



**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Public Hearing March 28, 2020**

Testimony on SB 239

Senator Flexer and Representative Fox, Co-Chairs Senator Haskell and Representative Winkler, Ranking members Senator Sampson and Representative France, and members of the GAE Committee:

My name is Timothy Beeble. I am Registrar of Voters in the Town of Bethel and Vice Chair of the ROVAC Legislative Committee. I hereby submit this testimony in support of:

SB 239 - An Act Concerning Auditing of Signed Statements of Electors Prior to Voting.

Connecticut's election laws require voters to present identification at the polling place for examination prior to voting. Those who did not provide adequate identification at the time that they registered to vote, are flagged in the poll books with an asterisk, and they must provide identification that proves both who they are and where they reside. Anyone who has forgotten to bring their identification to the polling place or otherwise refuses to show it, may complete a form in the presence of the Assistant Registrars on which the elector writes their name, address, birthday and signs an affidavit that they are the elector who appears on the voter list. Upon examining the completed form, the Assistant Registrar instructs the Checker to cross off the name of the elector and provide a ballot.

In my experience in Bethel, this form is rarely used. More often than not, it is used on a rainy election day when a voter left their ID in the car and would rather not leave the polling place to retrieve it. Sometimes it is used by an elector who possesses ID but, out of principal, does not want to present it.

SB 239 would require the Assistant Registrars to maintain a log of electors who complete a no-ID affidavit. This task could be completed without interruption of the election process. Furthermore, the bill would require the Registrars of Voters to submit a report to the Secretary of The State that summarizes the utilization of the no-ID affidavit for all polling places in the municipality. This would not be a difficult task, especially if such report is transmitted electronically. ROVAC does not oppose the reporting required by SB 239.

Thank you for allowing this testimony. I am available to answer your questions.

Timothy Beeble
Vice Chairman
ROVAC Legislative Committee