



State of Connecticut

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

*Testimony by Representative Laura Hoydick
Before the Judicial Committee
House Joint Resolution No. 67
April, 1 2015*

Chairmen Coleman and Tong, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas, and members of the committee, thank you for holding a public hearing and allowing me to provide testimony in support of House Joint Resolution 67 **RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT A PROBATE COURT JUDGE WHO ATTAINS SEVENTY YEARS OF AGE WHILE IN OFFICE TO COMPLETE HIS OR HER TERM OF OFFICE.**

I submitted a similar resolution, HJR 37, which proposed amending the state constitution to permit a probate court judge to fill his or her elected term upon attaining the majority age of 70. While I appreciate the committee's consideration of this concept and raising HJR 67, the intent of my submittal was to assure the voters of Connecticut fair representation for the entire term of the probate judge they elected. Currently if a probate judge reaches the age of 70 while he office, he or she must retire and a substitute judge fulfills the court obligations to the community. The voters are no longer represented by a candidate of their choosing; rather the responsibilities are managed by a substitute akin to a substitute teacher in a public school. Local and state office vacancies are filled through a special election but this does not happen within in the probate courts. Consequently, the legislation I proposed would fulfill the obligation to Connecticut's voter by allowing their elected candidate to serve their entire term of office.

Thank you for your consideration.