Bill No.: SB-641
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING REVIEW OF ELECTION LAWS.
Vote Date: 4/1/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/13/2019
File No.: 

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Co-Sponsors
Sen. Leonard A. Fasano, 34th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill would create an Election Law Review Committee to review the state’s election laws. The committee will be required to submit their recommendations to the Government Administration and Elections Committee. This purpose of the bill is to address issues with election systems and procedures that are currently in place, and find a bipartisan solution.

Substitute Language LCO No. 6786- The proposed substitute language expands the details of the Election Law Review Committee to review the state’s election laws. The committee will be required to submit their recommendations to the Government Administration and Elections Committee. This purpose of the bill is to address issues with election systems and procedures that are currently in place, and find a bipartisan solution.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director, State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC): appreciates the intent of the bill, but opposes the bill as it is currently written. Director Brandi believes that SEEC should be included in this commission, because any resulting legislation will affect the Commission.
Denise Merrill, Secretary of the State: supports the bill because it can go identifying issues in the general statutes, such as conflicting statutes, “antiquated language”, and similar offices being treated differently by laws. The Secretary suggest removing the specific focus areas, as she believes that by specifying three points for the commission to focus on, it weakens the bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Senator Leonard Fasano, Senate Republican Leader, 34th District: supports the bill, and strongly urges the committee to do the same. Senator Fasano believes that this commission will give the Government Administration and Elections Committee more tools to “help shape legislation moving forward.”

Chas Catania, Resident of Sherman: supports this bill. Catania believes that integrity and transparency are important in election, when these values are absent voters will lose faith in the elections process. Catania also believes that this commission can address voter fraud in the state.

Joseph Hriczo, Resident of Bolton: supports this bill, and believes that this review can be an opportunity to review “questionable” situations in the election process.

Sue Larson, President, Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC): supports the bill, and respectfully requests that the committee consider including the Registrars of Voters and Municipal Clerks in this commission.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Wesaneit Tsegai
Assistant Clerk

Date: 4/10/19