

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-24

AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION AT CERTAIN

Title: STATE AGENCIES.

Vote Date: 2/6/2019

Vote Action: Vote to Draft

PH Date: 3/25/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Co-Sponsors

Sen. Matthew L. Lesser, 9th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill was introduced to codify automatic voter registration, update the voter registration locations to approved electronic systems and attempt to correct errors that mistakenly removed electors during this process. The bill will also help streamline automatic registration procedures by outlining a clear new procedure for proper completion.

Denise W. Merrill - Secretary of The State: Merrill supports the bill and states that it will help simplify the voter registration process and strengthen existing automatic registration laws. She states that since they enacted automatic voting in 2016 over 265,000 new voters were registered and this bill will provide even more clarity to the current program.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Yvonne Senturia, Election Law Specialist - The League of Women Voters of Connecticut: They support the bill and specifically the opt-out language that is included. They believe it will help the overall access to voter registration.

Dan Stein, Legislative Advocacy Clinic - Yale Law School: Stein supports the bill and states that it will help lift barriers to voting access. He also supports the current AVR process and states that utilizing opportunities when people interact with state agencies for voter

registration makes sense. Finally he supports the part of the bill that can protect electors from potential mistakes that result in them being erroneously removed from voter registrations lists.

Tom Swan, Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG): CCAG supports the bill and echo Stein's (Yale Law School) sentiment that it is a perfect opportunity to update voter registration when residents interact with state agencies.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

**Reported by: Ben Lovejoy
Committee Clerk**

Date: 4/11/19