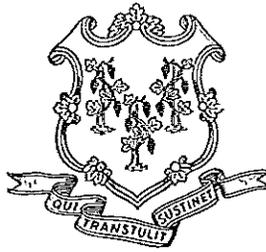


SENATOR ANDRES AYALA, JR.

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State of Connecticut
SENATE

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March 11, 2013

Good Morning. I would like to thank Chairman Musto and Jutila, the ranking members and the members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am here to give testimony on behalf of S.B. No. 775 AN ACT ENCOURAGING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY-BASED TOOLS BY POLL WORKERS.

We are in the 21st Century but yet we are still in the dark ages when it comes to using technology when it comes to elections. The current procedure, when a voter walks into a mistaken precinct calls for the poll worker to call the Registrar of Voters who will identify if the person is actually a voter and the correct precinct which the person is supposed to vote at. In a City like Bridgeport which has many precincts it is almost impossible for a poll worker to reach the registrar immediately. A poll worker should have access to a computer, laptop, ipad or smartphone where he or she can look up the person's name and address immediately and give the person the information. I have seen many voters become frustrated and leave without getting the proper information which leads to a person not being able to vote.

Most precincts in the City of Bridgeport are located at schools where computers, laptops and Wi-Fi are readily available. It should not take a large amount of planning to be able to access the equipment to make this possible. If the committee for whatever reasons feels that this is a mandate on municipalities then add language to the bill which will make it permissible for a municipality to do, if it so chooses.

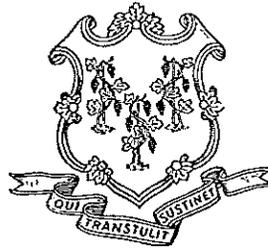
I am also here to give testimony on behalf of S.B. No. 777 AN ACT CONCERNING MORE RAPID IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS BY POLL WORKERS. This past year as I stood in line waiting for about 30 minutes to vote, I could not understand why the line moved so slow. We live in a world where people can go to a supermarket and scan their own food at a cashier and it is able to easily identify what the product is and how much it costs. Why can't we do the same thing with voters. The lines would move much more rapidly. If you take the time to look at your Driver's license or state issued CT Identification; you would realize that it has a bar code. What this bill is asking is to increase the speed of identifying voters as they go to their respective precinct. With the proper equipment we can use a bar code scanner which can identify the voter and move them along faster. If a voter did not have a state issued license or ID, then that individual could proceed with the way it has always been done. I have seen people leave because they can no longer wait in line to vote. We should be looking for ways to ensure lines move quicker and that no one is turned away. I understand we are currently in very difficult

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financial times and if in the wisdom of this committee if they chose to do this as a pilot program which would study how efficient this can be maybe they can ask for a small, medium and large municipality to volunteer.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andres Ayala, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andres Ayala