

# Government Administration and Elections Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-430

**Title:** AN ACT UPDATING STATUTES REGARDING ELECTIONS.

**Vote Date:** 3/23/2018

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/15/2018

**File No.:** 478

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill makes minor and technical changes to election statutes that are outdated or obsolete:

**Section 1** allows the registrar to post notice of sessions for the admission of electors to their town's website.

**Sections 2-5 and 13** eliminates statutory references to Boards of Admission of Electors

**Sections 6-9** changes the timeframe and notice requirements to review and print voter registry lists

**Sections 10-13** eliminate conflicting statutory requirements for registrars

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None Expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Melissa Russell, Bethlehem registrar and Vice Chair of ROVAC's Legislative Committee:** Ms. Russell stated the bill eliminates set sessions to print voter registry lists which the registrars do at will instead of having the lists printed by a print shop. Further, it eliminates statutes that refer to the board of Admission of Electors. This bill allows registrars to publish notices of voter registration sessions by various means. Ms. Russell further stated

the bill eliminates confusing language regarding training registrars must obtain every year. Currently, 9-192b states that registrars or their designees must obtain ten hours of training a year taught by an "Elections Training Unit" made up of former registrar hired by the Secretary of State. This training unit never existed. 9-192a, the requirement for registrars is to obtain eight hours of training a year approved by the Secretary of State in order to maintain our mandatory certified status. This bill would eliminate the ten hour training requirement and simplify the statutes to require eight hours of training that registrars now must complete.

**Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), Randy Collins**: Mr. Collins explained the bill allows the registrar of voters when giving notice of sessions for the admission of electors to post on their website, rather than requiring them to be published in the newspaper. Municipalities are seeking a more cost effective and efficient manner in which to provide the information. Municipal and state websites have become a critical lifeline that link living rooms to their governments instantly. Further, the bill alters when sessions need to occur and the additional notice provisions associated with them. SB 430 provides meaningful reform that will save time and money within the office of municipal registrar of voters without negatively impacting the electoral system.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Matthew Waggner, Town of Fairfield, Registrar of Voters Office**: Mr. Waggner stated he opposes section 10, which eliminates the advisory committee that develops training programs for registrars. The committee includes registrars and has a great deal of work ahead in updating the certification program to reflect new laws, to address continuing needs and to reshape the certification program when the annual volume of students is no longer sufficient to sustain the minimum class sizes required by law.

**Reported by: Maureen O'Reilly**

**Date: 4/12/18**