

PA13-264

HB5601

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 6
1695 – 2023**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 24, 2013

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

Will Members please return to the Chamber
immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all Members voted? Have all Members voted?
If all the Members have 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. And will the Clerk please announce
the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 5388 as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting	145
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting yea	144
Those voting nay	1
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill as amended passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 64.

THE CLERK:

Madam Speaker, on Page 4, Calendar Number 64,
Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on

HB 5601

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Government Administration and Elections, Substitute

House Bill 5601 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS
TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
STATUTES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Ed Jutila, you have the floor,
sir.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move acceptance of
the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of
the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is acceptance of the Joint
Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.
Will you remark, Representative Jutila?

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill makes
technical revisions to the GAE and Elections Statutes,
things as simple as in Line 27 inserting a missing
conjunction.

It removes obsolete name of the former State
Ethics Commission and replaces it with the Office of
State Ethics.

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It makes some conforming changes to section numbers and removes an obsolete reference to a plan by the Commissioner of DAS, and I would urge passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Hwang, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Some questions to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Madam. Through you, Madam, why is the removal of the Office of State Ethics required? Was there an organizational change? Through you, Mr. Speaker, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, no, it's not the result of an organizational change. It's simply an

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updating of the statutes to reflect the change in the name of the office, I think which actually goes back to 2005.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, maybe a point of clarification. I did think that it was a change due to the consolidation of the Ethics Office into the Office of Governmental Accountability and as a result that took away the specific reference to the State Ethics Department.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, I'm relying on the OLR bill summary here, which notes that this was a technical change that removed obsolete references to the State Ethics Commission, which was eliminated in 2005.

You could very well be correct, through you, Madam Speaker to Representative Hwang. That level of detail was not included in the report but I appreciate your bringing it to our attention.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I appreciate the good Chairman's answers to that and we will move forward.

Could you, through you, Madam Speaker, elaborate in regards to, there are actually two separate effective dates of implementation in this statute. Could I ask the good Chair to possibly clarify and explain?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, to the distinguished Ranking Member. I thought that was interesting myself when I saw that and was curious about it, so I did query LCO on that, which indicated that that is for consistency with effective dates in other legislation that we passed.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

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Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank you very much for that clarification and I appreciate your good work on that.

Has the good Chair mentioned in regards to the Department of Administrative Services change, it eliminated the use of disposable and single use products in state government. Was this a statutory change but it also reflected a change in increased efficiency in government, and could the good Chair, through you, Madam Speaker, clarify a little bit on that. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, if I could ask the Ranking Member if he could give me a line reference on this?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, it didn't have a specific line answer but it was in the OLR bill analysis, which explained the rationale for the

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elimination for that type of language. Through you,
Mr. Speaker, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, I assume you're making reference, I assume the Ranking Member is making reference to the obsolete reference to the DAS plan for eliminating the use of disposable single used products in state government and the answer would be that the requirement for that plan was eliminated in 2012 and that's the reason for the deletion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I want to thank the good Chair for that answer, and it's consistent with my understanding as well.

In regard to this bill, it truly is a technical bill and the good work that we did as a Committee in working together to be sure that we have statutes that are reflecting up to date interpretation as well as application is critical.

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And I want to thank the good Chair for his good work on this and I urge passage of this.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you. 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?

If not, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

Will Members please return to the Chamber immediately.

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. And will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 5601.

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April 24, 2013

Total Number Voting	145
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	145
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 307.

THE CLERK:

House Calendar Number 307, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Affairs and Elections, or Government Administration and Elections, House Bill 6630 AN ACT CONCERNING DELIVERY OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS BY THE TOWN CLERKS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill. Will you remark, sir?

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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**VETO
SESSION**

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Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 4, Calendar 464, Substitute for House Bill Number 5601, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS STATUTES, favorable report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections. And there is an amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto, good evening, sir.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Good evening, Madam President, how are you doing up there?

THE CHAIR:

Fantastic.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Good, glad to hear it. So you had some company up there a moment ago.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, a handsome young man. I love it.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Very nice.

Madam President, I move the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on passage and acceptance, will you remark?

SENATOR MUSTO:

Yes, Madam President. This is a highly technical bill.

It's so technical that it looks almost like it would be a dummy bill, there are so few changes to it. But, it does -- it is a cleanup bill from LCO. It basically changes the word "commission" to the "Office of State Ethics" in several places and makes some other grammatical changes. I don't believe there's anything substantive in here that would give anybody pause, and I would simply ask that the Circle's support for the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

If not, I call for --

SENATOR MUSTO:

I was going to ask to put it on consent, but if there is some objection?

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Also, on page 4, Calendar 465, House Bill Number 6630, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELIVERY OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS BY THE TOWN CLERK, favorable report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

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
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that has a requirement that every town have an emergency plan, and they're going to adopt it as a national model because, you know, this last 2012 really made people sit up straight when that storm hit. And even people from California, Wyoming, wherever, they're thinking well, you know, maybe not a storm, maybe something else will happen. So -- so it was good, it was a good effort on our part, and we now have a model emergency plan and everybody -- we got through the election because we had given it some forethought, I believe, so.

REP. JUTILA: Okay. Thank you again.

SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE MERRILL: Thanks so much.

REP. JUTILA: We are now well into the second hour of testimony and so we'll switch to the public and we'll rotate back and forth, and we'll ask that you stick to the -- the three-minute limit. Although, with just a few speakers, I don't think we'll be particularly rigid about that, but if you can try to be concise, we'd appreciate it.

And the first person on the list is Tom Connolly.

I'm not sure if he's still here; he's actually crossed off my list.

CLERK CINDY DUNNE: No, he's not showing up.

REP. JUTILA: Okay. Then the next speaker is Essie Labrot from the Connecticut Town Clerks.

ESSIE LABROT: Good afternoon.

Good afternoon, Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Ranking Members Senator McLachlan and Representative Hwang, and distinguish members of the GAE Committee.

HJR 16
HB 5599
HB 5600
HB 5601

My name is Essie Labrot, and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association. And I'm also the legislative chair of the Connecticut Clerks Association and Town Clerk of West Hartford.

I'm here to testify in support of House Joint 16, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO GRANT INCREASED AUTHORITY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.

Our association has done extensive research on all different types of early voting, no-excuse absentee mail-in voting, and when we started this research process, we found that in 2008, the state of Missouri discounted 8,000 absentee ballots for a lot of reasons: they weren't done properly, they weren't signed. And this number could have changed the outcome of the election.

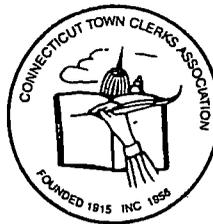
So in the last two elections here, the primary in this past November, we did a survey of about 113 cities and towns in Connecticut, and we found that there is a high number of absentees that are not counted or arriving late on a 5 percent average. So we're very concerned about this because we have had close elections in this state. Some of you have participated in those close elections, so we are concerned about mail-in balloting and making sure that every ballot counts.

We -- our association is very interested in being involved in future discussions regarding early voting, options and efficient election administration.

We are also in support of House Bill 5599, AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS; House Bill 5600, AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRAR OF VOTERS; and House Bill 5601, RECOMMENDATIONS ON TECHNICAL CHANGES.

Connecticut Town Clerks AssociationCommittee 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
Betsy Moukawsher, Groton

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Bernice Dixon, Vitals Comm. CH
Marianne Kelly, Technology Comm. CH
Leonard Greene, Beacon Falls
Barbara Thompson, Wallingford
Lobbyist. Michael Dugan

2013 Legislative Committee

TESTIMONY
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2013

HB 5599
HB 5600
HB 5601

**HJ16, RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION
TO GRANT INCREASED AUTHORITY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING
ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Jutila 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 legislative Vice Chair of the CTCA and the Town Clerk of West Hartford.

I am here today to testify in support of House Joint 16 A Resolution Approving and Amendment to the State Constitution to Grant Increased Authority to the General Assembly regarding Election Administration.

Our Association is very much in favor of election reform that allows easier and less restrictive voting with a well thought out, cost effective, good sense plan that includes safeguards and minimizes disenfranchisement. We support the concept of early voting with the use of a tabulator. It utilizes equipment we already own, and reduces the need for the mail in ballots (or Absentee Ballots) that currently have an outdated, inefficient and manual process for mailing and counting.

Our Association has done extensive research on the mail in ballot process (Absentee Ballot) and in the last November election, found that there is a large number of absentee ballots not counted or arriving after election day – 5% on average statewide, with some towns reporting as high as 7 or 8%. The early voting option with a tabulator would eliminate this problem.

Due to the last two consecutive years of natural disasters around Election Day, we also recognize the need to allow for flexible emergency procedures. Allowing emergency workers to vote early – possibly by electronic means may be something to consider; as well as expanding caregivers the option for early voting. These extreme weather situations has also showed that relying on our Postal Service to deliver ballots (and have them returned before the end of election day) in a timely manner had many failings which is probably one of the reasons our offices received so many late ballots.

Our Association is very interested in being involved in future discussions regarding early voting options and efficient election administration. We are also in support of House Bill 5599 (Act Concerning Provisional Ballots), House Bill 5600 (Act Concerning Registrars of Voters) and House Bill 5601 (Recommendations on Technical Changes).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Essie Labrot
Vice Chair, Legislative & Elections Committee, CT Town Clerks Association
Town/Council Clerk, West Hartford



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

**OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS' STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF
RAISED BILL No. 5601
AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS'
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS STATUTES.**

The Office of State Ethics ("OSE") supports Raised Bill No. 5601 and respectfully requests that the following comments be considered. Raised Bill No. 5601 contains necessary technical revisions to the Codes of Ethics (General Statutes, Chapter 10). Specifically, the OSE supports sections 2 through 5 of the bill, which replace references from the former State Ethics Commission to the "Office of State Ethics," "Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board," or "board." The OSE would like to take this opportunity and recommend a technical change to subsection (a) of section 1-100b of the general statutes by replacing the reference from section 9-610 (i) to section 9-610 (h). Section 1-100b addresses the ability of the Office of State Ethics to suspend communicator lobbyist's license if soliciting campaign contributions. The order of subsections under section 9-610 has been changed, what was previously subsection (i) is now subsection (h).

For further information please contact: Carol Carson, Executive Director, Office of State Ethics, at 860-263-2400; 860-263-2402 (fax).