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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Testimony in support of SB 940, AAC POST ELECTION AUDITS

Senators Slossberg and Meyer, Representatives Morin and Lesser, and members of the committee, I am Judith Beaudreau, Registrar of Voters for the Town of Vernon, and member of the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut. I am submitting testimony today in support of SB 940, AAC Post Election Audits.

I want to thank you so much for raising this bill. Registrars of Voters have been doing audits by hand for the last 4 years. This bill will allow us to use a scanner type of machine to audit the present Tabulator that we use for the Elections. The machines that are used to do this are actually off the shelf scanners. There are a couple of softwares that are being developed that can do this job. The towns of Bethlehem, Vernon and Wilton actually have had their election ballots scanned in pilot cases and all of us were very surprised to see the actual voter errors. This is a better system than hand counting. Humans are generally much slower and not as accurate when counting ballots. The scanner sees every oval whether it is filled in, checked off or circled. At this point I have no idea of the cost, but by putting this in statute, when times are better we will be able to go forward.

Having said all of that I would enjoy working with the committee to change some of this proposed language. Some information has been brought to my attention since this draft - so if you could make the following changes

On line 6 Please Remove the bracket [in front of town and where municipal has been added - I would like to Use a Bracket in front of town and end on the other side of clerk
[town-clerk] to delete town clerk and instead add **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

On line 19 after the word Public. Please add **IN A MANUAL AUDIT** than remove the bracket { in front of the word THE and continue with the taken out portion of this statute to keep it in place for the manual audits. Change Municipal Clerk on line 29 & 33 to say **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**. At the end of this section. Please add **WHEN DOING AN AUDIT DONE BY MACHINE, THE WHOLE BALLOT WILL BE AUDITED.**

sample

(b) The voting districts subject to the audit described in subsection (a) of this section shall be selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State and such selection process shall be open to the public. **IN A MANUAL AUDIT** The offices subject to the audit pursuant to this section shall be, (1) in the case of an election where the office of presidential elector is on the ballot, all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional office selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State, but in no case less than three offices, (2) in the case of an election where the office of Governor is on the ballot, all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional office selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State, but in no case less than three offices, (3) in the case of a municipal election, three offices or twenty per cent of the number of offices on the ballot, whichever is greater, selected at random by the [~~municipal clerk~~] **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS** , and (4) in the case of a primary election, all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional office, if any, but in no event less than twenty per cent of the offices on the ballot, selected in a random drawing by the [~~municipal clerk~~] **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**. **WHEN DOING AN AUDIT DONE BY MACHINE, THE WHOLE BALLOT WILL BE AUDITED.**

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I look forward to helping in anyway I can, to make this a good statute.