

**PA13-260**

HB5289

Government Admin. & Elections	282, 284, 369-371, 503- 508, 548-549	13
House	8761-8764	4
Senate	5434, 5438-5439	3
		<b>20</b>

**H – 1175**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2013**

**VOL.56  
PART 26  
8708 – 9049**

cjd/lgg/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

291  
June 1, 2013

Mr. Speaker, on page 14, Calendar Number 409,  
favorable report of the joint standing committee on  
Government Administration and Elections, House Bill Number  
5289, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMING OF CERTAIN SPECIAL  
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Secretary of  
State that could --

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Sir, can you move acceptance?

REP. LESSER (100th):

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

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the  
joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. LESSER (100th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Secretary  
of State to combine the General Election in special --  
Election in certain circumstances. I move passage.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you sir.

Do you care to remark further on the bill that as before us?

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, a question for the proponent of the bill.

Nope. You know what, Mr. Speaker? I am perfectly good with this, sir.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

That sounds good with me, sir. Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark further?

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The bill -- it's a good bill, it ought to pass. There -- it arises from a situation that -- that happened in one of my towns, and it's actually happened in several other towns where you got a special municipal with about 35 days before a General Election, and you got to run two elections inside of four weeks and it's -- it's a horrible burden to towns and it's unnecessary so this just makes some sense and I urge adoption. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark further? Do you care to remark further on the bill that's before us?

If not, staff and guests 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 please. The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber please

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

Members please check the board to make sure your 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:

Mr. Speaker, House Bill 5289

Total Number Voting 139

Necessary for Passage 70

Those voting Yea 139

Those voting Nay 0

cjd/lgg/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

294  
June 1, 2013

Those absent and not voting 11

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill passes.

Is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have Senate Favorable Reports.

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I move we waive the reading of the Senate Favorable Reports and have them tabled for the calendar.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Without objection, so ordered.

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker, in a few short minutes, we're going to be taking a break. There will be a Finance meeting in Room 2E over at the LOB. So upon recess, there will be a meeting of the Finance Committee in Room 2E.

Mr. Speaker, with that announcement, I move we recess subject to the Call of the Chair.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The motion is to recess subject to the Call of the chair.

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2013**

**VETO  
SESSION**

**VOL. 56  
PART 17  
5161 - 5482**

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Calendar page 15, Calendar 695, House Bill Number 5289, if that might also be added to our Consent Calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Calendar page 5, Calendar 485, House Bill Number 6602, I'd like to move to place that item on our Consent Calendar, as well.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And, Mr. President, Calendar page 8, Calendar 606, House Bill Number 6674, I move to place this item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Calendar Page 15, Calendar 696, House Bill Number 6658, I move to place this item also on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if the clerk would now call -- would now list the items on the Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on the Consent Calendar before taking up additional items.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Page 2 -- sorry -- House Bill 6672, and then on page 2, Calendar 423, House Bill 5907.

On page 4, Calendar 464, House Bill 5601; Calendar 465, House Bill 6630.

On page 5: 485, House Bill 6602; Calendar 503, House Bill 6635.

On page 6: Calendar 19, House Bill 5903; Calendar 522, House Bill 5598.

On page 7: Calendar 570, House Bill 6486; Calendar 571, House Bill 6492.

On page 8: Calendar 601, House Bill 6490; Calendar 606, House Bill 6674.

On page 10, Calendar 644, House Bill 6363.

On page 12, Calendar 668, House Bill 6362; and Calendar 672, House Bill 548.

On page 15: Calendar 695, House Bill 5289; Calendar 696, House Bill 6658.

On page 16: Calendar 704, House Bill 6692; 705, House Bill 6703.

On page 17: Calendar 706, House Bill 6651.

And on page 21: Calendar 431, Senate Resolution Number 15.

HB 5480

THE CHAIR:

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 on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members have voted? If all members have voted, please check the board to make sure your vote is accurately recorded.

If all members have recorded, the machine will be closed and the clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

The second Consent Calendar

Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 2 passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I just wanted to review and have we adopted Senate Agendas 3 and 4?

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS  
PART 1  
1 – 321**

**2013  
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innocent at all times but in these incomprehensible circumstances, also those we -- they left behind. Now in going forward is the time to make a difference in how we protect the privacy of our citizens.

Thank you for your time.

MICHELE R. GRANDE: Good afternoon, distinguished members of the Government Administration Elections Committee.

My name is Michele Grande, and I am the Town Clerk for the Town of Redding. And I am also a member of the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Town Clerks Association. I'm here to testify on House Bill 5421 and also to comment on Senate Bill 283 and House Bill 5289.

Our association supports the concept of this bill, 5421, but recommends that the proposal be amended so that it can be properly managed. As clerks, we are well aware that certain information contained in a death certificate can be used to establish identity or to locate and harass family members. The issue has been brought to the forefront recently by the Newtown Town Clerk, Debbie, and we are actually supportive of this attempt to provide some protection to the families who have lost a minor child.

Our association recommends taking a closer look at House Bill 6157, AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONALLY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON CERTIFICATIONS OF MARRIAGE AND DEATH, which has been referred to the Committee on Public Health. We believe House Bill 6157 would provide the protection of this bill, House Bill 5421, as attempting to provide, while

away; you really need to have your secure vote. And I feel very strongly that the military should have their secure vote too. So I'm sure there's some way to figure it out, but the e-mail and faxing with if it has to come back to someone, it's not going to be secure.

And, lastly, House Bill 5289, the timing of certain municipal -- special municipal elections; we support allowing a municipality to combine elections that fall within 30 days of one another, which would reduce costs and be more convenient for the voters.

Thank you.

REP. BOLINSKY: And thank you.

And I'd like to ask if any of the members of the committee have any questions.

REP. JUTILA: Yes. And thank you, Representative, and thank you, all, for coming up and presenting this testimony. I -- I know, think we all know how difficult this is for you, and we all stand together with Newtown in -- in solidarity. And our entire state continues to grieve.

Questions from members of the committee?

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you.

Could you tell us what information is currently on a death certificate that's available to the public? Do you, do you maybe have a copy of a death certificate or -  
- or, you know, obviously a blank one that --  
or could you just tell us?

HB 6157  
HB 5421

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS  
PART 2  
322 - 617**

**2013**

170

February 22, 2013

mhr/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

11:00 A.M.

REP. JUTILA: Questions from members of the  
Committee?

Thank you again for your testimony, sir.

PETER J. GOSTIN: Okay, thank you.

REP. JUTILA: The next speaker will be Tim DeCarlo  
followed by Aileen Nosal.

TIM DeCARLO: Good afternoon. My name is Tim  
DeCarlo and I am a member of the legislative  
committee for ROVAC. I am also the registrar  
from the City of Waterbury.

ROVAC has gone ahead and submitted testimony  
in support of House Bill 5289 which you all  
have currently. Basically I'll just  
summarize it. I can be brief because it's a  
brief bill.

What we're looking to do -- what this bill is  
looking to do is go ahead and take the rare  
instance in which a special election would  
fall within the 30 day window of a general  
election. Being able to combine those two  
would then be able to afford the municipality  
a cost saving measure.

This is something that, as I said, is a rare  
occurrence for a special election to fall  
generally towards the general but as of right  
now you could not combine the two.

Just to give a -- a quick idea, in my City of  
Waterbury if we were to have -- or if we were  
to combine the -- the two elections, it would  
cut us down and the -- the cost of having to  
format four memory cards per district, we  
currently have 21, the purchase of ballots  
which can range up to 45 cents per ballot,

the moving of equipment for a -- this -- for -- per election in Waterbury it's \$2,500 to move the equipment outside to the polling place where -- where we currently store it.

The cost to pay our poll workers, we have for a general election in Waterbury in the upwards of over 200 poll workers that have to be trained and as has been said today we do train every poll worker prior to the election.

So what this would allow us to do, if this bill was to go forward, is merge those two. And in reality as we're all trying to tighten our budgets, the -- if -- if -- if we're able to do that, we would cut down on the costs. Right now everything that I just listed off it would times two.

So we would have to pay the 2,500 twice, the memory cards ti -- and -- and the moving of equipment and everything else that goes forward during the election process.

So it basically just allows municipalities in this rare occurrence to actually have a cost saving measure that they're now currently afforded.

Thank you.

REP. JUTILA: Thank you. Did -- did you submit written testimony?

TIM DeCARLO: I will -- I'm -- I'm on behalf of ROVAC and ROVAC did submit testimony on this bill.

REP. JUTILA: Oh okay, okay, great.

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February 22, 2013

mhr/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

11:00 A.M.

TIM DeCARLO: Yes.

REP. JUTILA: Questions from members of the  
Committee?

Representative Sear.

REP. SEAR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Would this only be special elections for  
political positions? Like at the local level  
if there was an ordinance or petition for an  
ordinance that came up within that 30 day  
period, could that go along with the regular  
election?

TIM DeCARLO: The way that this bill is currently  
written it would not allow for referendum, it  
would only allow for a special election via,  
you know, a General Assembly, municipality or  
constitutional law so something to that  
effect.

REP. SEAR: Okay, thank you.

REP. JUTILA: Any other questions?

Thank you for your testimony.

TIM DeCARLO: Thank you.

REP. JUTILA: The next speaker is Aileen Nosal  
followed by Bill Ethier.

A VOICE: She's already spoken.

REP. JUTILA: Oh okay, Bill Ethier.

BILL ETHIER: Thank you, Representative Jutila,  
Senator Musto, members of the GAE Committee.  
My name is Bill Ethier. I'm the Executive

HB 5896

**Written Testimony**  
Monday, February 11, 2013  
Government Administration and Elections Committee

Submitted by Karen Cortés, Registrar of Voters, Town of Simsbury

~~Oppose S.R. 4~~ **An Act Concerning Early Voting:**

While I support initiatives to increase voter participation in Connecticut, acting on early voting during this legislative session is premature. The constitutional amendment allowing no-excuse absentee voting will be on the ballot in November 2014. Should the Connecticut voters choose no-excuse absentee voting, "early" ballots will be cast through the already-established absentee voting process.

The costs associated with early voting, including but not limited to the creation of separate voting stations, hiring of personnel, and purchase of additional equipment are a burden to municipalities, which are solely responsible for the funding of elections.

**Support H.B. 5289** ~~An Act Concerning the Timing of Certain Special Municipal Elections~~

I support an amendment to 9-164(b) to allow a special municipal election to be held on the same day as a regular election, provided the special election falls within 30 days of a municipal election. In addition to the cost benefit for municipalities, combining a regular and special election would alleviate complications experienced by Registrars when two elections are held within a short period of time.

Registrars are required to sequester ballots and equipment for ten days following an election. This sequestration restricts a Registrar's ability to conduct necessary equipment testing and preparation for a second voting occurrence.

Additionally, I would suggest that this provision be extended to allow municipalities to conduct a special election in combination with a local referendum.



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN T. SHABAN  
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
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RANKING MEMBER  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

*Testimony by Representative John Shaban  
Before the Government, Administration and Elections Committee  
On House Bill 5289  
February 22, 2013*

Good morning Chairmen Musto and Jutila, Ranking Members McLachlan and Hwang, and members of the Government, Administration and Election Committee. I am Representative Shaban and I would like to thank this committee for letting me present my testimony in support of House Bill 5289, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMING OF CERTAIN SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Last November the Town of Easton was forced to run two elections within two weeks.

The events that triggered this situation started with the October 2011 death of Easton's Treasurer. The vacancy was filled by Ms. Christine Calvert, who was then elected to a full term at the Nov. 2011 municipal elections. In May 2012, however, Easton's tax collector resigned and moved out of town. Ms. Calvert was then appointed as tax collector (which is a full-time position and pays more), and Ms. Wendy Bowditch was appointed by the Board of Selectmen as interim town treasurer in June. The assumption was that she would serve until the November 2013 municipal elections. Soon after Bowditch's appointment, however, two Easton citizens successfully petitioned for an immediate special election for treasurer.

Because of the strict timing requirements under existing state law, that special election could not be joined with the upcoming "regular" election, thus forcing the town to incur the expense and effort of organizing and running an election on Friday October 26 – only to do so again two weeks later.

HB 5289 would amend Conn Gen Stat §9-164 to provide the Secretary of the State with the discretion to permit the joinder of a special municipal election with an upcoming regular election if the special municipal election falls within thirty days of the regular election.

The measure is designed to save money, time and expense, while preserving citizens' rights to petition for a special election. Thank you for allowing me to testify on House Bill 5289 and I urge your support for this common sense measure.

Sincerely,

Rep. John Shaban

*Law Offices of*  
**ROBERT ALAN SCHRAGE**  
2 Corporate Drive, # 234  
Shelton, Connecticut 06484

TEL 203.513.3228 FAX 310 496.3223  
email [ras@schrage-law.com](mailto:ras@schrage-law.com)

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN CONNECTICUT,  
CALIFORNIA & THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Direct Contact  
203 943 6888

February 19, 2013

W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk  
Town of Easton  
225 Center Road Easton  
Easton, CT 06612

Re: Testimony of W. Derek Buckley re Proposed HB 5289, February 22, 2013

Derek,

On behalf of the Easton Democratic Town Committee, of which I am the current Chair, I join in the Testimony of W. Derek Buckley, Easton Town Clerk Submitted to the Government Administration and Elections Committee, February 22, 2013, a true copy of which is attached to this letter.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kind Regards,

Sincerely,

*Robert A. Schrage*

Robert A. Schrage  
Chair, Easton Democratic Town Committee

RAS.bhs  
Enclosure  
L/EDTC\_WDB\_Testimony\_20130219



Testimony of  
W. Derek Buckley, Easton Town Clerk  
Submitted to the

Government Administration and Elections Committee  
February 22, 2013

**Proposed H.B. No. 5289 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMING OF  
CERTAIN SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB. 5289, An Act Concerning the Timing of Certain Special Municipal Elections.

Late last year, the Easton Treasurer resigned and an interim Treasurer was appointed by the Board of Selectmen. In response to a petition, it was necessary to schedule a Special Election. The Connecticut statutes determine the range of dates on which the Special Election can be held. There is no discretion in scheduling the Special Election to coincide with the State election. Consequently, Easton had a Special election on October 26, 2012 and a State election on November 6, 2012. Easton incurred both the expense and the difficulty of having to manage the absentee and other ballots for two almost simultaneous elections.

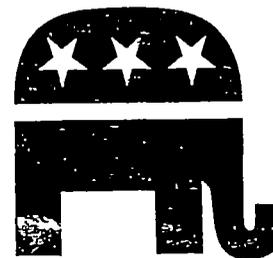
H.B. 5289 would allow municipalities to work with the Office of the Secretary of State to combine "a special municipal election brought upon application of electors with a regular election, if the special municipal election falls within thirty days of the regular election". The passage of this small, but important change to existing election statutes, would allow municipalities to minimize costs, better utilize their limited resources, all while protecting the public's ability to petition as a candidate and preserving their rights to vote.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony and I can be reached at 203-268-6291 if you should have any questions or need additional information.

Easton Town Hall, 225 Center Road, Easton, CT 06612  
[www.eastonseniors.com](http://www.eastonseniors.com)    [www.eastonct.gov](http://www.eastonct.gov)  
Telephone: 203-268-6291    Fax: 203-261-6080  
Email: [townclerk@eastonclerk.org](mailto:townclerk@eastonclerk.org)

# EASTON REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 408 Easton, Connecticut 06612



February 20, 2013

W.Derek Buckley, Town Clerk  
Town of Easton  
225 Center Road  
Easton, Conn 06612

Re: Proposed H.B. No. 5289 an Act Concerning The Timing of  
Certain Special Municipal Elections

Dear Derek:

On behalf of the Easton Republican Town Committee, of which I am the current Chair, I join in your Testimony supporting the proposed H.B. No.5289 to be submitted to the Government Administration and Elections Committee on February 22, 2013. A true copy of such testimony is attached.

Sincerely,

*Adam Dunsby*  
Adam W. Dunsby  
Chairman  
Easton Republican Town Committee

dw  
encl.

RECEIVED

2013 FEB 21 A 8:51  
Paid for by the Easton Republican Town Committee, Michael E. Ring, Treasurer

EASTON TOWN CLERK

*Spoken Testimony*  
2-22-13

Raised Bill HB5289: An Act Concerning The Timing Of Certain Special Municipal Elections

~~528~~  
528;

Senator Musto, Representative Julita and Members of the GAE

My name is Sue W. Larsen. I am the Chairman of the ROVAC Legislative Committee and here in support of HB 5289. South Windsor, East Windsor and Windsor, like all cities and towns in CT, recently held an August Senatorial Primary. However, one week later we had to hold a Special Election for Judge of Probate. While this proposal would not have impacted our situation because the bill is for elections, we can attest to the increase costs, training, hours and paperwork associated with 2 events happening so close together. South Windsor spent approximately \$15,000 on this special election.

This bill would provide a real cost savings to municipalities while still maintaining the integrity of our elections.

Thank you for allowing this testimony.

Sue W. Larsen  
South Windsor

*Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.*



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TESTIMONY

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
Friday, February 22, 2013

**HB 5421 – An Act Exempting Death Certificates of Minors from Public Disclosure**  
**SB 283 – An Act Concerning On-Line Voting for Military Personnel**  
**HB 5289 – An Act Concerning the Timing of Certain Special Municipal Elections**

Good morning Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and the distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Michele Grande and I am the Town Clerk in Redding and a member of the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Town Clerk's Association. I am here to testify on various proposals before you today.

First the Association supports, *HB 5421 An Act Exempting Death Certificates of Minors from Public Disclosure* but recommends that the proposal be amended so that it can be properly managed. As clerks, we are well aware that certain information contained in a death certificate can be used to establish identity or to locate and harass family members. Following the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the Newtown Clerk has brought this issue to the forefront and we are fully supportive of her attempt to provide some protection to the families who have lost a minor child. There are several bills currently under consideration by various committees of the General Assembly.

The Association recommends that a short form death certificate be developed, similar to the short form birth certificate. This short form death certificate would provide the protection from unnecessary public disclosure of private information while providing appropriate access to vital records by the general public. For example, a short form "death registration" could be established which would include the name, date of death and town of death. This alternative would balance the public's right to know with the protection and privacy that we are seeking.

In addition to this bill, the Association would like to comment on:

*SB 283 AAC On-Line Voting for Military Personnel*. We currently have a procedure in place, which allows military voters the option of receiving their ballot by email, however, the voter must return the ballot to the town clerk by regular mail. In order for the ballot to be counted the town clerk must receive the ballot no later than 8:00pm on Election Day.

*HB 5289 AAC The Timing of Certain Special Municipal Elections.* We support allowing a municipality to combine elections that fall within thirty days of one another, which would reduce costs and be more convenient for the voters.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I'm available to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Grande  
Redding Town Clerk  
Member of CTCA Legislative Committee