

Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.



TESTIMONY

Veterans' Affairs Committee
Tuesday, February 19, 2013

SB 647 – An Act Concerning Voting By Members of the Military Serving Overseas

Good afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy, Senator Welch, Representative Yaccarino and the distinguished members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. My name is Antoinette C. Spinelli and I am the Town Clerk in Waterbury and the Chair of the Legislative Committee for Connecticut Town Clerk Association's. The Town Clerks Association sincerely appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 647, An Act Concerning Voting By Members of the Military Serving Overseas.

The Association supports providing members of our armed forces and their families with the most efficient and convenient methods to cast their vote. Currently, we provide our military with the option of receiving their ballot by e-mail. This has proven to be effective and more members of the military are taking advantage of this option. However, the current process requires the actual paper ballot to be returned via regular mail. The Town Clerk must receive these ballots no later than 8:00PM on Election Day.

We realize that the method of returning ballots by e-mail or fax has not been allowed or tested here in Connecticut. Clerks are interested in this proposal and welcome the opportunity to provide input to ensure ballot confidentiality and security standards are thoroughly met. Though we support the concept of this bill, we await the Secretary of the State's opinion on when we would be ready to go forward with this change to our elections process.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Chick Spinelli, CMC, CCTC
Waterbury Town Clerk
Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee