



TESTIMONY OF THE
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
TO THE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

February 28, 2007

Committee Bill 6251 – “An Act Authorizing Election Day Registration”
Raised Bill 7259 – “An Act Establishing New Procedures to Implement the Marksense System”
Raised Bill 7258 – “An Act Concerning Voters With Disabilities”
Raised Bill 7257 – “An Act Concerning the Centralized Voter Registration System”
Raised Bill 7261 – “An Act Concerning Technical Changes to the Conduct of Elections”
Raised Bill 1312 – “An Act Concerning Certain Compensation of Registrars of Voters”
Raised Bill 1311 – “An Act Concerning the Integrity and Security of the Voting Process”
Raised Bill 1310 – “An Act Concerning Technical and Procedural Changes to Certain Election Laws”

These bills would make a variety of technical changes to the existing election laws in order to bring them in to compliance with the Help America Vote Act and up to date with the new voting machines in Connecticut.

While these changes are technical in nature, CCM asks that the committee carefully examine the changes prior to action to ensure that they will not create new administrative and cost burdens on cities and towns or have adverse unintentional consequences.

CCM has concerns with the following bills:

RSB 1311 – *Would establish new mandated audit procedures that could be overly cumbersome and costly to municipalities.* Such audit procedures should be designed to achieve the object of maintaining and proving the integrity and security of the voting systems without requiring some towns to audit 100% of the votes, as the current draft of the bill would do.

- **CCM has been promised by the Secretary of the State’s office that she will work with municipalities and registrars** to craft the language in a way that works for everyone, while still achieving the overarching goal.

RSB 1310 – Section 3 of this bill *would allow local registrars of voters to appoint additional election officials as needed*, however *it does not address the compensation of such newly appointed persons*. CCM wants to be certain that no new financial responsibility would be placed on the municipality by this section.

- CCM asks **that this bill be clarified to ensure that no additional financial responsibility be placed on the municipality**, without prior approval of the chief elected official.

RSB 1312 – Would *change existing law regarding registrars of voters attending conferences* and *expand the financial responsibility of the municipality from which the registrar comes*. Currently registrars are compensated at a rate of at least \$35 per day while attending a conference. This bill would not only mandate that the registrars be compensated at their usual salary rate per day but also mandate that the municipality be responsible for the cost of the conference and lodging. This bill does not identify what types of conferences should be included or specify that they be directly related to their work. **Such compensation schedule should be left to the individual municipalities to work out with their local officials and employees and not mandated by the state.**

- CCM asks that **no action be taken on this bill**.



If you should have any questions please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver
or Ron Thomas of CCM at (203) 498-3000.