



CCM 2014 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 582-6314

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 5480 "An Act Concerning Registrars of Voters, The Authority of the Secretary of the State and the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and the Posting of Requirements for Voter Identification."

CCM has concerns with HB 5480.

This bill would, among other things, (1) mandate all municipalities to provide Registrars of Voters with access to the internet and (2) expand the Secretary of the State's authority by making binding any declaratory rulings issued by the Secretary.

While CCM understands the intent of the proposal, we have concerns that this would be another unfunded mandate on towns and cities.

Section 1 – Registrars of Voters are responsible for formulating their own departmental budgets and the costs of internet service can already be included in that budget. **This should not be mandated.**

Section 2(b) – The Secretary already has the authority to issue declaratory rulings. An open process for declaratory rulings is already established in statute for state agencies. Absent such a process being adhered in this instance, **CCM urges this language to be deleted.**

CCM asks the Committee to (1) **take no action** on HB 5480, or (2) amend the bill as referenced above.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate, at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.