

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5229

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING MINORITY REPRESENTATION.

Vote Date: 03/27/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/20/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

For purposes of minority representation, this bill states that unaffiliated persons elected or appointed to commissions, boards, or other similar bodies be deemed unaffiliated for the duration of their terms. In short, anyone elected to a position that started their term unaffiliated with a particular party may not change that at any time during their term.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Representative Vincent J. Candelora, 86th District, Connecticut General Assembly:](#)

Minority representation on our local boards is a crucial component of a fair and balanced government. When a candidate is elected to serve as the minority member of a board, the voters expect that individual to, for the duration of his or her term, serve as the minority voice on the board. Our state law foresees this problem and Connecticut General Statutes section 9-167a accounts for it by requiring minority candidates to remain with the political party they were affiliated with at the time of their appointment to any office. However, that statute is ambiguous as to whether it applies to a minority candidate who is registered as Unaffiliated. Examples of how this bill's language changes to the current statutes will help avoid future challenging situations are listed in written testimony.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Anna Posniak, Co-Chair, CT Town Clerks Association:](#)

The CTCA supports the clarification outlined in this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anonymous:

From a "Concerned Citizen" who opposes this bill.

Anonymous:

General opposition comments on this bill.

Reported by: Robert Mayne

Date: 03-27-23