

Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.



TESTIMONY

MARCH 11, 2013

Government Administration and Elections Committee

S.B. 1058 An Act Concerning the Retention of Absentee Ballots

H.B. 6578 An Act Concerning Timely Filing of Election Returns

H.B. 6291, An Act Concerning Absentee Voting by Certain Town Officials

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and the distinguished members of the GAE Committee. My name is Essie Labrot and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association (CTCA). I am the Vice Chair of CTCA's Legislative Committee and the Town Clerk of West Hartford.

The Connecticut Town Clerks Association supports both Senate Bill 1058 An Act Concerning the Retention of Absentee Ballots and House Bill 6578 An Act Concerning Timely Filing of Election Returns.

Allowing a change in the retention of unused Absentee Ballots is consistent with the retention of other unused paper ballots and also makes sense for storage considerations.

With regard to House Bill 6578, An Act Concerning Timely Filing of Election Returns, town clerks across the state have experienced delays in receiving important materials from the moderators immediately after the election. Statutes require that these materials be turned over the next day in order for the town clerk to certify the election to the Secretary of the State. Any errors found must be corrected in a timely manner so that an amended form can be submitted and accurate information is recorded. It has been reported that moderators and many poll workers are not available the weeks following an election and we believe that it is crucial to have all of the information necessary to check the accuracy of election results as soon as possible following Election Day.

We would like to also bring to your attention that proposed House Bill 6291, An Act Concerning Absentee Voting by Certain Town Officials, was passed last year within Public Act 12-193.

Thank you for raising these bills, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully submitted,

Essie S. Labrot, CCTC
West Hartford Town Clerk
Vice Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee