



DATE - March 12th 2010 GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Senator Slosberg, Representative Spallone, members of the committee. My name is Judith Beaudreau. I am a member of the Legislative Committee of ROVAC and Registrar of Voters in Vernon, CT.

I am here today to comment on several bills.

Raised Bill 421 AAC ELECTIONS

As Registrars of Voters we have comments and some issues that need looking into and possibility changed ...

Sec 17 Talks about the maps and fines for redistricting. Line 1373, 1381, 1385 & 1386 the reference to "Town Clerk" should be changed to **Registrar Of Voters**. It is the Registrar Of Voters that does the local redistricting not the Town Clerk.

Sec 18 I am not sure where this has come from but it is the State Certified Head Moderator who is in charge of the total election. They file the end results with the Municipal Clerk & with the Secretary of the State. They do not need any assistance from the Town Clerk. Town Clerks only take care of Absentee Ballots and the rest of the elections are run by Registrars Of Voters and the certified moderators that they hire. This is the job of the state certified Moderator. The Municipal Clerk should only be a filing area of maintaining permanent records for the Municipality. The language regarding divided into voting districts will be eliminated when the law changes on election of the registrars to only 2 from each town rather from voting districts which is in SOTS Raised Bill 5441. The forms that this is referring to is the responsibility of the head moderator and nothing to do with the Town Clerk. One of these forms has been incorporated into the new Central data base system that will be released soon and can be sent electronically. The individual vote tallies have not been incorporated as yet but in the future I can see that most likely this will be done to expatiate results on election night.

Lines 1429 - 1442 talk about recanvass. Recanvass are the responsibility of the Head Moderator and the Registrar Of Voters and not the Town Clerk.

We also see that a 10 year was added for maintaining these records and we are wondering why such a long time? Once these things are done electronically they usually are kept forever and paper is not usually kept for such a long time.

Lines 1467 - 1491 should be stricken out because the terms of office for the registrars of voters are not mentioned and is incomplete. This section is completely addressed in SOTS Raised Bill 5441.

Sec 20 Lines 1496 - after compensated - we would like you to add "and Conference Fees paid" by the municipality. It is essential that Registrars come to conferences and get the education that is offered to them.

Sec 25 Lines 1635 to 1645 should be stricken out they are completely covered in Raised Bill 363 (Primary Polling Places)

Sec 29 -32 Lines 1784 -to 1882 should be stricken out they are covered in SOTS Raised Bill 5442

Sec 33 -39 lines 1883 - 2035 should be stricken out they are covered in SOTS Raised Bill 5441

Sec 41 Changing parties. We were not understanding the 4 months. We used to be at 6 months and lowered it to 3 months - we seem to be going backwards at 4 months.

Raised Bill 423 AAC RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT CLERKS CONCERNING DISCLOSURE AND ELECTION LAWS.

In Line 42 (8) Registry and enrollment lists of voters

This actually belongs under a section of its own labeled for the Registrars of Voters not the Municipal Clerks. This is the Registrars Of Voters who maintain these lists not the Municipal Clerks.

Sec 7 Lines 216 - 231 should be stricken - they are addressed already in SOTS Raised Bill 5441. and covers all elections rather than just federal elections.

Raised Bill 389 AAC TECHNICAL CHANGES TO ELECTION LAWS

Sec 34 we would suggest the words "Election Officials" be added, due to the fact that it would cover all Election Worker jobs. The current statement has not listed Official Checkers, Greeters, Demonstrators or Ballot Clerks. Election officials would cover all Poll workers.

Sec 35 Our suggestions in line 981 strike the words " in duplicate"

Lines 1000 -1003 strike "one of "& " duplicate" make certificates not plural. So that it reads: The Moderator shall Place the certificate received from the official checkers as part of the Moderators return. Provided for We only do one moderator return. This is left over from the lever days.

Lines 1005 -1007 should read "the Moderator shall deposit the Moderators Return's in the office of the Municipal Clerk on or before the following day.

Raised Bill 5441 ACC CERTAIN REVISIONS TO ELECTIONS RELATED STATUTES.

Sec 19 Lines 531 & 532 we suggest that after Election strike "at such time" instead say "or have delivered with the election supplies. Some of the registrars in larger communities have the supplies delivered in huge locked secured cabinets prior to election day and Moderators do not have to pick up such supplies the night before the election or primary.

Sec 22 Lines 620 after Provisional Ballots place a period and in Line 621 strike "and file such depository envelop with the town clerk." In line 621 - 622 the depository envelope shall be preserved by the strike "Town Clerk" and insert "Registrar of Voters" for the period.... Most Registrar of Voters are now storing their own election materials for the allotted retention times.

Sec 35 Line 1071 - 1079 needs to reflect the change in registrars not in voting districts.

Some primary changes in staff are needed drastically. It is hard to find enrolled members and people in our municipality we would like the same flexibility in Primaries as we now have in elections, for staffing.

We have added some language here for the Committee to look over. We strongly suggest that in multi primaries on the same day that we share or use only one moderator for each polling place. This will be a huge cost reduction in this August primaries we are about to have. After all Moderators are Election Officials.

Sec. 9-436. Use, number and adjustment of voting machines; conditions and rules for use of paper ballots; qualification and appointment of primary officials

~~[(d)] (C) The registrar OF VOTERS shall appoint from among the [enrolled party members in the municipality or political subdivision holding the primary, as the case may be], ELECTORS IN THE STATE to serve in each polling place, the primary polling place officials, who shall consist of one moderator, ONE BUT NOT MORE THAN two OFFICIAL checkers, BALLOT CLERKS [not more than two] challengers if [he] deem[s]ED [it] necessary, and [at least one and not more than two] voting [machine] TABULATOR tenders for each machine. [in use at such primary and,] in towns with two or more voting districts at least one and not more than two assistant registrar OF VOTERS, WHO MUST BE FROM THE MUNICIPALITY. [provided (1) in the case of a political subdivision holding a primary, if no enrolled party member who resides in the political subdivision and who is a certified moderator consents to serve as a moderator, the registrar may appoint any enrolled party member who resides in the municipality and is a certified moderator to be moderator, (2) in the case of either a municipality or a political subdivision holding a primary, if no enrolled party member can be found or no such person consents to serve as a moderator, the registrar may appoint any elector who resides in the municipality and is a certified moderator to be moderator, (3) in the case of a political subdivision holding a primary, if an insufficient number of enrolled party members who reside in the political subdivision consent to serve as checkers, challengers, voting machine tenders or assistant registrar, the registrar may appoint any enrolled party member who resides in the municipality to be a checker, challenger, voting machine tender or assistant registrar and (4) in the case of either a municipality or a political subdivision holding a primary, if a sufficient number of enrolled party members cannot be found or do not consent to serve in a position described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, the registrar may appoint any elector who resides in the municipality to any such position. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote for some but not all of the offices to be contested at the primary, the registrar shall appoint two additional checkers to check the list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to vote on the separate machines. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties in the same polling place, whether for some or for all offices to be contested at the primary, each such registrar shall appoint two additional checkers to check the list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to vote in either such primary.]~~

IF MORE THAN ONE PRIMARY, OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES ARE TO TAKE PLACE ON THE SAME DAY, A CERTIFIED MODERATOR MAY FACILITATE OVER BOTH PRIMARIES, IF THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS AGREE.

~~[(e)]~~ (D) The registrar OF VOTERS shall designate one of the moderators so appointed by the registrar OF VOTERS to be head moderator or shall appoint as head moderator an elector who is not also moderator of a polling place and who shall be deemed a primary official. The registrar OF VOTERS may also appoint a deputy head moderator to assist the head moderator in the performance of ~~[his]~~ THE PRIMARY duties. A deputy head moderator shall also be deemed to be a primary official. Each registrar OF VOTER'S appointments of primary polling place officials, except moderators of polling places, and of designees to conduct supervised voting of absentee ballots pursuant to sections 9-159q and 9-159r shall be divided equally, as nearly as may be, between designees of the party-endorsed candidates and designees of one or more of the contestants,
~~[provided, if a party-endorsed candidate is a member of a party other than the one holding the primary, such primary officials, except voting machine mechanics, shall be enrolled party members of the party holding the primary.]~~ Names of designees and alternate designees for such positions shall be submitted in writing by ~~[party-endorsed]~~ candidates and contestants to the registrar OF VOTERS not later than ten days before the primary, except that names of designees and alternate designees for the position of moderator shall be so submitted not later than twenty-one days before the primary ~~[and, if such lists are not so presented]~~ all such appointments shall be made by the registrar OF VOTERS but in the above-mentioned proportion. The registrar OF VOTERS shall notify all such candidates and contestants of their right to submit a list of designees under this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the registrar OF VOTERS shall appoint as moderators only persons who are certified to serve as moderators or alternate moderators pursuant to section 9-229, ~~[unless there is an insufficient number of such persons who are enrolled members of the registrar party in the municipality or political subdivision holding the primary, in which case the registrar may appoint a new moderator in accordance with section 9-229, but only to the extent of such insufficiency].~~ Primary central counting moderators and absentee ballot counters shall also be deemed primary officials. No primary official shall perform services for any candidate at the primary on primary day, OR ATTEND ANY POLITICAL HEADQUARTERS UNTIL AFTER THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS AT 8 PM.

Raised Bill 5442 AAC ABSENTEE VOTING BY MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND BY CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD

Sec 2 (b) last sentence - after numbers. place a period and strike the rest of the sentence " if any, before 1 O'clock PM of such last week day before the election"