

**ROVAC
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS
ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT**

GAE Testimony: January 28, 2011

Submitted by George Cody, Reg. of Voters, New Canaan

HB 5600: AAC THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Senators Musto and Jutila, Representatives Meyers and Lesser, and members of the Committee: My name is George Cody, Registrar of Voters, New Canaan, and C0-Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut. On behalf of the organization, I would like to comment on the first of a number of bills relating to elections which will be coming before you this session.

The first part of this bill memorializes the need for internet access for all Registrars of Voters within their offices. The Secretary of the State is relying increasingly upon e-mail and their Internet website for communicating with and training of Registrars. Some municipalities have been reticent in providing internet and email access to their Registrars. Adoption of this provision will result in the improved operation of Registrars' offices.

Section 2 of the Proposed bill affirms and asserts that any "declaratory rulings, instructions, and opinions" issued by the Secretary of the State shall be binding upon Registrars and Town Clerks and shall be subject to Election Enforcement. We feel that this section is vague as to what constitutes an opinion, and does not specify notification or consultation with Registrars and Town Clerks of any changes or adoption of new rulings or opinions.

We feel that this section needs clarification and possible modification prior to adoption. We would be most happy to work with the Secretary and this committee in assuring the effectiveness of this section.

I would like to thank the Committee for their attention and would welcome any questions you may have. As the session moves forward, we look forward to working with the Committee on the other election bills as they come forward. Please do not hesitate to contact our Legislative Committee Chair, Sue Larsen of South Windsor, or our ROVAC President, Melissa Russell of Bethlehem on any of these issues.