



GAE February 29, 2008

In Support of HB 5665

Senator Sclossberg, Representative Caruso, and Committee members

My Name is PAMELA RAPACZ Registrar of Voters of Wethersfield and chair of the Legislative Committee of ROVAC.

I am here today to speak in favor of House Bill 5665 . Thank you for raising this bill and having this public hearing.

HB 5665 is essentially the same bill that was passed in the Senate last year but died on the House Calendar.

HB 5665 is a technical bill that makes statutory changes to reflect the sea change that has taken place in running elections and making voters in our offices in the last few years, The bill reflects current practices dealing with the new voting technology and the state-wide use of the Centralized Voter Registration System. These changes are being proposed in the interest of the voters and an efficient process.

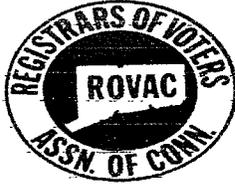
Having said that, however, there are amendments to this bill that we are suggesting and they are attached to this testimony. Most are technical.

We also are requesting the deletion of 2 sections and I will explain.

First, Section 17 of the bill addresses language, most of which was passed in last year's audit bill and we suggest it be deleted.

Second, Section 23, concerning voters who have a permanent disability. We feel that the language in HB445, also before you today, better addresses that issue. However, we also suggest that the language require only an application and not a certificate from a physician as currently written.

Thank you for your time and I will be glad to answer questions.



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Changes to HB 5665

Testimony of Pamela Rapacz
Registrar of Voters, Wethersfield

165 of voters shall send the elector, by forwardable mail to [the elector's
166 former address from such list or] current address in the new town, (1)

172 the elector's[former address] current address in the new town and are
returned undeliverable, the
173 registrars of voters shall mail such documents to the elector's[address
174 in the new town] former address.

176 street and number of the house[when the houses are numbered] and
apartment or unit number if applicable, so

178 second, the number of the house or residence in numerical order [or, if
179 the registrars of any town find it more convenient, by odd and even
180 numbers in numerical order] and apartment or unit number if applicable

309 the registrars of voters. Whenever the registrars of voters [are not in
310 their office], office is not open such list shall be placed outside of the office
for public

347 office of the registrars of voters shall be the posted office hours [in such
348 municipality for the registrars of voters.

505 [(a)] In each municipality or political subdivision in which a special
remove the brackets around (a)

521 [(b) In the case of a special election or referendum, no person
522 admitted as an elector on the day of the special election or referendum
523 shall be entitled to vote in that election.]

remove the brackets around lines 521 -523

524 [Sec. 17. Section 9-238a of the general statutes is repealed and the
525 following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2008):

526 During the first week of [February] January in each year, the [town
527 clerk] registrars of ovters of each town shall notify the Secretary of the
528 State, on a form provided by said secretary, of the total number of
529 names on the active registry list and on each enrollment list and the
530 total number of unaffiliated electors, in such town, and of the total
531 number of voting [machines] tabulators therein and, in towns divided
532 into voting districts, in addition, the same information for each voting
533 district. If the number of [machines] tabulators listed in such
534 notification is less than the number requires under section 9-238, the
535 [town clerk] registrars of voters shall include in such notification an
536 explanation of the discrepancy. [Each such clerk shall also file a
537 duplicate copy of such notification with the officials who are required
538 to provide voting machines in his municipality under section 9-238]]

652 otherwise provided, the term "admitting official" means a [town clerk,
653 assistant town clerk,] registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters,

659 (b) The applicant's statement shall be delivered to the registrars of voters

672 proven his or her identity, [place of birth] citizenship, age and bona fide
residence by the

676 in sections 9-12, 9-19e, 9-19g and 9-30. the registrars of voters may
request an

678 furnish his or her date of birth. any admitting official may administer oaths

684 [Sec. 23. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Not later than February 1,
685 2009, the Secretary of the State shall adopt regulations, in accordance
686 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, that provide
687 for the automatic mailing of an absentee ballot prior to an election to
688 any person who is permanently disabled, provided such person files
689 an initial application for an absentee ballot along with a certification
690 from a physician indicating that such person is permanently disabled.
691 Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the form and
692 content of such certification, a schedule for the mailing of such
693 absentee ballots and procedures for the protection of the medical
694 privacy of any such applicant.]

708 registry list, the registrars of voters shall, [upon a [written request]] have
the elector complete a new