

PA12-057

SB0214

Government	91, 94, 101, 109, 146, 150-	18
Admin. &	152, 161, 163-166, 170-	
Elections	172, 177-178	
House	6461-6465	5
<u>Senate</u>	<u>1058-1074</u>	<u>17</u>
		40

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

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

**2012
INDEX**

February 27, 2012

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

SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE MERRILL: Good morning. Chairman Morin, members of the committee, I would like to briefly address -- I think it's about six of the bills before the Committee this morning. And I know you have my written testimony, but I will read it just because some of these provisions are a little complicated.

So we'll start with Raised Bill 212, An Act Concerning Provisional Ballots for State and Municipal Elections. This bill would allow provisional ballots to be used in state and municipal elections, and this is our proposal from my office.

Currently, provisional ballots are available in Federal elections for voters who are registered but for some reason their name is not on the registry list for their polling place or town.

And let me just stop and say this happens fairly frequently. In fact, if I were to cite one of the biggest problems with our voting system, it is not all the -- you hear a lot of different concerns. It's really errors that occur for various reasons, mostly human error of some sort. You know, someone can't read the handwriting on the card. Mostly it's not the registrar's fault; mostly voters get confused about where they're supposed to be. Maybe their polling place changed and so forth.

When you vote by provisional ballot, you're only casting votes for Federal candidates. This we allow now just for Federal elections. So essentially, this bill will allow a provisional ballot to look like the regular ballot being used, because it will include all the candidates running for office in that election, as opposed to just the Federal candidates.

SB213SB218HB5250

Most towns do have Internet access. There are a few that don't. So I support this bill and urge passage.

Raised Bill 214, An Act Concerning Permanent Absentee Ballot Status for the Permanently Disabled.

This bill would make absentee ballot status permanent for the permanently physically disabled and clarify instructions for a recipient of such status. It corrects one aspect of a bill to address the issue that was acted upon last year.

In 2011 lawmakers enacted a bill that would provide continuous absentee ballot applications to those who qualify for permanent absentee ballot status. But this still presents a bit of a burden on the permanently physically disabled because the new bill will continuously supply the permanently physically disabled with an absentee ballot, as opposed to an application that you need to fill out all the time. This way you'd be on a list that would be permanently physically disabled and you wouldn't have to keep reapplying.

This makes a lot of sense. It certainly embodies the spirit of what we were trying to accomplish last year, and I would just give a shout out to Representative Nafis, who worked very hard on this concept, and I support the bill. I think it's a good idea and does streamline what we started last year.

Raised Bill 218, An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries.

This will look familiar. We have had this issue come up a number of times over the past few

12 February 27, 2012
la/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND 10:30 A.M.
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE MERRILL: Yes, that's
why this comes
to --

REP. FLOREN: My other statement was I think now we
have what, eight states that have permanent
status for absentee ballots, and I think the
closest one to us is New Jersey. So are we
going to like mirror that bill, New Jersey
statute, whatever it is?

SB214

SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE MERRILL: I don't know
where this proposal came from, whether it's
from other states' experience or whether it's
just -- someone said, "Why should we make them
fill out a form every year?"

REP. FLOREN: Uh-huh.

SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE MERRILL: It seemed to
make sense. So I don't know. Does anyone -- I
don't happen to know where they got that?

REP. FLOREN: No. And we're not tying this to "no
excuse" absentee ballots?

SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE MERRILL: No, no, no.

REP. FLOREN: This is a stand-alone?

SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE MERRILL: Yes.

REP. FLOREN: Because I think "no excuse" absentee
ballots are a good idea too.

SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE MERRILL: All right.

REP. FLOREN: Thank you.

SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE MERRILL: That may
come up.

20
la/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND 10:30 A.M.
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

REP. HETHERINGTON: All right. Thank you very much.

REP. MORIN: Thank you very much for testifying.

MELISSA RUSSELL: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Senate Bill 214. I understand Essie Labrot wants to speak on this one.

Good morning.

ESSIE LABROT: Good morning, Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and the distinguished members of the GAE committee. My name is Essie Labrot and I'm testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerks' Association. I am also the vice chair of the legislative committee for the Town Clerks Association and the Town Clerk of West Hartford.

I'm here to testify in support of Senate Bill 214, An Act Concerning Permanent Absentee Ballot Status for the Permanently Disabled. And we have supported this legislation -- similar legislation in the past, and we're very pleased to do so this time with the changes that were mentioned, specifically that a ballot will be sent to each -- to each person instead of just the application.

We believe that this legislation will offer some assistance and ease the voting for those who regularly require an absentee ballot due to a disability.

In addition, we also support Senate Bill 218, An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries. The legislation would permit small towns the option to reduce the number of polling places for a primary election. This legislation will

57
la/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
February 27, 2012
10:30 A.M.

is please continue. Thank you.

MR. MICHAEL BRANDI: Thank you very much.

As for the other bills that are pending before the Committee: Senate Bill No. 212, An Act Concerning Provisional Ballots for State and Municipal Elections. The Committee supports Senate Bill 212, which expands access for provisional ballots to non-Federal elections and primaries.

As the administrator of the State's Election Day Hotline, the Commission finds itself in the unenviable position of informing many voters with registration problems on Election Day that provisional ballots are extremely limited in Connecticut. So we support the bill.

Senate Bill 214, An Act Concerning Permanent Absentee Ballot Status for the Permanently Disabled. As it has in the past, the Commission supports the concept of permanent absentee ballot status, wherein the ballots are delivered automatically after the elector's status has been supported by a physician's certificate. As such, we support this modification of General Statutes 9-140e, eliminating the requirement that such an elector continues to submit an application for each election primary or referendum.

Senate Bill No. 216, An Act Concerning Small Campaign Contributions to Nonparticipating Candidates. The Commission supports the concept of requiring that contributions from an individual, that in the aggregate do not exceed \$50, to become subject to disclosure requirements like those applied to participating candidates.

61 February 27, 2012
 la/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND 10:30 A.M.
 ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

understand. Yes, you --

SENATOR MC LACHLAN: -- in a timely fashion?

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN WITH MICHAEL BRANDI: We have records that will guarantee consistency and that we'd be able to find out what we gave as advice and to let everyone know.

SENATOR MC LACHLAN: So that simple FOI request of the information made available. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Thank you, Senator. Any other questions? Thank you very much, both of you. Appreciate it and look forward to working with you. Next, Judy Beaudreau.

Judy, would you please push the red button. Thank you.

JUDY BEAUDREAU: I wasn't feeling too well, so I wasn't sure I was going to stay today but I've submitted my testimony for everybody. So I'll just briefly go over all of the things that I wrote about. I was feeling bad, but after being in your presence I feel so much better.

Raised Senate Bill 212, the act concerning provisional ballots for all elections. We are -- all registrars are definitely in favor of this. I don't know who wouldn't be. This is a no-brainer. This is called -- you know, nobody gets disenfranchised this way. And maybe somewhere in this you should say that it will eliminate the challenge ballot process, which is hard to do and challenge somebody's right to vote. But with a provisional ballot you get them to vote and then you can research it later.

SB213
SB214
SB217
SB218
HB5250
HB5254
HB5251

The only thing I want to caution you on is

62
la/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
February 27, 2012
10:30 A.M.

lines 56 through 58, the new language that says, "If a poll worker denies an individual the opportunity to cast a ballot for any reason for which a provisional ballot may be issued, such poll worker shall offer such individual a provisional ballot."

I really want to have that a little bit clarified, because not any poll worker should be offering or doing the provisional ballots. Right now it's the assistant registrars in the polling place, and it should be them who does this. Maybe "Have such individual offered a provisional ballot" would be a better statement to make. I don't want it to be the checker in the line. It needs to be with the professional.

Raised Senate Bill 213, Internet access. Could you believe that in 2012 we have registrars who don't have e-mail? They have to go home to get their DMV list, to bring it back to work to process it. There's Internet in every single town and it is such a shame that you're going to have to mandate these towns to make the fathers give them Internet. But anyway, let's hope it happens.

We're doing a survey right now, by the way, to make sure that we do have towns -- a good list of who doesn't have Internet.

Raised Senate Bill 214, Permanent Absentee Ballot Status for Permanently Disabled. I am a great supporter of this, have been for a long time. I have been doing it actually in my office for many, many years, except I have this list and every year I have to send out this application and every year they have to send it back and everything else and -- so this is wonderful.

The only thing I'm wanting to say is that with a certificate from a primary care provider, why is it that we are kind of punishing handicapped, disabled people? If I say I'm going to be out of town, you don't have to see proof.

You're -- I mean, I know it's great and it's wonderful but, you know, there's a lot of elderly people who do not say they are disabled, okay. They're not disabled, they don't have an illness, they just can't get to the polling place, and they're in wheelchairs or whatever, and they don't want to go to the polling place. To make them have to prove that they're disabled is really demeaning, and I really think that you should look at that. I really hope so.

Raised Senate Bill 217, challenge -- the removal of the challengers in the polling place. Absolutely. Definitely. You know, the days of challengers have left. Anyone can do this and it's time that we got them out of there; it's a cost that we don't need.

Let's see. Raised Senate Bill 218, An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries. I have given you some stats in my testimony, and I'm looking at -- you know, I'm looking at the percentage of voting, and it says, oh, 27.2 and it says 47.3, and I'm saying, wow, those are really good stats. But then look up who's registered and who actually voted and those are the stats you should be looking at.

So I got primaries where I had to open six polling places for 504 people. Divide that among six. I'm staffing these polling places for 504 people. That doesn't make sense to me.

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

February 27, 2012

Statement of Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director & General Counsel

House Bill No. 5255,

Also Senate Bill Nos. 212, 214, & 216 and House Bill No. 5253

Good morning, Chairperson Slossberg, Chairman Morin, Ranking Members Senator McLachlan and Representative Hwang, and distinguished Committee members. I am Michael Brandi, the new Executive Director & General Counsel of the State Elections Enforcement Commission. I am honored to speak before this Committee this morning and I look forward to both a fruitful legislative session this year and to building a lasting, positive relationship with the Committee in the years to come. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill No. 5255, which contains the Commission's legislative initiative this session.

House Bill No. 5255

The SEEC's proposals this year have been streamlined carefully to request only that which is most important to facilitating our success during the 2012 election cycle and creating efficiencies for treasurers and candidates that will save the state money and, we believe, make compliance easier.

As an initial matter, I'd like to report that, as of today, there will be enough money in the Citizens' Election Fund to fully finance all 2012 campaigns that choose to use public financing. While this is the good news, the bad news is that money cannot be distributed properly unless we have both the staff and the adequate funding to do so. And at this time, we do not. Although, at this point in time, the SEEC staff remains hopeful that it will be able to administer the Citizens' Election Program (CEP), ensure full and fair disclosure of campaign financing and provide non-partisan enforcement of the election laws under the consolidation – in order to be ready to do so in time for the 2012 election cycle will take extraordinary cooperation and effort. In the short time I have been with the SEEC, because I am keenly aware of the economic hardships facing our state, I have been working to identify the bare minimum we will need to increase the staffing and budget in order to have a successful election cycle, and I have been working with the necessary government agencies to receive permission to fill vacancies and restructure as needed.

This legislative proposal is another part of the effort to ensure that the SEEC will be able to review all of the grant applications that it receives. We are asking to mandate electronic filing for candidates who may participate in the CEP. This will streamline the campaign finance disclosure process leading to significant cost savings for the state. Basically, the proposal lowers from the mandatory electronic filing threshold from \$250,000 to \$4,500 for candidate and exploratory committees which may participate in the CEP. This change is essential to the Commission's ability

Mandatory electronic filing will result in substantial cost savings to the state. The Commission receives between 3,000 and 4,000 paper filings a year. The data contained in these filings must be data entered into eCRIS's searchable database, at a cost of \$39 per filing. This entails a cost of somewhere between \$117,000 and \$156,000 per year for all filings. Furthermore, because the Commission is functioning with a reduced staff and must review grant applications on a strict timeline, the time cost of paper filings will necessarily lead to increased overtime payments to Commission staff.

In light of the support system that the SEEC has created for treasurers using electronic filing, the clear cost savings in these fiscally uncertain times and the absolutely vital role in helping to ensure that CEP candidates will receive their grant monies this election cycle, the SEEC strongly urges the Committee to support mandatory electronic filing for CEP races.

In addition to the mandatory electronic filing component, this bill reflects the staff's efforts to create efficiencies in the filing regime, eliminating multiple reports filed within a few days of each other in order to assist committee treasurers.

The bill also makes some simple but necessary technical changes to the political committee biennial registration regime created with Public Act 11-173 to create consistency with other sections of the law. These changes will assist committees by, in most cases, placing the duty to update committee registrations with the most knowledgeable committee officer – the treasurer – unless there has been a change in officer necessitating an appointment by the chairperson.

The bill clarifies that any post-election payments made to a CEP treasurer pursuant to General Statutes § 9-608 (e) (1) (G) are above and beyond any payments made or owed pursuant to a written service agreement.

Finally, the bill makes a technical change to the "house party" exemption to the definition of expenditure. When the legislature amended the "house party" exemption in PA 11-48, it amended the exception to the definition of "contribution" in Section 286, but did not amend the parallel exception to the definition of "expenditure." This rectifies the problem.

In addition, the SEEC the following comments:

Senate Bill No. 212 AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS FOR STATE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The Commission supports SB 212, which expands access to provisional ballots to non-federal elections and primaries. As the administrator of the state's Election Day Hotline, the Commission finds itself in the unenviable position of informing many voters with registration problems on Election Day that provisional ballot rights are extremely limited in Connecticut.

Senate Bill No. 214 AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS FOR THE PERMANENTLY DISABLED

As it has in the past, the Commission supports the concept of permanent absentee ballot status wherein the ballots are delivered automatically after the elector's status has been supported by a physician's certificate.

As such, we support this modification of General Statutes § 9-140e, eliminating the requirement that such an elector continues to submit an application for each election primary or referendum.

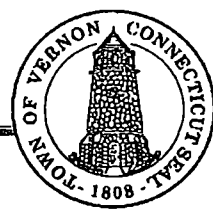
Senate Bill No. 216 AN ACT CONCERNING SMALL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO NONPARTICIPATING CANDIDATES

The Commission supports the concept of requiring that contributions from an individual, that in the aggregate do not exceed fifty dollars, to become subject to disclosure requirements like those applied to participating candidates.

House Bill No. 5253 AN ACT CONCERNING A DETERMINATION OF THE NEUTRALITY OF EXPLANATORY TEXTS USED IN LOCAL PROPOSALS OR QUESTIONS.

The Commission does not support HB No. 5253. This bill would require the Commission to make written determinations as to the neutrality of the explanatory text associated with a referendum. This is a service already provided by Commission staff, one that works very well in practice. Many towns take advantage of this service. However, this bill would insert a mandatory determination by the Commission itself, adding time, complexity, and additional fiscal impact to an already reasonable and efficient process.

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*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
mostly in favor of all bills presented today.*

RSB 212

AAC PROVISIONAL BALLOTS FOR STATE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

This bill will get rid of the need for challenged ballots. Maybe some where in this bill should be written that Challenged ballots can be repealed and provisional ballots shall take the place of these.

I would like to suggest that it be slightly worded different. We want to make sure that the provisional Ballots are done by the Assist Registrar of Voters and not just a poll worker. Assistant Registrars do them now and are trained to do these types of ballots.

So in Line 56 - 58 New Language

(c) If a poll worker denies an individual the opportunity to cast a ballot for any reason for which a provisional ballot may be issued, such poll worker shall HAVE ~~offer~~ such individual OFFERED a provisional ballot.

SB214
SB217
SB218
HB5250
HB5251
HB5254

RSB 213

AAC INTERNET ACCESS FOR REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

It is sad that in the year 2012 that some of my colleagues do not have internet access in their offices. Registrars of Voters have been treated and thought about as that saying of "STEP CHILDREN". Everyone else in their respective town halls have internet and yet you have to mandate to the towns in CT that the Registrars of Voters must have internet access. This is amazing. Most of the Registrars of Voters information coming from DMV and other sources comes by way of the internet and these registrars have to get their information at home and bring to the office to do their work. This is really shameful that Registrars who run Elections are under such inadequate tools to do their jobs. Thank you for raising this bill and bringing this important issue to light....

RSB 214

AAC PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS FOR THE PERMANENTLY DISABLED.

This was a request that the Registrars of voters suggested last year and still support this concept. Registrars of Voters want to make sure that our disability communities are able to get absentee ballots and vote. There must not be any undo burden on these electors in casting their ballot. I would like to suggest a slight language change.

That on line # 4 to remove WITH A CERTIFICATE FROM A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER. It really doesn't make since that a disabled voter must prove his disability in 2012. The Electors word must count for something. Electors are able to fill out absentee applications now and do not have to prove their disability. This seems to be an undo burden especially for the disabled.

When one is stating they are out of town no proof is needed why than must a disabled elector have proof of his disability?

(a) Any elector who is permanently physically disabled and who files an application for an absentee ballot [~~with a certification from a primary care provider,~~] indicating that such elector is permanently physically disabled and unable to appear in person at such elector's designated polling location, shall be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status and shall receive [an application for] an absentee ballot for each election, primary or referendum conducted in such elector's municipality for which such elector is eligible to vote. Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status shall remain in effect until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official registry list of the municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee ballot status pursuant to the provisions of this section, or (3) requests that he or she no longer receive such permanent absentee ballot status.

RSB 217

AAC CHALLENGERS AS POLLING PLACE OFFICIALS

I am so glad that we are cleaning up some of these antiquated laws. Registrars of voters have not used challengers for years in the polling place. Years ago when communities were smaller, I would assume that the job was needed. Now with all of the postal system technology and automation that is in existence we generally know when a person has moved.

I have a couple of language changes to submit for your consideration. Most everywhere in the statutes when we are changing a statute we try to also update the names of the positions.

In lines 17 & 27 & 111 - it should be instead of checker - it is OFFICIAL CHECKER and the position of BALLOT CLERK is a relatively new position that came with the tabulators but has not been fully integrated into our laws.

Lines 102 & 107 & 112 & 130 - should be REGISTRAR OF VOTERS.

Lines 125 & 130 - should be OFFICIAL CHECKERS



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

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

27 February 2012

Dear Chairs Morin and Slossberg, Ranking Members Hwang and McLachlan, and Members of GAE,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on today's election policy items. My written testimony is below.

SB 212: AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS FOR STATE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

I am in favor of allowing voters who find themselves unexpectedly ineligible to vote at the polls to vote a full ballot provisionally. A number of these ballots are counted at each Federal election now, and when it's discovered during an investigation that a voter should have been able to vote but for a data entry mistake in a Registrar's office or at the DMV, it seems unjust to have taken a portion of the ballot away from that voter. SB 212 allows this problem to be fully reversed after an appropriate examination of the facts.

Further, I appreciate the removal of challenged ballots from the election process -- unlike provisional ballots, these are in practice never counted, and there have been a handful of cases of poll workers or political entities pushing the envelope in terms of making arbitrary or capricious challenges to voters. Provisional ballots are a valuable tool in the polling place, allowing what might have been a time consuming, embarrassing, or confrontational situation to be handled to everyone's satisfaction, and to have the facts evaluated by the Registrars acting jointly and in consultation with our legal resources in statute and at the Secretary of State's office rather than having the final decision be made in the field, perhaps to the detriment of the challenged voter.

SB 218: AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACES FOR PRIMARIES.

HB 5254: AN ACT CONCERNING PRIMARIES FOR MUNICIPAL OR STATE OFFICE.

The approach requiring consensus of all Registrars to reduce polling places is the correct one. As a Registrar in a large town, I am very reluctant to sacrifice accumulated voter education for a modest cost savings, and with the exception of very small districts such as those where only hundreds of voters are represented by the same State Rep and State Senator, the savings will probably be very small indeed. However, several large cities with a "party dominant" population will be opening dozens of polling places to serve fewer than a thousand voters in the coming Presidential primary, and it doesn't seem clear why this bill would prevent towns with over 20,000 voters from making the decision on cost versus voter convenience for themselves.

Also, my office became aware of a counter-intuitive requirement of our statutes in 2010, when petitions for a local question were certified such that the referendum was to be held the same week as the 2010 primaries for Governor. Section (b) of SB 218 allows the Moderators for two different party primaries to be reduced to one, but state law still requires a referendum or special election held concurrently with primaries to be held in a separate location with entirely different staff and equipment. I expect several other towns will experience this unfortunate scenario as budget referenda fall on dates near to the April primary.

I support the provision allowing offices to use the same moderator for two simultaneous primaries, but would ask that the committee consider abstracting this concept to allow for one moderator to oversee multiple election events held in the same voting district, and to permit referenda and other election events to be held in the same physical location as primaries held on the same date. HB 5254, focusing on flexibility in staffing and equipment, may also be a potential vehicle for this change.



DENISE MERRILL

SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

**GAE Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
February 27, 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 would like to briefly address eight bills before the committee this morning

- Raised Bill 212 "AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS FOR STATE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS"

This bill would allow provisional ballots to be used in state and municipal elections, and I support this concept, which is our proposal. Currently, provisional ballots are available in federal elections for voters who are registered but for some reason their name is not on the registry list for their polling place or town. When you vote by provisional ballot you are only casting votes for federal candidates.

This bill will allow a provisional ballot to look like the regular ballot being used because it will include all the candidates running for office in that election. Because federal candidates only run in even number election year, the provisional ballots are not used during municipal elections. This bill would extend the use of provisional ballots to all elections for all offices including local candidates. This also gives us an opportunity to streamline the election process. By extending the use of Provisional ballots, we can then eliminate the need to have challenge ballots. Provisional ballots allow voters whose registration is in doubt to cast ballots on Election Day.

Our office proposed this bill last year as well, and it did pass the House. Very simply, we have had the provisional ballot in use for a number of years and there have been no incidents of any kind on Election Day which would give us any security or integrity concern. Provisional ballots are counted later, up to six days after Election Day – only after it is determined that the voter is legitimately registered. If the registrars are unable to determine that the applicant is eligible to vote, then the ballot is not counted.

Provisional ballots are currently in use for federal elections; raised bill 212 would expand that to municipal and state elections. I support passage.

SB213
SB214
SB215
SB218
HB5250
HB5251

- **Raised Bill 213 “AN ACT CONCERNING INTERNET ACCESS FOR REGISTRARS OF VOTERS”**

In 2011, there are still registrars of voters in the state of Connecticut in some towns that do not have internet access in their offices. This is unacceptable and frankly will make their jobs unworkable in the coming years as many more of the tools they need to do their jobs will go online. All this bill says is that a town needs to provide internet access for the Registrars of Voters office.

That basic equipment should be considered essential just like electricity, phones, and heat. The need for internet access is distinguishable from access to the Centralized Voter Registration System (CVRS), which is mandatory for registrars to have, but is also a closed system.

I have been travelling the state since I was sworn in as Secretary and talking to town leaders about the need to integrate election planning into town planning, and the need to view elections as a key town government function rather than a once or twice a year burden. That starts with making sure Registrars have internet access. This enables them to communicate more effectively with our office and access information they need to do their jobs that is contained on our website.

For example, we are about to launch a web-based election night reporting system to replace the cumbersome system of faxing or even hand-delivering--by state trooper--returns to this office. Without internet access, registrars will not be able to participate in this exciting project. We intend to expand training programs for Registrars through webinars and online video.

Most towns have internet access for registrars of voters. So for them this is not an issue. But for the small number of towns lacking internet access for their Registrars of Voters, the time has come to modernize. So I support this bill and I urge passage.

- **Raised Bill 214 “AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS FOR THE PERMANENTLY DISABLED”**

This bill would make absentee ballot status permanent for the permanently physically disabled and clarify instructions for the recipient of such status. This bill corrects one aspect of a bill to address the issue of permanent absentee ballots that was acted upon by the General Assembly last year. In 2011, lawmakers enacted a bill that would provide continuous absentee ballot applications to those who qualify for permanent absentee ballot status, but this still presents a burden on the permanently physically disabled.

Raised Bill 214 would continuously supply the permanently physically disabled with an absentee ballot as opposed to an application which they would need to keep filling out. This makes a lot of sense and I would say it embodies the spirit of what we were trying to accomplish last year with the permanent absentee ballot bill.

I commend Rep. Nafis for her diligent work on this concept. I support this bill and I urge passage.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 27, 2012 Public Hearing

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

Support for: SB 214 AA Concerning Permanent Absentee Ballot Status For the
Permanently Disabled.

My name is Susan Voris. I am the Election Laws Specialist for the League of Women
Voters of Connecticut. As a state-wide organization with over 1800 members, the
League is dedicated to improving the electoral process.

SB 214 AA Concerning Permanent Absentee Ballot Status For the Permanently Disabled.

The League supported passage of the law that granted permanent absentee ballot
status for the permanently disabled. The League supports SB214, which makes the
absentee ballot status permanent. Removal of the application for an absentee ballot
lessens the burden on permanently disabled in casting their ballot, while a verification
process is in place to determine the elector's eligibility to vote within a municipality
during the year.

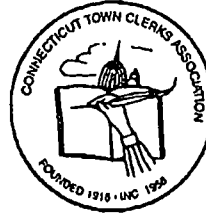
The League urges the Committee to support SB214 to protect and support our most
vulnerable voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

Committee Members

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



Advisory Board Members

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

2012 Legislative Committee

Testimony Government Administration and Elections Committee February 27, 2012

Good morning Sen. Slossberg, Rep. Morin, Sen. McLachlan, Rep. Hwang and the distinguished members of the GAE Committee. My name is Essie Labrot and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerks' Association (CTCA). I am the Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Town Clerks' Association and the Town Clerk of West Hartford. I am here today to testify in support of **Senate Bill 214** An Act Concerning Permanent Absentee Ballot Status for the Permanently Disabled.

The Town Clerks Association has supported similar legislation in the past, and we are pleased to do so again with the changes mentioned in this proposal specifically that a ballot will be sent for each election instead of just the application. We believe that this legislation will offer some assistance and ease of voting for those who regularly require an absentee ballot due to a disability.

In addition, the Town Clerks' Association supports **Senate Bill 218** An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries. This legislation would permit small towns the option to reduce the number of polling places for a Primary Election. This legislation will permit municipalities to save money during these difficult fiscal times for towns. Our Association is mindful of the potential for voter confusion whenever a polling place is relocated but we understand this would be less of an issue for towns that have populations under 20,000.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Essie Labrot, West Hartford Town Clerk
Vice Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee

H – 1141

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

**VOL.55
PART 19
6188 – 6484**

cah/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

93
May 5, 2012

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.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 382, as amended by Senate A in concurrence with the Senate.

Total number voting	136
Necessary for passage	69
Those voting Yea	136
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	15

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill passes as amended in con -- with -- in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 416?

THE CLERK:

On page 21, Calendar 416, Senate Bill Number 214,
AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS FOR

THE PERMANENTLY DISABLED, a favorable report by the
Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN: (28th):

Good evening, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Good evening, sir.

REP. MORIN: (28th):

Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the joint
committee's favorable report and passive -- passage of
the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is acceptance of the joint
committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in
concurrence with the Senate.

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN: (28th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And under this bill electors who have permanent
absentee ballot status automatically will receive an
absentee ballot rather than a ballot application for
each election primary and referendum in the
municipality in which they are eligible to vote.

I -- I would be remiss if I didn't thank Representative Nafis for bringing this to my attention and we tried to deal with this a little bit last year. We had a bit of a problem so I was -- the Committee was very pleased to -- to bring this well-intentioned bill out and I urge acceptance and passage.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further on the bill?

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON: (125th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

A question to the proponent please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed.

REP. HETHERINGTON: (125th):

Thank you.

Through you, Madam Speaker, if the person who is receiving the absentee ballot should move or pass away since the last election, how would the automatic receipt of the ballot be terminated?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

cah/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

96
May 5, 2012

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN: (28th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, the law requires that the Registrars of Vote -- Voters send an annual notice in January to determine whether the electors continue to reside at the address and -- and that they may retain -- remain on the permanent absentee ballot status.

If the notice isn't returned within 30 days or returned as undeliverable, the Registrars would remove that elector from the list.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON: (125th):

I -- I thank the proponent for his response.

And thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you.

Will you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us?

Will you care to remark further? If not staff and

cah/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

97
May 5, 2012

guests please come 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 taking a
roll call vote. Members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

Please check the board to determine if your vote
has been properly cast. If so the machine will be
locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 214 in concurrence with the Senate.

Total number voting	136
Necessary for passage	69
Those voting Yea	136
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	15

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

(Speaker Donovan in the Chair)

S - 639

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

**VOL. 55
PART 4
942 - 1311**

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

117
April 18, 2012

Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 4, Calendar 97, Senate Bill Number 214, AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS FOR THE PERMANENTLY DISABLED, favorable report of the committee on Government Administration and Elections.

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I move the joint committees' favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage, will you remark?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

Currently, under our elect -- our election law someone who has a physical disability that prevents them from getting to the polls on Election Day is able to apply for permanent absentee ballot status. And auto -- automatically under our current law receive an absentee ballot. What this law does is eliminates that step and instead of getting -- oh, the ballot application, I misspoke, Mr. President, please excuse me.

Under current law, the permanently disabled person will get a ballot application, which they then have to fill out and send in and get the ballot. Under this bill, we will eliminate that step and someone who is -- has elected and been shown to be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status will then be able to just get the ballot sent to them directly. It's a way to make things simpler and to be cognizant of the

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

118
April 18, 2012

challenges that people with physical disabilities have in getting to the polls.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

If I may, a question or two to the proponent of the bill?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

So is there any checks or balances, currently, if a ballot is mailed to the person's home? Is it a required, certified or registered receipt? It has to be signed for so you know that you the person that the name is that gets the ballot is the actual one that is receiving it^, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes, thank you. Through you, Mr. President.

Yes, there is, actually. The registrar of voters needs to send written notice to each elector who is on -- who has permanent absentee ballot status on a particular form, and they are required to send that

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

119
April 18, 2012

back. If the written notice is returned as undeliverable or if not later than 30 days after the notice is sent, the person fails to return the notice, then, that person loses their permanent absentee ballot status. It doesn't prevent them from voting or anything like that. They just lose that -- that status.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank the gentlewoman for her answer.

I have a concern with the underlying bill in that we often hear news accounts where dead people have voted and voter fraud, so I have an amendment that I'd ask the Clerk to call LCO Number 3165.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 3165, Senate Amendment Schedule "A" offered by Senator Witkos.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption, will you remark?

SENATOR WITKOS:

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

120
April 18, 2012

Thank you, Mr. President.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Circle, what this amendment does it states that if a death certificate is filed with the town clerk or the registrar of the vital statistics in your town, they will notify the town clerk, who will notify the registrar's office, who will in turn notify the secretary of state, so basically, that person's name is removed from the electoral voting registration system.

And I would ask that this would prevent -- we'd go one step further than other states that have this and we'd make sure that, hopefully, that the dead may rest in peace and they are not voting in our -- our elections.

So with that, Mr. President, I'd ask for passage.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark on the amendment?

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I'm speaking in opposition to the amendment, although I share my colleague's concern that the and -- and desire that the dead should rest in peace and not be bothered with these particular issues.

I think we have adequate checks and balances, in particular, in this bill, you know, in terms of making sure the registrar has send notice and that notice needs to be returned.

In addition, there is a process right now already in our state where the registrars are required to remove people who are deceased from the -- from the registration rolls. And so this amendment, you know,

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

121
April 18, 2012

is repetitive of the -- of the requirement that registrars are already have to remove someone who has died from the rolls of the town. As well as the secretary of state in this amendment is suggested to remove people from the statewide centralized voter registration system and the secretary of state is not currently authorized to tinker with that system at all. That's really just the -- the role of the registrars, which is then uploaded into the centralized voter system for -- for general for access to those people who have it, so I would be speaking in opposition to this amendment at this time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I ask that a roll call -- roll call vote be taken if that wasn't already requested.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

A roll call vote will be ordered.

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

If not, Mr. Clerk, please announce the pendency of a roll call vote. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. Senators please report to the chamber.
Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 3165, Senate "A."
Total number of voting 34

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

122
April 18, 2012

Necessary for Adoption 18
Those voting Yea 14
Those voting Nay 20
Those absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

The amendment fails.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Good evening.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

Mr. President, I rise for the purpose of an amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 3404. I ask that he call the amendment, and I'd be allowed to summarize?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk?

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 3404, Senate "B" offered by Senators Kane and Welch.

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

123
April 18, 2012

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption, will you remark?

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I'm very proud of many things that we do here in the Senate Chamber and, of course, in the Legislature. Especially, with the respect to veterans, we create very -- many programs for our veterans and really support our military personnel in so many ways.

The one area, however, that we may be lacking is in their ability to vote in our elections. Military personnel, as you all know, are serving overseas in Iraq, in Afghanistan in forward areas and throughout the world, quite honestly. And what we've heard from them, many times, is the voting process and the ability to get an application for an absentee ballot, it's time for it to travel back to the United States to Connecticut, of course. And then that -- that ballot be transferred back to their military base, whether it be serving, as I said in Afghanistan or other places in the world, and then, ultimately, never make it in time for the November election.

And, to me, that's a sad thing because these military personnel, these brave men and women are fighting and risking their lives every day for the very thing that we hold so dear, which is voting and elections and our ability to elect our representative government.

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

124
April 18, 2012

So those very people who protect us and protect that right to vote are being left out and being disenfranchised from the process, Mr. President.

I just looked at an article from the New York Times that said that nearly 3 million overseas military voters in at least 33 states were permitted to cast ballots over the Internet in November using e-mail or fax and because of new regulations proposed during a federal agency that overseas voting. Otherwise, many of these ballots go uncounted in elections and because of distance and unreliable mail service.

About 22 percent of military and overseas voters surveyed were unable to return their ballots in 2008 presidential election because of such problems, said the Overseas Vote Foundation, a nonpartisan advocacy group. This coming election will be the first in which Internet voting will play a major role now that 33 states have passed measures.

In 2008, about 2.9 million people overseas, and 507,000 of them requested ballots. State election officials in many states are pushing hard for better ways to handle overseas voters, and many have said they plan to use Internet voting.

Last year, Congress mandated that the Election Commission create guidelines to pilot programs to assist in overseas voting and include Internet voting. Last year, the Pew Center of the United States found that more than one-third of our states, including Connecticut, did not provide military voters stationed abroad with enough time to vote. Testimony from states, like Florida, and other areas say that we have nothing but positive things to say about our experience with these types of programs.

South Carolina Election Commission said they heard no complaints from voters who choose to use these methods. North Carolina offered overseas military voters the option to use e-mail or fax for their ballots since 2006, and when she gets a call from a soldier from overseas who has missed deadlines and wants to vote, she's glad that they have the e-mail option.

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

125
April 18, 2012

This -- Johnnie McLean, the deputy for administration in North Carolina said, "Even though there are security issues" -- which I'm sure is going to come up in this conversation -- "those soldiers are real happy too, they don't have to lose their right to vote."

And isn't this what's it all about, Mr. President.

Arizona granted online voting options to its military personnel and overseas residents in 2008. Missouri signed a new law for electronic military ballots to take effect in 2010. West Virginia said there are 36,372 registered military voters. In Colorado, they hired a company out of San Diego called -- I forgot the name of the company -- Everyone Counts, which provides technology that is safe and secure for online voting. They're using it in Chicago, Illinois. They're using it all over the country, Mr. President.

Every day, all of us do some type of electronic exchange, if you will, whether it be paying our bills, using credit cards, going on E-Bay, on Amazon. You know billions and billions of dollars get exchanged in the financial sector through banks and through all of us over secure online process. Why can't we give our military personnel, those people that are serving our country, those brave men and women who are fighting for that very right that we hold near and dear that same ability?

So, Mr. President, I hope that everyone stands together and passes this unanimously because for our military personnel, this is certainly the most important thing we can offer them as they offer their lives in protection of our right to vote.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

126
April 18, 2012

Thank you, Mr. President.

I, also, rise in support of this amendment. This is a great idea. It's an idea that's long overdue, and frankly, I wish we weren't waiting until October 1, 2013, to implement, but I understand it's going to take some time to come up with the procedures and safeguards to -- to do this right. But this is exactly the kind of -- of high-speed modernization of voting we can do within our current constitutional bounds without having to change the constitution.

So it's these -- as Senator Kane so eloquently said, that these men and women are out there fighting for the very right to vote. The least what we can do is make it easy for them to cast their vote in support of our democracy back here in Connecticut.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you Mr. President. Good evening.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, sir.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

The first thing I'd like to do, if I may, is ask a couple of questions, through you, to the proponent of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

127
April 18, 2012

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I'm -- and I'm searching the recesses of my mind believing that it wasn't that long ago in Connecticut that we had a race for Congress that was very close, and my recollection is that they couldn't declare a winner until they waited for all of the overseas votes to get back to Connecticut.

So, through you, to Senator Kane, if he knows the answer to this question because I don't know the answer to this question. Are the rules that an absentee ballot has to be postmarked on or before Election Day in order to count? Or are the rules that an absentee ballot from a military -- there might be different rules for a military person and for a nonmilitary person, or are the rules that the absentee ballot has to be in hand, back with the registrars or the town clerk or the moderator on Election Day, you know, by the close of the polls on Election Day? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR RORABACK:

-- if I didn't make that too complicated.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I appreciate Senator Roraback's question.

And I think the real issue that takes place, Senator Roraback, is the fact that by the time the application is requested and the time that it takes for that application to be sent overseas and for that ballot then to be returned back to Connecticut, many, many times -- and I don't know the statistical nature of it

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

128
April 18, 2012

-- but many, many times because I have heard from many military personnel, that it never makes it in time.

So, for example, this year we'll be -- we'll be voting on November 6th, and these military personnel, who are serving overseas that begin this process, many of them their ballots never make it by that November 6th deadline. So, although I -- I don't have the specific statute in front of me to point to you the rules to which they are governed, I will tell you that from my understanding and from the people that I've heard from that's the real issue.

So, in your question, you are correct that we do have to wait for many of these ballots because they don't make it in time and that's the essence of the issue, but then, they are discounted or not allowed because they were never made in proper time to -- to be counted and that begins where the issue starts.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I envision a Connecticut soldier or serviceperson serving in South Korea, for example. And if that member of the Armed Forces in South Korea who hails from Connecticut wishes to cast their ballot in their hometown in Connecticut, they have to -- they have to request an application from the registrar.

So the registrar puts an application in the mail and sends it to South Korea; then the soldier completes the application and sends it from South Korea back to, we'll say, Watertown, since Senator Kane is the proponent of the amendment.

And then the registrar puts an absentee ballot in the mail and sends it back to South Korea; and then the serviceperson completes the absentee ballot and sends it back to Watertown.

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

129
April 18, 2012

So, Mr. President the notion that four pieces of mail back and forth between Watertown and South Korea are necessary for a member of the armed forces to make their vote count seems a little bit over the top in an era when we have the capacity as so many other states have done to ease the burden for the soldier and allow them to vote online.

Mr. President, the bill gives ample time to the secretary of state to come up with this program, and I think it would be a disservice to members of the armed forces not to adopt this amendment. I urge support.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. It's nice to see you there tonight.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

I rise in support of this amendment. I'd just briefly like to thank Senator Kane for his persistence. I believe in my four sessions now here at the State Senate, I think three or, perhaps, four out of four times, Senator Kane has asked for this legislature to honor our military heroes with a prompt way to vote, and this is a good idea. I stand in support, and thank you, Senator Kane.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

130
April 18, 2012

Will you remark further?

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And, you know, I -- I speak in opposition to this amendment and very reluctantly because this is an issue, also, that I care deeply about as I believe everyone in this Circle does. We all value and honor the service that our men and women perform for in -- in the line of duty for our state, for our country, and we honor them in any way we possibly can.

In this particular area, though, we -- we don't -- we're not exactly where we would like to be in this -- in this situation.

Some of the previous speakers remarked about the number of pieces of mail that need to go back and forth and the timelines and the concerns associated with that as -- and that is a concern that I share, as well. I will note that in our state, we do have the ability, though, for ballot applications to be sent by e-mail to military persons; however, the ballot itself needs to be mailed back. I believe that's really where the challenge is here and this is something that we've discussed at length with the Secretary of State's Office. At length, with, you know, technology experts to try to figure out a way to address this, and we have consistently received the same response that the technology does not exist for the full back and forth, for online voting to be performed in a secure way.

And I recognize there are people who will stand up and say we do it in banking. There's a way to do it. We've got to figure it out, and I agree with their -- with the -- the desire to have that done. But the bottom line is that as for every panel that we've put together, for every expert to try to come forward and say, This is how you do it, we have the technology to actually make sure that we have secure voting online for our military personnel, it just doesn't exist.

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

131
April 18, 2012

So I find myself in the unenviable position of having to vote "no" on this amendment and would hope that in the future our technology catches up with our desire to ensure that we have that full back and forth, and I would ask for a roll call vote.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Just, if I might correct a few things. It does exist, Senator Slossberg. I've mentioned Colorado. I mentioned Chicago, Illinois. I mentioned West Virginia. I mentioned many states that have been doing this -- North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida since the 2005, 2006, so it does exist. The security does exist. I mentioned a company out of San Diego called "Everyone Counts" that provides services for many of these states.

In fact, the State of Utah, the State of West Virginia, the State of Colorado, you know, you can go on and on and on. It does exist. It's there and we can honor our military personnel all we want, but let's back them up. Let's give them the opportunity to vote in the most important thing that we have in this country and the very thing that they are defending, putting their lives on the line every single day in a forward mission for our right to vote. They should be granted that same opportunity.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the amendment?

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

132
April 18, 2012

If not, Mr. Clerk, please announce the pendency of a roll call vote.

THE CLERK:

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

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:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? If all members have voted, please check the board to make sure your vote is accurately counted. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Senate "B," LCO Number 3404.
Total number of voting 34
Necessary for Adoption 18
Those voting Yea 14
Those voting Nay 20
Those absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

The amendment fails.

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill?

If not, Mr. Clerk, please announce pendency -- anybody else?

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President.

cah/med/gbr
SENATE

133
April 18, 2012

If there's no objection, I'd move this item to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there objection? Is there objection?

· Mr. Clerk --

Will anybody remark on the bill?

If not, Mr. Clerk please announce the pendency of a roll call vote. 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:

Have all members voted? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 214.	
Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Passage	18
Those voting Yea	32
Those voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 9, Calendar 226, Substitute Senate Bill Number 411, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSURANCE HOLDING COMPANY SYSTEM REGULATORY ACT, favorable report of the committee on Insurance.