

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5817

AN ACT CONCERNING OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL CHECKERS IN POLLING

Title: PLACES.

Vote Date: 3/29/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/15/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee
Rep. Patricia Billie Miller

REASONS FOR BILL:

In past elections unofficial checkers in polling places have not been able to hear the names of voters checked of as voting from the official checker. This has caused communication issues with the party wishing to obtain information of voter records. The bill requires official checkers in a polling place to loudly and clearly announce the voter identification number of an elector permitted to receive a ballot so that any unofficial checker can hear the information.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Denise Merrill, Secretary of State of Connecticut: Madam Secretary stated her office has not received many complaints in this area and that legislation may not be needed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Rep. Patricia Billie Miller, 145th Dist.: Rep. Miller testified in support of this bill stating that she personally dealt with this issue in her district on Election Day. She stated unofficial checkers were not able to record voter's information due to official poll checkers failure to announce the voter ID numbers. Rep. Miller stated that this prevented the unofficial checkers from accurately doing their jobs. Rep. Miller testified allowing official and unofficial poll checkers to work together in order to ensure peak voter participation would enhance the strength of our elections.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Sue Larsen, President of Registrars of Voters Association of CT, Registrar of Voters in South Windsor, CT: Ms. Larsen testified in opposition to this bill stating that the official checkers are not responsible for announcing the address or name. The voter is to announce their name and address but the unofficial checked does not need to repeat it. Ms. Larsen stated that electronic poll books should be considered in order to eliminate the need for unofficial checkers and expedite the process.

Luther Weeks, Executive Director of CTVotersCount: He submitted testimony that he is opposed to this bill because the voter already announces their name and street address. He believes there may be additional cost involved for paying official checkers when no unofficial checker is present, states this could add to longer lines with delays in repeating information and may discourage poll workers.

Reported by: Riju Das

Date: 4/3/19