



House of Representatives

File No. 713

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

(Reprint of File No. 236)

Substitute House Bill No. 6515
As Amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 16, 2003

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE-WIDE CENTRALIZED VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "state-wide centralized voter registration system" means a
3 computerized system designed and maintained by the Secretary of the
4 State which includes: (1) Voter registration information prescribed by
5 the Secretary, (2) information contained in applications for admission
6 as electors described in section 9-20 of the general statutes, (3)
7 information needed to compile registry lists and enrollment lists under
8 sections 9-35 and 9-54 of the general statutes, (4) information required
9 by section 9-50a of the general statutes, and (5) other information for
10 use in complying with the provisions of title 9 of the general statutes.

11 (b) Not later than July 1, 2003, each registrar of voters shall transmit
12 to the office of the Secretary of the State all elector information
13 required by the office to complete the state-wide centralized voter
14 registration system. Each registrar shall transmit such information in a
15 format prescribed by the Secretary. Not later than September 1, 2003,

16 each registrar of voters shall participate in the state-wide centralized
17 voter registration system in the manner prescribed by the Secretary.

18 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not prohibit
19 the registrars of voters of any municipality from maintaining a registry
20 list for such municipality that is separate from the state-wide
21 centralized voter registration system, provided (1) such separate
22 registry list includes the same information as the registry list for such
23 municipality in the state-wide centralized voter registration system,
24 and (2) such registrars comply with the provisions of subsection (b) of
25 this section and the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended
26 from time to time.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Various Municipalities	Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

This bill requires registrars of voters to transmit voter registration information to the Secretary of the State (SOTS) by July 1, 2003 to complete the centralized voter registration system. The bill requires all registrars to participate in the state-wide centralized voter registration system by September 1, 2003, but allows registrars to maintain a voter registration list that is separate from the centralized registration system.

This bill has no fiscal impact on the SOTS as the agency has already acquired the computers and printers municipalities will use as part of the centralized voter registration system. These computers and printers were purchased with previously allocated bond funds.

As of April 7, 2003, nine municipalities have committed to join the centralized voter registration system.¹ Eleven municipalities have not

¹ The municipalities who have committed to join are East Hartford, Enfield, Madison, North Branford, Simsbury, Stratford, Warren, Waterbury, and Westport.

joined, nor made a commitment to join, the centralized system.²

The SOTS provides each municipality that joins the centralized voter registration system with a computer, associated software, a printer, and an ISDN connection. Municipalities will incur minimal costs for system maintenance and upkeep of the computer hardware.

House "A" allows registrars of voters to maintain a voter registration list that is separate from the state-wide centralized voter registration system, provided that the separate voter list contains the same information as in the state-wide centralized voter registration system and the registrars comply with the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252.

House "A" has no fiscal impact on the state. To the extent that municipalities choose to maintain a separate list, there will be a cost to municipalities to comply with the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252. These costs cannot be determined at this time. There is no cost to municipalities to maintain a separate voter registry list.

² Bristol, Danbury, East Haddam, Fairfield, Greenwich, Milford, New Britain, Norwalk, Shelton, Stamford, and Wallingford have not joined the centralized voter registration system.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6515 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE-WIDE CENTRALIZED VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires registrars of voters to send their voter registration information to the Office of the Secretary of the State by July 1, 2003, for inclusion in the secretary's statewide centralized voter registration system. The registrars must transmit the information in a format the secretary prescribes. By September 1, 2003, the secretary must prescribe the manner for towns to participate in the statewide centralized system and every registrar in the state must do so.

The bill allows towns to maintain a separate registry list as long as (1) the list includes the information required to be in the statewide list and (2) the registrars send voter information to the secretary and comply with the federal law requiring a computerized statewide voter registry list.

*House Amendment "A" adds the provision permitting the separate municipal lists.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

STATE-WIDE CENTRALIZED VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM

The Secretary of the State Office's statewide voter registration system, as defined in the bill, includes information (1) on voter registration that the secretary prescribes; (2) from voter registration application forms; (3) used to compile voter registry and enrollment lists, including the active and inactive registry lists; and (4) used to comply with state election laws.

BACKGROUND

Federal Law

On October 29, 2002, the federal Help America Vote Act (P.L. 107-252, 42 USC 15301 *et seq.*) was enacted to provide funds to states to replace voting systems, create the Election Assistance Commission, and set minimum election administration standards. It requires states to establish a computerized statewide voter registration list, adopt provisional ballot procedures, use voting machines that meet certain standards, and implement specified identification requirements for voters who register by mail.

Legislative History

On April 14, the House referred the bill to the Planning and Development Committee, which reported it without any changes on April 15.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 17 Nay 0

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 13 Nay 5