

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-138

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

Vote Date: 3/30/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/29/2021

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to nullify the electoral vote of any elector who does not cast their vote for the candidates that they were pledged to on the ballot. The bill ensures that a faithless elector effectively forfeits their elector status, thus resulting in a vacancy. This vacancy can be filled by a vote conducted amongst the other electors present at the Electoral College ceremony. The elector that is elected to replace the faithless elector must cast their electoral vote for the candidate that the faithless elector was initially pledged to vote for.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Bonita Messman: Ms. Messman views this bill as an appropriate measure to help build confidence in our elections. She believes that a faithless elector should not be allowed to disenfranchise Connecticut voters by casting their electoral vote for anyone other than the candidate that won the state's popular vote.

Alisa Trachtenberg: Ms. Trachtenberg believes that the bill would protect Connecticut voters from having their vote disenfranchised as a result of faithless electors. She cited efforts from the most recent election, where one campaign sought to have electors vote against the will of the people in their respective states.

Yvonne Senturia, Election Law Specialist, League of Women Voters of Connecticut:

Ms. Senturia cited the League's commitment to building confidence in our elections. That being said, the League of Women Voters of Connecticut supports this bill, as it will ensure that a faithless presidential elector couldn't disenfranchise Connecticut voters.

The following individuals submitted testimony in support of SB-138. They cited reasons similar to those stated in the aforementioned testimonies:

Linda Pryde
Marcia Eckerd
Nicole Klein
Susan Singer
Vicki Volper
Joelle Berger
Gail Berritt
Lynda Shannon Bluestein
Jan Carlsson-Bull
Susan David
Paul Bluestein
Josephine Deignan

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Trevor Hoffman

Date: 3/29/2021