

Senator MacDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Judge Deborah M. Pearl and I have been probate judge in the Essex Probate Court for 27 years. I am here today to speak to you about raised bill S.B. 1480.

S.B. No. 1480 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR AND THE PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

OPPOSE in Sec. 3. (a) *removing* the requirement that the Probate Court Administrator be appointed from among the judges of the probate courts.

The Probate Court Administrator should come from the ranks of the Probate Assembly because it is advantageous that he/she be able to understand how the system works. It is very difficult to explain what the probate courts are all about and how they function. It takes a very long time for people to be able to piece it together. Therefore, our probate court administrator should not just be plucked out of just any pool of political nominees.

SUPPORT Sec. 3 (c) that the Probate Court Administrator's appointment process include review by the committee on the judiciary.

I strongly support including the appointment of the Probate Court Administrator in the legislative process with legislative oversight. I believe a probate court administrator nomination should come from the Governor. The Governor could receive suggestions from members of Probate Assembly and the Chief Justice and be decided and confirmed by Legislature. I certainly agree there needs to be some checks and balances put in place for the Probate Court Administrator.