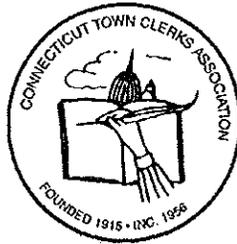


Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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2012 Legislative Committee

Testimony Government Administration and Elections Committee March 21, 2012

Good afternoon Sen. Slossberg, Rep. Morin, Sen. McLachlan, Rep. Hwang and distinguished members of the GAE Committee. My name is Deb Denette and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerk's Association. I am a member of the CTCA Legislative Committee and the Town Clerk of East Haddam.

I am here to testify on **SB 437 – An Act Concerning Changes to Elections Laws.**

Sec. 5 of the bill would require the municipal clerk to send an absentee applicant a notice when *either* the name or the address does not match the voter registry list. In cities that have more transient populations, it is a common occurrence for people to move from one street in town to another and not remember to notify the Registrar of Voters of their move. The ED-3 *Application for Absentee Ballot* requires the voter to complete the information and sign the application under Penalties for False Statements declaring the above statements are true and correct. It further defines Penalties for False Statements as “*A person is guilty of false statement in absentee balloting when he intentionally makes a false written statement in or on or signs the name of another person...*”. Though the Town Clerks can comply with sending a notice out requiring the voter to notify the Registrar of Voters of their move within town, we want to point out that this procedure will delay the processing time for issuing the absentee ballot to those voters who may then miss the deadline for submission of the ballot.

Sec. 7 requires the Town Clerk to submit voting district maps to the Secretary of the State and imposes a \$20 fine for not complying. Though we understand the importance of receiving these maps, clerks rely on receiving the information from the Registrar of Voters before they can submit. We recommend a timeframe for the Registrar of Voters for seeking approval of the Legislative Body and for submission to the Clerk.

Sec. 8 requires the Town Clerk to submit election results by voting district for each candidate in a state election within twenty-one days. Again, the Town Clerk must wait for the Head Moderator and/or the Registrar of Voters to deliver all necessary material before they can perform this task. We

recommend that the Head Moderator be required to deliver all necessary voting material to the Clerk within three days to give the Clerk ample time to determine whether there are any discrepancies and to give time to the Head Moderator and Registrar of Voters to look into those discrepancies.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk
Member, CTCA Legislative Committee