketchy information. In fact, sketchy information is a strong indicator that caution and a full evaluation would be prudent before proceeding.

I associate with the testimony of Matt Wagoner on this bill.

H.B 5024 proposes initiatives for two concepts that I fully support in theory.

I support the proposal for Online Voter Registration, although I would rather see costs and more details specified. Everyone should be aware that development and maintenance costs will accrue to the state, while savings will accrue to municipalities.

I recommend against this proposal for Election Day Registration. It lacks sufficient detail to protect the rights of EDR voters, the rights of all voters, and the integrity of elections. The structure that is proposed, by its nature portends chaos in future critical and high interest elections, such as those we have experienced in 2006, 2008, and 2010.

This bill specifies EDR in small, crowded registrars offices, already beehives of activity on election days. In a large city, in a popular election, 5,000 or more voters may descend on election day, many more than in most polling places, adding thousands of calls in and out, with a registration process much more complex and time consuming than polling place check-in.

It is not a polling place, voters fill out something short of an absentee ballot, place it in a ballot box, with no requirement for ballot clerks, ballot box attendant, no room for privacy booths, or training in how to vote.

The proposal requires counting in a manner similar to absentee ballots – requiring opening and counting several times the current volume of absentee ballots. Statewide the results of many reasonably close elections would depend on the results of over 200,000 EDR ballots with many processed after 8:00pm. Will citizens be permitted to register and vote if they are in line at 8:00pm or will they be denied, since they are not voters?

Based on a sketchy law with no requirements for regulations or procedures to be created or followed, we will have 169 EDR systems based on the interpretations of 169 municipalities.

Expect chaos, legal challenges, and complaints. These are predictable, likely results of this EDR plan. I cannot support EDR as proposed in this bill.

Thank you.

Outline of a better, centralized EDR alternative

I understand that one of the reasons for this proposal's structure is that it is deemed too difficult or too expensive to provide a full polling place environment for voters, primarily because the voter registration system is tethered to the registrars' offices. Expense would be necessary to provide access to the voter registration system for a single existing polling place in small municipalities or access in a larger room in a central location for multiple-polling place municipalities. Focusing on that expense is poor economy and archaic thinking. EDR voters deserve the facilities of a traditional polling place. All voters deserve the integrity protection of a polling place, ballots counted by machine and subject to post-election audit.

- Where towns have a single polling place, accomplish the registration in the same building, or building complex as the polling place, let voters vote like all other voters in the same polling place. There is no value in separate reporting, so all voters could use the same tabulator.
- Where towns have several polling places, conduct central registration in a single polling place with EDR registration, voting like all other voters, using a tabulator set up just like the central AB machine, able to handle all ballots from all districts. Or conduct EDR in each polling place.
- Specify more details in the law and/or require regulations and procedures be created by the Secretary of the State and that those regulations and procedures by followed by officials
- Include election day registration ballots in post-election audits.
- Like EDR as specified in this bill, the alternative would add costs to the election process. Much, if not all, of the expense of providing a polling place for EDR, would be offset by tabulator counting, rather than machine counting of ballots, while providing integrity and convenience for voters.

Volume of registrations and cost in one state, from a PEW Report:

http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Election%20Reform%20Briefing%2016;%20Election-Day%20Registration%20A%20Case%20Study.pdf

> *Minnesota, which has offered polling-place EDR for more than 30 years, has recorded **between 10 and 20 percent of voters registering and casting ballots on Election Day.** Officials noted that EDR can make ordering ballots more difficult and lines can get long in some areas...*
>
> *When EDR was first authorized, the state provided funds to assist local jurisdictions with implementation. The state initially authorized $125,000. Local jurisdictions soon discovered it was far from enough. In all, $800,000 was required for that year. Eventually, the state left jurisdictions to fund EDR themselves as part of regular election expenses* **[Note: Minnesota has about double the voters in Connecticut today, but the $800,000 was in 1973 dollars and without the requirement of checking against an online voter registration file]**

EDR Issues with the specification in the current Bill

Crowded registrars offices unable to handle volume, provide privacy

- Other states have experienced EDR registration of 10% to 20% based on the interest in elections. Presumably as voters understand that they can register on election day, more will choose to do so that today would register earlier.
- Presumably more voters would use EDR in large cities where traditionally more voters move in and out, and move within the same city. A city such as Bridgeport might have 5,000 to 7,000 EDR voters in a high interest election. That represents four to six times the number of absentee ballots in November 2010 and five to seven times the number of voters in an average polling place in that election.
- Perhaps the volume will be lower with this centralized system, with a reputation for longer lines and less convenience than other states, yet a smaller volume that would still likely represent multiples of the current number of absentee votes.
- The EDR process takes several times as long as the polling place check-in process.
- In addition to placing additional calls to other towns, many additional calls would need to be accepted and responded to 'immediately' from other towns, and in those towns calls 'immediately' to polling places. Presumably this could take some time, before voters transferring between towns can be given a ballot, adding to the time and congestion.
- Since the bill does not define the registrars' offices as polling places, presumably there would be no requirement for privacy booths, ballot clerks, and voter training.
- There would be no law restricting the rights of media, citizens, and candidates from closely observing the process.
- Presumably citizens will be given the opportunity to spoil ballots and receive a new one. This can be a significant process in a crowded area, especially when it involves several ballot styles.
- Since citizens in line are not voters, would registrars be required continue the process beyond 8:00pm to serve all those in line? Would other towns be required to stay open to process incoming calls from other towns after 8:00pm and keep officials on duty at each polling place to respond 'immediately' to required calls?

Voting process that may disenfranchise EDR voters

- Like absentee voters, EDR voters would not have the benefit of a tabulator to reject ballots with an overvote. Many EDR voters will be first time voters.
- There is no requirement for staffing to assist voters in understanding how to vote. Many EDR voters will be first time voters.
- There is no requirement for IVS machines to assist voters with disabilities.
- Long lines may discourage many from registering and voting.
- There may be charges of and the reality of voters being disenfranchised by unequal processes, wait times, and voting after 8:00pm or not, in different municipalities.

Additional concerns

- The law does not specify how EDR votes are to be reported (only EDR ballots). Would they be a separate category on each district, and head moderators returns? Presumably, they must be counted and reported separately from absentee ballots, since absentee ballots are required to be reported separately from other votes.
- There is no requirement for regulations and procedures to define the process, nor that any such regulations and procedures be followed by officials.
- There is no requirement for minimum levels of the printing of EDR ballots and envelopes.
- There is no requirement for post-election audit of EDR ballots whether counted by hand or machine.

- There is no specification of requirements for recanvassing EDR ballots and envelopes.
- The law requires feedback from the Secretary of the State and State Elections Enforcement Commission. It does not include feedback from voters – hopefully there will be hearings or some other way voters can provide feedback on the process. While the law specifies EDR for elections, the feedback is specified as being based on primary elections.

pg. 6, line 24

Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

Committee Members
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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

Pg-5, line 4

Carole Young-Kleinfeld
Registrar of Voters
Wilton Town Hall
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

March 2, 2012

Support for:

- HB5024 AAC Voting Rights
- HJ-2--RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING

I am Carole Young-Kleinfeld, one of the registrars of voters from the Town of Wilton. I appreciate the chance to present testimony in support of HB 5024 AAC Voting Rights and HJ-2 A Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to allow for No-excuse Absentee Voting. HB 5024 includes provisions for Election Day Registration and online voter registration, both of which I support in the interest of increasing voter participation.

HB5024—Section 1. It's time that Connecticut joined the ranks of other states that have moved forward to enact Election Day Registration, a measure that increases turn-out, assists young people and newly relocated people in participating in their democracy, and addresses possible errors in processing voter applications.

In my experience as a registrar, a deputy registrar before that, and a poll worker even before that, I have seen many instances of citizens—otherwise eligible to vote—denied the opportunity because they missed a deadline or found themselves not on the voter list, even though they were sure that they had submitted their voter registration materials. In a close election, that lone disenfranchised voter, who was not allowed to register and to vote because he missed an arbitrary deadline, could have decided an election.

Every voter application form contains a sworn statement signed by the voter under penalty of perjury. Studies from other states show no evidence that voters abuse Election Day Registration by impersonating other voters or that they spend Election Day driving from town to town, trying to vote twice. All of us who believe in the importance of voter participation know just how difficult it is to get voters to vote once, much less multiple times, risking felony convictions.

I believe that our central voter registration system can handle voter registration on Election Day. Our town rarely experiences any technical problems with the system. Moreover, the Secretary of the State's office has always been readily accessible for assistance with any problem on Election Day. Although the proposal before you does allow local elections officials a year's time to prepare for implementation in 2013, I urge you to decide the question of EDR from the standpoint of eligible voters and not from viewpoint of the convenience of the officials.

In my view, EDR is a measure whose time has come and is clearly the "right thing to do" for Connecticut voters.

Section 11 of HB 5024 provides for online voter registration, using a model that has worked well in several other states. As a member of the Secretary of the States' Election Performance Task Force, I had the chance to hear a presentation about Arizona and Wisconsin's online registration program which decreases clerical errors, shortens the processing time of voter applications, and appeals to

voters. The program presupposes an existing record at the DMV, but allows a voter to register—or to make changes—online from their home instead of downloading, printing, and mailing a hard copy to their local officials. Online changes are sent electronically from the Secretary of the State's office to local officials for processing and any additional verification. The Brennan Center at NYU studied this measure and found that it saves time and money for voters and officials.

Finally, I support all changes in sHJ-2 in Sections 1, 2, and 3, which remove restrictive language on absentee voting from the state Constitution, thereby allowing the legislature to consider the form in which absentee voting should take in Connecticut.

I urge you to vote yes to HB5024 and HJ-2.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld

Pg. 5, line 26

EDR, No Excuse Absentee Ballots, Voter Intimidation

March 2, 2012

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.

SEIU
Stronger Together

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Pg. 5, line 18

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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)."[1]

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.
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
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	**Fine**	**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

Pg. 5, line 14

ConnPIRG
Standing Up To Powerful Interests

Testimony of Abraham Scarr, Director

Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG)

in support of

House Joint Resolution 2, Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for No-Excuse Absentee Voting

Chairperson Slossberg, Chairperson Morin and Members of the Committee. My name is Abe Scarr and I am the Director of the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Joint Resolution 2, Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

Democracy works best with the active participation of its citizens. Voting is the most basic way to participate in our democracy and serves as a building block to more active involvement in public life. We should make every effort to increase voter participation by making voter registration and the act of voting as simple and accessible to eligible voters as possible.

Along with House Bill 5024 AAC Voting Rights, House Joint Resolution 2 is an important step to modernize Connecticut's elections system. Most importantly, the Resolution gives the General Assembly the appropriate discretion to enact the type of absentee or early voting reform it thinks is best with the input of Connecticut's voters and local Registrars and Town Clerks. In our increasingly mobile society, these reforms are important to a modern elections system.

The states are the laboratories of democracy, and thirty five states have already experimented with early voting, vote by mail, and no excuse absentee voting. These reforms have increased voter participation and lessened Election Day workloads of elections officials.

It is time to bring Connecticut elections into the 21st century. No-excuse absentee voting will contribute to increased voter participation while modernizing our elections systems.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the session in an effort to pass this amendment.

ConnPIRG is a non-partisan, non-profit consumer group that stands up to powerful interests whenever they threaten our health and safety, our financial security or our right to fully participate in our democratic society.

Abe Scarr
abe@connpirg.org

March 3, 2012

pg. 1, line 4

DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

SB27
HB5022
HB5024

GAE Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
March 2, 2012

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 21st 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"**

I would like to talk about this landmark bill in two sections; sections that share the twin goals of expanding voter participation and removing barriers to the ballot box. Raised bill 5024 would do two very important things: enact Election Day Registration in Connecticut and enable eligible voters in our state with a driver's license to register to vote online from any computer. These are very simple steps that have been adopted in a number of other states with great success and higher voter turnout to show for it. I have been travelling the state listening to voters and election administrators for almost two years. I am heartened that many people think these reforms are long overdue modernization of how we vote. Others are going to tell you these reforms go too far. Let me explain to you why I believe these steps are needed and can readily be accomplished within our current election administration framework in Connecticut.

Let's look at online voter registration. Online voter registration has the potential to not only mean much more convenience for Connecticut voters, but it will also mean more accurate voter lists, and a significant savings for Connecticut taxpayers. I want to be absolutely clear about this: online voter registration DOES NOT mean online voting. And this DOES NOT replace the paper registration system but there are nine states that have implemented online voter registration.

Here is how it works: currently there are approximately 2.5 million Connecticut residents who have a driver's license or some form of state ID issued by the department of motor vehicles. We have just under two million registered voters in Connecticut. In order to be issued a driver's license, you need to give identifying information to the DMV – your address, your date of birth, whether or not you are a citizen, and your signature. When you are issued a license, you also receive a driver's license number. This is the same information as you are required to give in order to register to vote.

So the idea behind this concept is – we get the two databases of information to talk to each other. Since an eligible voter who has a driver's license already has their information contained in one state database – why should they need to start from scratch in order to register to vote? So through this legislation, a voter would go online to our website www.sots.ct.gov and log into a page where they can register to vote.

They will be asked for certain identifying information – likely name, date of birth, and driver's license number. Then they will hit submit and instantaneously, their information will be cross checked with their information on file at the DMV. If the information matches, a pre-populated voter registration form with the information entered will appear on voter's computer screen. This form will contain the image of the voter's electronic signature as it it appears on your driver's license.

You then fill out the online form, attesting that you are a U.S. Citizen, and you are asked if you want to register with a political party – the same exact thing as you would fill out on a paper voter registration form. You then click 'SUBMIT' and this completed voter registration form is sent in the form of an email attachment to the registrars of voters in your town. The Registrar of Voters then reviews the registration and if everything looks good, they click accept in the email. And with the click of a mouse, that voter is now registered and directly entered into our Centralized Voter Registration System.

I want to illustrate a couple of the benefits of this idea but before I do that – let me assure you that there will be tight security safeguards in place and if any of the information originally entered by the voter is not correct or does not match what is contained in the DMV database – that registration is not processed. So this has the potential to make our voter registration lists in every town far more accurate. This is more accurate because people move around a lot more, and if they are entering in their own data, it is more accurate than someone else entering in the data with the potential for error.

One of the recommendations from the Election Performance Task Force that I convened is that we study the cost of elections. There is a strong example from the state of Arizona that shows online voter registration to bring a significant cost savings for taxpayers. In Arizona they estimated that the paper voter registration system cost about 85¢ to process each voter registration application, with local government bearing much of that cost. Once they implemented online voter registration, that cost dropped dramatically to only three to four cents per application. That could be a significant savings for our towns – especially if you look at hundreds of thousands of new voters registering over the course of a typical presidential election year like 2012.

One other point I want to make, which is budgetary: my office has already received bond funds to make technological upgrades to our Centralized Voter Registration System, so we look forward to implementing this new system right away. So I would urge passage of this bill, it would be a major modernization and improvement in convenience for voters in Connecticut that would make our voter registration list more accurate and save money for our towns.

Now, I want to look at the other aspect of raised bill 5024: Election Day Registration. This is not new concept in Connecticut or in this committee. In fact, my Deputy Secretary of the State James Spallone sat where you are now sitting representative Morin the last time this concept was raised in 2009. The concept of Election Day Registration is not even new in the United States – it has been law in Maine since 1971 – in Wisconsin since 1976, and is law in about a dozen other states. This is not a political issue – 'Red' states such as Idaho, North Carolina, and Montana, as well as our fellow New England states of New Hampshire and Maine, as previously mentioned.

I think many of you on the committee understand the concept of being able to register on Election Day and cast a ballot that same day. Let me touch on the framework this bill establishes for how this would work in Connecticut. We propose that on Election Day – for a general election only, it does not apply to primaries, special elections, or budget referenda -- an eligible voter would be able to go to their town hall and present the proper identifying information which I spoke about previously.

The Registrar of Voters then processes their application and enters their information into the centralized voter registration system. If everything is correct, that person is now a registered voter and they are then given a ballot and can go vote in a designated, secure space within town hall. This is different than other states that have election day registration, where voters can register and vote at their polling place.

The way we have envisioned it for Connecticut is a more secure option because by entering the voter directly into the state database, the Registrar can instantly tell if the voter is Registered in another town. This way they can also tell if you have already voted somewhere else in Connecticut. It would also make the voter list more accurate and cut down on inadvertent spelling errors that can prevent someone from voting. In any case, once the voter is registered

and votes in a secure room at town hall, they then place their ballot in an envelope, which is then given to the Registrar of Voters. Once taken out of the envelopes, the Election Day Registration ballots are counted by machine in the same way that absentee ballots are counted.

Let me speak about a few of the benefits of this law and then I will be happy to take questions: first of all, we would clearly open the door to more voter participation. One indication for Connecticut is the presidential ballot – where federal law allows eligible but not registered voters to cast a ballot for president of the United States. In 2008, we had some 35,000 presidential ballots issued in Connecticut. In fact, that same year, states with EDR reported a 7% higher turnout than those without EDR. Those who benefit most from EDR include populations with higher mobility—including the young, minorities and low-income populations. In November 2011, nearly 60% of Maine citizens voted in a referendum to restore EDR after legislation repealed it.

Election Day Registration may actually deter voter fraud for several reasons: it is conducted in person with election officials as witnesses, as opposed to being permitted to submit a registration through the mail or a third party. Those registering on Election Day are required to submit proof of their identity and residence to election officials. Registrars are required to check the statewide centralized voter registration system. If the applicant is registered in another Connecticut town, the registrar must immediately notify the other town's registrar, who will remove the voter from that town's list and verify whether the applicant has already cast a vote in his previous town.

EDR will also reduce problems on Election Day. For example, currently, if someone tried to register through a voter registration drive and the card did not make it to the registrar on time, they will not be on the list and at best would file a provisional ballot. With EDR they can register and vote despite the failure of the system to process their card. EDR can also help with situation involving change of name, mis-entered data and other confusion that arises in a human run system.

One other virtue of this legislation I want to extol is the timing of how we would roll this out. If enacted into law this year, Election Day Registration would first be able to be used in November 2013 for a relatively low-turnout municipal election. Then it could be used again in the state election of 2014,

another municipal election a year later, and then finally for the Presidential election of 2016. So there is plenty of time to work out all of the bugs in the new system before we get to another high turnout election statewide.

Let me wrap up my testimony on this very important bill by simply saying that I believe we have a crisis of low voter participation in our country and our state. One in three eligible voters in Connecticut is not even registered to vote. We need to make voting as easy as possible for those who have this right. And we now have the technology to make this happen in a secure way that will not only increase voter turnout but also reduce costs for our towns and modernize and streamline election administration in Connecticut.

This is one of those times when Connecticut needs to once again claim its place on the cutting edge of reform and technology. There is simply no reason for us to lag behind. If these systems can work well in states like Wisconsin or North Carolina, there is no reason they shouldn't work well in Connecticut. Thank you and I am happy to answer questions.

000527
pg. 8, line 6

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Election Division
Election Administrators
Registrars of Voters

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 – 1134

CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
2012

VOL.55
PART 12
3772 – 4108

Those absent and not voting 4

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended has passed. The House will come back to order. Will the Clerk please call calendar number 243.

THE CLERK:

On page 42, calendar 243 substitute for House Bill number 5024, AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING RIGHTS. Favorable report by the committee on appropriations.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

House Chair (inaudible) Representative Russell Morin, you have the floor, Sir.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good evening, Sir.

REP. MORIN (28th):

What this bill which is often known as election day registration it will offer voters an opportunity-- well I'll backtrack. I'll say I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark, Sir?

REP. MORIN (28th):

I already did, Mr. Speaker. But thank you. What this bill does is it allows voters to register to vote right up on to election day.

It also provides us with an electronic voter registration which I think is a very good thing. And, you know, I'm sure we'll have a little bit of discussion about this. And that being said, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 3775. I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the bill to summarize. Also, this is a strike all and will become the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO number 3775 which will be designated House Amendment Schedule A.

THE CLERK:

LCO 3775 House A offered by Representative Morin and Senator Slossberg.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Any objection? Hearing none, Representative Morin, you may proceed.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Yes. Mr. Speaker, again as I mentioned some of the changes that are in there from the original bill. It removes some language that would have made it very unworkable for registrars of voters to-- to contact other registrars of voters if there was issues on-- on election day.

It also adds language that will help the Secretary of State share information with other states confirming-- concerning registered voters and basically allowing us to cross reference if people are registered to vote in other states. I move-- I move passage.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is passage of House A. Will you remark further? If not-- Representative Sawyer of the 55th, you have the floor.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

I apologize. I was trying to scan the amendment as fast as I could and the question is we have an issue of having-- of not having every registrar of voter having internet access and there has been a bill put forward this year that requires that they all have to have internet access. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. There is one in the State I believe that does not have access and there is a bill. You are correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

And Mr.-- through you, Mr. Speaker. But that is not included in this amendment nor in the underlying bill. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

Rep. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you. So what you're saying this amendment does is it-- it's going to have the registrars be able to or be mandated-- I apologize, again I do not have it right in front of me-- be able to contact other states regarding-- you're shaking your head so I'm going to let you clarify what you said about what the registrars were supposed to do to other states. If the Gentleman would clarify what he said before.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was saying was-- was the-- pardon me-- the language that would allow the Secretary of State to share centralized voter registration information with other states, not the registrars. Through you, Mr. Chair-- Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. I guess my-- my-- thank you, my interest is in that the Secretary of State is expected to share information out with other states but if we do not have all of our registrars and voters having internet access perhaps we have a missing piece of the pie. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Right now the registrars of voters all have access. They should have access and there's nothing that says they couldn't have access to the voter registration systems so I guess for the one town that doesn't I would encourage them to get right there with us. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know when we look at bills and we try and sort through their effectiveness sometimes we have pieces that aren't all put together in the same bill to make things move smoothly. And

certainly the internet is-- access is going to be the piece for I believe preventing fraud.

I believe for giving us the most amount of data that we need after an election and allowing certainly during an election to have the ability to be able to follow perhaps an elector-- an elector-- that's not the right word, but a person who is voting-- a voter as they-- if there were to be fraud. So I thank the Gentleman for his answers and I appreciate the clarification in what he said in his opening statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Further on House A? Further on House A? Representative Hwang of the 134th. You have the floor, Sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some questions to the proponent of this bill on this amendment please, Sir. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Sure. Please proceed, Sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you. On section ten we have a new provision where effective January 1, 2014 that we are

requesting the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a system for online voter registration. Right now we have one town that don't have internet access and with all due respect how-- how would you look to resolve that from a database system that's going to be used to verify all of this information. Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. You know the database is I believe through the internet and, you know, ultimately they'll still be able to get their information if they don't have an ability to connect via email to the Secretary of State. I'm sure they can transfer their information via the old fashioned way and that information will be gathered and then the Secretary of State will have to address it and place it on the-- on the system. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In section 11 which is another new section as a part of this amendment we're

looking to go into an agreement with-- with vendors to develop a statewide centralized voting registration system. Can you elaborate a little bit more on what the vetting system and what kind of program we're looking to implement? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. This system will allow the Secretary of State to disseminate voter information to other states to help us to again find out if the people are registered here are registered somewhere else. It would be a great way to cross reference. And again one of the things about this that certainly any information that's shared with a third party will have to be-- will have to remain confidential. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Sir. Do we have any template or prior states that have established this kind of system that we're currently evaluating or are we going into this the great unknown? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know that I would-- pardon me-- utilize the term the great unknown. I think there will be-- if there are systems I'm not aware if there are systems in place. They're very well may be but again it's through a process of going through and listening and going to a-- going for an RFP for lack of better terms, allowing them to-- to determine who might be able to provide this service for us. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you. Through you, Sir. Now if this law was to pass it will not take effect until the November 2013 election. Is that correct, Sir? Through you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. That's what I believe.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Sir. So what I'm reading right now is we're not requiring it to be affective until July 1, 2013 and we are looking at implementing a system that has not been tested, that has not been vetted or gone through the rigor of an election process and we're going to put that into play on this November election in 2013. Is that correct, Sir? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure that this has anything to do with the election day registration or-- or online registration. I think that this is a tool that will be put in place that the Secretary of State's Office will be allowed to-- or will ultimately put in place to help us get to where we want to be but I don't think it has anything to do with one or the other. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Sir. Well that's a good question-- that's a good point. Now one of the basic tenants of being able to register on the day of election day is the vaulted system as we've been presented of being able to get data, to utilize this database system to be able to allow our registrar of voters to access this information past what is current practice of a probably a manual printout. So what we're saying is-- what I'm hearing is it's not an integral part of it. Could you explain a little further? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure that's what I said but what I'm saying is that this is a new tool that is being put into place to allow the Secretary of State to talk to other states. This has got nothing to do with what's going on in Connecticut.

In Connecticut when someone comes to vote on-- on election day and they want to register as a new voter right on election day the-- the registrars of voters are certainly going to be able to call the-- the register-- registrar in another town and say-- and ask

about information about this person. If they can't reach them there-- there will be follow up.

So I think this is a tool that's to be used with other states. I don't think it has anything to do with what we're talking about in the bill going forward with people that are changing from say Hamden to New Haven. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Sir. Thank you for that thought and comment. And if that is the case I would feel much, much better but I hope for the record that we can verify that indeed we are not looking to utilize this as a means of being able to validate same day registration or election day registration. And I certainly hope that we will note that.

Speaking of that as it relates to voting-- bear me a second, Sir. Does anywhere-- through you, Sir, does anywhere in this statute and in this amendment relate to the issue of provisional ballots? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe so. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Sir. What is the current process for utilizing provisional ballots in-- in elections? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Right now the provisional ballot's utilized if there is a question about someone's eligibility to vote and that ballot is cast and held aside and then counted afterwards. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you. Can you give me an example if you could, through you, Mr. Speaker, of a utilization of a provisional ballot? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I would suppose if I went to vote and they weren't sure if I was registered or not currently. They didn't feel I was-- they weren't sure and they couldn't validate it. They would take my ballot, put it in-- in a folder and then count it afterwards and my vote would not be counted through that election. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, the esteemed Chair. Why would you think those provisional ballot statutes were set up, Sir? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. HWANG (134th):

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Let me take that back if I may. Through you, Sir. Will this statute have any of that provision for provisional ballots or would that be completely eliminated? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Well it's my take that this-- what this statute does basically will eliminate it because we're going to allow people to vote and we're going to allow them to register to vote and have their vote counted. So through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you. So--

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Through you. So the provision you cited earlier on why provisional ballots were used wouldn't apply to this one. Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I guess we're not-- we haven't been discussing the provisional ballots through this whole discussion through committee, through public hearings, through anything. This was the-- the thought process was to allow people to

register to vote on election day and have their vote be counted. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Are there different treatments for presidential ballots versus statewide ballots, Sir? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yeah, the presidential ballots, federal law which we've had on the books allows someone that's not registered to come in on only for a presidential election and cast their ballot. I think-- I think frankly this will eliminate that part of the-- it won't be necessary at this point once-- if this is passed and signed into law. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Could you tell me what the required information would be for an

individual who shows up on the day of election day? What would they need to prove to show that they can vote? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No different than when you go to register to vote any other way. As a matter of fact you probably have to give more information and it's much more secure than-- than when you, you know, send in your-- your registration by-- by mail.

You have to either have a valid photo ID or-- with your address on it or you would have to have your most current within 30 days utility bill, birth certificate, stuff like that. No different than what you have to do right now to register to vote in person. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you. The utility bill, is there a time limit on that and is there any other form of verification that a utility bill is that said person? Through you; Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Pardon me, I believe I stated it was within 30 days of, you know, that bill was in your person. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Sir. Through you. Is there any other required validation of that utility bill in order for that person to vote? That was my question. Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

I don't believe so. I'm trying to see if I understand your question. You know as I-- as you said when you register to vote in person you have to have a copy of a current utility bill or a current bank statement or a current government check, a current paycheck, a government document that shows your name and address. So that's the tools that are in place for any-- any time you register to vote and that's

what's going to be in place right now. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (28th):

Thank you. Through you. You had-- the Chair had cited that this is a normal registration process and I'm aware of that but on election day if we're going to allow people to vote how else would you-- is there any other vehicle or means that we can validate that-- that utility bill?

For example, if you were to register before if I'm correct is that the registrar sends a mail piece to that address to verify and if that return address-- or if that mail is returned and it's not been verified that individual is taken off the voter roll. With EDR and with requirement of utility is there any means for us to validate as we do currently? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That's a-- that's a great question and I'm glad you brought it up. This-- that process will in fact take place. If you were to

register to vote on election day the registrar of voters would then make a call-- hopefully try to make a call to the registrar of the town you were coming from. Regardless there would be a postcard sent to you just like there is now, sent to your home-- if-- at the address given.

If that came back without any-- with-- as a person doesn't live there or whatever, then in fact they would try to contact again and if not they would-- they would take you off the voter rolls and turn it over for the potential for penalty or some kind of punishment for possible, you know, untruthfulness. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for verifying that process and I'm familiar with that. But take me through, if EDR was to-- and I apologize for the acronym but if election day registration was to occur that registration couldn't occur and if it didn't occur that vote would still count wouldn't it because we don't have right now in this statute a

provisional ballot status. Is that true? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I guess in the scenario that you've-- you've put forth you're right. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Okay. Thank you, Sir. We are choosing in this-- in this bill to refer anyone who is voting on election day to go to one central location. Has-- has the Chair and the makers of the statute considered any specific location and how is that chosen? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That will be left up to the leaders of the town to make that determination what would work best for them. You know, some-- some places-- there are ten other states that have election

day registration and some of them have the registration at each individual polling location. This is not the case with this bill.

This bill clearly states that the municipality has the-- will find one location. You could envision maybe town hall or if it's-- depending on the municipality they could do it-- if they only have one polling place they could do it there but again it's being left up to the municipality. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. In that one location what safeguards do we have to ensure that the staff member or the registrar are indeed validating those names, indeed verifying and making the process as I understand it that they have to call? I think the example that I have utilized is a student who is at Fairfield University and lives in Redneck, New Jersey and he shows up to-- to vote in Fairfield on the day of election day and what safeguards do we have, Sir, through you, to ensure that the registrars are indeed verifying that if there are any? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the safeguards in place are that the person is coming in that wants to vote is going to have to provide proper identification just like they would if they registered to vote a month before. And, you know, depending on how things are going with the registrars, the registrars will make an effort I'm sure to-- to make a call and confirm and once again if there is no confirmation at that point they will send the letter just like they always do.

And as we alluded to before that there will cross referencing done and ultimately if-- if it's found out that somebody's been trying to do something fraudulently they will be dealt with and they will be punished. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Sir. Thank you for that information. But that process takes time and-- and if indeed it is proven to be inaccurate would that vote

count because there are no provisional ballots? Is that true? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Frankly, one would argue that provisional ballot don't-- don't count. And that's one of the things we want to do, we want to encourage people to vote through this bill. We want people to-- to have the opportunity to have their voice heard and so yes there vote would count.

If they come in and they-- they again-- they're going to have to state in person, this is who I am and I have not registered to vote anywhere else and they have to swear to that. And they're providing-- they're providing documentation that states who they are and ultimately there will be a check-- a cross check I think on the-- the-- as we talked about earlier when we get-- the program in place through the interstates to try to get information back and forth. We'll even have a better opportunity but the registrars will have the tools in hand to-- to confirm. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up with a statement. I think the clarification needs to be made in regards to provisional ballots. With all due respect provisional ballots do count and they are a process in which we are afforded the opportunity to verify and validate the validity of the vote. To have a vote that is counted and then potentially down the road be found that it is inaccurate and that it is invalid but the task has already been done. We've already cast that vote and counted it.

So I would take a step back and offer what-- what is the hurry to eliminate provisional ballots as a means to be cautious and to be careful to ensure that the vote is proper. We're not denying anybody and-- and-- the right to vote. We're just making sure that the vote is valid. So I would go through you, Mr. Chair in regards to why the thinking as to not having a provisional ballot? And through you, Sir. Sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang-- Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know I think every one of us very much feels strongly about the integrity of our elections and I think the-- as I've referenced or as I've done some-- a little bit of work on this, there's ten states currently that have some form of election day registration.

We've looked for if there were any major issues, if there were any-- not even-- not even being sensationalists, you know, about mass fraud but any fraud at all and-- and there's really not anything. And in all those places it's-- it's deemed to increase voter participation not tremendously but it does. And it also I think in certain cases and I'm sure I'll get questions after will-- will enhance the opportunity for people to get out to vote.

So I just-- I don't see that the provisional ballot is-- you know the provisional ballot is usually held for days on end and oftentimes the election's certified before that vote's even counted. And that is the way it is and I think this is a way for people to ensure that their vote is counted and I have not seen the problems that I think are being alluded to. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I alluded to specific problems. But in regards to the question of punishment and penalty if-- through you, could the Chair take me through what the penalty is for a fraudulent ballot. Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we go through I believe if you get caught you have to go through-- I'm trying to make sure I answer it correctly. It is-- it is state and federal laws. There are fines. There are possibility of prison. You know, it's-- I believe it's one to two years in prison and the fine I believe is three to 500 but I'm not a hundred percent sure, Representative. Through you.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Sir. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Has there been any incidences of prosecution as it relates to fraud in this State? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think-- and I'm looking through, there were a few over in the last bunch of years. I think there was maybe eight but it wasn't due to election day fraud. There was some people that thought that-- that were not voting in the right district. There's only been a handful of cases but none of them for voter fraud as we're talking about here. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you. Thank you, Sir. So if somebody was hypothetically, through you, Sir, if somebody commits that fraudulent act of improperly voting what enforcement mechanisms do we have?

If somebody's submitting a utility bill and comes through and there's no other means of identification and after the follow up we write a letter to them and

they're not at that address, how do you enforce that? How do you have mechanisms to capture those kind of fraudulent behavior? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe if after verification or lack thereof by the registrars it can be turned over to CIQ but I wanted to-- and I found out what I was looking for. We haven't had really an issue of voter impersonation issue in this State since 74 when CIQ was established. You know there's been over 24 million ballots and there's only been a small handful as I alluded that had any alleging of fraud but really nothing has ever been found.

I think there was one person and-- who voted more than once who was a registered republican in Hartford but he actually was a resident of Farmington. I think that's the only thing that we've been able to find. So if in fact after verification was brought forth and stated that no this person was definitely acting fraudulently it would be turned over to the proper authorities and again you're looking at federally it's

five years and 10,000 dollar fine in addition to state penalties.

But in Connecticut if you try to vote by claiming to say you're someone else it's a class D punishable by one to five years in jail and 5,000 dollar fine. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Sir. Through you. But the question is how do you capture that fraud? How do you find that individual when it's simply a name? It's a name. What other means do we have to ensure that if somebody is fraudulently voting what other means do we have? A name is a name on a piece of paper.

How do you capture that? And I would even dare say I find it very hard to do so but maybe through the Chair he could elaborate a little bit more on what mechanisms we have for enforcement of the penalty of fraudulent behavior. Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we would just go through the processes that we have in place right now which are to-- excuse me-- are to send the letters back. Again this person is coming and giving their name and stating who they are right in person. If-- I think it's a-- it's frankly an very inefficient way if they're looking to influence outcomes of election to-- to do that town by town. But I suppose there's-- there's always been a history of people trying to gain the system. But I just don't see this one. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Sir. And onto another subject matter. I noted in this bill the fiscal note on this to the local municipalities is minimal and it only applied to-- and I'm paraphrasing OFA is the concept that they would just need to hire an additional worker at about 15 to 18 dollars an hour and that is the extent of the fiscal note. Through you, Sir, is that what you understand to be the obligation or do you see it differently? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No, I do see it like that and I think what-- what we're seeing is we're basing this on the presidential ballots right now that are utilized that I think equate to two percent of the registered voters coming in to cast a presidential ballot on election day.

And I think this is a reasonable-- a reasonable way of looking at that and I think-- the benefit of doing this how we're doing it now, implementing it in the first cycle in a municipal when there's certainly less people who are voting will give our towns an opportunity to go through it a few times before it even gets to this cycle. But I think that's a reasonable way of looking at it based on the numbers of a presidential ballot. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think-- and I respect the Chairman's perspective that it's a two percent jump but let me bring up a hypothetical that did occur in 2010 that-- what happened in the City of

Bridgeport. The incredible increase in voter interest and participation in that election caused so much havoc and so much confusion and chaos.

Now if I placed this in the context of Bridgeport in 2010 with election day registration, we looked at Bridgeport in 2010 has an action where these voters were registered. They were accounted for and registered and we didn't account for that. And if you talk to the registrar of voters the requirements and the planning and the staffing is far beyond what the State could have imagined. I would respectfully go through the Chair and ask what would happen?

What would we do as a State to help those communities if the statistical outliers of a large municipality were to experience that kind of surge? Have we accounted for any of that support rather than placing an unfunded mandate on them? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think we addressed a little bit about alluding to the Bridgeport situation with having the appropriate amount-- last session the

appropriate amount of ballots being placed and if for some reason there was an influx of-- and again, we're encouraging the municipalities to look at the-- the numbers that they would normally get in a presidential year.

And, you know, so we're encouraging them to have those ballots on hand. And if-- if in fact in any town if there are no-- if they do run out of ballots they certainly can photo copy them and then count them later by hand. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And as I began this conversation in talking about the software development, the-- the database system, through you, does the Chair believe that the online aspect, the online registration or the validation of-- of voters on election day registration-- does the Chair consider it to-- is it an important part of the process? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

I'm not sure I understood the question but I'll give it a shot. I think every part of the process is important and the online-- if you're alluding to the online registration I think that just gives another opportunity to encourage people to register to vote and make it easier for them and frankly it's more cost efficient for all involved. So if we encourage people to do it more often it will save-- save some money. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

I thought that the online access the voter roll is critical to allow the registrar of voters to verify the validity of that voter on the day of election. And as I remember testimony the importance and the critical component of being able to obtain that information online is critical to making this system. Through you. Is that correct, Sir? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the good Representative, I didn't clearly get the first

question so I apologize. You know, yeah, of course and I think we've gone through major strides with the- - with the centralized voter registration system. I think it's a terrific tool.

It's getting stronger every day and as technology evolves it only gets better but it gives-- it will ultimately give them the tools. And yes, that's the goal, Representative is to make the system so we can just automatically do that but it takes-- it takes time and it's going to take an opportunity for our registrars to be able to input into that system and again I guess we're going to have to encourage some of the towns that aren't onboard to-- to actually get onboard with that because it is very important. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Does-- is the Chairman aware is that program actively in place and fully functional and vetted? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

The CVRS is-- through you, Mr. Speaker, is that the system-- centralized voting registration system? Through you. Is that what he's asking?

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you. Yes, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative-- Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks. Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

And through you. Thank you, Sir. Sorry. Through you. How many years has it been operational?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I am unsure how many years it's been operational.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Sir. So what would happen? What provisos are we affording that one town right now that doesn't have internet access? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It's an internet based system but-- intranet but I don't-- again I guess we do have a bill that says coming up down the road which I hope we can get to which will ensure that everybody has access because I think it's very important to-- to this process but again at this point we-- we don't have that everywhere. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you. So right now we don't have it anywhere and we've not made provisos to accommodate those communities that don't have it. Is that correct? Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I was trying to check something else out. I didn't hear the question properly. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you again, Sir. So right now we don't have provisos to make accommodations for those that don't have internet access. Through you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I mean like I said everyone has the ability to access this, every town for-- and I believe one of the things I was checking out before was through the 90s everyone's had an opportunity for this. I will encourage those that don't to-- to move into the 21st century and get onboard. It's very important. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment it-- we'll speak any minute. I'm sorry. Not yet. So I am set so far. Thank you, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Hwang. Further on House A? Further on House A? I see Representative Coutu standing tall. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. COUTU (47th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's great to talk about one of the most precious rights that we have as American citizens which is the right to vote. I have a few questions for the proponent of the bill. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, Sir.

REP. COUTU (47th):

The first is-- fortunately I wasn't here to follow this the last few months and I just was hopeful that you'd give a real quick brief, what's wrong with the seven days before an election and why we should go to same day registration. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think it just gives-- in today's society it will help people-- more people have immediate access to vote. You know, you give case and point when someone moves from own town to another. They might feel that their--- that their registration follows them and come to find out on election day it does not. Somebody that went to sign up for through scouting group, you know, a voter drive or a student voter drive where their card-- they filled out the card, they did everything they thought was necessary, come to find out that they don't have-- they can't vote.

So I think ultimately what this is doing and to the good Representative whom I admire his service to our country, I think that's what the crux of everything is. People have died for this right to vote and every member of this State has the right as long as there, you know, 18 and they-- and they're not a criminal.

They have the right and we should give them that opportunity to vote. And again we will-- there will be some cross checking and balances and I guess I'm probably going on further than what the good Gentleman asked so I'll end now. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Coutu.

REP. COUTU (47th):

Thank you. And through you, Mr. Speaker. We're hearing that it'd be critical to the integrity of the system, there would be other states where we would potentially cross reference to verify that an out of state resident would not be double registered and voting in each state. The question is, is the system up in place in any other state at this time? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, someone was talking to me.

REP. COUTU (47th):

I can repeat.

REP. MORIN (28th):

I didn't hear it. Through you. I need to hear that again, Mr. Speaker. I apologize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Was there too much noise in the Chamber, Representative Morin?

REP. MORIN (28th):

No. I just-- somebody had my ear and I apologize. I'll try not to let that happen again. It's very quiet in here actually. I kind of like it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Coutu, would you care to rephrase-- I mean restate the question?

REP. COUTU (47th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you. We are hearing that the integrity of the system that will be utilized to verify that individual citizens are not registered in multiple states and voting in multiple states. So it's very important that the system that will be in place is in each state. So at this time is this potential information management system in other states so then we can cross reference with them once this piece of legislation becomes law? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That's a-- that's a great question. I don't know how many states actually have this. I know some states do and this is just us

being proactive and trying to hook up with them but I cannot give you a specific amount but I do know there are others and I think it's ultimately what we want.

And I think we all want the same thing which is to be able to ensure that everyone is voting should be voting and if they shouldn't be here then they won't be allowed to. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Coutu.

REP. COUTU (47th):

I completely agree, Mr. Speaker. It is critical that every state has a system up. We can't have potentially certain people coming from Nebraska and we don't know because they don't the system up in Nebraska but we do know that people in Maine are coming and they have a system there. So to me it would only make sense to have this legislation pass when every state can do a hundred percent check and verify that that citizen one, is a citizen and two, that they're only registered in one state.

So it's something that I would be extremely concerned about and I think it's something that has to be fixed before this legislation moves forward. Through you, Mr. Speaker. In my district we have a

great educational institution, the University of Connecticut and there are up to 30,000 students many of which come from other states.

And this piece of legislation, page two, line 28 to 31 it states that a student would submit their current photo identification card issued by that institution in lieu of the identification required by section 9-20. Is that true? Through you, Mr. Speaker, that the students would be able to just show their ID and be able to same day registration? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe you're correct. I believe it does have to have the-- some kind of residential address and if-- if not-- pardon me-- if there is not a residential address on that the student could then provide a recent bill from the school itself, some kind of bill from the school itself. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Coutu.

REP. COUTU (47th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, would the student be able to provide an ID if they were here on a student visa but a resident of another country because they have the same ID and they could still show a utility bill and say, listen I'm living right near the campus on a certain street and I have the required ID which is the UConn student ID. In that case what would be a way to verify that they're not a citizen? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's not much different than if they come in and they get a driver's license and get that. I mean there is-- they do have to show some verification and state who they are and that they are frankly eligible to vote. And if they don't they're going to be-- once that's cross referenced through the registrars and they check on it then there will be an opportunity for the proper penalties to be issued. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Coutu.

REP. COUTU (47th):

So through you, Mr. Speaker, if that student were to swear under oath and say I am a resident near UConn they would have to face a fine and potential imprisonment or what type of penalty would there be if you broke the law and said that you were a citizen and you could vote? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Well perjury and then-- and then the voter fraud I alluded to before and then the federal prosecution. If you misstate who you are that's--that's going to cause-- ultimately they will be punished. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Coutu.

REP. COUTU (47th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, we just passed last year a piece of legislation the instate tuition for illegal immigrants. If a illegal immigrant now who is authorized to go to UConn or any other State school had that ID and goes to that registration location on the voting day and they show that ID would it be the same scenario?

My concern is just there's some holes here if we don't have a hundred percent verification of other states. So if someone from another state comes to Connecticut and we're basing the entirety of the system on a verification process that's not even established and then two, at the point where they would vote a student who now has a UConn ID and a utility bill for the most part could get through the process and vote.

And when you're talking about potentially hundreds if not thousands of students there's the potential for a problem especially when we know the last Governor race was decided by 6,000 votes. So it's just an area where I do see and I do feel a little bit concerned about what could happen.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned those are the areas that I'm concerned about. I do understand the underlying principle of getting people to vote. As I mentioned it is one of the most precious rights that we have as Americans. I will note that believe it or not there's up to 40,000 U.S. soldiers who don't have citizenship so they will not be able to vote but they're in the process of earning that precious right. So for all of the soldiers and all of those who take

this right as such a precious responsibility I think people really have to understand there's a process. Seven days to me makes that voter responsible.

They're voting for something so important. Seven days. Everyone knows that. And all the statistics I'm reading show that year over year including into the last presidential election there have been upticks in voter registration and that's from the seven days out. So I appreciate all your efforts trying to make this happen but I'll have to vote no today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you very much. With the indulgence of the chamber we'll have a short recess. Excuse me. We'll stand at ease briefly.

(Chamber at ease.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Would the House come back to order. Further on House A? Further on House A? Representative Hetherington of the 125th. You have the floor, Sir. Representative Hetherington, please.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

There we go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker I have a question or two to the proponent if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, Sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. With respect to the amendment one of-- the amendment deletes what formally was line 60 through 66 and that-- those lines provided that if the-- the registrar-- if the registrars are not able to confirm that the voter is not-- has not-- if the registrars are not able to confirm that the voter-- the register-- the applicant did not vote in another Connecticut jurisdiction then the-- the ballot shall not count unless the registrars of voters are able to confirm that the applicant did not vote in the other municipality. I wonder if the proponent could indicate why that-- those lines were removed? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very good question, to the Representative. I think it was well intended and I-- as we did it vet it through and discuss it but the

reality of it was is after listening to some of the advocates and some of the registrars that while it was-- seemed like a reasonable thing to do at the time the reality of registrars possibly not being able to-- you know, some registrar's office would not be available or able to answer this or if they didn't pick up the phone then it would put everything in limbo. So I think it was ultimately unworkable and I was-- that's why it was taken out. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. Through you to the speaker-- pardon me, to the proponent. As-- there has been some discussion about the possibility of obtaining information from other states but as this amendment and it will become the bill, as it stands it-- the cross check is-- is simply within the State of Connecticut. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And again I just want to make sure-- I'll try to answer it and hope it's exactly what the good Representative was asking. The procedures in place will remain-- will remain in place because while we were looking at doing this language that would have had them immediately contact we recognized it wasn't going to be workable and it probably would cause more problems than it was worth.

So we went back and recognized that the registrars will in fact send something to the voter-- voter's home-- home address that was given and if it's not verified, if they don't get something back, if it's not verified they will go after that person and take the appropriate actions. I think it's a system that-- that works fairly well so we're not changing that system. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. But there still will be an attempt to check with other registrars within Connecticut even though we have no ability to access information outside of Connecticut. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Okay. I noticed that in the affirmation that goes on the envelope into which the election day ballot is placed there is no reference to citizenship although the same type of affirmation in connection with a presidential ballot on page eight actually does-- line 227 does include the statement I am a citizen of the United States.

Is there a reason that that appears in the-- in the affirmation related to a presidential ballot but not-- but not the affirmation related to an election day ballot-- election day registration ballot? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not-- I'm not sure. I'm looking at it that the presidential ballot

probably has something to do with-- with federal laws but I am not a hundred percent sure so I can't give you that answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Why-- why is the election day registration ballot placed in an envelope and segregated along with absentee ballots since it's counted at the same time, it's counted the same day. What's the purpose of having it segregated in a separate envelope from other ballots? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe again it's going to be designed and appropriated by the-- each municipality as to where this process is going to take place and so when you-- when you do-- you know, you may be at a polling place but you may not and they're just going to keep them in a separate location because you may not be at polling place. You may be at a place where there are no-- no ballots being cast so

ultimately this-- this will safeguard them and then they'll be counted just like the absentee ballots exactly through that process. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. The section 920 of the Connecticut General Statutes talks about admission of electors and procedures and it requires one of three documents, birth certificate, driver's license or social security card. Would someone registering on the day of election be expected to produce those or any one of those? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. As we mentioned before either that or any of the other things that we alluded to whether it be a local-- whether it be a utility bill or some kind of payroll check or government check. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Well just to comment on that section 920 is not permissive. It says-- it says quite clearly each such applicant shall present and it lists those things. The provision relating to an ID, a university or college ID, that takes the place of those things that are now required by 9-20. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. You do have to prove residency though. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. So if someone went to a Connecticut college and could show that they lived at a particular street that would be sufficient and that's where the inquiry would end. We wouldn't even ask them to affirm that they're citizens. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think most of the registration forms-- again, I'm not a hundred percent sure but do have a statement that you are a citizen. But again those three that you alluded to in 9-20 you would also have to-- if-- if you didn't have a picture ID you would have to show that as well as the others that we mentioned-- that I had mentioned before. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Okay. Well thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the proponent. I have some additional questions but I'll wait for the underlying bill which of course will be this but then it will become the underlying bill. So I thank you the proponent and I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Hetherington. Further on House A? Representative Carter of the 2nd district, you have the floor, Sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good evening, Sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

I'd like to ask a few questions through you to the proponent of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, Sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Sir, to the proponent of the amendment I was looking at the-- the ID requirements for a student and I was wondering if they gave any consideration to how student IDs are issued in the university system? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly didn't but I'm sure the people that have dealt with this previously did. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I probably should be a little-- little more specific. When a university ID is issued do we have any sort of way in Connecticut to prove that they were issued to the actual person of a State like through a birth certificate or a driver's license? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I guess when you're getting your college ID you do have to at least be a student of the university and have paid to attend there and then ultimately you're going to have to prove your residency somehow if-- whether-- it's not going to be on the college ID. If it isn't then you're still going to have to give another piece of information that proves your residency to be able to vote in that district. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When a student approaches the registrar to register to vote and they have the-- well let's say they don't have an ID as I

read this legislation that student is allowed to present just a utility bill. Is that true? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. They have to have something that-- that's current that states their name and their address. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would that also include a P.O. box? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

If you are meaning a P.O. box, no. No. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

So-- so the way I understand this then if a student has a utility bill as long as they've gone up

and signed let's say for cable and it's due within the next 30 days, has their name and their address and it's not a P.O. box then that's sufficient? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Yes it is.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Now this student who signs up we'll say for cable can they be in a residence with multiple other individuals as long as they just have one utility in their name they can register to vote through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. If it's in their name and providing their address I think if I'm understanding correctly, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So once the student now has visited the voter registrar, they've registered to vote through the register-- the voter registrar how does the voter registrar verify that that student hasn't voted absentee in another state? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there-- there certainly is a process that the registrar could make that phone call, try to-- try to contact the person in-- in the other state or the-- excuse me-- the other district and that ultimately will be what we-- when our discussion before discussing the online voter-- the software that would allow the Secretary of State's Office to coordinate with other states to really tighten up the voter list.

So I mean there's something in place now where certainly the registrars could do that but ultimately utilizing that software system we will have a much better opportunity than we do even right now. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker. So one thing I just want to make sure I understand because right now looking at registering students to vote then they wouldn't have to have the online registration up and running. We're going to be using the State intranet, the voter registration-- the centralized voter registration system. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that's correct but honestly even if you register to vote in the way that we currently have now these types of things could occur. But you know I think we're taking steps today to discourage that and ultimately keep it from happening. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So when the voter registrar asks all the questions about the student and they look at the oath anywhere in the oath or would the voter registrar ask does it include the previous address of the student? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not a hundred percent sure if it has the previous address of the-- of the voter on there. I can't say for sure. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because if we're just asking the student's current address then I think it would be very difficult for a voter registrar to go back and see if a student is actually registered in another state if we're not making anything in this legislation to say we're going to look at their registration in another state or where they were registered last.

When they-- now I also understand when they come in now the student has a utility bill we'll say for Comcast Cable right here in Connecticut and the student is now registered to vote. Do they take an oath or an affirmation at that point? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yeah. You know when you're going in it's just like now. You have to attest to who you are. You're going in person and you're providing information to the registrar and you're stating who you are and that you are expected to be a legitimate voter in that district. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Just kind of curiosity is this-- is this oath strictly in writing or is this something verbal? Do they raise their right hand in the air, put their hand on a bible or anything like that or is it just something they write?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. You use your signature to attest to who you are. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I just want to make-- so I guess I understand so far as long as I say I'm a student and I'm coming into Connecticut and I've signed myself up for Comcast Cable I could be living in another house with other students, I could register to vote as long as I write my name down on a piece of paper and say that I promise I am who I say I am and where I live. Is that true? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. You know, yeah, that's true. And I believe one of the previous questions there is something on the form stating, you know, a

previous address. I just wanted to share that.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

As I've read that in the affirmation it just-- it doesn't ask for the previous address in the affirmation. It just talks about having the current address is what I'm looking here. Where would it say or where can I find the information about where the previous address would be? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. On the registration form.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the-- when the moderator-- so they go in and they get the student's ballot and they do the registration it's similar to the rest of the bill where the student now

gets a ballot at that moment? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm-- I'm not quite sure I understand. Would you say it again for me and I'll pay closer attention. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the good Gentleman. I'll try to be a little more clear. Once the registration process is complete and this is the same day of the registration, it's with the registrar, does a student receive the ballot in the ballot envelope just like we were talking about in the rest of the bill? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Once you've attested and you said you are who you are then yes you have the right to vote and you get the ballot and you cast your

ballot in privacy, put in the folder-- in the envelope and in it goes to the-- to the box to be counted. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And then it goes in a box to be counted and then I understand it's eventually delivered to the same place where the absentee ballots are counted and at that point, at some later time that night they're all going to be counted together. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That's how I understand it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Mr. Speaker, at what point in this process then does the voter registrar go back and confirm that the

address was right for that person on the Comcast statement? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as we alluded to there will-- there could be an attempt right then and there to verify. If that's not successful a follow up will be sent, a card will be sent to the address given. And then ultimately if it is not sent back in or it's returned there will be, you know, they'll make another attempt and at that point if they can't find the person then it-- the person will be stricken from the rolls. And you know, any-- any-- and subject to prosecution. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the person is then stricken from the roll. Does anybody go back and I say disallow or discount that original vote? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask a few questions really quickly about the online voter process that we're talking about. Through you, Mr. Speaker, will it require a social security number be presented when somebody registers to vote online? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Do you mean online registration?

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Yes. Let me--

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I went out of turn there. I'm referring to section 11 of the bill, line 360 through 371-- oh, excuse me, of the

amendment which will become the bill. And my question is the Secretary of State is going to be coming up with a process and a way to put this registration system together. I'm just curious if when the application is done if it will include social security numbers of the applicant? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Currently-- thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you. Currently you use your driver's license or the last four of your social. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And also I want to go backward a little bit to lines 315 in the bill-- in the amendment which will become the bill. It's talking about being able to share information with State agencies but the Secretary of State can deem whatever is necessary to maintain the system. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Were any examples given in testimony as to what those types of systems may be? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

So if-- if the Secretary of State now is collecting all the information for online voting, through you, Mr. Speaker will there be a roll for the voter registrar in that process? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Obviously the voters-- the registrars of voters will be inputting information into the centralized voter registration system and then ultimately that is handled at the Secretary of State's level and the information will be disseminated to other states. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. So maybe I-- maybe I don't understand. With the online system is this something where an individual-- I mean is the goal for this to be an individual to sit at home, be able to go online and register to vote? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It could be. Sure.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So then my question is if I decide or I elect to move to another town and I register to vote online, will the voter registrar be involved in my-- my system of registering or will they just be notified that I've registered? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just-- I think it's no different than if you mailed in your-- your card changing your registration. It's-- your sending-- that online registration will go to the local registrars and that information will be disseminated and the voter will be allotted to vote-- approved to vote in one municipality and then taken off the rolls in-- in the one that they came from. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much to my good colleague. As I'm reading this it was just-- it's just not clear that the voter registrar even has to be in the process. I mean the way-- the way this is written it appears to me that we could have an online voter registration system and then an individual when they just register online it may not be going directly to their own voter registrar in their town for any kind of verification.

It's going to be verified somewhere else by a list that's collected by the Secretary of State. Of those lists we don't-- we don't know even where that information is going to come from. We know it could

be motor vehicles. It could be a number of different things. So-- so that is obviously a concern for me. One other concern of course is the fact that we mentioned if they're going to collect social security numbers in an online system-- I'll ask this in the form of a question, Mr. Speaker.

If the Secretary of State is collecting this information and we're able to share it with other states who now is responsible for the security of that information? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Well again I want to be clear. It's going to be the last four digits of their social and then-- and it will be-- they're going to have to ensure that the confidentially remains in place. This is strictly voter information to help us ensure that, you know, people are-- that are not voting in two places. I think this is a great safeguard. I think this frankly helps us to accomplish everything that we've been talking about. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

And-- and actually I would totally agree with my colleague. The fact that if we had a national system of some kind where we could go in and just verify where people were that would be a-- an excellent tool for our voter registrar. In fact, as I mentioned before one of the huge problems with this whole bill in the first place is that when we're looking at students who are voting we have absolutely no way to go back and look to see if they're registered to vote somewhere else or if they've voted absentee.

In fact I think that's probably one of the-- one of the biggest problems we're looking at. So I'll look forward to the debate as this moves on for the evening. And I thank the-- my good colleague for his answers to the questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening to you. I have a few questions for the Chair if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you. My concerns are-- a number of other questions have already been asked so my concerns are essentially with the eligibility of voters who are registering to be voting in the first place. And we do-- I will ask this in the form of a question. The-- the possession of citizenship is an irrevocable and irrefutable condition of being able to vote in this country and Connecticut anywhere. Am I correct? Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't agree more.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Very good. We do agree on that. Thank you. And I am concerned a number of things in this process-- I'm very confused I have to admit about whether registration to vote actually entails proof of citizenship. I see in section-- part D of section 1 which is line 21 in the original bill. It's a bit-- three or four lines farther on in the amendment. That

any person applying to register on election day has to make an application in accordance with the provisions of 9-20 that Representative Hetherington brought up a little earlier.

And that involves-- 9-20 says that an elector must affirm whether or not he or she is a United States citizen, so must affirm that he is a citizen. How does that happen in same day registration through the process? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It's no different than any other registration process. On-- on the State Connecticut mail in voter registration form you actually have to swear or affirm that you are a citizen, that you live at the address shown, that you're-- that you have the proper age, that you've not been convicted and that the information you're providing is true. There is no difference in what we're doing here today. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

I thank the Gentleman for his answer. So under the normal process when it's not same day registration you are then not required to show proof of citizenship, you simply check a box to say that you are a citizen. Am I correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. You don't check a box you actually sign your name and-- and affirm and swear that that's who you are. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you. But there is no proof that you have to furnish? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

One more time, Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Is there any-- is there any proof that you have to furnish?

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. You have to provide your driver's license or the last four of your social. This is-- same day, election day registration is no different than any other forms of registration to vote that we have currently in place. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you. And can someone with a green card have-- a green card is someone who is a permanent resident without citizenship. Can that person hold a valid driver's license and or a social security card? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN. (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

If I may, Mr. Speaker. They-- they can. My husband has a green card and he has both of those things. So that-- providing the last four numbers of

the social security card is a concern to me because it-- it-- and the driver's license because neither of those are proof of citizenship.

However when you are registering under the normal process is there then a verification because the registrars or whoever's dealing with this have time. Do they then verify that everyone who is applying to register is indeed a citizen? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Excuse me. Through you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I don't know. I guess they do go through. You know that person gets thrown into the centralized voter registration system and again whether we have election day registration or not the process is as it is and it's really not any different.

There will be verification. You're stating under penalty. You're basically stating under-- you know, that you're not going to -- you're swearing to who you are and that you have the right to be there. If it's found that you're not, you're going to be punished and

that's not different for anything that we're talking about today. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you. That's very troubling for the-- for the normal-- if I can use that word, voter registration process but there is an amount of time that transpires, a week or what have you for someone who registers in advance.

If we're assuming that the process is the same and that the evidence that has to be furnished is the same but on election day there is no time perhaps to make those same citizenship verifications. Certainly the penalties could be the same. The punishments could be the same but the ability not to count the vote which time would provide the registrars in a normal procedure is no longer there. And I-- I do find that very troubling and I'm not sure how we would deal with that particularly-- well let me ask this as a question if I may.

Would you anticipate that once the online voter registration system is up and running that it would

contain information on whether people are citizens or not? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I really don't know if that would be the case or not. I suppose it could and I certainly would be interested in finding out and sharing that with you. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Well I thank the Gentleman for that answer and I am very troubled indeed because that means that we really don't know if it will ever be possible on election day if someone is just registering to verify if he or she is a citizen and therefore eligible to vote.

I do have another question on that subject which Representative Hetherington got near a few minutes ago. There is an affirmation that voters are asked to sign on their-- on the outside of the envelope that their ballot goes into. And in that affirmation there are a couple of points.

This is around line 94 at least in the original bill. I am the person admitted here as an elector in the town indicated and then number two I am eligible to vote in the election indicated for today and the town indicated. But I don't see anything-- any reference to I am a citizen. I'm presuming it's because it's in that other form according to section 9-20? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's true.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you. Basically what I see here is that there are-- there is information that the person applying-- that the person registering provides that might in the future were it possible to verify that the information is not true the person could be subject to penalties and there's probably enough here to deal with that.

But I don't see anything that makes me comfortable that this same day process would allow for

any verification prior to a vote count or even after and that's what's really frightening about this-- or even after that the person concerned is a citizen. And that gives me great misgivings.

I think where there is an honest attempt here to balance access to the voting process with voter protection and with ensuring that the people who should be voting are the only ones who are voting and that their vote counts for everything that it's worth. It's not diluted by votes of people who don't count.

But I'm afraid that in the way that this is laid out at the moment that the balance swings in favor of access with not enough really given to protection of those voters who should be voting. So I'm afraid that I won't be able to support it. I thank the Gentleman for his answers and I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Madam. Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Good evening.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

I definitely support the concept that more people should be involved and have the opportunity to participate in the process. It is extremely important that more and more of us exercise this important-- this important feature that we have which has not been easy to get but we have got through time the capacity to vote. But the same day election for me-- the registration of the voters on the same day raises some concerns for me. And through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In line 14 of the amendment which is obviously now the bill, it says the registrar of voters shall designate-- so is it a shall or they will have to designate for every town and every municipality?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The registrars of voters in the municipality shall designate the appropriate location. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Will it-- through you, Mr. Speaker. Will it be a location or will it be multiple locations or will it be left to the registrar of voters?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Any location. Any singular location.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Will it-- will that location be a new location that the registrar of voters will have or will it already be an existing location that-- that is there in the town or municipality? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It could be-- it most likely will be the office where they have-- where they have the registrars, however that registrar could

determine that a polling place would-- would be appropriate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure I understood that clearly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Do you want to repeat your question, Representative Srinivasan?

REP. MORIN (73rd):

No I think I get him.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

You got-- Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

I apologize. Okay, so the registrar of voters-- I'll be clear. I don't think I was. The registrar of voters will designate a location I believe that's not a polling place so it will most likely be somewhere say in the town hall but there will be a designated area that the registrar will designate. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for the clarification. That-- it-- so as I understand it now it will not be a location that already exists in that town. It will be a new location where these people will be going through? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It will be a location that typically not a polling place. So it will be, you know, right now all kinds of things happen in town hall, you have absentee ballots so it's just going to be one-- one opportunity but that's where they will make that determination what works best for their municipality. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. In line-- on line 18 the registrars of voters may appoint one or more election officials. If this going to be a location which is a stand alone or some other activities is

happening and knowing that there is so much of verification that needs to be done are we sure that just having-- my concern is that one election official may not be adequate in that place at all. And through you, Mr. Speaker. Will that-- who will decide as to whether they need one official or more than one official at that site because we don't know what the turnout is going to be? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think as we discussed a little bit before we can certainly anticipate that there will be some increases as the presidential ballots have shown close to two percent increase.

But yes the registrar of voters is going to be responsible as they are now because they have to bring people in-- extra people for the presidential. They're going to be responsible for preparing themselves and training the-- the workers to make sure that this runs smoothly. So that's a job that they currently do for elections and they'll-- and they do

it well and I'm sure they'll continue. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

And my final question through you, Mr. Speaker. As we approach the witching hour of eight p.m. on election night and, you know, there is some confusion as to whether that person who comes to that site is-- you know, is-- has the capacity-- has all the appropriate documents or the other. So the gentleman or the lady arrives just before eight so she obviously did qualify to vote if everything goes right but the verification process takes us past the-- the magic hour of eight p.m. Will the centralized location where they can verify, will they be available so this people-- these people will be able to vote or what will be the timeframe when the entire process will shut down? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Excuse me. Just like any other election time when the polling place closes

if there are people in line it's the responsibility of the chief election official at the location to stand-- to end the line as anybody that's there currently at eight o'clock has that right to get their vote cast.

As far as the verification as we've discussed earlier there certainly is an opportunity for the registrar to contact the other municipalities say if there is-- if they don't reach that person however it will-- the person will be allowed to cast their ballot.

The verification process will go in as it is currently when somebody registers to vote where there will be the card send to that prospective-- to that voter's home and-- and the process goes from there.

Again, I want to be clear the person that's going to register to vote-- when you're registering to vote on election day you're registering just as you do any other day. You're signing, swearing you are who you are and that you have the right to vote. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I wanted to thank the proponent for his answers. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I may a couple of questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed, Sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In lines 14 the registrar of voters is required to designate a place for same day voter registration. We do use the word a location. Would they be allowed to have, you know one or-- would they be allowed to have two locations or is it specifically only one is permitted? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. One location.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And once an individual applies for a same day voter registration and they are given a ballot is there anywhere in this amendment that requires that their name be put on a list so there is sort of just evidence that they voted? I ask the questions just specifically in this situation when people normally come to the polls to vote there is that master voter list that the people check off. Do those names get added to that list? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, ultimately they will be added to the list and to go a little further if they are able to get in touch with the registrar in the previous-- in the previous person's town they will be able to be stricken from the list there. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in that portion dealing with registering somebody that may be

registered in another town and if it's determined that they may have voted in that other town the registrar would not give them a ballot in lines 63 through 75. And in that-- in the language it says that after it occurs if it's determined that the person's already voted in another town that registrar would cease the process of allowing that person to vote in that municipality.

And it states in lines 70 through 72 that such matter shall be reviewed by the registrar of voters and then after review if a resolution can't be made they shall submit to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. And my question was, through you, is that language contemplating that the registrar is sort of adjudicating whether or not that person's entitled to vote and whether that person should have a complaint filed against them? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that what they're trying-- they're stating that if-- if the person is trying-- you know, not eligible to vote and they're-- they can't-- they're not resolving it then

it does go to State Elections Enforcement to-- who could conduct an investigation. I mean I think that's-- that's what we're hoping for that we can vet these things out and this is certainly a way to do it. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If-- if hypothetically somebody goes into a municipality, registers to vote in that municipality and the registrar determines that they've already gone to a neighboring town and have already voted in the election, that registrar informs the registrar that that person has already voted. I guess my question is is there any requirement under this bill that would require that that person be reported for an election violation? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I believe so. And certainly somebody-- a citizen we can file an SEEC complaint. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But does the bill require that the registrar of voters submit such complaint? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Thank you Miss-- I just-- through you, Mr. Speaker. Again on, I think it's line 73 after completion of such a review if the matter can't be-- resolution can't be made it shall be-- it shall be reported to SEEC or State Elections Enforcement Commission for those that aren't wonks. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So in the part that says if a resolution of the matter cannot be made I guess my question is that would be a situation then where-- well I guess that's the area that I'm sort of stuck on because with the registrar of voters if they're given

the information that the person has already voted and they approach that person and say you have already voted in another town. You can't vote again.

If that person runs out of the polling place and the registrar is left with that information the situation is resolved in the sense that that person was prevented from voting but would the registrar then be required to report that person to SEEC given the nature of them trying to vote twice in an election and they're fleeing when confronted. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if they'd be required but again the-- it's been resolved. They weren't allowed to vote but I would guess-- I would bet with some of the registrars many of them that have come and discussed things with-- in front of our committee they would want to pursue that but I don't think they're required. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the Gentleman's answers to my questions. I guess that's one part of the bill that I am particularly concerned with because I think for the integrity of the process we certainly could debate the merits of same day voter registration. I know my registrars are very concerned with having to worry about running the elections and then also taking in individuals that are registering to vote on that very day. They just feel it would be somewhat cumbersome. But I'm concerned in this piece where, you know, we hear so much about there's the possibility of fraud going on that we would almost set it up to allow a registrar for it to be permissive that if an illegal act occurs that we're not requiring a complaint to be filed with SEEC.

I think certainly a person not receiving a ballot to vote after it's been determined they were basically fraudulently trying to obtain that ballot. I would think that that should cause an automatic trigger. And I hope that's sort of the spirit of that underlying language because I wouldn't think that we would want to leave the discretion with the registrar of voters to determine whether or not they've resolved

a possible piece of campaign-- or piece of election fraud.

I would think that would fall squarely with SEEC and any type of action should require such report. So I am just concerned with that underlying language in the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Representative Davis of the 57th.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you to the proponent of the amendment--

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed, Sir.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

-- I have a number of questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just-- I think you mentioned it before but I wasn't sure exactly where the number was derived by. How often is same day registration currently being used for presidential elections here in the State of Connecticut?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

How currently is same day registration-- I don't think I got-- through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe it's same day registration. It's different. You're allowed to vote for president. You're allowed to come in and vote for president only. This is a little different. This allows you to register to vote. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So if you choose to only come in and vote for president you're not required to register to vote in order to do so? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I mean the presidential ballot is in place especial-- but now we won't have to utilize that anymore once-- if this is passed and signed into law people will be able to just come in and register to vote and vote for president or vote for whoever they want. But I don't-- I don't believe that-- I want to hear that question again,

through you, Mr. Speaker, because I want to make sure I answer correctly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis, could you rephrase the question, please?

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Just the first part.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So essentially you would not have to register to vote in order to vote in a presidential election here in the State of Connecticut under current law? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Give me one second. I need to check.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Sure. Take your time.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. And through you, Mr. Speaker again I wanted to--

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

-- make sure I answered the goo Representative correctly. The State of Connecticut determined that the presidential ballot you do not have to register to vote. You're voting only for that one person, for the president. This brings in another step and you will now be able to register to vote and then vote for whoever you choose. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, is that requirement under the Help Americans Vote Act under federal law or some other similar federal law or is that a decision that was made by the State of Connecticut in order to allow people to vote for president under current law without registering to vote? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think it was before the Help America Vote Act. I'm not a hundred percent sure but I believe it was and then-- and I-- I don't

know if I have the other part of that question. I'm not sure. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I guess I'll just move to what would be happening under the current bill is if-- if I wanted to come in and vote but for whatever reason I didn't' want to register to vote could I just walk in and still get a presidential ballot under-- under this amendment? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. If this bill is passed and signed into law no, it'll be an online-- not an online-- election day registration. You will come and register to vote. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you to the proponent of the amendment then why in the amendment

does it go into detail about how you would gain access to a presidential ballot and why would it only-- why would it not only just discuss election day balloting in I believe it's section three of the bill? It goes into detail-- or section four, sorry-- into detail in how to obtain a presidential ballot rather than a full ballot. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

I think because frankly-- you said in section four I believe but our Connecticut law goes a little bit further and we want to ensure that everybody has that opportunity to get-- to come in and vote and we're trying to encourage people and, you know, get everyone that opportunity.

It's-- things are changing tremendously through our society as far as people being on the-- on the move and the go and this is I think a very positive effect to get our-- especially, you know, you think about our young people. But we can-- I'm sure I'll

get questions otherwise that will allow me to expand. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then why have in statute through this amendment if passed signed into law, why would we have in statute two separate systems of balloting where you'd have election day registration where you can receive a full ballot and then have a separate-- or part of a statute that only goes into presidential ballots for nonregistered voters. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I just-- I think I need to be clear-- clearer. The presidential ballot really is for former residents and we want to make sure that, you know, that's going to be totally different. Now we will have something else in place that will address not only them but anybody that wants to vote for any candidate. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So what would be the difference of me coming to a-- the election day registration as indicated in this amendment and deciding to vote that day? Why would I be forced as a former resident of a town to go-- or why would I be forced to go to my former town in order to vote rather than being able to do election day registration and voting on that ballot in my current town? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's for out of state voters that have missed their current registration and that's why they would have to come under this-- under this situation. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And if I could just to clarify that previous statement. So if you're someone

who's from out of state and you've been denied the right to vote in your own-- in your current state because of election laws in that state, you'd be able to return to the State of Connecticut and vote only under a presidential ballot here in the State of Connecticut? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct, Sir.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it just seems like a solution perhaps looking for a problem. I mean do we have a scenario here in the State of Connecticut where we have a number of people that are from out of state being denied the right to vote that current-- that previously lived in the State of Connecticut and then coming back here and voting through presidential ballot? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Well it's-- that part of it's a federal law and we certainly can't change

that so this is allowing somebody that, you know, recently got transferred due to their job and-- to another state and they missed their opportunity to register to vote there. This gives them the opportunity to vote for president, federal law. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker. How does a registrar or perhaps a town clerk who accepts a registration-- how do they confirm that an applicant for voter registration is-- is not a criminal who forfeited his or her rights for electoral privileges in the-- here in the State of Connecticut by committing a disenfranchising crime and being committed of that crime? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. You know, like any registration whether it's mail in or whatever there's a form on there where you affirm-- you swear affirm that you are able to be qualified to vote in this-- in

this State, and you know, under penalty of law. So you know ultimately if it's found that you have falsely stated that you're eligible to vote you will be punished to the full extent of the law. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And then what process takes place in order to find out perhaps after the election has already taken place that that vote had already been cast and counted, what I the process for the registrar of voters then to look into whether this person has committed a disenfranchising crime and been stripped of their electoral privileges? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Like any other form of registration there is a list of convicted felons that they have access to. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the individual could still be found that they committed this crime but it would be a situation where it would be after the fact because they were able to register to vote on election day, cast their vote, and as previous statements made by you earlier there's no provisions in stopping that vote from being counted on that day when they count the rest of the votes.

So through you, Mr. Speaker. Is it a scenario where a felon who's been stripped of their electoral privileges could in fact vote-- have their vote counted and then deal with the consequences later on? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And honestly through the process now there-- that could occur as we are-- there's no guarantees that anything is caught within-- within the allotted times that are-- is in current law. But again the-- it seems like an awful heavy price to pay to vote-- to be able to pass your vote

like that. It is a serious crime. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it was, you know, it was a serious crime to kill somebody here in the State of Connecticut and be executed for it earlier but now we've stripped that moving forward but, you know to take that into account when someone who wants to vote, wants to vote I mean I don't know if that's considered a serious crime.

But a scenario where the registrar currently does not check in that seven day period before the election day-- they don't check that name against that list of felons currently? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that they-- they do or make every attempt but has something ever gone where somebody's gone through the-- slipped through the cracks? I suppose that's possible. Again once-- if you're a convicted felon and you've served

your time once you're-- once you're done with parole I believe you get to go back on the voter roll.

So I find it hard to believe that, you know somebody would put themselves at risk like that. I think there's tools in place and I'm satisfied with those. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And-- and who-- now in a scenario that potentially could happen under election day registration is if I was a nefarious character and I happened to be a registrar of voters and I wanted to be in on the plan to help bus people around in different polling places within a city or in different towns within the State and have them vote in each one of those places by registering to vote on the same day, what measures in this-- in this amendment, Mr. Speaker, through you, would prevent or would kind of oversee the activities of the registrar that they are in fact confirming the identification of these people and not just simply allowing them to register to vote and-- and going through the process? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think one of the great things that we have is that there are two registrars of voters in each office, one from each party and I think they provide a check and balance. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But previously mentioned on the floor here tonight on the debate of this amendment it was mentioned that it would only be election day registration at one location.

Now in polling places where there's multiple locations throughout the town the registrar of voters from one party could be at one location and the registrar of voters of the other-- of the other party could be at the one and then that scenario would be that there wouldn't be that check and balance at that election day registration location. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

No. I don't see it that way. Typically the registrars are in the registrar's office. You have the election moderators that oversee the individual polling places and, you know, as people come in-- as information is gathered depending on the-- excuse me-- depending on the-- like in my town there's six polling places so if someone came in and registered that-- that information could be directly transmitted to the moderator in that town stating that this person has come in to vote. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll move on to a different-- just a different concern I had with the bill and as far as the DMV and identification when voting. And it was brought earlier by the Representative from Weston in that it could be scenario where a noncitizen perhaps attempts to vote and by doing so they could use a driver's license from here in the State of Connecticut, provide a utility bill, other identification of who they are.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, is the-- is the kind Chairman aware of if DMV puts special markings on the driver's license or IDs in order to indicate whether someone is a noncitizen. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker. Could it be a scenario when then under the guise of being a citizen, using the driver's license, affirming that you are one, could a noncitizen then come in and vote by-- at a polling place and have the registrar of voters really have no mechanism in order to check that on the same day as election day registration? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm-- I don't believe that there's any differences as far as the protocol as to how we currently register to vote. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do see a major difference in the protocol in that you'd have to register to vote ahead of time and the registrar of voters would then be given the opportunity to check your driver's license number against the database and be able to make the decision that you are not a citizen when in fact under the is proposal in this amendment the election day registration would require them to-- to give you a ballot based on affirmation that you had a valid driver's license or ID and other various identifications.

So I do see a difference there. And through you, Mr. Speaker. If I was a illegal alien and I wanted to vote here in the State of Connecticut and I did have a utility bill or I did have some other identification indicating that-- that I lived here in the State of Connecticut and I used that as my affirmation that I

was in fact a bona fide resident of the town in which I seeked to vote.

What provisions in this amendment kind of stop that from happening on election day? Registrar with no other information other than the fact that they brought the proper identification in order to vote? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, you know I understand the question and there's-- the registration form clearly states that you have to swear that you are eligible to be a voter, that you're a citizen, that you live in the address, that you're of the proper age, that you're not, you know, currently a felon. So I think this is not any-- any different. Ultimately you will be found out if you try to commit this-- this fraud. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I think there is a significant difference between what the current

process is because if you are an illegal alien obviously you're already committing felonious acts within the State of Connecticut but not only that but you-- you know you most likely are using some kind of name that you don't necessarily-- is not your legal name perhaps or perhaps there's no way to track you down.

So you'd be able to go in, show this proof of address, get your election day registration ballot and be able to vote in that election without having any kind of recourse because there's really no way to track you down while if you had to register days before you'd be able to figure-- you'd have to fill out the registration. The registrar of voters would then use that and check it against databases and you'd be denied the right to vote or-- at the polling place because you are an illegal alien.

But another scenario that I thought kind of could be taking place under this amendment is a situation where somebody recently dies within a very short amount of time since the last time the voter rolls were purged which as we all know doesn't happen on a-- right, you know, the day of the registration or a couple-- or a couple days before the election. Sorry.

So if you were aware-- if you were keen to the idea that somebody had recently died, if you were able to access some sort of billing by perhaps going to their mailbox and removing a utility bill or something similar, use it as a proof of address and be able to go and vote for that person on election day under this amendment through election day registration? Through you, Mr. speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, that's a good question. I guess it brings to mind Chicago but the Secretary of State has requested to-- you know to check on these issues about people possibly voting that shouldn't be voting. And there's not been any real-- been found to be any real instances of this occurring but certainly something that we should be leery of and aware of and work-- continue to strive to make sure it doesn't happen. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And of course it's-- that's always a concern since I think the beginning of our representative democracy here in the State of Connecticut and in the United States. To a scenario that perhaps has not been discussed is actual suppression of vote through this processes within this amendment. Previously you had mentioned that if you wanted to vote and you had moved from another town and the registrar in the new town would call the old town and tell them that you're in fact in the new town and that you can't vote in the old town anymore.

If I wanted to suppress the vote, I could act as if I am the registrar, call the other town and tell them this person can't vote because they're here in Hartford voting. They can no longer vote in Enfield. And then the Enfield registrar would mark it-- that person as voting in Hartford and remove them from the roll.

So would it be a situation-- or is there anything in this amendment, through you, Mr. Speaker, that would perhaps offer some sort of identification for registrar to registrar communication or some kind of secure network that would prevent potential suppression of vote by indicating that somebody is

voting in a different town rather than the town that they're supposed to vote in? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware-- I'm sure there is some form that the registrars have to utilize to identify themselves but I'm not aware of it and that's an interesting one for me. I haven't heard that one. So I'll have to-- have to ponder that a little bit. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a scenario that could potentially take place in a very close election as we saw in many times especially say on a municipal election where it comes down to only a few votes in order to select an office or perhaps a State rep race where we see only a few votes happening. If somebody was keen to this scenario they could potentially take advantage of what's within this amendment and suppress

the vote again in a multi town district perhaps for State representative.

Thank you. Thank the kind Chairman of the GA committee for his answers. He's been quite thorough. And one of the concerns I have with this bill is that it's been talked about a reason to support it is because it's promoting voting more here in the State of Connecticut. It's promoting people to register to vote. It's promoting people actually voting.

But, you know if I can put on my political scientist hat I must say that you know it's a scenario where people kind of vote because they're seeking a reward. And the rational model of voting is that you don't vote just because it's the day to vote.

Most of the time you're voting because you're seeking something and you kind of look at the potential of your candidate winning against the benefits you would receive from that candidate winning and you kind of calculate it against the cost of going out and voting, you know, taking the time out of your day or waiting in line and then you kind of take into account your civic duty to do so. I think we all have that kind of feeling as well.

So I mean the idea that same day registration necessarily promotes more efficient or even more voting isn't necessarily true. And the Commission on Federal Election Reform actually found that if you have a scenario where the public faith is questioned, the integrity of the election is questioned it actually depresses voter turnout. And it's actually-- when the public faith is actually reinforced by stricter voter registration laws you have scenarios that encourage additional voting participation.

So we could have a scenario here in the State of Connecticut where we're sending the signal that anybody can come and vote and they can register the same day as election day and just vote however way they want.

We just found out that illegal aliens potentially could do it. We just found out you could go and act as if you're somebody who's-- who's dead and go and vote. We just found out you can suppress the vote. The integrity of it is kind of questioned so this idea of access versus integrity which is often found in tighter registration laws-- or loosening registration laws I think is certainly called into question on the integrity side of things and it could in fact have a

detrimental effect of people questioning the effectiveness of their vote and the way that that vote would actually lead to a better outcome for themselves because they simply don't believe that the vote is-- the level of integrity that is needed in order for their vote to actually count and mean something to them.

So, through you, Mr. Speaker. I won't be submitting-- supporting this amendment here today. And I-- if accepted and passed by the House here I would not be supporting the underlying bill as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

And I thank you, Representative Davis. Further on House A? Representative Adinolfi of the 103rd. You have the floor, Sir.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I have a-- just a few questions for the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, Sir.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. If an individual registers on election day and has a local college

address, they have to sign a statement that they did not vote by absentee ballot in their home state. That's in the bill. And a few days late we determine that that statement was not correct and a vote comes in as a tie or close and we find out that more of the same day registration were invalid and greater than the difference in the vote. Whom do we take the votes away from? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. You don't take the votes away.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

But-- through you, Mr. Speaker I-- what do you mean you don't take the votes away? You've proved that six votes were invalid. You leave them there and that means that somebody that lost the election by three votes and these six people that voted illegally voted for the other person, how do you know who to take these votes away from? You have to do something

when you find them invalid if you have a close election. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Well you won't-- he's right you won't know who they voted for but they'll be subject to persecution-- prosecution.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

We've had that-- through you, Mr. Speaker, we've had that happen in this Chamber a few years ago where we had a tie vote and in the recount the person won by one vote. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin, I believe.

REP. MORIN (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. I guess that that was the question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

I didn't hear the answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

You didn't ask a question, Sir. I don't believe but he did say that--

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Well can't I wait for an answer, Sir?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

His response was yes.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Yes to my question?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

I didn't hear a question and I don't believe Representative--

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

My question was who do we take the votes away from and the answer yes is not an answer. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That wasn't the question that was asked but I will answer that question that was answered two questions ago, I'm happy to answer it. We won't be taking -- you won't be taking the votes from anyone. The process is they

will be subject to prosecution for falsifying -- for falsifying their ballot. But there is no --

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Then the proponent of the Bill --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Adinolfi, please allow the Representative Morin to finish and then --

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

I'm sorry, I thought he was finished.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

When he's done -- when he's done I'll acknowledge you and we can continue in that vein, please.

Representative Morin, please continue.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, I guess I was -- I was finished, Mr. Speaker. I was just stating that there is nothing in place now nor will there under this legislation to take votes away. So we will in fact go after the people if they've been determined that they've fraudulently voted. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

And Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Then that means if you do that that an individual could lose an election that really won. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly going through that process through the -- there's a recount process. I suppose the gentleman could be correct. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is very serious and should be considered.

My next question would be, through you, Mr. Speaker, how do we prevent or verify that that the same-day registrations are not voting twice? Will we have a computer linked at every voting place in the United States?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. In Connecticut there is the centralized voter registrations -- voter registration system that will ensure that for Connecticut elections there will be that option. Again, as we talked previously, the -- the software that we're -- Secretary of State will be coming up with to help us communicate with states throughout the country certainly will -- will help as well. But right now it's strictly for Connecticut. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, another question and it was partially answered but I'll ask it. We have an agreement within our state to report registrations between municipalities. However, I don't believe there's an agreement between states. If we do come to an agreement with other states, how do we check out someone that registrars and votes at 6:00 a.m. in Connecticut and his former address is in California? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I suppose if it became a compact that all the states were -- were doing, there would have -- there would have to be a fully utilized United States wide voter registration system. I'd love to see that. I think it

Something that we're obviously -- we deal with in Connecticut. I think it's important that we try to look at ways to enhance that and maybe get involved with more states. But that's -- I think that's a long way off. I think that's a very cumbersome and -- and timely and costly project. But I think it's one that we're striving to with this language and I think as we -- in Section 11 we're trying to address to let the Secretary of State start to communicate with -- with other states. I think we're moving in a right direction. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Thank you. Through -- Mr. Speaker, through you, Mr. Speaker. Can an absentee ballot which a lot of people will be putting in and they put them in legally be recalled by the voter and then can that voter vote

on Election Day? Say he votes a month ahead of time and he decides that two weeks later they vote, the person he voted for got DUI or killed somebody in an accident and he doesn't want to vote for that person, could he recall his absentee ballot and then vote on Election Day? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The way I understand it is if you have in fact submitted an absentee ballot the only way you can get it recalled is if you go to the -- the Town Clerk's office before 10:00 a.m. and they would pull that ballot and shred it and then you would be able to vote. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

That's a good answer, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this Bill would lead to much abuse of voting rights and is impossible to monitor. To get a computer system working throughout the whole United States, I believe would take 10 years

to check every voter out. If you've been to the polls on Election Day, you see there are monitors there checking off lists, they're not computerized yet at every voting place in the state, no less throughout the country. Therefore I think this is impossible to enforce and therefore I will not support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Adinolfi.

Representative Wadsworth of the 21st District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple questions for the proponent of the Bill through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

Mr. Speaker, through you. I believe I heard earlier in the evening or more recently that each municipality is required to have one location for this activity? Is that -- is that true, through you, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Wadsworth.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

So as an example in my town we have four voting districts, so each voting district would not be required to have this facility set up in its location? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That's correct. The registrar will select one location only.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Wadsworth.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

And following that, would it be reasonable that the registrar of voters select their own office, if it's in a Town Hall, is that location? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Jumping the gun, I'm sorry. Through you, Mr. Speaker, that's very reasonable.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Wadsworth.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

And to have this system operational, is there any special equipment required that a municipality would have to purchase to be active with this?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Not that I know of.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Wadsworth.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

So again, is it reasonable to assume that the systems that are in place in the registrars of voters offices now could be the same systems used to access this system? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. For the most part the Representative is correct. The only -- I think that

we're dealing with now is the few locations that don't currently have computer access. But for the most part, you're correct. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Wadsworth.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, if the registrars of voters are active in other parts of town during the day it's my understanding that they can assign someone for the activity of registering same-day registration? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, that -- that's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Wadsworth.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

And in the event, unlikely as it may be that Internet access goes down during the day in any municipality throughout the State of Connecticut, is it acceptable to deny online voting given that possibility. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

I'm trying to make sure I understood correctly. We're talking about Election Day registration? I thought I heard online. Could you please clarify so I can answer correctly.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

The question was --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Wadsworth.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Through you, the question was if Internet access is down in any municipality so that they're unable to access the system, would online or same-day voter registration be unacceptable during those period of time?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

No, through you, Mr. Speaker, I mean it's like that with almost -- there are times when issues happen, whether it's power outage or whatever and if there's an issue the -- the registrars will have to, you know, handle the things as they normally -- as

they normally would through an emergency so is there an occasion where something could happen where they lost their connections? Absolutely, that could happen, but they would have to document it and make the appropriate changes. And again, if somebody comes in to register on that day, it's as simple as a phone call or if they had to send somebody down to the polling place. Again, some towns are only one voting district so it's not too complicated but towns with more polling places is certainly either a phone call or they could send somebody down to say, hey this person's already -- you know, we've got this list of people that came in to register to vote today that are applicable at this district, make sure they don't vote again.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Wadsworth.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And could I get a brief definition or explanation of Section 10 of this Amendment, Mr. Speaker, through you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The Secretary of State shall establish and maintain a system for online voter registration. That's -- we're looking for her to get that going so we can get online voters. You have to have an electronic signature in some form of state database to be considered. The State -- Secretary of State could use a state or federal agency database to cross-reference that data for verification purposes. And really it -- you can only use -- access such data for -- for to verify voter registration data. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Wadsworth.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

Thank you for that answer and through you, just to verify that. It's my understanding that section 10 allows the Secretary of State's office to access the database of any other state agency. And as examples, Department of Motor Vehicle, Department of Revenue Services, Department of Corrections, Department of Social Services, to verify information submitted by applicants of online voting for the day. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Wadsworth.

REP. WADSWORTH (21st):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the proponent for the answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, sir.

From the Borough of Naugatuck, Representative Rebimbas of the 70th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good evening.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good evening, madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

A few questions to the proponent of the Bill, for clarification purposes. So through you, Mr. Speaker, if the proponent can just clarify for me a little bit about just the student ID. As I read it, if the student who is over the age of 18 but is a student who has a photo ID and it has the person's name and photo, they would still be required to provide some type of

second form of identification of exactly, of an address. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Unless of course they had the address on the ID, but she's -- the good lady is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, I'm just thinking of the situation where possibly a student could be kicked out of school. So if you have a photo ID and you don't have a date on your photo as to when you were a registered student at that school, but you have a valid utility bill, let's say, for example with the address within 30 days, but the student was kicked out of school and actually has left but just chose not to leave the town, what process do we have in place to prove that the student's actually able to vote at that particular district? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again it's -- it's -- you're stating -- you're swearing or affirming that you are the person that you say you are, that you're -- you are eligible to vote and you're subject to -- to prosecution if you try to circumvent that. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

I think throughout the questioning of this evening we've identified some serious concerns and issues that certainly have already arisen and will continue to arise in the proposed legislation. And although I could respect and highly encourage the integrity of preserving one's right to vote when they are actually eligible to, but I kind of feel like my rights are being stepped upon because I want to make sure that my right to vote is not being diminished by others who should not be voting and I don't think this legislation to my satisfaction has proven that. And if anything it's highlighted the serious concerns that we have. In looking and just following up to the

response that was received that the student and or many of the other scenarios that we've had that they're going to be signing something saying that they're eligible to vote. As I look at the statements and the affirmation, certainly in number two it says I am eligible to vote, but what really does that mean to the person who's signing this? Nowhere in here does it say that the person has to be, for example, a U.S. citizen. No where do I see in here does it have to say that the person wasn't convicted of a felony. So if someone who is taking it upon themselves to possibly -- to be conducting fraud reads this and truly believes that they would be eligible because they know no better, because it doesn't say otherwise, in what way is this preventing or properly informing the person of what the -- criteria for being eligible to vote would be. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I would say look on line 93 of the Amendment which states the information on my voter registration is correct and complete. In referencing back to the voter registration card, there

are numerous areas that state exactly what the criteria is to get -- have the right to vote. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

And just to follow up on that, let's say, for example, that they actually do sign those documents and they've actually provided a phone bill that has their name -- well actually let me take that back because if they're committing fraud it wouldn't be their name. Let's say that they show up to register on the same day, I've signed this affirmation, I've signed the other document that was pointed out, and I have a utility bill in my hand and let's say specifically a phone bill that says John Doe with a specific address. I present myself and I say I'm John Doe, this is my address, sure, I'll sign those documents, now let me go vote. Later on, real John Doe goes home, gets his photo ID, shows up to the same polling location with a photo ID and goes up to the person and says I'm here to vote. Well, Mr. John Doe, do you have a photo ID or any other identification? Certainly, I have my photo ID, here you go, John Doe

and AB and C Street, I've lived there for five years. I'm looking forward to voting. Well, Mr. John Doe, unfortunately we can't let you vote because we already have you as having voted. Really? How could that be? Just got out of work, rushed right over to exercise my right to vote, this cannot be correct. How is John Doe and/or let's say the Secretary of State that would be investigating this, how do you identify the person who fraudulently voted with your utility bill previously? How do you identify that person if there's no way of doing so? Through you, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin. Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think Election Day registration requires you to have some form of ID, some form -- two forms of ID that actually state who you are. And ultimately if there is somebody that does fraudulently vote we -- again, it will be turned over to the authorities and they will be prosecuted when they're -- when they're caught. There is -- there is rules in place right now when you register to vote currently you just need one of those IDs. This is going to make it a little stronger.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the response. But I would certainly respectfully disagree to say that this piece of legislation is going to make it stronger. This is same day, this is not seven days in advance, certified card being sent to your address, this is same day. I don't see where the strength is. The strength is guaranteeing that person who's going to fraudulently vote that the likelihood of them actually being caught and caught in time to make a difference in this election is highly unlikely. And I understand we have an investigation component and prosecution possibly. But if you can't find the person, you're not going to prosecute them. There is absolutely no way of finding this perpetrator who just voted on my behalf because hopefully hundreds of people, if not thousands of people will be going to the polling location, that poor person who registered them is not going to remember what they looked like. There's no photo ID for them having to be able to compare if John Doe is actually John Doe. There's no one to prosecute. Why do we have a provision regarding prosecuting if we can't even prosecute?

It's virtually impossible and we're certainly highlighted all the many ways that this could be done and unfortunately too easy. I do have concerns regarding this piece of legislation as there's many other things that we have to show a photo ID in order to exercise, not only in the State of Connecticut but throughout the United States. If we want to travel overseas or out of the country we must show a photo ID. If we register as a student at any higher educational institution we have to have a photo ID. I think it's very important to identify the importance of being able to, again, provide some justification as to who the persons are that's taking the time to vote and preserve the other person's right to vote in that regard.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if there was a utility bill that was provided that has the person's name misspelled, would the registrar of voters person, the person who's taking the identification be allowed to ask for a third form of ID? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure that it's specified but I would say the intent would be yes. Would have to be matching identification and matching information provided. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just following up on the fiscal impact, can the proponent of the bill again highlight what the fiscal impact what the fiscal impact would be to not only the local municipalities but the state in the -- implementation of this Amendment? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The impact to the -- from the state aspect to the Secretary of State's office I believe the fiscal impact is about $250,000 and there have already been some general obligation bonds approved and there's some federal grants so the secretary of State's office feels that they can take care of this online registration system within those means. And as far as the municipalities, we looked at

-- and I think it was alluded to previously the cost. They currently use -- utilize for Election Day workers and we talked about how on the presidential ballot we've seen an increase of basically two percent of the voters increasing. So utilizing those numbers there would be a little bit of an increase for the municipalities but really not much more then what they're seeing right now. And I think that one of the things -- I'm glad you brought that up because one of the things obviously we're going to encourage is right now the registrars have the ability to go out and reach out and get people registered to vote as much as they can and we're certainly -- encourage them to utilize those -- those skills even more and go to, you know, any of the universities and really take a proactive role. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I want to thank the gentleman for his responses. I do have a strong concern regarding this piece of legislation that's before us for so many of the reasons that have already been highlighted this evening. Certainly, I think,

the fiscal impact is a large one and each town unfortunately will be different because whether it's a phone line, a computer system or additional hands on board, if we're going to preserve the integrity, we need to do it right and unfortunately what's before us is not doing it right because I do unfortunately believe that this certainly allowing for much fraud in the voting situation and system here and a very costly one for our municipalities of which they can't take more of the burden. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative.

Further on House "A"?

Representative Shaban of the 135th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few quick questions, if I may, to the proponent of the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, sir. Through you. I want to just make sure that I understand some of the hypotheticals we've run out and make sure I haven't missed any here.

Under this Amendment as proposed, could let's say a fraternity house at a college, one guy says, you know, I'll vote and the other 50 guys say I don't want to vote, but me X or give me X or whatever, they could sell their vote to one person who then theoretically could use a utility bill or a student ID or some piece of paper and use -- basically vote for the other 50, 51 folks. The hypothetical question, if you understand me, through you, am I missing something? Am I wrong?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well besides that it's a felony, I think the good Representative needs to know that when you go to vote you have to give that ID, you have to prove who you are and have a backup stating, you know, who you -- where you live. So I'm not quite sure how that would work, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Well, thank you. You know, through you I mean, if everyone lives at the same frat house, they all

have the same address, theoretically they all could have the same utility bill. It doesn't even have to be a frat house, can be ten guys living in a house. I know some folks talked about this before. But let me move on.

The problem I have and the next question is focused on the close of balloting. If the polls close at 8:00 in your town and I think that's generally the case, a busload of guys, people, whomever, show up 10 to 8:00. Have their affidavit, have some utility bills. What is the registrar to do with ten minutes left? You know, 50 guys walk in the door saying I am who I am, I am who I say I am, I'm here to vote. Do they hold the polls open until they make the 50 phone calls? How does that work? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It's no different than what happens if 50 people show up to their polling place, there's an election official that will get at the end of the line to ensure that nobody else comes in after the allotted time at 8:00 o'clock and on this one, sir, of course as they go through their -- the

towns the registrars will have brought in workers based on, as we've talked about before they -- what's happened in the presidential ballot and the people would be serviced in the same mode. They would -- they would have to verify who they were and go through the process of voting. But yes, there would be someone at the end of that line to ensure that nobody else joined in, but yet every person that wants to vote will have that opportunity. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Well it is different though, isn't it? Because now if 50 people show up at 10 to 8:00 their names better be on the list or they're not going to vote. Under this Amendment, 50 people show up at 10 to 8:00, they're not on any list if they show up to vote. So through you and I -- the gentleman may have answered me, I just want to make sure I heard it. Is it you cut them off and it -- the registrar's going to do whatever it needs to get done to make sure those 50 people are legitimate? I.e. if it takes two hours, they're going to vote at 10:00 o'clock however no one

else is let in the door at 8:00 o'clock. Is that what -- is that how this is going to work? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

What if -- thank you, sir.

So then you can't -- you can't close your -- you can't close your -- you can't close the vote and you can't certify the vote I guess until every phone call has been returned and every Web site has been checked under this Bill. Is that how this is going to play out? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly they're going to make every attempt to -- to reach out to their registrars, but that's why we did strike -- I think it's lines 60 to 66 because that's not necessarily workable so what's going to happen is they are going to make their attempts. If they don't get in touch with somebody, it's going to be handled just

like a regular registration, they're going to be mailed a card and if the person sends it back with the right information and they verify that the person was a voter that's great. But it's going to be handled throughout the process until 10:00 o'clock or 11:00 o'clock and right now the votes aren't certified until -- there might be a polling place that has a machine issue that has to go through and the moderators have to go through and through. So I mean that part of it is not different. I heard what you said before, Representative. Certainly this is a different process, that's the whole idea of this -- of this Bill because this is different. This is getting more people, this Amendment rather, getting more people the opportunity to vote. But there will be -- as long as you're in line at 8:00 o'clock you will be serviced. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll I guess that's -- and thank you for the response. That clears up a little bit of the confusion. I mean I guess the -- one of the problems I have which among the others that

you already heard is what do you do with a vote that's been certified and then a day later, two days later, three days later you find out well guess what? A couple of guys got past the goalie. You know, it's a busy day, it's Election Day, the registrars have been there all day, they're tired, who knows what their energy level is and a couple of folks got past the goalie and they cast an invalid vote or they voted twice or they're not on the roll they said they were, they aren't who they say they were. Whoever, one person, two persons, 10 people. What if any is the process to adjust that certification if a day later -- and let me go more specifically, I think it's under Section I, says, you know, after acceptance of an Election Day registration we're going to mail you a card that says, hey, thank you for registering. But here it is right in the own statute which is somewhat disconcerting, if a confirmation notice is returned undeliverable, well what do you do then? It's returned undeliverable, how could that happen, we just went through the -- everyone made a phone call, we checked the Web site. How could it be possible that the card's being returned undeliverable. Now it obviously could be a typo, I understand that. But my

issue is if a registration is returned undeliverable or if it's found out a day or two days or three days later that some votes did get past the system, is the vote uncertified and recounted? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No, and I just would like to comment that looking at the other states that have this method of voting and registering to vote on Election Day, there's been no history of widespread fraud or people trying to take advantage of the system. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Well, thank you. And I'm glad to hear that because, you know, that really goes to what my final point will be. I mean we've already heard from one of the Representatives here tonight that if used improperly, I'm not saying anyone's going to do this, but this system could create the possibility of suppressing votes. Somebody, a group of people make a coordinated effort to cast ballots on behalf of folks

who they are not in one town in order to knock them off the ballot in the other town. Well a day or two later, by the time all this is figured out, well guess what, people who aren't -- who are not who they say they were voted and the people who are who they would have been -- been able to vote have not voted. So you could actually use it as a suppression method as much as folks like to view this only as a way to get people in the system.

But the corruption is the issue. I mean any student of history, student of law, student of legislation realizes that everything in this room, everything we do as a society, at least for the last 220, 30-some-odd years, is all based on a confidence level. It's on a perception of confidence by the people that we represent and live with and work for, a perception of confidence that our legal system is going to do roughly what it says it's going to do, that our monetary system is going to work, roughly the way we think it's going to work and that our elections are fair. If that confidence starts to get eroded, eroded, well then our society's going to start to erode. And I fear that this, while well intentioned at some levels, is taking a step in the wrong

direction by eroding confidence in our elections. All we're asking for is give it some time, take a week. Let's make sure folks are who they say they are. I mean, you can't get -- you can't buy -- you can't buy certain pieces of merchandise unless you present IDs. You can't present -- you can't buy cigarettes unless you present some ID says who you say you are. You can't register to do other things, drive, whatever else, unless you prove, who, you know, you are who you are. Here, we're eroding confidence in a fundamental tenet of who we are as a people. And with that, I can't support the Bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Shaban.

Further on House "A"?

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make sure -- I don't think I was clear. When this roll is taken -- vote is taken, I'd appreciate a roll call vote.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Are you requesting that when the vote is taken that it be taken by roll?

REP. MORIN (28th):

Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please, do so.

REP. MORIN (28th):

I'm requesting that the vote be taken and to be taken by roll.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The request before the Chamber is that when this vote is taken, it be taken by roll call. I'll try your minds on that. All those in favor of having a roll call vote on this House "A", please indicate by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Requisite 20 percent has been met. When the vote is taken it shall be taken by roll machine tally.

Further on House "A"? Further on House "A"? If not, staff and guests please retire to the Well of the House, members take your 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

House Amendment Schedule "A" by roll call, members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Now that the (inaudible) is intact, have all members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all members have voted, machine will be locked. Will the Clerk please take a tally. And would the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5024, House Amendment "A".

Total number voting	145
Necessary for adoption	73
Those voting Yea	86
Those voting Nay	59
Absent and not voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

House "A" is adopted.

Further on the Bill as amended? Further on the Bill as amended?

Representative Cafero, the distinguished Minority Leader, you have the floor.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a few questions to the through you to the proponent of the Bill as amended.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Morin, you must forgive me, it's waning days, there's a lot going on so I might be asking a question that was asked. If so, please admonish me for that. But through you, Mr. Speaker, I guess the biggest thing that does not sit well with me is the whole fraud issue. And you've discussed that here and my concern is, hypothetically, and I know there's been hypotheticals thrown around. If a student from the state of Virginia, for the sake of argument, is attending the University of Connecticut and like many students they have voted by absentee ballot in their home district. And now it's Election Day and of course they're up here at school, there's no break, they didn't have a chance to go home, they live back, and maybe they're part of the young whatever club and it's a contested election, it's a hot election, it's an exciting election and people want to vote for their

particular candidate, whomever that might be, in droves. So they tell this kid from Virginia and maybe a couple of more, come on, you can register today and vote again and he does that. First of all, if he were to register -- let's assume for the sake of argument he's at the University of Connecticut, through you Mr. Speaker, where would he be able to register under this Bill? To register to vote on Election Day?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. If I'm understanding correctly, would he be able to register in Connecticut or Virginia or what physical place in Connecticut. I just want to make sure I understand correctly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

What physical place in Connecticut if he's attending the University of Connecticut at Storrs. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

I apologize, Mr. Speaker, through you. At the local polling -- at the local registrar's office in his community. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So he goes to the local registrar's office, he registers that day and what does he need to prove? Let's say he does not have a driver's license, all he has is his student identification or papers that show that he lives in Hilltop or some dorm at the University of Connecticut. Would that be sufficient enough for him to register to vote? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Boy, I'm jumping the gun, excuse me. Through you, Mr. Speaker. If he had his school ID, as long -- if it had his picture and the address -- he's got to have something that dictates his address, physical address, along with his name and such. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I assume he has to sign something that says that this is the only place he's registered to vote. Would that be correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. On the registration form, it's the form that he's only registered to vote in Connecticut. I think one of the great things that we're looking at within -- kind of going off is on the new software system that the Secretary of State's looking forward to share -- to share information with the other states so we can actually have better information to ensure that he's not registered in voting in Virginia and Connecticut. But right now we're issuing strictly Connecticut matter. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. And so through -- in my hypothetical, this little devil lies, he actually voted by absentee ballot in Virginia, but he's so moved by the moment of Election Day, the fervor, he goes to the local registrar in Storrs, he shows his student ID and he registers to vote and then he goes to the polling place and he votes. Is there anything in this law that would prohibit that from happening? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And again, I appreciate the question. I think though in that particular situation that could happen today if you registered under the criteria a week before or whatever, the young person probably could vote by absentee ballot in Virginia and register to vote here. I think we -- our -- registrars will be making that phone call trying to confirm based on the information provided if they have that opportunity. You know, if he says he previously registered somewhere else. But you're right, if he comes in and says he's from the University of Connecticut and he has his college ID

and a -- you know, a bill from the university stating that the address is there, I don't know that there's any way we can stop that because I think frankly it happens now, or it could happen now, I don't know that it does. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Well you see there's a difference, there's a difference, here's the difference. Currently there might be a little chilling effect on said kid doing such thing because he's got about seven days and maybe he might thing, geez, if I register, even though I voted in Virginia, they've got seven days to find me out. But if I do it on Election Day, they got no time. They have no time to check me out. So let's assume for the sake of argument under my hypothetical that a week later they find, aha, this little rascal actually voted by absentee ballot at his home in Virginia and also cast a ballot in person in Connecticut. What happens to that guy? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Well, based -- through you, Mr. Speaker. Under penalty of law he's sworn -- when he goes to register he's going to swear or confirm that he is who he is, that he's -- all the information is true and if he's found to have fraudulently voted he will be subject to the penalties which we discussed a little earlier.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

And what about his vote? Through you, Mr. Speaker. What happens to that? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

I waited this time. Through you, Mr. Speaker. As discussed, there is no -- nothing that will happen to that vote, it will be counted.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen, we've heard all about that the purpose of this Bill is

not to disenfranchise voters but to encourage them to vote. Well I would submit to you that when my vote legitimately cast gets nullified by a vote illegitimately cast, my right to vote is being infringed upon. My right to vote and my effective voting is being infringed upon because in my hypothetical, maybe that didn't happen once, maybe it happened five, 10, 15, 20, 50 times and maybe not at just one college campus or one polling place, but many polling places. And maybe it turned an election. Maybe it turned an election for state rep or state senator or congress or the presidency of the United States or governor or some other office. What about my rights? The little brat from Virginia might get in big trouble, although with all due respect, I wouldn't hold my breath for this kid being in jail or anything, wouldn't hold my breath. And with all due respect, not too confident they're going to follow through to see if Junior who voted and registered on Election Day voted somewhere else. Could be wrong, not too confident about that. But what we know up front, what we know up front is even if that vote is proven illegal, it still counts. So what happened to my vote that was legal? What happened to my vote that was

legal? You know, with a period of time between registration and Election Day, whether it's true or not at least there's that specter in someone's mind that boy if I'm really lying here they've got about a week to check up on me. And if in fact we did check up on them, we could do something about it. Not when it happens on Election Day. Doesn't work that way.

You know, especially, especially after the last election in 2010 when whether true or not there were widespread allegations of fraud, when there was a stain on our State of Connecticut and its election system for even a little bit, why would we do this? Why would we do this when by -- with all due respect to Representative Morin, the mechanics of the Bill itself actually could encourage fraud. And by the way fraud that would be, one, very hard to detect and by Representative Morin's own admission impossible to reverse the effects thereof. Impossible. Oh, yes, Junior might get in trouble, again, wouldn't hold my breath, but he just infringed on our rights to vote. And when you have a system that allows this with no check or very little check, you don't even have to have a license. You come up with a photo ID or your book bill or some freaking thing that has your address

on it and you're cool. Sign and go in, vote. On Election Day, ladies and gentlemen. Do we really believe in our hearts of hearts that there's a whole group of disenfranchised people out there who less than seven days before the election said oh, if I only registered, I'd be at that poll right now. But I'm being shut out. I had all year to register and I waited till now, poor me. Give me a break. Give me a break.

Since I was four years old I knew Election Day was the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. You want to vote, you've got to register. We give you up to about a week beforehand. If you can't get it done then wait until next year, pal. Wait till next year. At very least it would be one thing if, as was said, where there was confusion, I didn't get it in the mail, I forgot, and you do what was done with a provisional ballot, set it aside at least so upon verification we could let it count or not. We don't even do that here. You want to cheat, you want to rig an election, you want to do fraud? Oh, you might get in trouble, but your vote's going to count. Your vote's going to count. You know, disenfranchisement works both ways. It works both

ways. You know, we even have in legislative bodies, you cancel each other's vote out. If two people have to go, you're on opposite sides of an issue and you both leave they figure that's fair because you're cancelling out that vote. Well, I don't want the potential of my vote being cancelled out by someone who votes illegally. And quite frankly, I don't give a damn if they get in a lot of trouble, yes, they should, but that's not going to help me any. That doesn't make my vote any stronger. I'm being disenfranchised. Whatever happened to that? Whatever happened to the thousands upon thousands of people that did it the right way, that registered in advance, that prove where they live, that go on Election Day because they feel it's their duty to do so, their right to do so and they vote. Why should their vote be cancelled out by the potential of fraud because we have scores and scores of people waiting at the voting booth who are turned away because they didn't register? Come on, folks. We're all in the business. We stand by the polls every day, every year, it doesn't happen that way. If we're going to incent people to vote and get more people in the process, this isn't the way to do it. And if we're going to

look at our constituents and say have faith in the results of an election, don't question it, we've done everything in our power to make sure it's honest and fair, this isn't the way to do it. Remember disenfranchisement works both ways. Why should our votes be nullified by those who do -- thinks illegally? They shouldn't. That's my concern with this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Cafero.

Further on the Bill as amended? Further on the Bill as amended?

Might I remind you that the Bill as amended is the same as House "A" and that instead of reiterating all of the questions we had on House "A" I'd appreciate some fresh questioning or perhaps other activities -- perhaps Representative Hwang would have something to do with -- of the 134th, you have the floor, sir.

Representative, hit your button one more time, leave it down, I think we've got you.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will do my best.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

All righty.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Madam Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, it is -- sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Yes, sir? Do you have something in mind?

REP. HWANG (134th):

Yes, the Clerk has an amendment, it is LCO 4266. Would you please ask the Clerk to call it and I be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

May the Clerk please call LCO 4266 which shall be designated House Amendment Schedule "B".

THE CLERK:

LCO 4266, House "B" offered by Representative Hwang.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good Representative begs leave of the Chamber to summarize. Objection to summarization? Is there objection?

Representative Smith, do you object to summarization. No you do not, okay.

Without -- without objection, please proceed, sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LCO 4266 is obviously based on the -- the current Amendment "A" and it requires that Election Day registration occurs at the same place where absentee ballots are returned, i.e. potentially the Town Clerk's office. The idea is to create a centralized location. The Bill requires one location. It is our Amendment's intent to direct it to the Town Clerk where absentee ballots are counted to create a streamline as well as an efficient management of the ballots. And then when the vote is taken I ask the vote be taken by roll call, sir.

I move for adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Ah. We need those magic words.

REP. HWANG (134th):

I'm getting better. I'm getting better.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

And furthermore you had an additional request, sir?

REP. HWANG (134th):

Yes. I asked when this vote is taken it be taken by roll call.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Let me try the Chamber's minds. All those in favor of a roll call on this issue, House "B", please indicate by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The requisite 20 percent has been met. When the vote is taken it shall be taken by roll call machine tally.

Representative Hwang, further on this House "B"?

REP. HWANG (134th):

Yes, sir. Thank you, sir. Through you, I think the Amendment is intended to streamline the process as we mentioned earlier and to allow a opportunity for -- for people and within the organization, within our towns that have familiarity with the absentee ballots to be able to help in this process. I think the validation question is something that is extremely important as we talk about this voting process and I would encourage that we move for adoption of this.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House "B". Will you remark further on House "B"?

Representative Morin of the 28th on House "B".

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I appreciate the spirit. I believe I cannot support this Amendment. Right now we're putting it into place allowing the registrars to make the determination which area would be best suited as the registrars are responsible for the -- for the registering of voters and I think this -- while they could determine, frankly they could determine that the clerk's office is the best spot, it certainly is not something that I want to mandate. I want to allow the registrars to determine what would be the most efficient way for them to deal with potential voters. So with that I would urge rejection of this Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Morin.

Further on House "B"? Further on House "B"?

Representative Carter of the 2nd District, you have the floor.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

I'm waiting to speak on the Bill, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter, you have the floor on House "B".

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was waiting to speak on the underlying Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Okay, please remove your name.

Representative Lawrence Miller of the 122nd on House "B".

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the proponent of the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Quite often our computers here at the Capitol when you're -- it's a busy day they work very slowly. What happens if there's a glitch with the computer system that the registrars are supposed to be using to verify information? What will that do to the person who's attempting to vote that day and register that day? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Miller. And you'd like to direct this to the proponent of House "B", Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That's a great question. I think as much as we love the idea of Internet connectivity right now, there are issues, there are logistics, there are problems with outdated software and I think you're absolutely right, it creates a serious problem as it relates to -- if someone wants to register and we have vaulted and we have promoted the vaulted election registration system and if it doesn't work, all the pressure is on that exact day. And personally I am extremely concerned that it is going to be chaos and it is going to have an impact on Election Day. Our Amendment is that if that should ever happen, if this is adopted into law, that we have a location where the Town Clerk who has handled absentee ballots, who has had some experience who can be an alternative, you know, Internet or connectivity or computer resource, they can step right in and help facilitate the important process of registering these voters. If you are at a different location, the fact of the matter is you don't have an

alternative back-up, you don't have a system in place that can remedy a very important issue of registering people to vote. And I respect when I mentioned earlier that, you know, the registered voters have been empowered with this decision. May I add that, you know, through testimonies and their input, the registered voters throughout the state of Connecticut have addressed this issue has a unfunded mandate of a significance that is not properly calculated. So the fact of the matter is, you're right, we have to be concerned about the legitimacy of this, the effectiveness of this, but also the registrar of voters who, in fact, have to apply this, who do this every election cycle. The fact of the matter is they have come out and raised questions on this issue as an organization is something that this lobby -- this Body should hear and be should hear and be sensitive to. Through you, sir.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Thank you for that answer and another question through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Miller.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

If the system just goes down, what happens? Through you, Mr. Speaker. The system is completely gone, it's down and --

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

You don't have the floor yet, sir. One moment, please.

Representative Miller, you're on House "B"?

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It's a possibility, isn't it? And I don't know if our municipalities, all 169, have back-up systems to accommodate that sudden power outage. The fact of the matter is there are a lot of what-ifs to make everything happen on that same day, if anything was to happen in one of our 169 towns, the fact of the matter is we don't know the answer, we don't know how we're going to accommodate it, but we're going to pass this into law and that's a serious concern. Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Miller.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

If we have -- several years, well -- a couple elections ago we had a lot of problems in the Town of Stratford. A van pulled up with 12 people in, it was like a half hour before the voting was going to stop and it just created a real hazard for the people who were in the office working because some of these individuals were -- well, they weren't drunk but they had a few pops and they were not very cooperative and they just wanted to do their thing and get their pack of cigarettes and go. So what happens if somebody does come in and because the computers are slow or break down and this guy comes -- becomes a little belligerent saying that he wants a vote and is saying that he wants to vote and I don't care what the computers are doing, and he starts to give the

registrars or their designee a hard time? What would happen at that point? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Miller, once again, we'd like to keep this conversation and questioning to House "B". And I don't see the relevance here but I'll let Representative Hwang answer. Thank you.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you. Through you. And, you know, it could happen, but I think that the more important factor is, in any situation. If there is a -- a long day or if it's somebody that they know or if there's a degree of comfort or, you know, in the chaos of all the people who are coming through the door on an election that may have special interests. You know what? Perhaps the registrar doesn't check, the registrar doesn't make that phone call that they should. That's understandable in some cases because of all the craziness. But the fact of the matter is that I asked the Chair of the GE Committee earlier in our question is what recourse do we have? How do we verify that the registrar's are doing that? What safeguards do we have to ensure that we are asking people to do the things they should. And the worst case that we're

talking about that has been reiterated over and over and over again is the fact if somebody didn't do their job to safeguard the sanctity of a vote, and if in fact it is an invalid or an illegal vote, it's still going to be counted. So that's a concern and that's why, obviously, we're trying to make a -- a Bill that I'm heavily concerned about a little bit better every step of the way, so. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Miller.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

I thank the Representative for his answers and I thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Not at all, Representative Miller. You'll have another bite at the apple as the Bill comes up as amended for final --

Representative Betts of the 78th on House "B".

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly I just would like to -- give my support to this Bill and do it for very obvious reason. If we're trying to get people to come out and vote, and a lot of people sometimes don't know where they're supposed to vote

and they may leave it towards the end of the day and they're redirected to the wrong place, they become very frustrated and they can also just run out of time to vote. I think in terms of -- from a voter's perspective it makes much more sense to let everybody know well in advance where you should go to register on that day. And the most logical place that anybody would be referred to or would look up to find out where they should vote would be at the Town Clerk's office. So if our goal is to try and make it easier and simpler and more efficient to have people vote on -- register to vote on Election Day, I think this Amendment meets that goal and that's the reason why I'm supporting it. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Betts.

Representative Kupchick of the 132nd, you have the floor, madam. Representative Kupchick, there we go. Please proceed, madam.

REP. KUPCHICK (132nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this Amendment because to me it makes complete sense. I've worked at the polls for probably the last almost

20 years on Election Day and I have seen registrars of voters dealing with all kinds of things that come up, candidates coming too close to the polling location, people who think they're supposed to be on the -- registration forms and aren't on the registration forms, problems with the machines not working, spitting our ballots, all sorts of things that are happening. In my town there are 10 polling locations and the registrar is running from polling location to polling location putting out fires, dealing with problems that are happening all day long. I cannot imagine how my town registrars are going to be able to handle an influx of people under this Bill. It makes complete sense to have them come to one location where the town clerk and other people who are deputized that day to handle these same-day registrations. It just makes complete sense. It's fair, it's fair to your registrars. I mean just imagine you're going to go home and tell your registrars they're going to have to deal with additional problem on Election Day. It makes sense if we're going to have same-day registration which I still don't think is the appropriate thing to do, we should at least have one location where it should be happening. Because if

you're not registered to vote then you don't know where to go. You don't know which school you vote at because you're not registered. So it would make sense to have it at the town hall or the library, wherever it's designated for that town. So I would think that everyone would support this Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Madam.

Representative Carter of the second, I see you've changed your mind on House "B".

Oh, okay. Representative Lavielle of the 143rd on House "B", you have the floor.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could just ask a question to Representative Hwang on the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

You may, madam, please proceed.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you so much. My question is as I read the original Bill or the amended Bill, it seems to me that you could actually, without this Amendment, end up having as many polling places as you've always had plus the Town Clerk's office plus some other place

where the dame-day registration ballots are delivered and registration is executed and then the ballots are delivered. Am I correct, without the Amendment? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No, the Bill has been pretty clear, has a clarification that it is at one location, that is determined by the registrar of voters. But you raise a very good question in regards to appropriate number of ballots. As we recollect in Bridgeport we had a question of enough ballots. With all due respect, the fact of the matter is we are looking at an unknown universe of a new law that is going to take place. We have not given any guidelines and any offering of support other than the OFA analysis just of a hiring of a new poll worker. The fact as at a centralized location what if there was an influx of new voters and that we ran out of ballots? And how do we accommodate that? And we've already had that issue. So again, the logistics, if you really quantify that and you're looking at the potential of mass chaos. But again, as we talked about earlier, as

we talked about the current system allows you to put things into a provisional ballot, allows you to set things aside to say, hey, let's vet this through. But unfortunately this Bill would count that vote and put that into a decision-making process whether it's valid or not. OS the fact of the matter is, you're right, to answer it is at one location, but as we talked about earlier, this Bill is fraught with logistical concerns that have been raised by many registrar of voters who do the practice, who do it day in and day out of handling elections. Those are the people that are saying you really don't understand what we have to do with Election Day registration and I simply don't think we're listening to them. Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

I thank Representative Hwang for that answer and it is -- this is a very good reason why I support this Amendment. The Bill itself goes on further to say that the registrar of voters may delegate responsibilities to the person who is in charge of Election Day registration and that could entail anything and Representative Hwang raises the point

that for example that person who is quite new to this might find him or herself confronted with a -- no ballots when there's high demand, just about anything that could arise and if you're in some isolated location I can't imagine that that would serve the voters very well in that district and not cause chaos. So I think that the premise behind this Amendment that the location where Election day registration is carried out is somewhere central where people are used to going and where there is some mastery of the subject from all angles is absolutely a good idea and I stand in complete support of this Amendment. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Elaine O'Brien of the 61st district, from the Barn Door Hills, you have the floor, madam.

REP. O'BRIEN (61st):

Thank you. I would like to offer some clarification on the way I read this Amendment. And I would like to reassure the people in the Chamber here that the registrars of voters are perfectly capable of designating deputy registrars or assistant registrars

to assist them in the vote -- the same-day registration process. And part of that process does involve access to the central voter registration system which is available in the registrar's office of almost every town in the state of Connecticut. And so they would need that access in order to complete the same-day registration. Now there could be cases where the registrar of voters is located in the same location as the Town Clerk's office where they may share space. In that case you would have that additional help from the Town Clerk's office. But I would like everyone to be reassured that the registrars that we have elected here in Connecticut are quite capable of fulfilling their duties on Election Day. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative O'Brien.

Further on House "B"?

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, I would like to be able to respond and add to it. And through you to Representative O Brien, I agree. I think our registrars do a great job and I'm fairly confident that they will be able to do

it. But the issue at hand is the unfunded costs that would be applied. We do not have a true measure. The fact of the matter is as different registrars have said, the costs could range from 3,000 to unforeseen numbers if there are ballot shortages and things to that effect. So I have every confidence to follow up that the registrars of voters do a great job, but they themselves as an organization have come out and spoken against this issue and that is what needs to be heard is the fact they can do the job, but have we provided the proper funds and resources to allow them to do their job properly? Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you.

Further on House "B"? Further on House "B"?

If not, staff and guests please retire to the Well of the House, members take your 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 House Amendment Schedule "B" by roll call, members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all members have voted, machine will be locked. Will the Clerk please take a tally? And would the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5024, House Amendment "B".

Total number voting	140
Necessary for passage	71
Those voting Yea	52
Those voting Nay	88
Absent and not voting	11

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

House "B" is defeated.

Further on the Bill as amended? Further on this Bill as amended by House "A"?

Representative Carter of the Second District, you have the floor, sir, again.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I know we've been looking forward to having me up in front of you one more time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Indeed. Please proceed, sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

I just wanted to take the opportunity to make a final few comments. Obviously when we were talking so much about the students and how that there's so much ability out there that this would be rife with fraud or have issues, I took it upon myself to do that very quick Internet and try to figure out how if I were a interesting -- or I should say an interested student how I might want to defraud the -- defraud the program myself. So I went on there and it told me, you know, the best thing that I could do is I could go out and I could just make myself a phone bill or a Comcast bill and I could register to vote wherever I want, as many times as I want and I could vote absentee in my place back home. So I assure you it didn't take me very long while my Minority Leader was speaking in the time that he was speaking I was able to whip out myself a Verizon phone bill complete with my Minority Leader's name and my speaker's address. Now this is a -- this is from a somewhat computer illiterate, you know, middle-aged guy, I can imagine if a student did it that they would at least have it in color. Mine is black and white but I assure you that with my colleagues, the few I've shown it to, it looks like a

great reproduction of a phone bill that is complete and I could take to vote at anywhere in the great state of Connecticut as this legislation moves forward. You know, the bottom line, folks, is we're -- we're being accused of if we oppose this Bill as not coming into the 21st Century. Well I'll tell you what, if we vote for this Bill, we're going backwards. We're taking a system right now and we're making it worse and we're making it more right for people to stick their nose in it and create problems. With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Carter.

Representative Hetherington of the 125th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clear that we're going to rely more on punishment now or the threat of punishment to assure of an honest elections. Since we're eliminating the traditional safeguards, not provisional ballots, eliminating the usual requirements for registration, if you register online. No even affirmation of citizenship. So if we're going

to rely entirely on penalizing the offender, although I'd rather have an honest election than an imprisoned felon, I think we ought to do all we can to make sure that we are tough on those who would commit fraud. And with that in mind, the Clerk has in his possession LCO Number 3887. I ask that it be called and then I be permitted to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Would the Clerk please call LCO 3887 which shall be designated House Amendment Schedule "C".

THE CLERK:

LCO 3887, House "C" offered by Representative Hwang.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good Representative begs leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection for summarization? Do all sides have the Amendment? I believe there -- they've been distributed.

Representative Hetherington, seeing no objection to summarization please proceed, sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment is very straightforward. It deals with three categories of offenses, three offenses which are now offenses under

the law. Fraudulently offering yourself to vote when you're not eligible to vote, a fraudulent manner of procuring someone else to do the same. Or second going to a polling place and committing fraud by falsely attesting to age, identity, residence, whatever. And the third thing is to actually vote, to cast a vote, a fraudulent vote and each of these three offenses would carry enhanced penalties. They're all offenses now under the law, but the first, that is offering one's self to cast a fraudulent vote or procuring someone else to do the same becomes a class E felony. Wrongly, falsely affirming as to one's qualifications and eligibility to vote, would be a class C felony. And actually casting a vote, casting a vote which is a fraudulent vote would be a class D felony. So these, as I said, this is very straightforward, it takes offenses which are now recognized in law and enhances the penalty. And I move adoption and I would ask that when the vote is taken it be taken by role. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The -- we have in effect two motions here. I'll try the one regarding the roll call first. Would all

those in favor of having a roll call on this House "C" please indicate by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The 20-percent threshold has been met. When a vote is taken it shall be taken by roll call machine tally.

Further on House "C".

Representative Lavielle of the 143rd on House "C".

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If I may a question to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

You surely may, madam, please proceed.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you. And through you, what is the maximum penalty for a class C and a class D felony then besides the disenfranchisement?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Either could be -- could result in imprisonment for at least one year.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you. And are there provisions for making sure that voters are informed of the extent of these penalties? Through you, Mr. Speaker, whoever you may be.

(Deputy Speaker Ryan in the Chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Well since the -- since the actual substance of the offense in each case is the same as it is now, and since we're going to rely on our prosecution of fraud to assure an honest election, I have to believe that we are highly confident that voters are -- already know the penalties and the crimes. And so I think that giving then an additional disincentive with an enhanced penalty we would expect to be publicized by

the Office of the Secretary of State and others who are concerned with the -- with administering honest elections. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you. And is the disenfranchisement permanent in either or both of these cases? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It would be unless the vote were restored by the appropriate procedures that now exist to restore the votes to a convicted felon. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you very much. I must agree with Representative Hetherington that unfortunately this Bill does put us in the position of relying heavily on pursuing instance of fraud and reinforcing the penalties because there's precious little other

incentive for voters to tell the truth in this process and should they be so disinclined. And therefore I find I must stand in very strong support of this Amendment and urge others to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Labriola of the 131st.

REP. LABRIOLA (131st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the Amendment because it addresses the very real issue of fraud that's been raised today. I think we run the risk of collectively putting our heads in the sand and acting as though there hasn't been numerous instances of fraud both in this country and in Connecticut. And, you know, sometimes the word fraud is just too weak of a word. We're talking about criminal activity in a deliberate attempt to steal, to rig an election and to raise the penalties as this amendment does I think is appropriate. In American history we can look to so many examples to where elections were attempted to be stolen or historians even now debate whether there actually was voter fraud in Lyndon Johnson's campaigns, first two campaigns for United States Senate. Certainly many irregularities were alleged.

The presidential election of 1960, the sort of mythic quality of whether or not there was vote rigging in Illinois and Texas. Here in Connecticut we've had numerous examples. In 1986, in Waterbury in the gubernatorial delegate primary between Bill O'Neill and Toby Moffett, many people were arrested, people went to jail for voter fraud. So we're talking about something that's quite real and the idea that states that -- we don't see any fraud -- allegations of fraud, it's just not true that we don't have reports of fraud. It's just not true. And we heard testimony, some people who advocate on behalf of this -- the underlying Bill talked about how we don't have a history of that in Connecticut but we do, of course we do. There have been so many instances in history, in both America and in this state, we just had it in New Haven in the Aldermanic election just a few weeks ago we had allegations of fraud. And as alluded to earlier today in the gubernatorial election in the City of Bridgeport, does anybody really have confidence that we got the vote right in Bridgeport? Does anybody really think that that happened because we know that there were rampant irregularities in the City of Bridgeport. So we're talking about a very

real threat and it's almost impossible to detect this fraud and we know that there will be almost no prosecutions for this fraud, this deliberate criminal activity, attempted stealing of elections. And we know that it will not or cannot be reversed, that courts so rarely, almost never overturn an election. So if we can't do anything about the underlying fraud, at least we can raise the penalties for those who actually are caught. So for those reasons I support the Amendment. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Miller of the 122nd.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of questions to the proponent of the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir, you have the floor.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if the registrar -- registrar of voters allows some people to vote even though he knows they shouldn't be voting, would he be subject to the same penalty in this Amendment? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

It's my opinion that the registrar would be and that would be the case now under the provisions of law.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The underlying Bill doesn't really specify what a registrar would be fined or how he would be fined. I don't know, is that true? Maybe I missed it. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Well the law as it stands now deals with persons in various parts, it deals with persons who are involved with election fraud. It doesn't necessarily mean a voter alone. Not just a voter but anybody who facilitates or commits an act of fraud and I would -- I would conclude that that includes an election official.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Miller.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Thank you. I just had a comment. After every election there's always something in the paper about

one state or another having had fraud committed, people who shouldn't be voting or voted two or three times. It's always noted in the newspaper in every -- not in every state but just about almost any state, right here in Connecticut. And mistakes are made sometimes, like in Bridgeport, they forgot to order the right amount of ballots and people were disenfranchised because they couldn't get a ballot and, you know, it was a circus in Bridgeport, there were so many people waiting to vote. And the Secretary of State had to go down there and straighten out the mess which probably took a few hours. So I would support this Amendment, I think it's a good Amendment. We want to make sure that people have the ability to vote, we want to get more people to vote, however, we want to do it legally so that these fines are critical to make sure that people obey the law. So I would advise the Chamber to please vote for this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Morin of the 28th.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you. Good evening, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak on -- on the Amendment.

I would ask my colleagues to not support this Amendment. I think we have safeguards in place as far as penalties in the context of Election Day registration we are talking about fraudulent voting, it's already a felony class D and you could get up to five years in jail and disenfranchisement, which is a mouthful for as long as a judge sees fit. And fraudulent registration is perjury. and perjury is a class D felony so I think for those matters we have proper penalties in place and I appreciate the proponent's Amendment but I would certainly ask for all of you to vote against it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Yaccarini -- excuse me, Yaccarino of the 87th.

REP. YACCARINO (87th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this Amendment. For one, it's our most precious right and this gives the signal that you will be fined immediately and it should be -- this -- we protect people, we make laws in this Chamber. We should be

protecting our most precious right and that's the right to vote. We should take it serious and I support this Amendment. It makes all the sense in the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on the Amendment before us? Will you remark further on the Amendment before us.

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House, will the members please take your seats, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call, members to the Chamber. The House is taking a roll call vote on House Amendment "C" by roll call, members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5024, House Amendment "C".

Total number voting	142
Necessary for Adoption	72
Those voting Yea	53

Those voting Nay 89

Absent and not voting 9

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Amendment fails.

Will you remark further on the Bill as amended?

Will you remark further on the Bill as amended?

REP. MOLGANO (144th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Good evening.

REP. MOLGANO (144th):

Mr. Speaker, we heard the Bill as amended designates central locations to process same-day voter registrations. We heard registrars of voters may appoint additional election officials to serve at these locations. We also heard registrars must supervise these added officials. Knowing all these new roles and responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has in his possession an Amendment, it is LCO Number 3975. Will you please ask the Clerk to call it and I be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 3875 which will be designated House Amendment "D".

THE CLERK:

LCO 3875, House "D" offered by Representative Molgano.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the Amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection?

Hearing none, Representative Molgano, you can proceed with summarization.

REP. MOLGANO (144th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this Amendment allows the municipal offices of City or Town Clerk, registrars of voters and personnel directly associated with these offices the ability to vote by absentee ballot. Mr. Speaker, I move for adoption of the amendment and ask that when the vote is taken that it be taken by roll call.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule "D". And we've also had a request that when the vote be taken it be taken by roll. All those in favor of taking the vote by roll signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

I believe the required 20 percent has been met. Will you remark further on the Amendment.

Representative Molgano.

REP. MOLGANO (144th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The jobs of City or Town Clerk, registrars of voters and personnel directly associated with these offices are critical on Election Day. Without the ability to vote by absentee ballot these people must vacate their positions to cast their votes at their home voting precincts. Many must travel a considerable distance. With Election Day imposing the greatest demand on these offices including the same-day registration process we're debating tonight, it would serve all Connecticut cities and towns well to keep these people at their stations. Voting by absentee ballot would do this.

Mr. Speaker, this Amendment would simply add to the list of those allowed to vote by absentee ballot a group of people who have legitimate reasons to be allowed this capability. I ask my colleagues to

support this Amendment in providing Connecticut City or Town Clerks, registrars of voters and personnel directly associated with these offices this necessary professional courtesy. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you remark further on the Amendment? Representative Morin of the 28th.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to speak on the Amendment, again I'm going to ask my colleagues and urge them to vote against this Amendment. I think we kind of addressed this a short couple weeks ago when we did House Joint Resolution 2, the Constitutional Amendment. I think if we would have garnered the votes three-quarters of this Chamber and three-quarters of the Senate we could have actually done what this Amendment says right with that. But since we didn't and we're going to have the pleasure of bringing it up again next year hopefully, we're not going to be able to address these -- the needs of this Amendment. This is -- all these things that are brought forth are the qualifications of who can get an absentee ballot are written into the Constitution so

either we would have to do a new joint resolution for a new Constitutional amendment or wait until after the public approves it. Hopefully that occurs and we can propose a bill as a legislative change.

So I do appreciate the spirit with which the Amendment was brought but I would urge us to reject. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the Amendment?

Representative Rebimbas of the 70th.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I am rising in support of the Amendment and I actually didn't expect to get up in support of the Amendment because I thought for certain this would be an Amendment that everyone would support. I think the proponent of the underlying Legislation said that this is -- needs of this Amendment. So if we need this Amendment and it was proclaimed and proposed earlier something that would address the situation, I thought we would all support it. I guess I'm a little surprised that we're not supporting an amendment that was similarly proposed that's been actually stated

that it's needed, so what are we waiting for? Why are we going to wait for 2003 -- 2013 if this piece of Legislation that's before us is going to take effect in 2013? Why are we going to wait for session 2013 to propose something, have it go through the committee meetings if it's something that we all support now? Let's support it. I stand and ask my colleagues to support this piece -- Amendment that's before us to make the underlying bill that much better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Betts of the 78th.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too also rise for what I think is a -- a very common-sense approach. I happened to talk to a couple of registrars in our district. They anticipate a very, very busy day obviously, they have a lot of responsibilities that day. And as Representative Molgano has said, I think this is a courtesy that we should extend to them given the increased responsibilities they're going to be having at a very, very busy time. So to be very truthful, I would not

understand any reason for not supporting these folks who have a great deal of responsibility on Election Day and I'd ask everybody here to consider what their registrar of voters and other people effective with the election would like. I'm sure they would appreciate our effort if we did this. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Molgano, did you want to address the Chamber again?

REP. MOLGANO (144th):

No, thank you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

All right.

Will you remark further on the Amendment before us? Will you remark further on the Amendment before us?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House, will the members please take your seats, and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

House Amendment Schedule "D" by roll call, members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if their vote is properly cast. If all members have voted the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5024, House Amendment "D".

Total number voting	142
Necessary for Adoption	71
Those voting Yea	50
Those voting Nay	91
Absent and not voting	10

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Amendment fails.

Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as amended?

Representative Adinolfi of the 103rd.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like a one short question on the Bill to the proponent through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

I just want to understand if I understand this correctly, through you, Mr. Speaker. If somebody registers on Election Day at the Town Clerk's office, say they live in Cheshire, my town, but they lived in Southington prior to that, does the registrar of voters then get in touch with Southington to see if they voted already? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. They certainly can and that is an -- something that we would encourage to do that they do make -- make an attempt to make that call. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is will every voting place, the monitors at the door or at the entrance have to have a computer or a laptop so they can keep in touch with the Town Clerk's office back and forth or with the other towns? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No, all this is going to be taking place through the respective registrars and just like any other issue the registrars are in contact with the -- the moderators of each district. So we will, to try to clarify this, these issues will be taking place in one succinct location that the town, preferably the registrars determined, so people would go in to register on Election Day in one location and then they certainly would contact their moderator of the appropriate district that the person would deem to be eligible to vote in and put their name in to make sure that they didn't show up at that district and vote again. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I -- my question really was will they -- will each voting place require to have a computer there or a laptop or a router or something to keep -- constantly keep in touch with the Town Clerk's office. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

No, no.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

I didn't hear his answer, I'm sorry. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, no.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Thank you, that was my question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Adinolfi. Thank you, sir.

Representative Hwang of the 134th.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have been debating for the past four hours and talking about Election Day registration, the validity of it, the intent of it, I recognize obviously that there is a rationale for it. And as we've been offering some of these amendments, the idea is to make the Bill better. And I hope that this body will consider that in that vein.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an Amendment, it is LCO 4261. Would you ask the Clerk to call it and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 4261, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "E".

THE CLERK:

LCO 4261, House "E" offered by Representative Hwang.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the Amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection?

Hearing none, Representative Hwang, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LCO 4261 eliminates a requirement that the Election Day registration ballots be counted on Election Day. This Amendment will require that the registrars send the registration confirmation letters that they verify the information contained in the EDR registration before submitting an amended return. Literally, the provisional ballot. The registrar will have 10 days to complete this. As we shared earlier, the fact that we are simply eliminating provisional ballots in our electoral process is something that I'm extremely uncomfortable to ensure that if there are invalid, and in cases as we've said, potentially illegal votes that are cast on that Election Day, there is really no recourse because we are counting that vote. So I hope that we will consider a provisional ballot has a balancing point and if not a checking point to ensure that the vote that is cast is a valid one and it is not not counting those votes, we are simply making sure that it is a valid vote. And I would offer that this Chamber -- and I would encourage that we take a step and -- and ensure the validity and the sanctity of the vote. So I seek the support of this Chamber. Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative would you please move for adoption of the Amendment, please.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Yes, I'm sorry. I move for adoption of this Amendment and I ask when this is voted on that it be a roll call vote. Please, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule "E". And he's also asked that we have a roll call vote. All those in favor of a roll call vote signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

I believe the 20 percent has been met and when the vote will be taken it will be taken by roll.

Will you remark further on the Amendment? Will you remark further on the Amendment?

Representative Hetherington of the 125th.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge in strong support of this amendment. It makes complete sense. If we're going to provide a means for verifying an election day registration by sending out a letter and waiting for

it to come back or not to come back to determine whether or not the address given by the registrant is -- is authentic, there's really no reason at all not to -- not to hold the ballot until we know that it is validly cast. The alternative is to have the ballot cast on the day of election when we are not given the assurance that we would have if we simply count it as a provisional ballot. The alternative is to simply let it be and the vote is over, the vote is in and any potential damage is done. So there's really no -- there's no downside to this. Absolutely none. So I would strongly urge that we do preserve the provisional ballot which we've used in the past and that we go forward on that basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you remark further on the Amendment?

Representative Lavielle of the 143rd.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too rise in strong support of this Amendment. It seems to me to achieve an excellent compromise because it continues to offer the type of access to registration that the

underlying bill offers, while at the same time allowing that very valuable commodity we discussed earlier today which is time. Time is the thing that the registrars don't have on the day of the election to actually verify the eligibility of the people who are trying to register. So this provides that time and allows for there to be much less risk in the consequences of providing the access on the day. So I would urge everyone in the Chamber to support it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you.

Representative Shaban of the 135th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise in support of this Amendment. It -- something Representative Hwang said a little while ago, I hope didn't just get lost in the clutter. The vote is essentially in, I mean unless there's a sea change in opinions, he's trying to make the Bill better and this Amendment -- solves almost all the problems that you've heard with this Bill. I mean it makes everybody happy. It promotes registration, it allows people to say oops, today's

the Election Day, let me go -- let me go get registered and vote while I'm there. It promotes certainly because it allows the registrars a little bit more time to make sure the folks who did so they can clear the phone calls, clear the checks and do everything they need to do and most importantly it promotes confidence. It promotes confidence in our election system. So this -- this shouldn't be a -- this one is not partisan. This is let's everybody be happy, let's make the Bill better and vote in favor of this Amendment. Thank you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Kupchick of the 132nd.

REP. KUPCHICK (132nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this Bill. Earlier Representative Morin was asked by a Representative about what would happen if we found out some people came to vote who weren't supposed to vote, who fraudulently voted? What would then happen if the election was one or two votes spread? And how would we then find out how those people voted? What would we do?

And the answer from the Representative was we do nothing, we cannot do anything about it. And this would clearly, clearly be able to protect the integrity of an election and make everyone feel safe and secure that the election has some integrity. So please, I would hope that we would at least support this amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you.

Representative Sawyer of the 55th.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Mr. Speaker, I figured out one advantage to being old. Mr. Speaker, I figured out that with being old, sometimes, you remember things about Election Day and some of those Election Days when you were young. In the early 1980s, Mr. Speaker, Connecticut had such a black mark it was known across the country because of the voter fraud. And the joke about voting from the cemetery was legendary. Mr. Speaker, we also remember, those of us that again that are old remember problems when certain ballot boxes went missing.

Mr. Speaker, we also remember, and if you talk to some of the old timers that there's a certain person who ran for municipal election and suddenly there were

16 people who voted at one address and a piece of property that he owned. We had another instance if you remember thinking back on some of that voter fraud where people voted and he went back and it was a number of people, Mr. Speaker and they went back and they voted and it was in a vacant lot. There was no house there, Mr. Speaker. These are absentee ballot issues, some of them. The ballot box missing, that was huge. The stories about having the obituary page and they had saved them up so people could go and vote under assumed names. Ladies and gentlemen, for 30 years we have been fighting for clean elections. And if you don't remember those stories you call your local newspaper and ask them to look back in the archives, try '83, '84 and '85. Try '86, try '93, and you will find those issues of voter fraud.

If you look carefully at this amendment, it has the protections that you're looking for for the underlying Bill so that we do not take back -- a step back into time and head back to a time when people can say I'm voting, here I am, and have same-day voting, have those votes count and then we go back later and find out that they didn't live there? We have students that could use an ID and they shouldn't be

allowed to vote and they did? That's why this Amendment, Mr. Speaker, is so very important and I certainly hope that we will take a time and a reflection back on our history on Connecticut's past, on Connecticut's embarrassing past when it came to voter fraud. This is a kind of Amendment that is the protection. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Morin of the 28th.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple comments on this Amendment. Reading through in subsection (i) about halfway down it says the registrars of voters shall verify and count all Election Day registration ballots in their town not later than 10 days after the election or primary. And I guess what I would say and my reason for not supporting this Amendment is that's -- that language is clearly inconsistent with our recount procedures as far as recounts have to be done within five days. And I think this is the type -- this Amendment, while I'm sure well-intentioned, will result in disenfranchisement and people not feeling

good about this. So I -- again, I urge rejection of this Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Srinivasan of the 31st.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of this Amendment. We all appreciate the sanctity of our vote. As a first-generation immigrant to be sworn in and knowing that I can participate along with my wife is a moment that I will never forget. A moment I will always cherish. And for me to feel that that particular privilege that we have earned, some by birth and some by having come in here to this country and immigrated legally right now is being threatened. We live in an imperfect world, we all know that, and what we are trying to do unless we go with this amendment is contribute to that imperfection by giving that one week, seven days of grace period for those votes to be looked at, tabulated, and make sure that they're not fraudulent is something that will make sure as a very articulate Representative Sawyer said just a few moments ago that we do not go back in history. Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

and I urge all my colleagues to support this Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Christopher Davis of the 57th.

REP. CHRISTOPHER DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of this Amendment. We learned earlier during the discussion of the Amendment that later became the underlying bill that -- that illegal aliens could vote and have their vote counted and then we could find out that they were illegal aliens and that they shouldn't have voted. We found out that if you knew somebody died you could go vote as that person, have their vote counted and then we can later find out that that person was dead, their vote shouldn't have counted, but hey, you know what, that vote counted.

As the fine Representative from Bethel noted, you can make up your own utility bill or any other bill for that matter, go down to the voting place and vote in all 169 towns if you drove around with a fraudulent name and a different utility bill in each one of those towns and vote, have your vote counted and then nothing would happen because you used a fraudulent

name, they'd never be able to track you sown. What this Bill does is finds that perfect combination of access to the ballot and integrity of the vote. It says that yes you can vote on -- you can register to vote and vote on election day but we're going to make sure that you can actually be eligible to vote before we count your vote. And I think it's that perfect balance between access and integrity that maintains the current system that we have, makes voting more accessible for people that fail to register on time and then makes sure that the integrity of our vote is maintained. So thank you, Mr. Speaker and I stand in strong support of this amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Hwang, sis you want to speak again? Please proceed, sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the second time.

I think, as we've talked about this debate and was -- we've engaged amendments, we have seen a pattern of party lines evolve. But I would ask my colleagues to think, to really think that the potential of improper vote counting can cut both ways.

The fact of the matter is, plain and simple, if we do not have a provisional ballot mechanism to ensure that the votes that are suspect, the fact of the matter is if -- when you run for an election, for any of us at any time, the fact of the matter is you could have lost by two votes and as Representative Aldinolfi, Representative Al said, you know, the fact is if you have lost by two votes and you have suspicions and you have concerns, the fact of the matter is with this Bill you will have zero. You will have zero recourse because there are no other ways to validate the ballot that's been cast. So I would caution in this Chamber it is not a partisan issue, it is our right to vote and that fact of the matter is an illegal vote is an illegal vote whether it affects a Democrat or Republican and that I am simply asking that we put a provision in there that will protect, that if there is any vote that is suspect that we put it aside. It will be counted, but the fact of the matter is let us make sure that it is valid. Why, I ask why? Why are we in such a hurry to get rid of the provisional ballot status that has served us well in questionable ballots? It is not an admission of -- of wrongdoing or guilt. The fact of the matter is why don't we set

that aside and validate it? Why are we in such a hurry to completely illuminate a provision that we have put in place to ensure our votes are proper. So I would ask the Chamber to consider and recognize what we're voting on here is going to impact all of us and that it cuts both ways and if it goes against you with this current statute, you will have no recourse and that is unfortunate. That is not what our democratic system has set up for us to represent. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on the Amendment? Will you remark further on the Amendment?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House, will the members please take your 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 House Amendment Schedule "E" by roll call, members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will the members please check the board to determine if their vote is properly cast. If your

vote is properly cast, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5024, House Amendment "E".

Total number voting	141
Necessary for Adoption	71
Those voting Yea	51
Those voting Nay	90
Absent and not voting	10

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Amendment fails.

Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as amended?

Representative Aman of the 14th.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the last several hours we've heard from the proponents of this Bill that is will solve many problems, they're sure there's not going to be any fraud, it's going to increase the people for election, all sorts of wonderful reasons why this Bill is necessary. With that in mind I do have a few questions for the proponent of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, to the proponents, under this Bill will the same-day registration work for elections for the towns that do their budget as a town budget vote or on a referendum question? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe this is for elections for, you know, municipal elections, state elections and, you know, other elections. I am not -- I don't believe so but I certainly will check. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, on the same token, is it covered by special elections that's called by the Governor for -- in our case we have an election coming up for a probate judge who passed away? Or for someone from the General Assembly who for some reason left office and the Governor calls for a special election? Would you be

able to vote on those on the day of election? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):.

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'm -- I believe the gentleman is correct, but I certainly will find out, be 100-percent sure.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

That leads me to the -- probably the most important question that I do have that was -- I've been leading up to. As most of us know, within the cities especially, the real election is the primary. The November election is very often a meaningless exercise, the decision is made in August or September at the time of the primary. So knowing that this Bill is supposed to increase participation, reduce fraud, have many very good reasons, through you, Mr. Speaker, can you vote in a primary and register on the day of the election? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No to primaries. It does not go into effect for primaries.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

That also was my reading of it and I know you're not allowed as a Representative intentions or the reasons. But if I'm looking at what has happened as far as ballot fraud, election fraud, it seems to me from my knowledge of Connecticut history that most of the problems have been in the primaries, in the nominations, in the elections for town committee members within the cities where most of the problems have occurred. And yet this Bill is very, very craftily written to exempt those special occasions, those occasions when the real decisions of who the elected officials are. So I think it was not unintentional that it was written this way because the language is too exact. And for this and other reasons I would not be able to support the Bill, but I would like the voters of Connecticut to know that in the primary election which is the real election in the State of Connecticut many, many times, the Bill that

is so good is not going to cover. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Hwang of the 134th.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to call an amendment. It is LCO 4271. Would you please ask the Clerk to call it and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 4271 which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "F".

THE CLERK:

LCO 4271, House "F" offered by Representative Hwang.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the Amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection? Hearing none, Representative Hwang, you may summarize the Amendment.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LCO 4271 requires photo ID for Election Day registration and provides that the DMV provide the ID free of charge and the cost of the

free ID would be covered by a 10-percent reduction in the Citizens Elections Program grants. Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule "F". Will you remark further on the Amendment?

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Yes, I'd like to ask when the vote is taken it be taken by roll call, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question is on having the vote taken by roll when the vote is taken. All those in favor signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The required 20 percent has been met, when the vote is taken it will be taken by roll.

Will you remark further on the Amendment?

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Yes, sir, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Amendment requires that -- Election Day registration -- applicants to submit a U.S. government or state-issue ID. And it -- it is, again, as I said before, a complement to the Election Day registration concerns that we have. We're trying to make this Bill better by complementing things that would reassure the voter and the *populous of this Election Day registration fraught with the risk and concerns that we have, is offered by a mechanism that said, look, we can prevent potential intent of fraud or illegal voting by having a photo ID and we recognize that there is a thought that this is a disenfranchisement of a segment of our community, potentially the seniors and the -- the economically disadvantaged. But I offer that as Representative Cafero had said earlier, the fact that to disenfranchise the intent of a valid voter is something that is equally disingenuous in this whole election process. And as a result, we are looking to resolve that question by offering to provide that these IDs are covered by a reduction from the Citizens Elections Program grant.

Now these are precedents that's been set by the state. The Department of Social Services in statute

requires that in order to qualify for social services that the applicant need to present a photo ID. That is currently in statute. Not for those that do not have photo ID, they are then referred to a social worker who are able to help them get a photo ID to qualify for the services. We are following after that model. We are looking to make sure that anyone who chooses to want to vote that they have an opportunity to get a photo ID to complement the registration process on the day of the election and it makes us feel a little bit better about the uncertainty of Election Day registration. I ask that we support this as a complement to this Bill. So -- and in the past, I think we want to look at the fiscal note of this. Last year there were 77,232 non-driver IDs that were obtained at a fee of $22.50 per person. This resulted in an annual revenue of 1.7 million plus and if all non-driver IDs were free and no fees were charged, the fiscal note that was placed on this amendment would be about 1.7 million plus. Also last fiscal year there were 45,511 non-driver IDs obtained at no cost because the fees were waived.

Non-driver IDs are waived for the following reasons. If an applicant is of a homeless shelter who

provides a proof of residency from an authorized shelter or transitional house located in Connecticut, the applicant must fill out a specific form, B-230, signed by a official from the shelter or housing location. Another example is a blind veteran who provides a certificate of blindness form from the board of education and services for the blind and that indicates that they have also been honorably discharged.

So as you can see, Mr. Speaker, we have provisions in our state. We have provisions in statutes and social services that provides photo ID. We're simply asking that that be extended to the election process. So I urge this Chamber to approve this, to make Election Day registration a better law, one that is -- that is respected in the electoral process. Thank you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Floren of the 149th, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. FLOREN (149th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of this common sense amendment. Photo identification

is required to board an airplane, to register at a hotel, to cash a check at your very own bank, to enter a government building or a courthouse, and even to apply for a senior discount ticket at a movie house, and boy do I love it when I get carded for that.

There's absolutely no hardship involved with any of these ordinary, everyday transaction requirements and I think protecting the sanctity of the vote is every bit as important and necessary. Please join me in supporting this Amendment. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Shaban of the 135th.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on that same line of thought, what we were -- when I was considering this Amendment, I just sket ceterahed out a quick list of things we require photo IDs for. Representative Hwang has already spoken about the social services part of it so that's probably the most compelling. We require a photo ID to buy tobacco, obviously to drive, we require a photo ID for different functions at UConn whether it's to get a meal or do something else, obviously we require a

photo ID to buy beer or go into a bar. We require a photo ID in some towns to buy spray paint, we require it to buy cold medicine, you want to get a Sudafed or the good Sudafed, you've got to present a photo ID to get it. We need one for fireworks, we now need -- most kids need -- well all kids need a photo ID for the SAT exam. Why? Identity fraud. SAT exam. We need it to get certified mail. We need it to get a library card. And the last two that popped into my head I thought were kind of telling, if I want to play golf in the towns of Stamford or Norwalk and I know this because I tried and was turned away -- and get the in-town greens fees, you need a photo ID. You can't just present a utility bill, you need a utility bill and a photo ID. If you want to buy fertilizer in the state of Connecticut you need to present a photo ID.

Now this Amendment, not only is it common sense, you know, we try and draw moral equivalence all the time in this Chamber, I think at a minimum we should draw an equivalent between voting and buying fertilizer, or voting and playing golf. So let's do the common sense thing, let's do the smart thing,

we'll have same-day registration but just let's make sure it's legit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Christopher Davis of the 57th District.

REP. CHRISTOPHER DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in strong support of this -- this measure and this Amendment. I mean we see that in -- in 2008, Indiana passes the strictest identification bill in the country. It was upheld by the United States Supreme Court and what did they see in 2008? Their voter turnout actually went up. Do you know why? Because people actually wanted to vote, it wasn't a disenfranchisement issue. People were still able to vote and vote in record numbers in Indiana after passing a photo identification bill. Over 100 different countries around the world require photo identification and we all or most of us have see that disturbing video from the District of Columbia where an individual went and tried to vote as United States Attorney General, Eric Holder, in the Democratic primary earlier this month and was offered a ballot by only having to affirm that he was Eric

Holder even after offering to show identification that would have proved that he was not.

So I think this amendment makes total sense to require voter identification -- photo identification in order to vote on Election Day when you're registering that day. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Miller, Larry Miller of the 122nd.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of questions of the proponent of the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Hwang, prepare yourself.

Representative Miller.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I know you mentioned homeless centers. I have a few of them in my district. Quite often there's people who have cards from these homeless shelters because they have beds that are reserved in their name. You have a 25- or 30-bed unit operation they might give them a card to show that they have bed number 12. Would that suffice for them to vote in the primary or in an election? It

may not be a photo but it's a document that says who they are, where they are and where they live. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the first question is an important one because our Amendment reflects an intent and a desire to -- to reach out and to ensure that everyone in our state has an opportunity should they want to vote. And make this photo ID program available to them. And I think taking that money out of the Citizens Elections Program is a good match. The idea of being able to say to someone the idea that, you know, if we have one less bumper sticker and one less mailing to our constituents to be able to allow the people to vote. To provide a proper venue and a photo identification that they could use for many other things in addition to voting. As elaborated by Representative Shaban, the fact is we are giving them an identification to be able to use to do many other things. It's a value added so I thing the idea of being able to provide

that and as part of our services in our community is something that is -- that is important.

The second part you raise a very good point, that the Election Day registration statute does not apply to primaries. And -- and I beg the question on that. You know, if we're making it uniform application as we have in looking at presidential, federal, state and potential town elections, why not primaries? Why are they excluded? You know? In certain urban areas where, or in certain communities where a majority party rule, in some cases primaries are the general elections but we don't implement that. I find that exception to be quite intriguing. Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Miller.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one more question, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, go ahead.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

We have a lot of undocumented workers in the state of Connecticut who have driver's licenses and a

photo and they have a residence where they can get a bill from the electric company, the gas company, wherever. If they go to a voting -- to the registrar's office to vote and they neglect to tell them they're citizens, a letter -- you know, they will probably be allowed to vote. And then when that letter goes out, you know, 10 days after, it will go to that address and they will get it. How will we police that kind of a situation? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, and I think again that is an excellent question. As I have mentioned before, obviously the statute is about Election Day registration and through our number of amendments we are simply looking to make this Bill better. We are trying to address the concerns of a fraudulent vote or a unknowingly illegal vote. The fact of the matter that you cited as an example, truly, if somebody is undocumented and they decide to vote, the fact of the matter is if that vote is cast and it's bound to be invalid, it would have still counted. And I think

Representative Lavielle's statement about her husband being a green card resident, look, he's gainfully employed in this state, he's contributing, but he is a green card holder and not a citizen. He could bring a utility bill within 30 days and show up at the polling location and inadvertently, maybe if somebody coming from a country that is not as versed in elections decides I feel like voting today, they would cast that vote. And sure enough, sure enough, that vote, again, I hate to sound like a broken record but the fact of the matter is that vote counts. And we have zero recourse. Again, I respectfully defer to the fact that we are trying to make this bill better, to protect the sanctity of the vote. And I thank you for your question. Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Miller.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Yes, one final question and it is -- be the final one. In the City of New Haven, and I mean no disrespect to the Representatives from New Haven, but the mayor there has given out special cards to allow them to do things in the city as though they were

legal, non -- you know, illegal -- legal residents of the city. Does that impact this at all in any way? They will have a license because they drive cars, they have an address, they have employment and they have bills for their utilities? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I obviously cannot speak for the city of New Haven, I'm sure they have their unique set of challenges and I respect the great work of Legislators from that community. You know, it raised a very important question. You know, what is their roll in the electoral process? And what is their role in our community? And I think that is also obviously a federal debate in regards to immigration and thinks to that effect and the applicability of it. So to answer that question, you know what? I'm really not sure. But I can also reaffirm to you that in the City of New Haven they have an Elm City resident card which contains a photo ID. In addition to serving as a identification card, the Elm City resident card has multiple uses. People use it as a library card, they use it to provide municipal services and sites and I'm

not sure if they have a golf course, but maybe Representative Shaban can go play golf there as well. But I think the key is, as you point out New Haven, New Haven is a town has seen it fit to issue photo ID to all of its employ -- all of its residents to ensure that they have proper access to community services and programs. Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Miller.

REP. LAWRENCE MILLER (122nd):

Yes, I want to thank the Representative for his answers and I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir. Representative D'Amelio from the 71st.

REP. D'AMELIO (71st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good evening to you.

I rise in strong support of the Amendment that's before us. I think it's a great compromise. It achieves the goal that we're looking for, to make sure that the individual that's actually voting on Election Day is that individual. I think that's reasonable.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I come from a city where it's a standing joke on Election Day to vote -- to

vote not only once but to vote often in the City of Waterbury. In 1986, as David Labriola mentioned before, we had 10 individuals that were arrested for 94 criminal counts due to an absentee fraud. As recent as the election -- the municipal election of 2011, we had an issue in the City of Waterbury where there was a one building in a certain neighborhood that applied for 64 absentee ballots. Our registrar of voters, both Democrat and Republican, thought that this was very suspicious because you see prior to that election, the 2009 municipal election, there was only six absentee ballots that were requested. So for the first time in Waterbury's history they set up a supervised ballot day where they actually went out and they hired a moderator to oversee the process and they hired a team of people to go in there and help fill out those ballots. And during the course of that invest -- of that process, they found that the 12 of the 64 individuals that applied for those ballots were not -- never residents of that building. And over a dozen of those people never showed up on that given day to fill out their ballots.

So you see ladies and gentlemen, fraud is very, very evident. It's still going on today no matter

what we try to do to alleviate it and to do away with it. You know, thank God our registrar of voters took action. They even -- they even filed a complaint with our enforcement election and I was told by our registrars that it's an ongoing investigation and that it will take approximately two years for Waterbury to get a result on that investigation because election enforcement is that short-handed. Can you imagine waiting two years? Our next municipal election will be here before the investigation into the 2000 election will ever be uncovered. How are we ever going to police same-day Election Day fraud if we have an election enforcement division in the State of Connecticut that can't even do their job today.

Let's wake up, ladies and gentlemen. Everybody wants to give people the right to vote. All of us want everybody to vote. I wish everybody would go out and exercise that right. I personally don't think it's unreasonable to go and register to vote. I think it's a privilege in this country and many people have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can do that. To ask people to go out and register to vote prior to an election, I don't think that's a lot to ask of people. But you know, the technology is not here

right now where we could -- could actually do same-day registration. Maybe in the future it will be there so we can have safe elections, but it's certainly not here today. So for those reasons, Mr. Speaker, given the history that -- where I come from and all the fraud that has taken place in the past, I cannot stand and support the underlying bill but I do strongly support this photo ID because I think it will help add safeguards that we need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Representative O'Neill of the 69th District.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just briefly I would like to add to the long list of things which you have to produce a photo ID in order to do. I understand mention was made of if you want to cash a check or perhaps get some sort of discount somewhere, but I don't know how many people are asked this but recently when I went to a bank to deposit money I was asked to produce a photo ID. So they won't even let you put money in your own bank account, never mind cash it or try to take it out of the bank without a photo ID. And secondly, we just had a presidential primary, I

went to vote in it, I walked in, produced a photo ID, it wasn't a big problem and I don't quite understand why the massive resistance to producing evidence that you are who you say you are when you go in to vote in an election. I understand that the bill before us would not have applied to the presidential primary, but it's an election and routinely, whenever I go to vote, I'm expected to produce a photo ID. I just don't understand why this is such a problem to have this kind of a protection put into the Legislation before us. So I would -- I would really just love to hear someone explain why it's such a problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Lavielle of the 143rd.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've just -- I rise in very, very strong support of this Amendment and I just want to make a brief remark. We've heard a lot of details this evening about all the reasons this process is open for fraud, for mistakes, for errors, for different things. But I have to say that if for no other reason we should pass this Amendment in the

name of respect for people who are voting in this country and expect that they can at least vote in good faith with the expectation of a process that has some integrity. In the name of access for all, we are sacrificing that integrity and I must say that I'm quite disappointed in the General Assembly for not showing that respect to the constituents who sent all of us here to give them some reassurance that that integrity of the voting process will be respected. So again, I stand in very strong support of this Amendment and I urge others to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Carter of the 2nd.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of this Amendment. You know, as we spoke about earlier, it's all about knowing who somebody is when they show up at the polls. When I showed up at the polls for the last election I actually asked the person there and I said, you know, what if I didn't have my ID today? And obviously I can fill out a thing and I can swear to who I am --

actually they knew me, thank goodness, I'd be worried. But you know, when we're talking about the most basic right of being able to vote it doesn't make any sense that we don't have some way to establish who that person is. And just like I demonstrated earlier, unfortunately I couldn't use it as a prop, but I have the ability in a matter of minutes to go in and create a fictitious bill with my Minority Leader's name and my Speaker's home address and it would have gotten me in to vote. Folks, come on, let's not play games with this. This is serious business and it's time for serious answers. This is probably the most important amendment we look at tonight. It's something very simple. It's not going to cost anything to anybody. We always say that one of the reasons you don't want to do an ID is because people used to call it a poll tax. Well guess what, it's no longer a poll tax. They could get it free and it helps them out in the community in so many other ways. Please, I urge you -- I urge you, this is a great opportunity, let's support this Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you.

Representative Morin of the 28th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it will be a great surprise but I'm going to urge all my colleagues to vote no on this Amendment. I want to talk a little bit about why.

I respect the intent of what this Amendment tries to do, but what this is going to do is this is going to separate our voters. People that -- people that register to vote now, if they don't go on Election Day they don't have to produce a photo ID. They can mail in their -- their voter ID, no problem. No photo ID. But now we're going to have to force these people that come in on -- on Election Day and vote, they will have to. To me it's treating -- treating our voters totally differently. You know, most instances, and we've done a little bit of research, especially as we work through the committee process, most instances of improper voting involve either registration and eligibility such as voters filling out registration forms incorrectly or a person -- person with a felony conviction attempting to register. Neither of those issues would be prevented with a State photo ID.

And let's talk a little bit about people, I remember Senator Schlossberg talking about her -- her father who was a veteran who -- who didn't have an ID and, you know, she brought forth -- we brought forth some other points. Eleven percent of eligible voters in a national study don't have updated state-issued photo IDs. Twenty-one-million people include 21 percent of African Americans, 15 percent of those earning less than 35,000, 18 percent of citizens over the age of 65 and one-fifth of the voters between the ages 18 and 29. And at this -- this point, I think we've discussed it fairly long enough, there are tools in place. When you got to register to vote, you have to state who you are, you have to sign a -- sign a document that states you are telling the truth and if you don't you're going to be punished with the appropriate -- the appropriate punishment -- felony or perjury. I me it's at this point now where there are tools in place and I do believe that, you know, somebody said there's no cost to it. It's not going to be a -- a tax. Well, we're going to be taking money from the Citizens Election Fund and I think that's a fund that this state -- based on some of the -- I've heard some of the talk about -- I think from

Representative Sawyer about our long -- our past history of corruptness -- corruption in our elections. Well, I think taking these -- money out of these state funds is not a good idea. We put this in place because we wanted to see clean elections, we wanted to see the people feeling that they knew that there was -- that their tax dollars were going to be well spent and that there was not going to be big donors, big money influencing our elections. And I don't feel comfortable, especially since we haven't vetted this process, I'd be interested to talk about this in the future, however, with the fine Representative to discuss the future of the Citizens Election fund and how I think -- feel so strongly that we need to continue to keep it at the personal -- at the strength that it is right now. So I appreciate what's been brought forth, but again, I'm going to urge rejection. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the Amendment before us? Will you remark further on the Amendment before us?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House, will the members please take your seats and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if their vote is properly cast. If all members have voted the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5024, House Amendment "F".

Total number voting	140
Necessary for adoption	71
Those voting Yea	52
Those voting Nay	88
Absent and not voting	11

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The amendment fails.

Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as Amended?

Representative O'Neill of the 69th.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will try to be very brief. I've listened to the debate and I've read through the testimony that was provided to the G.A.E. Committee when this Bill was given a hearing. During the course of the debate I have not heard and in reading the testimony I have not seen anything that really is substantial and factual showing that there is a problem which this Bill will solve. There's a lot of speculation about things that might have happened or how people might feel about certain kinds of events if they move from one part of a town to another and then they show up at the polling place and they have some difficulty being able to vote. Stuff about what happened in some other states at some other times. I've seen a whole bunch of different statistics cited for those states that have Election Day registration and how they have 15 percent higher turnout or five percent higher turnout or seven percent higher turnout. It's an amazing range of

numbers that are cited during the testimony by different people as to the wonders of Election Day registration and how it's going to boost turnout compared with the national numbers. One -- what I do see though is that in the people who opposed it, for example the registrars of voters, the people speaking on behalf of the State registrars of voters cite statistics, actual data from Connecticut. And they're not finding in those statistics a problem to solve. In fact what they are finding is that when you use the presidential ballots as some kind of a proxy for what we are likely to see happen with Election Day registration that we have a fairly high percentage of people who in fact do not seem to be living at the places they claim to live when they are trying to vote by presidential ballot. It's enough -- and is terms of the percentages in the City of New Britain, it was something like five percent with undeliverable addresses, three percent with duplicate addresses, that's eight percent of the vote, of the 657. We know that there are elections every year that are decided by a handful of votes. That small number is enough to sway the outcome of an election. We're not talking there about something that's theoretical or

hypothetical, we're talking about something that's real. Real numbers of having dozens, perhaps hundreds of people vote in just one city who were not eligible to vote. We're going to see this duplicated across the State of Connecticut if this piece of Legislation becomes law. It's going to undermine the integrity of the election process in this state and it's as far as can be told entirely unnecessary. There are plenty of ways for people to register to vote and plenty of time in which to do that registration. And it's not even going to help in those elections which in perhaps a third of the legislative seats in this state, perhaps more than that, two Congressional Districts where the primary is the decisive factor in deciding who gets seated in the Legislative Body. And certainly in many cities, the primary is what decides who gets to be mayor, who gets to be first selectman.

This Bill is going to create a lot of mischief and it -- and looking at all the testimony it's very difficult to see what the problem is to be solved. When I look at the states that have already done this, states like Wisconsin and Minnesota and Maine and so forth, even New Hampshire, we're talking about states that are extremely rural. We're talking about states

where you might have to drive for an hour to get to a town hall or a registrar's office and where it would be very difficult and inconvenient for people to vote. But Connecticut is not that kind of a state. None of the relatively small states like Connecticut, states like Rhode Island, Delaware, New Jersey even, states that are similar to us in the density of population, none of those states have this or ever have. This is something that makes sense if you live 50 miles from the county seat. We don't even have county government in this state. This is a piece of legislation that I think when we look back a few years and see how much trouble it's going to cause, we're going to deeply regret passing it if it passes here today. So I would urge a no vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Ackert of the 8th District.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and just for a point of -- a comment please?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Proceed.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

I don't believe I travel in many different circles than the rest of you. And I don't remember anybody coming up to me in those travels and especially serving in this house and saying, you know, Tim, I would have registered to vote but it was too cumbersome. Has something so precious to the majority of us become such an inconvenience, the ability to register and the right to vote? Have we become such a lethargic society that we can't find the time to register before the Election Day? The top 10 reasons why people don't vote, this isn't one of them. One of them, believe it or not, is us. They don't -- maybe don't like us, maybe don't like some of the actions of us, but that right -- the ability to register to vote isn't one of them. My registrars have asked me not to support this registration, they don't have the means to -- to take on this task. So for the people that have asked me not to support this I respect that and I will be voting no on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Minority Leader Larry Cafero of the 142nd. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For purposes of wrap up, ladies and gentlemen, we are about to take a vote and as usual at this point of any debate we've learned a lot about what we're going to do. Our current law says that if you care to exercise your right to vote you must register seven days before the election. There's a lot of logic behind that because in many cases it has stemmed off fraud, even psychologically people think if I'm registering illegally maybe between now and the time of Election Day they might find me out. Maybe I'd better not do such a thing. And by the way, it would require me to register and then come back to vote. We're eliminating that requirement right now if we pass this Bill. We're saying on that day if you're not registered you can come in and register to vote and what we've learned is -- what we've learned is is that if in fact somebody wants to commit fraud, if someone who is truly not a resident of that state registers by false ID or false claim, if somebody who's actually vote in another state wants to vote in Connecticut, if we catch them they'll get in trouble but their vote still counts. Their vote still counts.

You know, all throughout society, whether it's athletics, Medicaid, tests, we take measures against fraud. And in this very case, we've proposed, at very least if we're going to do this, some basic common sense measures with the understanding that on Election Day especially with our election officials, it is a chaotic day and to have to not only administer the voting process but register those people at the same time and try to attempt by some means to verify whether or not they're legitimate is almost impossible. And that's why all of the registrars have opposed this through their organization because they know what they have to do on that day. And we talked about one person maybe voting by absentee in one state and then coming in to this state and on Election Day registering to vote, casting their vote, one. What if scores of people do that? What if it's actually an organized effort to defraud the election process? Oh, I guess if we catch them eventually they'll all get in trouble, but folks, their vote will count. Their vote will count. Can you think of anything more outrageous than overturning the will of the people as to how they govern themselves by fraud? During the course of this evening we propose to at least separate those ballots

that come in by registration on Election Day so at least we could check to make sure they're legitimate as we've done with presidential ballots. This Chamber said no. We said at the very least can we show some sort of ID, we understand not everyone had a license, so we'll offer it to them for nothing and this Chamber said no. During the course of the debate we referenced our current laws which talk about our clean election system. A clean election system that was passed with the hope that we would take fraud and corruption our of our election process and yet today, a little more than a year after the debacle we experienced in 2010 we're passing this Bill. And we're doing it under the -- the mantra of not disenfranchising anyone, for seven days, everybody has the right to register to vote up to seven days before an election. And what are we risking for those seven days? Disenfranchising the rest of us by having a possibility, and I would argue a high probability of fraud. There is no worse thing than fraud in our election system. Veterans will tell you what -- they fought and died for our right to vote and to have our vote cancelled out by a system that could be scammed easily is a disgrace.

I'd be very interested to know how many of my colleagues in this Chamber got those phone calls or e-mails or letters from people saying, you know, I wanted to vote but because I didn't register seven days before, I couldn't. I'm not sure there's a lot. I'm not sure there's a lot. Do we want to increase voter participation, I'm all for it. Let's have that no excuse absentee ballot. By the way let's move the primary back to September instead of when everybody's on vacation. We lost a lot doing that, too. For all about really getting people involved in the electoral process, then let's do it. This isn't the way to do it. This is not the way to do it. And I just hope that not one person who cares and cherishes their right to vote will have that vote nullified by someone who commits a fraud on this state. Oh, yeah, they might be punished, but guess what folks, once again, as has been said by the proponent of this Bill, their vote will count. That fraudulent vote, maybe one done by false ID or lying or perjury or you name it, that vote will count. We have no way to undo it, we have no way to segregate the votes, we have no way to check up on them, that vote will count. As I said before,

disenfranchisement works both ways. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Sharkey of the 88th.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'll be brief in summation for our side of the aisle. I -- two weeks ago we did a bill that called for a Constitutional Amendment to look at -- allow us to look at changes to our absentee ballot process. And a lot of what I said last -- at that time are the same sentiments I have this evening. We, as a Legislature, are here to do the people's business. And what has become painfully apparent over the last few decades is that public participation in our election system had dropped dramatically. We have to recognize I think if we are doing the will of the people, we need to recognize that we have to modernize our voting systems to make it more convenient for our citizens to vote. It's as simple as that. That's our job. And the fear of fraud is clearly something that we've got to look at, there's no question about that, but we don't have any evidence to suggest that this terrible boogeyman

that's out there that will be -- that will in fact occur. And with due respect to the Minority Leader, his statement was that there will be a high probability of fraud if we pass this Bill. I'm sorry, but I respectfully disagree with that. There's absolutely no evidence to suggest right now from our current system and from the system that we will put in place that is similar to what other states have done, that same-day registration has created a fraud or a propensity towards fraud in those states. And in fact, it hasn't been mentioned during the debate tonight but the state of Maine adopted this same-day voter registration policy and the governor of Maine moved to repeal same-day voter registration. It was -- the people of Maine were so outraged by that change in the law that they initiated a ballot referendum to reinstate it because the reality was that for the people of Maine and frankly for the people of Connecticut there is an expectation that we need to try to get as many people to vote as possible and that barriers to voting in the form of registration requirements which may be difficult for some to follow, need to be moved out of the way so we can actually get people to the polls, cast the votes that

they feel they are entitled to vote and cast. I -- I understand that fraud in any case in any voting system is a potential, but without evidence and purely hypothetical scenarios of what could happen and what might happen if someone were to intentionally commit this kind of fraud I think is remote, personally. We have no evidence from any other state on this issue that would suggest that it's anything but remote. And to not do the will of the people and to create and maintain a roadblock to voting, to enfranchisement for our people out of fear of something that we don't have any evidence is going to be a problem, I think that's us not doing our job. It's for that reason, Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to support this Bill.

(Speaker Donovan in the Chair.)

SPEAKER DONOVAN: Thank you, sir.

Will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House, will the members please take your seats and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call, members to the Chamber. The House is taking a roll call vote, 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. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will please take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5024, as amended by House "A".

Total number voting	142
Necessary for adoption	72
Those voting Yea	83
Those voting Nay	59
Absent and not voting	0

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Bill as amended is passed.

Any announcements or introductions?

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Is it time for a journal notation?

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CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SENATE

PROCEEDINGS 2012

VOL. 55
PART 11
3330 – 3654

Senate Bill Number 23.

Total number Voting	34
Necessary for Passage	18
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	0
Absent, not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk would call as the -- the next item, Calendar Page 19, Calendar 443, House Bill 5024.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 19, Calendar 443, Substitute for House Bill Number 5024, AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING RIGHTS AS AMENDED BY HOUSE "A"; favorable report of the Committees on Government Administration and Elections, and Appropriations.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Slossberg. How are you today?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

I am just fabulous, Miss -- Madam President. It is so nice so see you this afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Oh, same here, ma'am.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

I move the joint committees' favorable report and passage of the bill, in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Certainly. Madam President, this bill provides a process for Election Day registration and on-line voter registration. It allows eligible people to register to vote and to cast a vote for -- cast a ballot on Election Day for general elections beginning in 2013. It establishes Election Day registration procedures and eliminates the use of same-day Presidential ballots by current state residents because they may, instead, vote under the bill's EDR provisions.

It requires the Secretary of State to establish and maintain an on-line system for the public to enter a new-voter registration application and changes to existing registrations beginning in 2014. It requires the Secretary of State to report to the GAE Committee on EDR administration and authorizes the secretary to enter into an agreement with other states to share information or data that will help maintain the Connecticut's Voter Registration System.

The on-line registration system is a move to modernize, as is our same-day registration. On-line registration is not on-line voting; it's simply on-line registration. It provides great convenience for our voters, and we know that one-in-three eligible voters in the State of Connecticut are not registered to vote. It helps us create more accurate voter lists, is -- is a savings to the taxpayers, in that we know that due to a computerized system, it reduces paper forms. And at least one county in Arizona has determined that the processing cost went from 83 cents per ballot to 3 cents per on -- per ballot on -- per on -- per registration when it is on-line.

This is 11 states in the nation already have it, and it doesn't replace paper registration it just provides an additional method for registering.

Election Day registration is nothing new to this Chamber or this building, and it's certainly not new to our country. It is -- the purpose of it is to eliminate structural barriers to voter participation, because the political reality is that voter interest peaks in the final weeks of any given campaign, and current registration requirements prevent many eligible citizens from voting. We know that nowadays groups with higher mobility, such as young adults, low-income citizens, and minorities will be able to vote more easily in the current precinct where they preside. As I had stated, this is nothing new to our country. We know that it increases voter turnout. There are -- there are ten states currently with Election Day registration, including our neighbors Maine and New Hampshire, and States of Idaho, North Carolina, and Montana, so it crosses the partisan divide.

And the top four states for turnout in 2004 and the 2008 elections were all EDR states. Those were Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maine and New Hampshire. In Maine, which has had Election Day registration for 40 years now without incident, two years ago the Legislature repealed same-day registration and there was a hue and a cry amongst the people, and the Maine voters supported a referendum to restore it.

I know there are certain people, you know, a number of people who have expressed concerned over the years with regard to Election Day registration, in particular, and some of the concern centers on the potential for fraud. And I just want to share with the Chamber a little bit. I'm sure we'll be talking about it a lot more as the -- as the debate goes on, but currently our state and federal penalties for fraud are severe and they serve as a strong deterrent. An election fraud is extremely rare; in fact, in this state and in the states that have had Election Day registration, there has not been any significant voter fraud in registration. There is no reason to believe -- there is -- excuse me -- reason to believe that in fact EDR deters fraud, because somebody has to

actually show up, they have to present their identification, and they have to swear on the penalty of perjury that they are who they say they are, they are entitled to vote, and that they are -- that they have not voted in some other format.

So all of these things work together to try to increase voter turnout and to have more of our voters coming to participate in our democracy, and with that I'd be happy to answer any questions that the members may have.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you, Madam President.

Early this week, I received an e-mail from the Democratic Registrar of Voters in Meriden. It said, Please vote no to Election Day registration; it is pure insanity. That came from the Democratic Registrar of Voters in Meriden.

It provoked me to do a little informal survey of as many registrars of voters as I could contact this week, and I was successful in contacting registrars of voters in 36 different towns. We received 63 different responses about whether the registrars of voters support this particular legislation, and of the 63 responses that we received, 58 said no, 3 said yes, and 2 said they were indifferent to it. Furthermore, that breakdown of the noes was 27 Democratic registrars of voters and 29 Republicans; 2 did not -- we didn't get their identifications as to what their party affiliation was. So it seems to me that a proposed piece of legislation that is going to be overwhelmingly opposed by the people who are chose -- who are -- who have the responsibility to implement the legislation ought to cause pause for concern.

The people who did respond to us, some of them did send in comments, not just an opinion yes or no. They did cite the cost, which they say the Office of Fiscal Analysis notes are drastically understated and inaccurate, in their own opinion.

They did say, if anything, that making same-day registration available actually encourages people to be more lax, because they know they can come in at the very last second and register at the very last second. And they, many of the registrars did express concern about potential fraud.

And I would actually like to ask, if I may, a few questions of the proponent of the bill, through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, this will be a little interesting, as we go back and forth here.

THE CHAIR:

It's a close relationship.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you, Madam President, my understanding is that the proposed legislation does have a verification process for people who do register on the same date as the election. Through you, Madam President, is that an accurate understanding?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes, that is correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator --

SENATOR SUZIO:

All right. We --

THE CHAIR:

-- Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

-- got our technique worked out. I'm going to be holding the mic and it's like an interview.

And through you, Madam President, my understanding is the verification process basically is that a mailing will be sent out to the address that's been recorded during the registration process, and if it's returned address unknown or no such person, a record of that is kept with the registrar or voters. Through you, Madam President, is that an accurate represent --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes, that is correct.

SENATOR SUZIO:

And through you, Madam President, to the best -- from what I could see in the legislation, ballots that might be cast that reflect an unverified registrant's address are not segregated in the -- in terms of the vote count and the retention of the ballots. Through

you, I guess it's Mr. President now, are you going to put up your sign like you did yesterday, too? It's --

(Senator Duff in the Chair.)

THE CHAIR:

Only if necessary.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes, that is correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Yes. So -- and thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, Mr. President, so in the situations in which a vote has been cast and the verification of the voter's identity and their address has come back unsubstantiated, we have no way of isolating and/or knowing which ballots and how many of those -- well, we know how many because we'll get some of them back unverified, but we won't know which ballots were cast that might have been fraudulent. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes, that is correct in terms of we wouldn't know which ballots. But you are true -- you are right in

terms of we would know how many. But we would know more than that. We would actually have the name and the -- the oath and the affirmation that someone has signed under the penalty of perjury, which is a Class D felony, that they are who they say they are, they live where they say they have lived, as well as the verifications of the documents that they have provided.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you.

And through you, Madam President [sic], but I -- I would ask the good Senator if we have a returned verification, address unknown, how in the world can we enforce the penalty? Is the penalty not a hollow penalty if -- if the -- if the perpetrator of a fraudulent ballot cannot be located because they gave us a fraudulent identity and a fraudulent address, through you, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes. Through you, Mr. President, no, actually that doesn't mean that. What that means is that the -- the securities and -- S -- the SEEC would be making an investigation as to determine where those fraudulent documents, if that -- if so or where that person came from.

What it simply means, really, is that the mail has come back undeliverable or -- or not returned. So it doesn't necessarily mean that there has been some other error, necessarily, but there is certainly a manner in which elections enforcement can go and investigate further. And I would suspect that that would happen; however, I would note that in those states that have this, this hasn't been an issue.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you. And thank you, Mr. President.

And I -- I won't have any more questions for the proponent, I would just say that, again, my concern is just that the people who are going to be involved in administering these new procedures have, by my own informal poll -- and I sought as many as I could get and I sought them from both sides of the aisle -- overwhelmingly, I mean by 95 percent, more than 20 to 1 opposed the implementation of this new provision as far as same-day registration and voting is concerned.

And I would hope that my colleagues, as they take into consideration how they're going to vote on this proposal would give due consideration to the people who are most affected by it, by the people who have to implement it, by the people who are -- have the most intimate experience with it, and the people who on a bipartisan basis overwhelmingly opposed this proposal.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I stand for the purpose of some questions to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, Senator Slossberg for your work on this bill.

I wonder if you could take a couple of minutes to share with us the difference in this bill between the one that -- that we in the Government Administration and Elections Committee had talked about in both screening and during our committee meeting. What is the difference between that bill and this file copy? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes. Through you, Mr. President, you know, I don't have the file, the copy that -- that came out from the committee. So if there are -- I'd be happy to discuss if there's a specific issue that you believe has changed. I'd be happy to talk to you about it, but I don't have the differences in front of me, as I stand here today.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So through you, could you from memory recall what changes you've made in this bill since it would pass out of GAE? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Mr. President, I, you know, with all due respect, Senator McLachlan, I -- I actually can't. So I'd be happy to discuss them with you, though, if there are particular issues of concern.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Slossberg, could -- could you share with us what's going to happen, assuming Election Day registration passes this Legislature and the Governor signs the bill? Could you just lay out for us -- because most of us in this Circle understand what happens in a registrar's office and what happens at a polling place -- please describe for us the voter coming in to register and vote, what they will have to do, step by step, and please also share with us, equally step by step, what the registrar or their agent will have to do to facilitate the transaction. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

And through you, to Senator McLachlan, Senator McLachlan, what will happen is an elector would come in to one centralized location in the -- in the municipality, and they would then ask to register. They would fill out an application, provide the requisite identification. The registrar would then enroll them as an -- as they would -- they would determine whether they were a new person registering, new voter in the town or whether they were transferring from another town. If they were transferring the -- from another town, then they would need to notify the registrar of voters in the other municipality that the elector is changing the

municipality where they are an elector, so they would let them know that they're in a new town.

Then they, the old registrar of voters would remove the elector from the official voter list of the municipality, and that person in the old town would then cross their name off the official voter list and mark it accordingly.

Once that has happened, then they would be able to -- they would enter their name and, you know, so that they were wrote -- vote -- now registered, and they would be able to obtain a ballot. And then the rest of the -- they would mark the ballot and the rest of the procedure is the same as it would be for absentee balloting.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator.

How long will this take for a voter to accomplish this?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you to Senator McLachlan, I think that depends upon how many people are there and, you know, what is going on in the office at that point. You know, I know that in Maine they've said that repeatedly it's been very simple and not an issue, even before they had a centralized voter database. People would just come in and they would be able to register very quickly, you know, show their IDs, and they would then be able to cast their vote, and it wasn't an issue.

You know, I know that they have -- they -- we currently have the system for, you know, for federal, for Presidential ballots, which is very similar, not exactly the same but it's similar, and that seems to go on our -- at our polling places without a significant delay.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

You mention that the proposed process of Election Day registration is similar to the Presidential ballot process. I'd like to return to that because I -- I -- I envision it being very different.

But for further clarification, the process for the voter coming in, you said just present identification. I'm really trying to understanding as though we are instructing a new voter what to anticipate their experience will be when they come for their first time and to register to vote on Election Day. And so very specifically, please, if you will, Senator Slossberg, could you share with us what documentation must they have with them, and then after they have presented that, what's the verification process? Following the verification process, do they sit there and wait while the registrar or their registrar's agents enters the data into the Centralized Voter Registration System?

I'm trying to get the whole process so that it -- it's as though you and I are instructing the registrars what's going to happen on Election Day 2013, according to this bill. Through you, Madam President -- Mr. President; Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you -- through you, Mr. President; okay.

So starting in line 21, any person who's going to walk in the door and want to register who is not previously registered will come into the centralized location, whether it's the registrar's office or what other place that the municipality has designated as that one location in the town where you can then register and vote. They will come in. They make an application. They provide the identification, pursuant to 9-20, which is basically either a birth certificate, a driver's license, a Social Security card, and another form of identification that shows their proof of their -- their residence, their address. And there's a whole list of them in 9-20, which is not changed by this bill. And they present that identification, then they declare under oath that they haven't previously voted in an election. They sign the affirmation under the penalty of perjury.

At that point that they shown all -- that they are a bona fide resident, the registrar of voters will look at the application, look the person in the face, and at that point they check the statewide, Centralized Voter Registration before admitting the applicant as an elector. So that's what happens to the person walking in the door.

Once that is done, if the registrar of voters determines that the applicant is not already an elector, so their name is not already on the Centralized Voter Registration System, then the privileges of their elector attaches immediately, which basically in English means they can vote. At that point, they get their ballot and they are able to fill in their ballot. And they put it in the privacy envelope, and they hand it back to the registrar.

That's the basic procedure, as I think probably as step by step as -- as I can get, right about now.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Slossberg.

And so you talked about a voter who does not show up on the Centralized Voter Registration System as having been registered elsewhere in the State of Connecticut. Assuming then that -- well, let me back up a minute. In -- in that verification process, what is the information that is entered for that verification as to avoid similarities in names? Of course, there aren't a lot of Michael McLachlans in Connecticut, although there's more than me, I know. But there may be a lot of John Smiths or other similar, popular names. And -- and so that verification process, how does that happen in the centralized voter system? And -- and should the voter not disclose a middle initial or a suffix, what -- what happens in that verification process? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you -- through you, Mr. President, they will be verifying birth date.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And so if the birthday, of course is disclosed by the -- the applicant and there is a similarity in name, does that pop up as a potential red flag? So, for instance, when there is a voter name irregularity, they could be registered E. John Smith, with the correct, same birth date and this could be Edward J. Smith that is applying, what -- what -- I'm try to get

a sense of how secure is that centralized voter system in finding irregularities in names?

I describe this because this is a common challenge in the financial services' industry when they're trying to identify similar people and -- and by way of credit reports, for instance, there could be a lot of similarities but the people are not the same. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Sure. Through you, Mr. President, in addition to birth date, the -- the applicant is required to provide either the four, the last four digits of their Social Security number or their Connecticut driver's license number as well. So you have two different checks to cross-reference.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So you just indicated to me that there actually is a time in the Election Day registration process where a Connecticut driver's license is required for verification? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Mr. President, it's an either/or, either the driver license number or a Social Security card.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And so assuming that we have a green light through the Centralized Voter Registration System and you've identified a person who is previously registered in a neighboring community in Connecticut, whether it's a current registration or a -- I forget the terminology they use for a voter who hasn't voted in a while -- inactive --

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Inactive.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

It could be an inactive voter but still registered in another community, could you now just very specifically share with us how do we grab that person's registration and place it on the current town voter roll and delete that individual from the former town voter roll? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes. Through you, Mr. President, sure.

In lines from 48 to 60 are the lines where this procedure is relevant. If the registrar of voters finds that the applicant is, in fact, an elector in another municipality, then their -- and the applicant is there to say no, I live at the new place and they want to vote, then what happens is the registrar calls the registrar of voters in the previous municipality and alerts them that the elector is changing their municipality. And the old, the registrar in the original municipality is then instructed to remove the elector from the official voter list and cross the

names -- person -- oh, we actually just said that so that it's coming off the voter list at that point.

And then the -- the registration occurs in the new town, and they're able to vote in the new town. And -- and I would just remind you that they're, you know, that they do sign their affirmation under the penalty of perjury that they have not voted elsewhere.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator.

For further clarification, the -- the process of calling the registrar of the applicant's previous residence community and asking for removal of that individual from the voter rolls, it's my understanding that -- that registrars have a central office, generally in town hall or city hall, but in a community like Danbury, the registrar operates out of their office. The Democrat and Republican registrar operate out of an office in city hall, but there are seven polling places.

Can you tell us what is the process of the -- the -- the polling place being notified of a voter in their community being deleted from the voter rolls? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Mr. President, if I understand your question, it's -- your -- your question is that they're being deleted from the list that is at the polling place, and my -- and -- and the -- the instructions in this that's -- in this legislation is that the originating, the first town -- I think that's

what you're asking me is what happens at the first town -- the first town removes them from the voter list and marks them off that voter list.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Yeah, I think we're -- we're starting to connect on this process, but as I understand it, you're saying that the registrar of the new community has to call the registrar of the old community and notify them that they have a new voter applicant and that they wish to vote in the new community. And the new community registrar asks the old community registrar to remove that individual from the voter rolls.

My point is: Isn't there a requirement for the old registrar to now contact the moderator of the polling place for the individual that you're removing from the voter rolls to cross him off the list so that you have a secure voting list and the individual can't vote in that polling place? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Mr. President, yes. I believe so. I believe in lines 58 when it says such election official shall cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and mark off next to such elector's name on such official voter list -- I think that covers what you're -- what you are addressing.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

And --

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator.

And so now the -- the -- the connection has been made. The cross-off has occurred, and what happens next? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Well, if it -- if the registrar in the old town says that that elector has already voted, then they alert the registrar they're talking to in the new town and that ends up being an investigation from Elections Enforcement. Obviously, they're not going to be registered and they're not going to get a ballot, and they're going to find themselves in, you know, very -- with very serious consequences as a result of our state laws.

If it turns out that, you know, their applicant is then admitted as an elector, there's no issue. They say okay, you know, we're crossing them off, and then they're admitted as an elector. Then they go ahead and they get the ballot and they vote.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And so with the understanding that a voter change by community to community requires communications between the two registrars' offices and then within the old community between the registrar and the moderator at the remote polling place to seal the deal, so to

speak, in striking that voter's name from the -- from the roll, is that reasonable to assume that those phone calls are going to take a little time? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Mr. President, I -- that depends upon what sort of system is set up, you know, in each community.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And so now that the -- you got the green light in the Centralized Voter Registration System and you're prepared now to give the Election Day registration applicant a ballot, what happens then? Is that ballot treated exactly the same as someone else who has voted in the same location for many years or is it treated differently somewhat, like absentee ballots are treated in our system now? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Mr. President, more like absentee ballot.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And so the -- the ballots, when we close the polls at eight o'clock, absentee ballots are -- go with the absentee ballot moderator and they count them. What happens to the Election Day registration ballots? Again, we're training. Let -- let us just sort of envision that you and I right now are doing a training video for registrars to tell them what's going to happen, because I -- I -- I want to see very clearly what's going to happen. What -- what happens in the counting process, through you, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes, through you, Mr. President, the Election Day ballots are counted, just like the AB ballots are; however, a section of the head moderator's return will show the number of Election Day registration ballots received from electors. They'll seal a copy of the vote tally for the Election Day registration ballots in a depository envelope with the registration ballots and store those EDR materials with the other election results' materials. And that is held preserved by the registrar of voters for the period of time that is normally required to be held for elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And so you talked about a separate line on the moderator's report. That's the -- I assume you mean the -- the town-wide moderator's report not the polling place report. That shows the number of ballots, Election Day registration ballots. Does that report show the results, voting results of the Election Day registration ballots on the moderator's report? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Mr. President, you know, if -- if I may, just a moment. I want to make sure I got the right -- the correct answer on that.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

I know. Through you, Mr. --

THE CHAIR:

The Senate --

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

-- President --

THE CHAIR:

-- will come back to order. Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

That was quick. You know, I -- I'm not sure what's going to be on the head moderator's return at that -- at that time. It's not specific and my -- my understanding is that is something that will be addressed through, probably through guidelines or regulations with the Secretary of State's Office.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator.

On lines 61 to 73, it talks of the -- of the bill before us -- it talks about the process if it's reported that someone has voted in another municipality, what actually happens. Can you clarify for us this process? Because I -- I -- I think that this is probably new to most people. They probably haven't come across this fraudulent-enforcement process; if you could just walk us through that step, please? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, so if the applicant, if it's determined from the previous registrar that the applicant had already voted in the original municipality, then the registrar of voters in that municipality would notify the registrar of voters in the municipality they are currently seeking to vote in, in which case, of course, the new municipality is not going to provide a ballot. And at that time the, you know, they would have -- have some sort of a discussion, and the -- if it turns out that the resolution of the matter, you know, that it's not resolved, that it, in fact, that person did vote elsewhere and now they were presenting as trying to vote twice, then that matter would be reported to the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

You know, with documents in hand that some person has signed, physically being in front of you, they'd be leaving quite a paper trail.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator.

In lines 70 to 71, it says after completion of such review, comma, if a resolution of the matter cannot be made, comma, such matter will be reported to SEEC. Through you, Mr. President, there seems to be no direction, clear direction how to deal with this. It seems to me that it is clearly up to the registrar, in fact, to decide whether or not further investigation is necessary, even though they've gotten to this point by way of a clear identification of a potential fraudulent activity.

So could you clarify for us, if you will, those words, "if a resolution of the matter cannot be made"; is that your understanding that the discretion is solely at the registrar's to determine? Through you, Mr. President.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes, thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, no, actually, I think you have to read that whole -- the sentence that you're talking about in line with the entire section there. If it turns out that the old municipality says no, that the person you're talking about has already been here and has already voted, at that point, you know, the registrar in the new town is going to say, okay, let's try to figure this out. You know, did you, you know, I'm being told here that you did, in fact, vote in this place. They're going to have to talk to each other a little bit more to figure out is that, in fact, the same person.

And at that point, if it turns out that it is the same person or that the registrar is looking and saying I don't have any reason to believe that this is not the same person, at that point the language very clearly says Election Day registration process shall cease; so it stops. But after they've had that conversation and it appears that this person has prevented to try to vote twice, to fraudulently vote, at that point such matter shall be reported. So that is not discretionary, that is mandatory that that matter be reported to Elections Enforcement for investigation.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me ask it in another way. There's still, in my -- the way that I read this paragraph, 61 to 73, I still see a great deal of discretion on the part of the registrar. So would you kindly describe for us what is a "resolution?" Because it seems that without a resolution, then it is reported to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. But if there is the presence of a resolution, then that action is not necessary. So through you, Mr. President, what is a resolution?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, Senator McLachlan, resolution is very simply if they can determine whether this person is, in fact, someone who's actually voted in the other town or not. So if they -- if they go through the documents and they have a conversation and they say, okay, based on the documentation, you know, we believe that this is the same person and the person who's standing there can't

show that they're not the same person, then that matter has not been resolved and it's required to be reported.

However, very often we know -- and one of the things I think that will help us a lot with this on-line voter registration system is that we will reduce error because you have things; you know, you have your voter cards, your mail-in voter cards right now that have -- you know, often people hand-write them. And so sometimes you can have errors that are hand -- you know, that come in, in registration, that are handwriting. So maybe you've got two John Smiths who are going to vote and they, you know, the numbers look the same but in -- in -- in actuality when they have a conversation about it, they realize that that is not, in fact, the case, in which case that is not someone who is presenting who has already previously voted someplace else.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Okay; so that's a resolution. They, I assume, then, are subject to Section 9-357 of the -- of the statutes that deals with fraudulent registration. It's then up to the State Elections Enforcement Commission to conduct an investigation if -- if that agency of state government determines what the registrar very clearly determined. What happens then, through you, Mr. President?

A VOICE:

(Inaudible.)

THE CHAIR:

No.

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, if I understand your questions, Elections Enforcement will conduct an investigation pursuant to their procedures, which is not changed in this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And -- and so, granted, not part of this bill, but because it talks about the process of an SEEC investigation, can you share with us what happens at SEEC and what is the potential penalty should this individual have been identified as a fraudulent voter? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, no, I do not have that information in front of me as to the full procedures of Elections Enforcement. But I do know that there are a whole host of statutes that deal with fraudulent voting and fraudulent registration, which is what we're dealing with here.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So I guess, and actually if -- I'm sure that if we practice this a little bit, we probably could have done the video and explained to the registrars exactly what's going to happen in the process.

But I'm not seeing a simple, quick process, so let me go back to my question earlier. How much time do you think this takes for someone to walk in, register, get verified, assuming they're coming from another town -- because that's sort of the worst-case scenario of the time element -- complete their ballot and move on? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Mr. President, I don't anticipate that that would be any significant amount of time, but it does depend upon the registrars on both ends of that conversation and how they're set up and how they operate. So in some towns it may be quicker than others, but we do know in the ten states that have this, it really is not a significant concern.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank -- thank you, Senator.

I -- I don't -- I don't dispute your understanding or your perception that this is a easy process in other states, but I do want to stay focused on what is the process in the State of Connecticut, because I've spent some significant time talking to registrars about what you and I just talked about. And as Senator Suzio said, just a little while ago, there -- there is some concern on their part.

And so you -- you have said that the process that we have just described, which I would like to reiterate just for thorough understanding, that I as an Election Day registrant applicant walks into a special location, not a normal polling place, generally; it could be but probably not. In the case of Danbury, I'll use as an example, the registrar's office resides at city hall. I assume that at city hall they'll have a separate room for this purpose, as they have a separate room for absentee ballot moderators and counters, and they'll be a table and -- and assistant registrars or agents of the registrar trained duly for Election Day registration.

And I walk in and they say, here's a card; fill it out. Welcome. Give us the paperwork you're supposed to give us. It is a Social Security card -- I'm still confused why we're not using a driver's license -- but it's a Social Security card, a utility bill or whatever that other list is that you have. And it could include a driver's license; that may be the only documentation they have.

And then they determine that the driver's license shows their residence in a previous town; they just moved here six months ago and forgot to register. And so now they have to go into the Centralized Voter Registration System and verify that this individual is registered in another community. They see that registration in the Centralized Voter Registration System and tell the voter to go sit and relax for a few minutes, because we have to call your old town registrar and verify a few things.

And they make a phone call, and the phone is busy on the other end or they're out to lunch or they're talking to somebody else, and so we have to wait a few minutes. But they make that connection, and so the registrar talks to the registrar from the old town and the new town and gives them the name. And they say, oh, yes, we have him here. Okay; well, you're going to take him off your list. And the other registrar says, okay, but we have to verify first that that individual hasn't already voted.

And we're talking to a registrar's office, not the polling place where the individual normally would have

voted in his previous residence, and so the registrar of the old community says I'll call you back or maybe they probably have to put them on hold, I guess. I'll call the polling place and have the moderator there tell me if this individual has voted.

And the moderator at that polling place is not immediately available because they're obviously moderating, so that takes a couple of minutes to make that connection. And meanwhile, this other registrar in the new community is awaiting the certification to delete him from the old community. And so now they make that connection; okay, we're going to cross him off. He hasn't voted. So the moderator of the polling place tells the registrar of the old community, we're done, we've deleted. And the registrar of the old community tells the registrar of the new community we're done.

And then we're now -- have a green light and the registrar of the new community tells the voter, congratulations. Welcome to your new community. Here's your ballot. Then they go to their ballot table and complete the ballot and put it into the, I assume the receptacle, just like everybody else votes, and -- and off he goes.

So that process that I've just described, contrary to what you've responded in how long does it take, with all due respect, Senator Slossberg, that takes some time. And I think that we need to get a better handle on why the registrars are so upset about this idea, because they're telling us -- me -- the ones that I've spoken to, that it's not a realistic expectation for them to do this transaction multiple times, perhaps thousands of times a day on Election Day.

So may I ask the question again? What -- what in your perception would be a reasonable expectation of the time when a registrar asks the question, okay, how long is this supposed to take? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Mr. President, Senator McLachlan, I -- I wish that I could give you an -- an average time of how long this will take, but I -- I think I would just be guessing, because it really does depend upon each registrar's office and the office that they're trying to deal with.

I recognize that you're, you know, telling me that the registrars oppose this, but I will tell you we've heard from many, many registrars over the years who have asked for this repeatedly. And those registrars that we've heard from have said to us, My job as a registrar is to get people to vote, is to make sure that people are voting, and we think that this is going to get more people to come in to register and to vote. And so we've heard, for years and years, about this process from registrars supporting it.

And I -- I know that, you know, Senator Suzio spoke previously about a -- a quick, you know, a quick blushful, an informal response. But I will tell you, there are nearly 350 registrars in our state, and so I -- I hardly think that 58 of them constitutes a majority. But I will tell you that we have absolutely heard from the people and from many, many registrars that they believe that this is a great thing for us to be doing to encourage people to vote.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator.

So the process, as understood in other states, is very quick; I beg to differ. We'll have to agree to disagree on that.

But I think for those registrars that just listened to this process description, those who didn't understand the process before are clearly scratching their head,

trying to figure out how all these phone calls are going to go back and forth. I think that's part of our challenge in the process. I'm talking process; I haven't gotten to the policy of it yet. But -- but just the process that is described in this bill before us, I think needs more further input from those on the front lines that are actually working the polls on a busy Election Day.

Through you, Mr. President, going back, if I may, to the -- through you to Senator Slossberg -- going back, if I may, to the -- the issue of the end-of-day reports about Election Day registrations and the ballots. What happens to that information? There is a moderators' report that shows the number of ballots but then there is some other reporting requirements to talk about who was accepted, I believe, as an Election Day -- a successful Election Day registration applicant and -- and also a report, as I understand, of who was rejected. Through you Mr. -- Madam President.

(The President in the Chair.)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Madam President, you know, in regard to -- I'm not exactly clear what you're -- what section you're referencing of the bill, Senator McLachlan, so possibly if you could direct me to a section, I'd be happy to address your question.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Well, actually that -- it -- I sort of read the whole bill and then I remembered certain things that have to occur, so I may not be able to go back. But there is

a process in this bill that -- that has certain requirements of the registrar at the end of the day. And so at the end of the day, the registrar has reporting requirements. Could you share with us what are those reporting requirements as they relate to Election Day registration in their community? Through you --

THE CHAIR:

Senator --

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

-- Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

-- Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Madam President, to Senator McLachlan, I'm -- I'm not sure that I'm clear on your question, and since you're unable to point me to a particular provision, you know, I think that the best answer I can give you is that, you know, we talked about the moderator's having the number of Election Day registration ballots received and then that being -- the registrars being required to seal a copy of the vote tally, put that aside and to be preserved along with the rest of the election materials.

I'm, you know, other than there being a report from the Secretary of State's Office, I am not clear on, you know, what you are specifically asking, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan, will you -- could you reframe your question?

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

Well, I -- I -- I was hopeful to instruct our registrars what will be their reporting and reporting requirements and physical process requirements following an Election Day at -- at the close of the polls at eight o'clock on Election Day. What will they have to do with all the activity surrounding this separate room -- it's going to be a separate room, in the case of Danbury, I believe, a separate room at city hall -- with employees that are dedicated to Election Day registration?

And I'm trying to understand now what does this, the -- the senior registrars, Democrat and Republican, have to do with all the activity that occurred in that room, the ballots and the registrations, what reports do they have to give either to the Secretary of the State or the State Elections Enforcement or town clerk, what -- what -- what has to be done from that point at eight o'clock on election night? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Madam President, to the best of my knowledge, nothing changes from what they normally do right now, other than what we've discussed already in terms of tallying up the Election Day registration ballots.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

So then this bill doesn't isolate the Election Day registration activity and the Election Day registration ballots and give us sort of a report on what transpired with this whole brand-new system. That's what I'm getting at. I thought that we had some methodology to -- to look at that, number one.

And, number two, it doesn't seem to tell us how much activity occurred during the day, so that they can study how much staff will be needed the next time they do this. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Madam President, to Senator McLachlan, I -- I'm not sure that this is what you are referring to, but in terms of your question of how do we, you know, sort of assess what has happened, again, the head moderator's return is going to show the number of Election Day registration's receipt, ballots received from the electors. And then the Secretary of State has a requirement to -- to report back to -- to GAE about some of the matters that you were talking about with, you know, the -- the poll work. She's required to conduct interviews with the registrars of voters, the poll workers, candidates, from various-size populations, to determine the efficacy of Election Day registration during the November 2000 [sic] election and make any observations and results in that report so that we can continue to enhance this system.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And so -- thank you, Senator Slossberg.

With the design of this process and this system, has there been due consideration of what the registrars should anticipate will be their funding and staffing requirements in their community to execute Election Day registration and balloting? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, Madam President, this Election Day registration doesn't take effect until July 2013, so the expectation is between now and then the registrars will have ample opportunity to make some determinations and to work with the Secretary of State's Office to try to determine those -- those issues.

However, we do know that because of the previous, the -- the law prior to Election Day registration, we had provisional battling -- balloting as well as, you know, the -- the Presidential ballots. We do have some sort of a sense of how many people walk in on -- on Election Day, although, you know, I -- on a Presidential year as to how many people would walk in the door and want to register and vote on that day.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

So let me divert then. I was sort of headed in another direction, but you raised a very good point about the Presidential ballot procedure in Connecticut. And -- and the process will change because if we have now Election Day registration, there will be a process whereby that old Presidential ballot system that we now know will change.

Could you clarify for us, please, what happens to the Presidential ballots' process that we have in place today? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, currently the Presidential ballot system is extended to both the federal and the state, the State people who are on the ballot. Now it will be -- and it also just applies to people, if you are a former resident of the State of Connecticut.

So what will happen now after Election Day registration is it will now only apply -- you'll only be able to come in as a former resident of the State of Connecticut and vote for President. And the other provisions of that now fall away, because if somebody hasn't registered, they'll be able to come in and register under EDA -- EDR.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

So it sounds like the population that will qualify for Presidential ballots is a very small fraction of what it once was, following the implementation of Election Day registration. Is that right, Senator Slossberg, through you, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President [sic], yes, that is correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

So Election Day -- or I'm sorry -- the -- the Presidential ballot process that we have now, and for other Legislators who aren't familiar, that is an unregistered voter who can't vote for all offices but by federal law must be granted the opportunity to vote for the Office of President is given a provisional Presidential ballot, essentially is what it is.

Now these ballots will be exclusively for the use of someone who used to live in Connecticut and moved to Florida or wherever and somehow comes back on Election Day and wants to vote? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, I'm sorry. Could you just repeat your question, Senator McLachlan.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

So for clarification, the -- the Presidential ballot following implementation of Election Day registration will only be made available to a former-Connecticut resident who moves out of state and then presents themselves on Election Day to vote but is no longer a registered voter in the State of Connecticut; is that correct, through you, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Madam President.

Yes, that is.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

And so if -- that's not going to happen very often, I guess. But so if someone's moved to Florida but they're back in Connecticut on business and Election Day and forgot to get an absentee ballot in Florida, they're registered to vote in Florida but they're entitled to get a Presidential ballot. I guess they could do that anywhere in the country, because that's a federal law. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, yes; that is a federal law.

THE CHAIR:

I know there's a lot of noise, sir, but it's not in the Chamber; I can't calm it down. I apologize. So would you proceed, Senator McLachlan? Everything is fine; the Democrats are still talking to each other.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you, Madam President, the Presidential ballot is available to any resident of the United States who presents themselves at a polling place on Election Day

and has not registered. Is that your understanding of the federal law, through you, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

I -- Madam President, I'm sorry; I did not hear the question --

THE CHAIR:

Could you --

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

-- Senator McLachlan, if --

THE CHAIR:

-- please repeat that?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

If you would --

THE CHAIR:

I'm sorry, sir.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

I'm just going to ask for just -- Madam President, if I just may have a moment?

THE CHAIR:

I'm sorry?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

If I just may have a moment, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Yes. The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Madam President, I'm sorry. We're all set here.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back.

Would you repeat your question now, Senator McLachlan?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

You're okay. We're okay.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

It's my understanding that the Presidential ballot process is driven by federal law, so that voters wishing to cast a ballot for the Office of President of the United States are not disenfranchised. They may present themselves to any polling place on Election Day and vote. Is -- and through you, Madam President, is that your understanding, Senator Slossberg?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Madam President.

Yes, that's my understanding, but, again, that's federal law.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And so a former resident of Connecticut is now a resident of another state and presents themselves at their old polling place and says I want to vote, can't, and the moderator at the polling place presents an opportunity to that individual -- I assume presents the opportunity because the individual probably wouldn't know this information -- but presents an opportunity to that individual that they may have a Presidential ballot, but that they can only vote for the Office of President of the United States not for any other office. And so if that's the case, what does that voter have to present to execute that ballot? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President -- Madam President -- excuse me -- I don't have the requirements for the federal HAVA Act in front of me, Senator McLachlan. And -- and, you know, I appreciate the discussion of the federal law but obviously our purview is just the state law here, so --

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I believe the Presidential ballot is referenced in this bill, although, frankly, I -- I don't know if the requirements or the process for a Presidential ballot are very specifically detailed, just that the way we had just detailed the Election Day registration process. So for clarification from your memory, then, if you will, Senator Slossberg, what -- well, actually, here, I spotted it. On line 256 is the reference to the process for a Presidential ballot, in person. It says the person shall present a current and valid photo identification and -- and other forms of identification.

Through you, Madam President, is this process for a Presidential ballot in Connecticut different than the process for Election Day registration balloting in -- as proposed in this bill in Connecticut? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, yes, this is the federal law and obviously I think we've discussed what the process for Election Day registration in our state will be.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And so, through you, Madam President, is it federal law that a person applying for a Presidential ballot in person shall present a valid photo identification? And then I see utility bill, bank statement, government check. Is this -- is that federal

requirement or is that a state statute overlaying federal requirement? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you, no, the State can't change federal law, so this is the federal law.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And so is this identification requirement for the Presidential ballot equal to the identification requirement to gain access to the ballot in Connecticut, the -- the -- the regular ballot in Connecticut, both Election Day registration ballot and/or the traditional, normal ballot for those who are currently registered as a voter? Is the process and requirements the same, through you, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, as it reads, a person applying for a Presidential ballot in person shall present a current and valid photo identification or a copy of a current utility -- utility bill -- and lists other things as well -- that shows the name and address of the voter by mail. It's the same thing and so those are the requirements under -- under this

particular section. I am -- it does not reference an oath, and we certainly know that we have one in the State of Connecticut.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

So the federal guidelines for a Presidential ballot application talk about a photo ID. Do State guidelines for application of Election Day registration talk about photo identification? Through you, Madam President.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through -- oops.

THE CHAIR:

All right, Senator Slossberg. I apologize.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you, to Senator McLachlan, the federal language provides a current and valid photo identification or a number of other items. The State law also states that you can present a valid driver's license or a birth certificate or a Social Security card and -- and other documents as well, plus an affirmation.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator.

So for clarification, an Election Day registration application requirement for identification is equal to the requirement for a Presidential ballot application in Connecticut, through you, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Through you, to Senator McLachlan, they are very similar.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

The process of -- of on-line registration is mentioned in this bill. I think that that's a -- a good idea, and you and I and other members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee have, seem to be in relative agreement on the concept of on-line registration. We seem to part ways on, in some cases, on on-line voting, and we certainly part ways in some cases on the process that we've just talked about.

However, could you, in as simple a way as possible, not as painfully detailed as it was to describe Election Day registration, help us understand what's going to happen with on-line registration as you understand those systems to operate for someone to remotely from the comfort of their home or their office register to vote? And -- and what is the behind-the-scenes process that occurs electronically to facilitate on-line registration, through you, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, since, you know, I'm not a computer technician, so if you ask me the technical questions on -- as to the database, we're going to be in trouble.

But I can tell you that what would happen is an individual would access their computer, go on-line, use their driver license number to log into the system. At that time, a screen pops up. They enter into the -- they enter in the information. They affirm they're a U.S. Citizen, that that are or will be 18 years old by Election Day, that they're a resident of the State of Connecticut, and that if they were convicted of a felony, that they've completed their prison sentence and their parole. They enter in all the information that's asked, that's prompted of them on the registration form, and the record is then matched against the DMV database, which is verified. And then the image of your signature that is on file at the DMV is lifted from their records and attached to the voter form, which is then sent to the registrar in the town where you live. The registrar receives that form electronically and then either accepts or rejects the registration accordingly.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

So for a clarification, Senator Slossberg, the verification process that's sort of occurring electronically behind the scenes, can you elaborate a bit on that? I'm -- I -- I think you -- you and I talked about this before, in another meeting, and it seems unique, this proposal that we are going to access other databases within the State of Connecticut government and verify someone is who they say they are. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes. Through you, Madam President, to the best of my understanding, there is a program now at the Department of Motor Vehicles that will allow -- allow them to interface with the registrar of voters with a Centralized Voter Registration System and that then those signatures will be able to be compared and we'd be able to verify, in fact, that the person who has submitted on-line is, in fact, they're the appropriate person.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

So -- and thank you, Senator.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

You're so welcome.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

You've described something that for us who are not the techno geeks, understanding what happens behind the scenes, it sounds like a reasonable security measure, certainly the way cyberspace works today. And hundreds of millions and billions of dollars are transacted over cyberspace and the Internet; it seems reasonable that we would be able to come up with some secure way to identify someone and verify they are who they claim to be.

And so assuming that that is an acceptable process, I understand that the Secretary of State, both current and previous have -- and you -- have done some significant research on this possibility over the years, that it -- that it makes perfect sense. What

is the cost to implement on-line registration in Connecticut? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, it is estimated that the, you know, the implementation costs as I -- I understand the fiscal note is probably about $250,000. But my understanding is that the Secretary of State has funding available for that.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And so that's good news, because we -- it sounds like we can move forward without worrying about our budget deficit, trying to find the money to do this. I think it's a good idea.

But what I'm wondering is how could on-line registration be expanded to ease the burden of Election Day registration? Through you, Madam President, have you given thought to the idea of a system that this state is planning to set up for secure, on-line registration of a voter, why not use that same secure system to register people on Election Day? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, that's not something we've contemplated at that -- at least that I've contemplated and certainly something that's not in the bill before us, but I don't see why we wouldn't have that conversation going forward.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And -- and I would agree that that -- that is a good idea; in fact, I'll probably introduce an amendment shortly that talks about that.

But I -- I wonder if the process of on-line registration is perfected -- and I understand that that's soon to be ready to be launched -- if that process is perfected, then why would we want to create a whole new process of verifications on Election Day registration that is not perfected? It seems to me that using the technology of on-line registration would make perfect sense and may even help in simplifying that other verification process that we've been concerned about, and that is the presence of a -- a voter registered in more than one community.

Thank you, Senator Slossberg for your very detailed responses. This is a -- a -- a very complicated bill. It's -- it's not -- it's one of those bills that's not heavy in paper, it's not the 150-or-250-page bill, but in these short pages, the whole process, the whole world of -- of voting, of Election Days, changes very dramatically in the State of Connecticut.

In fact, the -- we talked about the -- the registration process and what can happen. I don't think that we were able to come to agreement on the investment of time that registrars of voters will -- will have to come to grips with on training and personnel resources to implement Election Day registration in 169 communities in Connecticut.

Yes, I think that Election Day registration could be relatively simple in some of the smaller towns where the number of Election Day registrations are likely to be minimal. But I think when you look at Election Day registration reports, the advocates of Election Day registration -- and now I'll use the information that they have provided me in the pitch for Election Day registration -- using their information, it seems that they claim that Election Day registration can increase voter turnout from 10 to 19 percent; depends who you ask. Everyone has their opinion; that's a very wide, divergent view, and so I use 12. So if we use the understanding that it's very possible that -- in fact, Common Cause of Connecticut says that 10-to-12 percent increase is a reasonable expectation. Now it comes to my concern about the resources necessary to implement Election Day registration in each community.

So let me talk about Danbury. In a high voter turnout, certainly not a Presidential year, but in 2010, in the vote for Governor, there were 18,145 total votes for the Office of Governor in the City of Danbury.

If we use Common Cause of Connecticut's claim, projection of what can happen with Election Day registration, that tells me that Common Cause of Connecticut believes that 2000 more people will walk through the doors of city hall in Danbury on the next gubernatorial election and seek to register on Election Day and vote.

Now, if 2000 people in the City of Danbury have to come into city hall in one day, that is more than votes at any one of the polling places in the whole city. So now the Election Day registration point place or polling place, wherever that may be, is the buzz of activity in the community and is now the de facto largest and busiest polling place in the City of Danbury.

And so taking this further -- and I'm walking you through this because I've done this with registrars, we -- as my research, trying to anticipate what's going to happen. And so 2000 new voters walk in, anxious to vote, may or may not --

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan --

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

-- have necessary --

THE CHAIR:

-- could you stand at ease for one moment, please?

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Surely.

THE CHAIR:

I apologize.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back to order.

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you for the breather, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Anytime, sir.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

So in Danbury we have a, according to Common Cause of Connecticut, a potential 2000 additional voters. And we have walked through a process, as Senator Slossberg and I discussed, where someone comes in, and I believe that that process is a minimum of 10 minutes, perhaps 20, but it's at least 10 minutes for each and every new voter. We're going to have 2000 of them come into city hall and spend at least 10, perhaps 20 minutes

there to do their transaction. Now, that's without a line.

So the point I'm trying to make here, just in the seventh-largest city of the State of Connecticut -- we're not talking about the largest one, because if we go to Bridgeport, some advocates say that in the largest city of Connecticut, Election Day registration could be a bigger number in percentage. The demographic is different and it is more appropriate and more successful for Election Day registration than it is in some other communities. And so assuming that we still use Common Cause Connecticut's 10-to-12 percent number, then that increase is over 4000 people are going to seek to register in Bridgeport.

Now, that's just two cities. So when you multiply that across the State of Connecticut, this is a major impact; this is a major activity that has never happened here before, and I don't believe that the bill before us has adequately considered how complicated this is really going to be. This is a very complicated process.

You have to keep in mind that the people who run elections in the State of Connecticut, although the Secretary of State is the Chief Election Officer, is not the people who run the elections. It is in many cases part-timers that are only here a couple of days out of the year. And yes, they're trained, but it is a big undertaking for us to ask them to take on this very burdensome new process without anticipating the resources that will be necessary to execute this. So knowing that, that there's exceptional resources necessary, this bill does not consider how much it's going to cost each and every community in the State of Connecticut to pay for the cost of this activity.

Now there is a report that was prepared at some point over the last couple years, I don't know if it's current year or previous year that, you know, it's in the low thousands of dollars to implement EDR. I don't think that -- I don't think that that report, that projection is anywhere near correct, if that report were to have considered the process that Senator Slossberg and I, in great detail, described will occur for a new applicant on Election Day. And

so if you racket -- ratchet that up quite dramatically, those costs that were projected in a OLR report -- I believe it was an OLR report -- I believe that those numbers go up exponentially.

I also have concerns about ballot security, and I think we touched on that a bit when we talked about on-line registration. There's a big difference between on-line registration and Election Day registration, and the big difference is that someone who seeks to register on-line has to have a connection to state government in some, way, shape or form so that their signature can be electronically attached from another state agency, like Motor Vehicles, Department of Social Services. Whatever state agency they've connected with that has on file an electronic signature is able to capture that electronic signature from another state agency and attach it to the voter registration in the on-line registration process. That's sealing the deal. That's a real person with security that we know who they are, and that makes perfect sense.

And so Madam President, in the interest of ballot security -- I'm looking for the number -- one moment, please.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(Chamber at ease.)

Senate will come back to order.

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

In the interest of ballot security, would the Clerk call LCO Number 5121.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you please call the Amendment,

Senate "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5121, Senate "A," offered by Senator McLachlan.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move the amendment and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on adoption. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

When the vote is taken, I ask that it be taken by roll.

THE CHAIR:

It will, sir.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Very simply, the gist of this amendment is that we may confirm that on-line voting should be the process by which we execute Election Day registration. In fact, we've identified that on-line voting -- I'm sorry -- on-line registration is the right way to execute Election Day registration.

In a conversation with Senator Slossberg, I believe she concurred that it's a -- perhaps a good idea that on-line registration is the wave of the future. And if this legislative body seeks to move forward with

Election Day registration, a -- a big move for our government to undertake, that it should do so fully employing the technology available to us today by way of using on-line registration, in-person, at the polling place for Election Day registration so that we may secure the ballot. I urge adoption.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, I -- I rise in opposition to the amendment. You know, as I was reviewing the document and the effective dates for the on-line registration system, which I'm delighted that we all agree on, the effective date is actually January 2014, six months after Election Day registration goes into place.

And the reason for that is that that is the amount of time we expect to actually get this system up and running on-line. It does have to be -- while there are certain components in existence, as I understand it, at the DMV, it's not -- the expectation is that it will not be actually able to come on-line until January 2014. So my hope would be if for some reason it was available sooner, that we would come in here and make it available sooner, but at this time, I don't think it is a workable scenario.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR McKINNEY:

Thank you.

Madam President, I want to stand in support of the amendment. Senator Slossberg who knows these issues well described this as unworkable. Is it a delay in implementation of Election Day registration? Yes. The reason for the delay is because that's when the on-line registration system will be up and running.

Under the current bill, there is no system of protections up and running, and I think if we engaged in a question, answers, I could demonstrate that. But I'll just simply say this: If you are a college student who lives in another state, attending college at Fairfield University, you are entitled to register and vote in Fairfield, Connecticut. You're also entitled to be register and vote in your home, presumably your parents' house, let's say in Ohio. It would -- it would be easy for that person to get an absentee ballot, vote in Ohio, show up on Election Day in Fairfield, register to vote with their ID card and their bill from their beach house, where many Fairfield U students rent and live, and the town would not be able to tell whether that person was registered in Ohio or not to vote.

Do I know if that's going to happen a lot? I don't. Do I believe it has happened? Yes. There -- it clearly happened when we first did Presidential ballots; there's no dispute that it happened in that Presidential Election.

So yes, there's a delay in Election Day registration, but why is there a delay? Because there's no verification to cover all of the instances to prevent any type of misvoting by anyone.

And that's the goal. That is the goal. Every single person who is 18 and older and a citizen of this country, we want to register to vote and vote, and that's it, not one less, not one more.

We spend a lot of time in the underlying bill, focus on making sure that every single person who is 18 votes and not as much time, although some, but not as much time on making sure that we don't get more votes than we should. And I think both of those problems, not having enough people voting, and the concern that there are people who shouldn't be voting voting, are equal and should be met equally as we engage in election reform. That's exactly what I think this amendment tries to do and strikes the balance, and that's why I support it.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you, Madam President.

I'll keep my remarks short, but I'd like to concur with what Senator McKinney said and Senator McLachlan. And the issue is not expediency in terms of doing it faster, it's doing it right. And if this is going to make it more secure and protect the system, that's more important than getting it done in a timely fashion.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Fasano.

Will you remark?

If not, Mr. Clerk, will you call a roll call vote? And the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

THE CHAIR:

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

And, Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally, please.

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment Schedule "A," for House Bill 5024.

Total number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	14
Those voting Nay	20
Absent, not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The amendment fails.

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise for the purpose of an amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Would the Clerk please call LCO Number 5117.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you please call LCO 5 -- 5117, Senate "B?"

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5117, Senator "B," offered by Senator McLachlan.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move the amendment and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on -- on adoption. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Yes, Madam President. I'd like a -- a roll call vote on this.

THE CHAIR:

A roll call vote will occur, sir.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

This amendment is very simple. It seeks to increase the penalty for any person who fraudulently presents themselves for registration as elector in the state -- as an elector in the State of Connecticut and increases that penalty from $500 to $2000 or in prison not more than one year or both.

It's pretty amazing, when you think about it that an election official, like a registrar, can be penalized $2000 if they go wayward but someone who is fraudulent in their application for registration as a voter in the State of Connecticut is only subject to a $500 fine.

Madam President, I think this is an appropriate equalization of the penalties related to elections in the State of Connecticut, and I urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you. Through you -- thank you, Madam President.

While I agree with Senator McLachlan that this is a very serious, you know, any sort of election fraud is a very serious issue, I would note that someone who already -- who commits this type of act is already committing perjury, which is a Class D felony, and anyone who as a result of fraudulently registering, also fraudulently votes in this way has additional penalties.

And there is also another bill in this Legislature that's making its way through -- the way through its course to deal with additional election violations. So I rise in opposition.

Thank you, Madam President, and I'd ask that this vote by taken by roll call --

THE CHAIR:

It is --

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

-- if that hasn't --

THE CHAIR:

-- already.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir -- ah, ma'am.

Will you remark?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR McKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise, again, in support of the amendment, and -- and let me use the hypothetical I gave on the first amendment to again justify why this is such an appropriate and necessary amendment. Again, this college student at Fairfield University who comes from Ohio. That student has the right to register to vote at their home in Ohio or at their new home in Fairfield, where they go to college. As I understand the bill and the law and the systems we have in place, if that student were to vote by absentee ballot in Ohio and show up on Election Day at our town hall in Fairfield -- assuming that's the one place they pick, which I think they will; that's where the registrar's office is -- for same-day registration with a valid ID and bill from their home on the beach in Fairfield, they will be registered to vote.

And on that day, we do not have the mechanisms to find out that that student is registered in Ohio; they exist, but it won't happen that day. So the question is: That person faces penalties and fines if they do that, but their vote can't be taken away. Those penalties and fines need to be very stiff, as a deterrent from that happening.

The other thing I would say, Madam President -- and I don't think anyone would dispute my hypothetical about what could happen with the student from Ohio going to college here -- perhaps this is a little more controversial. But if we're all being honest, we'll admits it happens. On Election Day, there are buses that go all over in the place in the state, gathering people up to take them to the polls. Oftentimes a lot of people who gather up to go to polls show up and

many of them aren't registered. I would argue where have you been for the whole year? But, at the same time, if they're properly here and living in the residence in that area where they want to go register, they should register to vote.

But it happens. We know it happens. And we know it happens with what is commonly referred to as "walking around money," petty cash from the campaign that goes around and maybe it inspires people to gather up some people to go to vote or maybe it encourages those to go to vote; but it happens. And I can't imagine anyone here would stand up and say, What are you talking about?

So if we know that there are tactics used in campaigns to try to go get as many people to go vote as possible -- and I haven't mentioned a party because I'm sure both parties engage in it -- and there might be little financial incentives to get people to do this, we need to make sure that there's a very big financial deterrent. Because I think one of the things we've learned under this bill is that yes, it may be that we can find out if there is someone who voted who should not have voted, but that will not happen until after the vote, obviously, because they've already voted, and there's no mechanism to take that vote back, because we're not segregating the ballots and we're not holding them like we did the Presidential ballots. So if we're going to do that, we need to make sure that the financial penalties are so strong that they provide a much greater deterrence than anything that might be out there to encourage those who should not be voting.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

I appreciate that. I stand in strong support of the amendment. I want to thank Senator McLachlan for introducing it.

I think we'd all agree that voting is a sacred privilege. There are thousands if not hundreds of thousands and millions of people throughout the world who are giving -- exposing their lives to have the privilege to vote. We fought for it, starting nearly 300 years ago, and we've had to fight for it for hundreds of years since the beginning, since the inception of our country. It's something we all value. It's all something that -- it's something that we take very, very seriously, and it's -- it's a rite of passage when you become 18 years old or in the old days 21 years old. To go out and vote was an absolute privilege and it's something we all took very seriously. And it seems to be -- it seems to be getting a little bit out of control.

And, you know, we've heard from a lot of registrars throughout the State of Connecticut that they're against this, and you have to ask yourself why? It was reported before by the proponent of the bill, Senator Slossberg, that, in fact, there is very little reported fraud, that there's no proof of it in terms of registration. But is that because we have a somewhat decent system of voter registration currently, and if we go to change that, are we not asking for -- for troubles?

And in every election cycle that I can remember, in speaking with the registrars locally in my district and outside of the district, there have been complaints that there have been numerous attempts, especially in 2008 and 2010, having to do with attempts to try to register folks who are not legitimately here in the country or to the legitimately qualified to -- to vote.

So, you know, we as a country, we as a state are so obsessed with wrongly accusing people in the courts of crimes that they did not, that they did not perform. And here it's -- it's similar but a little bit different; you know, why shouldn't we be concerned and

obsessed with wrongly accepting an identity of someone who is coming in to get registered to vote in a poll or as the bill suggests, register on the same day to come in and vote, shortly after registering?

So if -- if -- if I understand the amendment correctly, it goes from 500 to $2000 as a fine for fraudulently trying to register oneself onto the voting rolls, and I think that's a step in the right direction. I think Senator McLachlan is onto something here, and the only thing I wish that was included in the amendment was that this would be publicized, because this is such a fundamentally basic principle in American democracy, and if we -- if we jeopardize it, you know, what are we doing to ourselves? What -- what are asking for, ultimately?

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, Mr. Clerk, will you please call a roll call vote? And the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

There is an immediate roll call vote in the Senate. Immediate roll call is ordered in the Senate. All Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted -- if all members voted, the machine will be close.

Mr. Clerk, you'll please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Senate amendment "B" to House bill 5204.

Number members Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18

Voting Yea 14
Nay 20
Absent, not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

The amendment fails.

Will you remark? Will you remark further?

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise for the purpose of an amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

The Clerk should have LCO Number 5106. I ask that he call the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call 5106.

THE CLERK:

LCO 5106, Senate Amendment Schedule "C," offered by Senator McLachlan.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move the amendment and --

THE CHAIR:

The motion --

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

-- seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on adoption. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I'd request a roll call on this.

THE CHAIR:

A roll call will be had.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Our discussion about Election Day registration went into some detail about what happens with the information ascertained during the process of Election Day and this new Election Day registration and ballot process. And one of the things that was troubling to me was what do we do with the information about someone whose registration is faulty in some way. And by way of the registration verification in the underlying bill, it requires the registrar to send out a letter to verify their address, and if the letter is returned, then that information is recorded.

What I'm suggesting by way of this amendment is that all, any and all of those incomplete Election Day registrations, incomplete because the confirmation was not completed, we are unable to find this individual at the residence they claim to live, that information should be transmitted by the register to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for investigation, in accordance with state statute. I urge adoption.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you, in I may, a question to the proponent of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Madam President.

And through you to Senator -- to Senator McLachlan. How could we not refer that information to an appropriate investigatory authority? What -- what value is there to the sending out of the notice if it's not for the purpose of ensuring that compliance with the law, the faithfulness of the application? Through you, Madam President, to --

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR RORABACK:

-- Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator Roraback for your question.

When Senator Slossberg and I were discussing the process that at a registrar of voters' proceeds with during this new Election Day registration, we talked about the verification with a former resident. In other words, we talked about, you may recall, if we're trying to verify someone who's moved into town and we're calling the old town to say take that individual off the voter rolls because they're going to vote in our town now, if that individual had voted in the old town, the red flag goes up. The bells go off, and a process begins.

Now, that process is a little wishy-washy, as far as I'm concerned, but this amendment says even when someone registers and the mail comes back because they have failed to give us the correct registration information or it's a fraudulent application, that information should go directly to SEEC for investigation.

You may know that registrars often do a survey to check the voter rolls. This will be a more secure and quicker process to identify any potential fraud in the Election Day registration process. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Madam President.

I support the amendment because to me the return of that envelope would suggest that we have evidence of fraud punching us in the nose. And for a registrar or anyone else not to have an affirmative obligation to dig deeper when that happens, I think invites suspicion about how much we care about ensuring the integrity of the process. So I -- I support the amendment.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

Just a -- a quick statement. The S-double-E-C stands for the State Elections Enforcement Commission. And just to give you a very, very quick story about when they were first created and I was first running for office and how seriously they take their job, we were in a forum asking questions about what we needed to do to be in compliance with election law, state election law. And there were hundreds of questions and the one that I remember the most is this, is if we happen to be in our office of our place of work and we need to print something out, a form that needs to be submitted to the S-double-E-C and it comes out of the corporate printer, are we meant to factor into our expenses for campaign purposes the amount of ink in that cartridge, in the Hewlett-Packard printer or whatever printer it might be? And the answer was yes. I don't know how you calculate that, but that is the detail to which the S-double-E-C wants us to have fair and orderly elections.

They've audited, the first time around, a hundred percent of the candidates' campaigns; the second time around, I believe it was, if not a hundred percent, it was darn close to a hundred percent. They're obsessed with making fair elections in Connecticut. This is a very good amendment because what it asks them to do, very simply, is take a look at the other side of the equation. Who is voting in these elections? Are they legitimate? And if they had just one-tenth of the level of meticulousness in looking at that side of the equation, there would be zero voter fraud in the State of Connecticut.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you -- Senator Cassano, the "C."

SENATOR CASSANO:

Thank you, Madam President.

Just, if I may, a question of Senator McLachlan --

THE CHAIR:

Please --

SENATOR CASSANO:

-- through you.

THE CHAIR:

-- proceed, sir.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Yes. I'm just wondering. I know your representation as a -- a good keeper of the funds in Danbury, and there are many times over the years that in protecting the taxpayer we were worried and mandates.

And I'm just wondering, if we're going to -- it seems like you want to pursue who those people are. Is it the municipality that would pursue these missing people or would the State assume that cost in sending the ballots on? Because I'm thinking of the mandate issue here.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator Cassano, and thank you for your kind words of being dutiful with funds. I'm going to tell my wife that you said that, but --

SENATOR CASSANO:

You're good at it.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

-- I wonder if you may recall that the process in the underlying bill requires a verification by the registrar of all Election Day registrations. So this mandate is already in the underlying bill that all new registrants, all new voter registrations on Election Day are going to get a letter from the registrar. If that letter comes back, I believe it should be forwarded to State Elections Enforcement. I think the additional mandate of this amendment is only the postage from city hall to SEEC. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Thank you, and -- and my concern is if we only forward that letter and wherever it is received, if it's something is not done, in this case probably the State of Connecticut or -- it's got to be the State of Connecticut I would assume we would send it to, somebody, if we're serious about stopping fraud would have to pursue that, and I imagine that would be a cost to the State as opposed to the municipality. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator Cassano.

Yes, the cost for pursuing fraud would be borne by the State Elections Enforcement Commission. They are

charged with investigating these matters and pursuing voter fraud. Through you, Madam President.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO:

And it's not the municipality.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Thank you, very much.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise in opposition to the amendment. I understand the intent here but I also recognize that our mail is not perfect and our people are not perfect. And oftentimes our mailings and our postcards come back undeliverable because of human error and data entry, and I wouldn't want to see in those circumstances our good citizens being hauled off to Elections Enforcement unnecessarily.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, Mr. Clerk, will you please call the roll call vote? And the machine will be open.

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:

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

Mr. Clerk, will you please call a tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment Schedule "C."

Total number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	14
Those voting Nay	20
Absent, not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The amendment fails.

Will you remark?

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise for the purpose of one more amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Would the Clerk please call LCO Number 5120.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call the Amendment 5120, please?

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5120, Senate "D," offered by Representative [sic] McLachlan.

THE CHAIR:

Senator, please proceed.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move the amendment and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on adoption. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I'd request a roll on this amendment.

THE CHAIR:

A roll call vote will be had, sir.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

In a previous session of the Connecticut General Assembly, we eliminated polling place observers, a certain segment of observers that were available and apparently little used. This amendment seeks to

reinstitute the polling place observers available specifically and only for the Election Day registration process. The registrars of voters shall choose one person from each of the candidates list of observers that were proposed. Now, the reason for this is, frankly, people who have been in the political process for years are unsure how Election Day registration is going to work. Even the description that we had today, back and forth with Senator Slossberg, there was some concern on my part about the time it will take for each individual to get through the process.

There is grave concern on the part of many registrars about the process that's being proposed, and that in and of itself, if the registrars are uncomfortable, that means that the candidates will also be uncomfortable. And so these observers will set our minds at ease, if you will. They are voluntary, not compulsory, may observe the Election Day registration process in that room or facility that is provided in each community, and I urge adoption.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator McKinney. Oops -- however -- Senator McKinney.

SENATOR McKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

If I could, just a quick question, through you, to the proponent of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR McKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Are the poll observers, Senator McLachlan, volunteers who represent the campaigns or are they people who volunteer on behalf of the municipality where the election is being held? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan. Senator McLachlan? Oh, sorry, sir.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator McKinney for your question.

This is a poll observer to represent the candidates. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

And Senator McKinney.

SENATOR McKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

I -- I thank Senator McLachlan.

We did do away with the poll observers, but I -- so my memory was a little less clear. But I understood and respected the question of Senator Cassano earlier about further mandates on our municipalities beyond the mandate that this bill is. And obviously your answer to my question, sir, relieves me of the fact that this is not a burden on our municipalities. It is voluntary on behalf of the campaigns, and it will allow each campaign to make sure, because obviously they have as much care and concern about Election Day registration as our registrars do, and I think this gives a good balance, especially when we're trying it for the first time.

We did away with poll observers for a reason, and I think if EDR works and the poll observers are not necessary, we can end up doing away with them again.

But as we're going to roll this out, I think we ought to try this and bring the poll observer back.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

A couple of quick questions, through you, to Senator McLachlan.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

Please -- please continue, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

Senator McLachlan, thank you for bringing out yet another worthy amendment. My question for you is: Do you remember how the elimination of campaign poll observers came about, legislatively -- a brief answer -- last session?

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator Frantz for your question.

The elimination of poll observers was noncontroversial, sort of under the radar screen because they were so little used. It seemed to do away with something that wasn't being used. There were virtually no requests for them, and so -- it's my understanding there were no requests for them -- there were no requests in my area of western Connecticut.

But in this case, with this whole new election process, it seemed appropriate to reinstitute poll observers to watch this new process. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

And again through you, Madam President, to Senator McLachlan, do you know what the logic was? You may have just given the explanation, but do you know what the logic was behind the initiative to eliminate campaign poll observers?

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I -- I honestly don't recall the specific discussion about it, but I do recall that it was noncontroversial at the time. There were, as I recall, no objections to it. It was only questioned, frankly, after the fact. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

And through you, again, Madam President. So this particular, specific issue, Senator McLachlan, was brought up in committee and was discussed?

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

The issue of -- now I believe you're referring to a previous session of the General Assembly. In committee, it was part of an underlying bill; I don't believe it was a free-standing bill. Perhaps Senator Slossberg could recall the detail, but it seems to me that that was part of a omnibus bill of election statutes. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

And through you, Madam President, to Senator McLachlan, thank you for those answers.

And just to summarize my feelings on it, it came as a surprise to me; it came as a surprise to a lot of people. You've answered my questions and to -- as to how it may have gotten to where it got to last session, buried in a larger, omnibus-type bill.

But I can tell you, there were a lot of people in my district really upset and disappointed that this -- they, as using their phrase "snuck into law." And my radar tends to go up, Madam President, when -- when you legislate out of the possibility -- legislate out of the realm of possibility the idea of having additional sources at polling places to verify that polls are being properly conducted and that we have fair elections.

With that, thank you, Madam President. I support the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Madam President.

I'm rising in opposition to the amendment. In fact, I do remember why we eliminated the polling place observers. We had received word that in certain communities -- Gesundheit --

THE CHAIR:

Bless you.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

In certain communities, this was actually a great source of chaos and contention. And the registrar of voters came to our committee, stating that they had a couple of problems with it. One, when they had polling place observers, they were picked by the candidates, and then the poll -- the registrar was required to hire them as polling place observers, so there was a cost associated.

The amendment before us, although everyone is talking about it being, you know, not mandatory, it actually says the registrar of voters shall appoint polling place observers who shall be electives of the State and who shall only have access to the location designed -- designated for Election Day registration. So it is, in fact, mandatory in, you know, in this amendment.

But the reason that we eliminated in the first place was there were more than enough people at the polling places who were there to ensure that the elections ran

smoothly. We've got the moderator. You've got the assistant moderator. You've got your poll checkers, all your election workers who are there to ensure that the -- that the system works properly.

But most disconcerting, though, was the pressure that the registrar of voters felt that was brought on them to hire particular persons to be those polling place observers, as designated by the candidate. And so when those reports came back to us, that was -- that was the -- or the impetus to eliminate that section, as a result. And certainly there, as Senator McLachlan was correct, there was no hue and a cry when that left because, in fact, it was not a helpful provision at that time.

So, you know, I realize that there are members of the Chamber who when -- you know, and -- and registrars who have, you know, concerns with regard to same-day registration, however, I believe that there are more than enough safeguards in -- in place to address those concerns. And so I will be opposing this amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, Mr. Clerk, will you call a roll call vote? And I will open the machines.

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.

Have all members voted? If all members voted, the machine will be closed.

And, Mr. Clerk, will you call a tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment Schedule "D."

Total number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	14
Those voting Nay	20
Absent, not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The amendment fails.

Whoops -- will you remark?

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I stand in opposition to the underlying bill and would just like to take a brief moment to summarize the reasons for my opposition. This whole concept of Election Day registration is -- is a worthy goal. Access to the ballot is something that I believe all elected officials want to honor and embrace. I believe that we, certainly in the minority party here, I believe all of my colleagues in the Republican caucus are in agreement that we should find all the ways we can to embrace and increase voter turnout.

The problems are many in accomplishing that goal, and we have described a process today that is incomplete and not ready for implementation. The problems certainly are for a local municipality financial and logistical. We need additional poll workers, additional ballots, more equipment, new space, and there are certainly safeguards to prevent fraud in the process; same-day registration, in some parts of the country, have demonstrated cases of fraud.

Now, I believe that if the State of Connecticut would implement the idea, that we presented by way of an amendment today, to shift the Election Day registration process into the secure, on-line voter

registration system, then that will allay many concerns. Unfortunately, that idea was rejected. I understand it needs further study, but it clearly should be looked at. And I hope the Secretary of State, who is staffed, and our esteemed Deputy Secretary is here tonight and hopefully will look very carefully at that idea.

Registering to vote in Connecticut is already simple and convenient. In fact, if you look at a federal court case decision, for those of you that may have not recalled, the State of Connecticut was sued by ACORN and others, challenging Connecticut's voter registration deadline as being unconstitutional. And yet Connecticut's voter registration deadline of seven days is the most liberal and easiest deadline process in the United States of America, except those states that have Election Day registration.

In fact, in the federal court decision, ACORN, et al v. Susan Bysiewicz, the judge says -- refers to comments from Jeffrey Garfield, the former-General Counsel of the Elections Commission. And Mr. Garfield testified that over the last five years, the State's Election Commission has received approximately 1100 complaints of fraud. He did go on to say that only about five were substantiated cases, but Mr. Garfield further testified that his extensive experience with Connecticut elections leads him to believe that more voter fraud occurs than is reported; that's correct. Quote, I think we have evidence that voter registration fraud is committed, and as I indicated before, there's a lot more that we don't see because it's difficult to detect, and people don't tend to bring all the cases to us that exist out there.

Now, this is a federal court decision. Obviously he testified under oath, and Mr. Garfield was a well-respected elections' official for many years in the State of Connecticut, and that was his observation. That's not my opinion. That's a well-respected, Connecticut election official, State election official's opinion that election fraud should be paid attention to in Connecticut. And Election Day registration is ripe for that challenge.

The registrar of voter in New Britain testified before the Government Administration and Elections Committee and told us about their experience in 2008 with the Presidential Election, that 8 percent of the provisional voters in New Britain failed the verification process. This is testimony on file with the GAE Committee. Now, that's not unique, and that means that that address verification process, that I mentioned in one of my amendments, 8 percent of them failed. And that's why I brought that amendment out, because we have that challenge in Danbury.

Some would say, well, those are clerical errors or somebody couldn't read the writing or -- okay, that's fine, but not 8 percent. So the point is we've got a little bit of a problem there. If you're going to do Election Day registration, please do it right. Pay attention to the mistakes. And don't let fraud happen, because we have the technology to -- to correct it. But we have to be diligent. And Mr. Garfield's testimony in federal court makes it perfectly clear that diligence is our obligation, that the voter fraud occurs but it's not being reported. We have -- we must be diligent. We must be diligent. Don't minimize, fellow Legislators, don't minimize the importance of this topic.

When I say that the process is not fully vetted, what about the busload of people that come in the door at quarter-to-eight and all have to be processed for Election Day registration? We're assuming that, like a regular balloting process, they will all be processed until -- just like a regular; let them in the door and then they process whoever is there.

Another registrar from Cheshire testified registration laws are so simple to follow and access, and the registration form so easy, there is very little to prevent a person who really wants to vote from registering any day of the year. And all they have to do is download the form in the convenience of their own home, available in bilingual, fill it out, and give it a 45-cent stamp and mail it in.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, of course, has concerns about the fiscal impact to local governments, but unfortunately we don't really have a

clue what it's going to cost. That's -- that's not good. We got to stop talking about good ideas, good ideas that don't carry the legislative responsibility of the financial burden. We can't pass on a good idea to another government agency, namely a local municipality, and say you do it, you pay for it; because that's local taxpayers footing the bill. And we're -- we as State government should be -- should be giving them the financial resources to do this, because we are passing on the burden.

In Greenwich, both the Republican and Democrat registrars for Greenwich loudly and in unison testified against Election Day registration. Quote, this bill is a further step in a series of changes which we believe erodes voter confidence in the election process.

Now, the Pew Center -- we all have our think-tanks that we like to read and study -- the Pew Center is probably a more liberal of the many think-centers out there, think-tank out there. But the Pew Center on the States just released a report that found that current voter registration systems, quote, are plagued with errors and inefficiencies that waste taxpayer dollars, undermine voter confidence, and fuel partisan disputes over the integrity of our elections.

Now that, that's not a Republican comment there; that's not a conservative comment; that's a think-tank comment, who generally leans Democrat. So I'm using the lean-Democrat language to say that they're concerned too. We should all be concerned.

Last, but not least, the Registrars of Voters, ROVAC, did submit testimony on the original bill, which is different than what we have, but in general comments, their concerns about Election Day registration fall into three categories, cost, logistics, and integrity. So I think we talked about all those things here today.

I'm grateful to Senator Slossberg for her very diligent response to some detailed questions, but I do want to close with another point about challenges with elections and -- and voter fraud in Connecticut. Listen, none of us want to claim ownership of fraud in

the system that we're in the middle of. Face it; I'm an elected official, I don't want to touch that. I don't want anything to do with or claim ownership to any participation or knowledge of fraud in the system that we live within.

But in Stonington, Connecticut lived a -- a woman in a nursing home who passed away at the age of 97, in the year 2000, but she voted 7 years later. Three hundred people across Connecticut appeared to have voted from the grave. This is from the University of Connecticut's study that found -- and this -- this article is dated April 20, 2008.

Another town had a resident who voted 17 times after he died in 1992. Now, those are extreme stories. I did some research; there's responses to all those things. Well, that was the junior, the senior; somebody crossed off the wrong name; it's clerical error. I get it. I mean it, you know, it's very possible to make clerical errors. The problem is that these -- flagship university of our state studied this, not the university per se but a class within the university, and the Hartford Courant published an article that threw daggers at our system and even said that the state voter database was very weak.

Now, we know that the new database is being upgraded. In fact, I understand that in my hometown, the most recent upgrade has arrived this week; it's not even been implemented. So we know that -- that the Secretary of State is making changes. But these are a lot of changes that we're demanding of our Chief State Election Official and our local registrars; this is a very dramatic change that we're asking them to take on with no financial resources to go with it.

Madam President, with all due respect to the hard work that's gone into the idea of Election Day registration and the hard work that the advocates for Election Day registration have put into this idea for many years, I must say that even now, even now in the 21st Century, the proposal that's before us today is not ready for implementation. And it's not ready for implementation because of a lot of the things that I just talked about in this summary and the concerns that I expressed by way of amendments during the debate

tonight. So Madam President, I stand opposed to this bill and I urge rejection.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark?

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

I do appreciate the discourse that we had between Senator McLachlan and -- and Senator Slossberg, because it was very informative to me, and it really underscored, setting the financial issues aside, two fundamental problems with the bill with respect to protecting the franchise, which to me is the most important thing. And that is if we're going to have same-day registration but we're not going to require a photo ID and/or we're not going to require provisional ballot to be -- to be filled out, they're going to set aside a form identifying who they are and where they live, but the vote is still going to count.

And we've all heard the stories; Senator McLachlan recounted a few of them. Many of them are urban legend, but we've heard the stories. We've heard about the front offensive line of the Dallas Cowboys voting in Las Vegas. We've heard about the thousands of people in counties in Texas who have phony voter registrations or a woman down in Texas who voted six or registered to vote six times in one day.

But now they're not just going to get to register, they're going to get to vote. And that vote is going to count. I think we would all agree here that -- that the right to vote, the franchise is one to die for.

And I think that some would make the argument that that is why we ought not to disenfranchise people who

can't register, for whatever reason, within the seven-day window. I would argue that that's a very, very small population. And as Senator McLachlan said, that seven-day window is one of the most liberal in the state -- in the -- in the country and one that's been already determined to be constitutional.

I would also argue that the converse of that is probably more worthy of protecting, and that is stopping the fraud that's going to cancel out, that will cancel out a legitimate vote.

You know, when I -- when I look at these problems and I -- I consider the -- the legislation that's before us, no matter what it is, the first question I ask myself is: What is the reason for this rule? What is the reason for the rule? Because I think if you -- if you get to the heart of that, then you're going to be able to craft the best solution. And if the reason for the rule is encouraging an increase in voter participation -- and I think that's what I've heard today -- I think really that's what I've heard today is that's what we're trying to do. We're trying to increase the amount of people that vote in the State of Connecticut.

Then I would argue that this is not -- this is not the answer, because I don't think people aren't voting, aren't coming out to vote because they can't make the seven-day window. I think they aren't coming out to vote because we're not giving them a reason to come out to vote. I think we're the problem, not the current law. We're either too boring or we've broken too many promises or we're not living up to their expectations; we are the problem. So if we want to get people to get out there and vote, we don't need to change the law, we need to be better politicians or we need different politicians.

So, Madam President, I -- I really appreciate the insightful discussion we had today. I am a no-vote on this one, and I would also encourage my fellow Senators to stand with me.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Madam President.

And -- and I rise, reluctantly, also to oppose this bill. I want to thank Senator McLachlan for drilling down deeply into what we're doing and why we are premature in doing it.

I don't serve on the GAE Committee, Madam President, and so I gather information in a different way. I represent 15 communities, more than any other member of this General Assembly, and I travel about the 15 communities. I've been representing them for a long time, and I know registrars, Republican and Democrat in all of these communities. So as I've been traveling around over the past several months, I've been taking the pulse of people who I know deep down in their hearts are doing everything they can to encourage people to register to vote.

Madam President, we know our registrars go to our schools, they sit around on Saturdays because the law requires them to, from eight in the morning until six at night, and maybe get one, two, three people come through the doors. Our registrars recognize that nothing is more important than making it easy for people to vote, to register, and it should be easy. And it is -- it is -- it is easy. The only thing that slows a registrar down is fear that making it easy to vote could invite fraud, misrepresentation or a corruption of the election process. And the registrars that I've seen have encouraged me to vote against this bill, not because they don't want people to register to vote -- that's what they live for -- they've encouraged me to oppose this bill because they're not confident that the tools are in place to allow this policy to be implemented in a way that they will have confidence can withstand the scrutiny which necessarily we should all be applying.

Madam President, Election Day can be a chaotic day. We don't have to look too far back to be reminded of just how chaotic it can be. Less than two years ago, we ran out of ballots in what I believe, Senator Gomes, is Connecticut's largest city. To introduce this concept at this time suggests that we as policy makers have a greater understanding of how this is going to play out than the people we're charging with implementing the policy.

I think we would do much better to wait until those who will implement the policy are its biggest cheerleaders and not its biggest skeptics, and for that reason, Madam President, I'll be opposing the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Good evening, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, sir.

SENATOR SUZIO:

I rise to oppose the bill if front of us and to encourage my colleagues in the Circle to -- to vote against it as well. It -- it is said that every vote is important and should be encouraged, and how -- how can anyone argue with that? Voting is certainly an exercise of our most basic democratic privilege.

But the supporters of this bill basically would have you believe there's some significant impediment to voting in Connecticut by virtue of the registration process here in Connecticut. But when one looks at the registration process as it currently is

structured, you can register in person, locally at the registrar of voters' office; you can -- you can register seven days a week by mail; you can appear at dozens of state offices that offer public assistance; you can appear at the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Triple A, even public libraries. Registering to vote in Connecticut is really not difficult at all.

Voting is a right but it's also a privilege, and along with rights and privileges come responsibilities. Is it too much to ask someone who wants to exercise their right to vote to register to vote on any one of the other 358 days a year they can register to vote on any given election year? I think the answer to that is pretty obvious.

Now, we do have, and as I quoted before, we have our own registrars of voters who have to implement the voter registration laws here in Connecticut and implement the voting laws in Connecticut. And as I said earlier tonight in my comments, I received an e-mail from a Democratic registrar of voters in my own hometown urging me to oppose this Election Day registration, describing it as, quote, pure insanity. That encouraged me to go and solicit opinions not only from the other registrars in my own district but also as many as I could throughout Connecticut in the last five days. And I was successful, as I said before, in getting 63 responses from 30 -- registrars of voters in 36 different Connecticut towns. And I repeat, the results were 58 of the 63 said no way; this is not a good idea. Three of them said it was and two said they didn't have a strong opinion about it. And, by the way, it was 27 Democratic registrar of voters who said no and 28 Republicans. So this is a bipartisan issue. It's an issue in which bipartisan opposition is widespread by those who have to implement it.

And I did receive dozens of e-mails mails. This wasn't just a telephone, it was e-mails that we got back. And in many of those e-mails, the registrars of voters in those cities and towns expressed their opinion about why this was a bad idea. They explained that they had reservations about the cost. They explained that it would make things more complicated and make personnel issues more complicated. They explained that this, itself, would encourage a certain

laxity, if you will, and it encourage the -- the procrastination of the right of the registration exercise, because why do it now when you can wait and do it literally at the last second; it actually encourages bad voter behavior.

They also, many of them, expressed concern about fraud. The proposed bill does have a verification process but it occurs after the fact. And there's no provision in the legislation to disqualify votes that turn out to be illegitimate; they're going to be counted, no matter what. It's been assumed that voter fraud doesn't occur that much because basically if you don't -- if you get a returned postcard that shows no such person at the address, you still don't assume it's fraud; it must have been a mistake.

Well, you know, there's another saying, every vote must count. I've heard it ad infinitum for the last -- since the 2000 election. And it's true, every vote should count. But we shouldn't lose votes just because of hanging chads or mistakes in the -- processing ballots that have been cast. I submit to you a fraudulent vote counted is a legitimate vote denied, because a fraudulent vote that's counted is offsetting the vote of a legitimate voter, and it's just as wrong and just as bad as denying someone the right to vote or not counting their own vote.

And when you set up a procedure that has no effective check or balance on fraudulent voting, it's irresponsible, and it's -- it's an offense to -- to the millions of legitimate Connecticut voters who do exercise their right to vote and their privilege to vote in a responsible manner and in a legitimate manner.

So I ask each one of you, before you push that button tonight, red or green, that you think about the consequences of this legislation, that you think about the potential it does open for denying the right to vote, the denying the effective vote of legitimate voters. If we're going to adopt something like this, we have, in my opinion, a responsibility to put some checks on fraudulent voting that's very possible with this new arrangement and to identify those votes that are fraudulent and isolate them in such a way that

they can be disqualified if it is determined to be fraudulent. We owe it to every legitimate voter here in Connecticut, and I urge all of you, this bill as proposed is potentially denying the right to vote to Connecticut's true, legitimate voters. I would urge a red vote tonight.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

And in the interest of time, I'm going to do my best here, but I think there are a number of things that I really do need to address. I rise in strong support of this bill. You know, we here in this Circle, we do a lot of things, and our job is dependent upon the people of this state. We live in a society where government, you know, our country is founded on the consent of the governed. The idea of the consent of the governed is that people vote, and in our state, one out of every three eligible voters is not registered. And we need to do something about that. And in this piece of legislation, we will and we do.

And I recognize that there are concerns regarding it, but I'm disappointed, quite frankly, that this falls along party lines in terms of our discussion. You know, the first state -- I believe it was the first state -- to enact legislation day registration was Maine, and they've had it for over 40 years. And it was introduced by a Republican Legislator. And that was long before computers, long before our ability to check everything out, long before we were able to fill out all of the forms or do all of the things that we did. Republicans and Democrats worked together, and in that state, in Maine, where this began, where this all began, the idea was really simple. People who are

eligible to vote, who have the right to vote, we should not be placing obstacles in front of that right to vote. We should do everything we can to help them and make it possible for legitimate voters to vote. And so for 40 years Maine has had this procedure. And two years ago, the Legislature tried to take it away. And the people rose up and they said no; this is important; this is my right to vote, and you will not take it away from me.

In fact, part of the discussion when that -- when Election Day registration was -- was restored in Maine came from one of our soldiers who said, you know, I'm off frequently. I get called on tours of duty; I end up out of the country, and I often fall off the voter roll. Because as you all know, as part of our election proceedings, we have the voter canvases, and over time if people don't return the cards, they turn -- they -- they go on to the inactive list. I'm not sure it's exactly the same that they do it in Maine, but you can eventually fall off the voter roll, even though you're still a legitimate, registered voter. And he said if, you know, then I can come back into town four days before the election, and I can walk in to the polling place on Election Day, and it's happened -- it happened to this soldier -- he said, you know, I fell off the voter roll. But I'm back and I want to vote, and if I didn't have Election Day registration, I wouldn't be able to vote. I think that's important. I think that's important. I find that persuasive.

I know we talk about logistics as being a concern. I don't think there's any doubt that there'll be some concern, some challenges for some towns for some registrars to implement this, but that does happen whenever we put in a new program. But there's a benefit on the other side of this. This is an ease. There is a convenience, and there's also the eliminations that -- of the problems that we often see at polling places during election. I'm sure each one of us can think of a time when we've been at the polling place and we've seen somebody very, very angry, someone we know, who has got the legitimate right to vote -- you know them, you know they can do that -- and yet somehow they fell off the voter roll. And all anybody can do is say, oh, gee, sorry. We --

somebody made a mistake somewhere, and somehow you're not on the list; and I'm really sorry, you can't vote. That's not okay. This changes that. So there's a balance there.

In terms of cost, also, there's two sides to this equation. Yes, there is a potential additional cost in terms of people who may be needed, however, the flip side of that is that eliminate -- this eliminates the need for provisional ballots. It also vastly, as Senator McLachlan and I talked about, reduces the number, the potential -- the number of Presidential ballots that will be cast. So there is, indeed, a cost shifting.

I believe Senator Welch talked about turnout and that, you know, turnout is about what we -- what we do here in this building as Legislators, and I would agree with that. But I also agree with the facts and the positive impact of Election Day registration on voter participation factually is impressive and consistent. States with Election Day registration historically have voter turnout rates 10-to-12 percentage rates -- percentages higher than states without it. In fact, North Carolina and Iowa both implemented Election Day registration between the 2004 and 2008 elections, and both saw large increases in voter turnout. And North Carolina had the largest increase in turnout in the country in 2008, where more than 250,000 voters used Election Day registration to cast ballots.

I know that one of the very big things that people are concerned about is fraud. And with regard to fraud and the allegations of that, I would submit that we need to focus on the facts and not on the fear. We do have a statewide Voter Registration Database. We do have procedures to clean the voter rolls. We do have a requirement that people have an in-person affirmation. These are the same voter registration requirements that we've always had; you just have it on Election Day now, and they are for everyone.

There are serious penalties and prosecution of violations, and most importantly, there really is no evidence in all of these states of voter fraud in registration.

And I know that Senator McLachlan referenced the UConn study, but I'd just like to clarify that for the record. The U -- this -- this purported study was actually not a UConn study, it was a project done by journalism students with no expertise in election administration, but as a result of this, SEEC undertook an investigation. SEEC concluded that there was a pattern of error but not a pattern of fraud. There was no fraud by State Elections Enforcement.

There were certain errors that were -- were committed by the UConn journalism students. They had alive voters being reported as dead. They had deceased individuals reported as having voted when, in fact, they did not vote. And, for example, one of the biggest problems was in Guilford, when in 2004, the registrars' office entered data incorrectly into the Connecticut Voter Registration System, resulting in 37 dead persons being reported as having voted, and the 38th dead voter was actually found to be alive and well. Those Guilford errors accounted, alone, for eleven-and-a-half percent of the dead voters regarded statewide.

So there really isn't any evidence of fraud here. What this really is about is do we want to move forward. I think this is an opportunity for us to make elections more accessible and open and a way to encourage more people to participate in our democracy.

And I thank you, the Chamber, for their indulgence.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR McKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Very briefly, Madam President, I -- I've stood in this Circle before and said, and I'll repeat, I don't object to the idea of people being able to register on

the day of an election and voting. That would be a good thing if all safeguards are in place, but right now they're not.

I remember watching a YouTube video, about a month ago, and seeing someone walk in with a hidden camera to vote in Washington, D.C., as Eric Holder, and he was not Eric Holder. And all the person said, well, if you just sign this sheet and say you're Eric Holder, you're Eric Holder; we'll give you a ballot. It can happen. Most people don't; overwhelmingly, most people don't, but the goal needs to be that everybody who is eligible to register registers and then votes, not one less, not one more.

Senator Slossberg talked about the 250,000 people who registered, in terms of an increase, in North Carolina in 2008, and I would dare say without even looking at all the facts that that was due to the election between Barack Obama and John McCain, not the fact that North Carolina had Election Day registration, because the registration increase didn't all happen on Election Day.

We're making progress in terms of making our election laws better, our campaign finance laws better, but, Madam President, let me just say this to end: If we want to know the reason why voter participation continues to go down and why voter participation is so low, we need only look in the mirror. And if we want to do the best thing we can to -- do to increase voter participation and to get everybody registered, we don't need to pass a law; we need to do a better job representing them. That's what happening in our society.

People are apathetic to what we do up here. They have a very low opinion of what we do up here. They don't think their vote matters, so they don't take it as seriously as they need to. That's why we should reject this bill before us, we should work and to make sure that all of the technological protections are in place, and when they are, that's the time to pass Election Day registration.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, speaking in support of the bill, I wanted to commend Senator Slossberg for all of her work and working on this issue in such a -- an extraordinarily conscientious and effective way. This is, of course, a -- a matter that has been pending and considered by the General Assembly for a number of years as we become more and more concerned about trying to find ways to open up our processes and to encourage voter participation.

Madam President, as we know, despite the fact that all of us here in the General Assembly and in this building, we -- we live and breathe politics and elections and public policy and -- and government, but those concerns are, perhaps regrettably, often peripheral to many of our constituents. And what that means in reality is that they often do not focus on a campaign with an interest perhaps galvanized by an issue or for or against a particular candidate until quite shortly before an election, maybe a week, maybe two weeks. And a reality, our current requirement of advanced registration, in effect, cuts off the opportunity for some people who find finally do focus on -- on an interest and develop an interest but at or close to or just beyond the deadline for voting in that particular election.

And it is true that the states, the ten states or so that do have Election Day registration do lead the country in participation. And that is something that, a cause, in and of itself, that we -- that we should join, that the -- the states that have that have a lively -- livelier levels of participation, high levels of registration leading up to and including Election Day, and we should join that group. Because

I believe that the -- the concerns about -- about fraud are -- are not really as substantive as some have -- as some have said. We have mechanisms to -- to check on that, for multiple registrations. The penalties are very high for those who engage in -- in fraudulent practices.

So I think we need to do all we can to make sure that our process is -- is welcoming, that those who want to participate, especially in years in which there is a -- a national election or our -- our first level of participation for this will be 2013, in the municipal elections, and in those elections, in particular, turnout often tends to be lower than at other times. And we need to do what we can to -- to spur participation and higher levels of -- of registration.

So I think that this is a -- this really is a -- a good government measure. It is one that the states that have adopted it are pleased with. As, again, as Senator Slossberg said, the citizens in Maine reacted against the proposal to take it away from them. It is something that I believe once it is in place in Connecticut, it will prove to be quite popular with our constituents.

So, again, my thanks to Senator Slossberg and her committee for their diligent work on this, and, again, this is an issue that -- that we have grappled with before, but this is the year, I think, to get it across the finish line.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Williams.

SENATOR WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise to support the bill before us, also to thank Senator Slossberg for all of her good and hard work on this, also Secretary of State Denise Merrill.

One of our primary priorities is to encourage everyone to vote, and at the federal level we have seen an initiative with provisional ballots to allow individuals to vote in Presidential Elections. This has worked very well, and what we want to see in Connecticut is the highest possible percentage of folks coming out on Election Day in state elections, in municipal elections, so that they are part of the democracy that shapes our government and our policies here in this state. So by following the success of the federal model and encouraging people to come out to vote, especially those individuals -- and let's face it, there are many folks who really don't concentrate on the election until the last couple of weeks, in some cases the last couple of days, after the period to register has already elapsed -- to allow them to nonetheless be part of our democracy, I think, is essential to enriching that democracy over time. It brings them into the process, and that's very important for all of us. So for those reasons, Madam President, I support the bill before us.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a roll call vote, and the machine will be open.

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 Cassano. Are you going to vote?

Senator Hartley.

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

Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On House Bill Number 5024.

Total number Voting	35
Necessary for Passage	19
Those voting Yea	19
Those voting Nay	16
Absent, not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

The Clerk is in now in possession of Senate Agenda Number 2 for today's session.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

I'm in possession of Senate Agenda Number 2, dated Saturday, May 5, 2012. Copies have been distributed and are on Senators' desks.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.