Bill No.: SJ-28
RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF SIXTEEN TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION AS ELECTORS AND TO BE SO ADMITTED UPON ATTAINING THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.

Vote Date: 3/20/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/13/2019
File No.: 460

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
The resolution was presented to modify the Connecticut State Constitution to allow 16 year olds the ability to preregister to vote. This resolution was created in an effort to support voter turnout and access to voting when the resident become of the legal voting age and align with automatic voter registration efforts.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Denise W. Merrill, Secretary Of The State: Merrill is in support of the resolution and states that by preregistering 16 year olds we will encourage voter participation. She states that it will work in conjunction with the automatic voter registration process and will benefit overall voter turnout. She offers a short change to the language to shorten the resolution for clarification purposes.

Representative Lucy Dathan, New Canaan District 142: Rep. Dathan offers her support for this resolution and states that we should register our residents when they receive their driver’s licenses at 16. She states that it will help the DMV verify the resident and encourage civic engagement.

Sue W. Larsen, Registrar of Voters in South Windsor: Larsen opposes the resolution and states that the amendment to the constitution will only boost voter registration numbers and the 16 year old residents are still a year and a half away from voting. She would prefer the
legislature consider a study about the movement of families before enacting this constitutional amendment.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None Expressed

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Shawn Cully Resident Bristol, Ct:** Opposes the bill and states the current registration process is sufficient.

   Joined by:
   **Harold Douglas, Resident - New Britain CT.**
   **Michael Mancarella - Resident**

Reported by:  Ben Lovejoy  
Committee Clerk  
Date: 4/11/19