Bill No.: HB-6063
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE PROCESS OF VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.

Vote Date: 3/29/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/25/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Rep. Mike France, 42nd Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:
This bill will streamline the process for those individuals voting by absentee ballot. The bill eliminates the requirement that after transmitting an absentee ballot application electronically to the town clerk, an elector also mail the original. This would require the secretary of the state, in consultation with up to two designees from the Connecticut Town Clerks Association and the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut each, to study ways to make the absentee voting process more easy, effective, and efficient.

Substitute Language LCO No. 6717: the Secretary of State, or the Secretary’s designee, in consultation with not more than two designees from the Connecticut Town Clerks Association and the Registrars of Voters Association shall conduct a study to address additional means for the return of absentee ballots, ways to reduce the number of absentee ballots rejected at elections, primaries and referenda and opportunities to make the process of absentee voting easier.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Denise Merrill, Secretary of the State: The bill first would streamline the process for requesting an absentee ballot by not requiring a voter who submits an electronic copy of an absentee ballot application to also submit the original application, second it would require the SOS to conduct a review of the absentee ballot process to determine if reforms will make it easier for voters and election administrators and third it would allow voters who are
immediate family members to submit their inner absentee ballot envelopes in the same outer envelope.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Mark Bernacki, Legislative Chair, Connecticut Town Clerks Association Inc.:** We oppose sections 2-5 because it is in direct conflict with HB 5816 which eliminates the inner envelope for absentee ballots. We support Section 1 of this bill because an elector can electronically submit the absentee ballot application and not have to submit the original signed application back to the Town Clerk before the end of Election Day. Section 6 is strongly supported because it establishes a working group consisting of the Secretary of State, CTCA and ROVAC to discuss all matters relating to elections that deal with absentee ballots.

**Yvonne Senturia, Election Law Specialist, League of Women Voters:** The League supports this bill because it includes provisions to make it easier to vote by absentee ballot and minimize the number of ballot rejections.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

Maureen O’Reilly  
Assistant Clerk

Date: April 3, 2019