

**Government Administration and Elections Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No.: HB-5459

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA.

Vote Date: 3/23/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/15/2018

File No.: 449

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Allows for the use of public restrooms in polling places and makes technical and conforming changes to statutes concerning elections and referenda.

Substitute Language: Qualifies the underlying bill by excepting bathrooms in schools while they are in session.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Luther Weeks, Executive Director, CT Voters Count

Mr. Weeks makes numerous suggestions about the security measures for paper ballots to ensure they are protected from being altered. He notes that since optical scanners began to be used in 2007, the statutes concerning ballots have not been updated to recognize that polling-place optical scanners require paper ballots that need to be secured. He gives suggestions for language changes to the statute.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC)

ROVAC's biggest concern is that large amounts of polling places throughout the state are schools and many times schools are in session during an election. They believe allowing the public to use restrooms at the same time may create a safety concern. They also argue it can also cause a disruption to the election itself if people, other than those casting ballots are allowed to enter.

Reported by: Susan Tufts

Date: 4/11/2018