

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5424

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF
Title: REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AT REGULAR ELECTIONS.

Vote Date: 3/23/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/15/2018

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill would allow for an exception to current law in order to allow a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, to perform his or her official duties. This would help aide municipalities that are short staffed and need the expertise of these individuals during the election.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Sue W. Larsen, South Windsor Registrar of Voters and ROVAC President

Ms. Larsen notes that currently, the Registrars of Voters are allowed to perform their duties on Election Day to help the election process run efficiently. She argues that deputy Registrar of Voters that are on the ballot for the position of Registrar of Voters should also have the same ability for the same reasons. Ms. Larsen notes that the same process in getting the nomination and the election process allows them to function without any bias.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Registrar of Voters, Wilton, CT

Ms. Young-Kleinfeld argues that the changes proposed by the bill would help to promote more efficient, bi-partisan administrative election procedures on Election Day. If a currently-serving registrar of voters is not running for re-election and is unable or unwilling to perform her official duties on Election Day, the deputy registrar cannot assume those responsibilities. This leaves one party's registrar performing all official duties on Election Day which may

appear to be a partisan act. Currently the registrar may delegate duties to the deputy registrar at any other time in the election calendar, this bill would help extend those responsibilities on Election Day if her party's registrar is unable to.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Susan Tufts

Date: 4/11/2018