

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6908

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTIONS, PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

Title: PRIMARIES AND DEADLINES FOR MINOR PARTY NOMINATIONS.

Vote Date: 3/24/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/20/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This Bill moves up the date for presidential primaries to the first Tuesday of April in each year which a presidential election will be held, to increase the priority of the state of Connecticut during the primary race. This bill would also place the deadline for minor parties to certify their nominations no later than the Friday following the second Tuesday of August.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Stephanie Thomas, Secretary of the State, Office of The Secretary of State: Secretary of State Thomas, notes how this bill addresses two deadlines which intend to be moved. The first being the presidential preference primary, and the second being the deadline for minor parties to certify their nominations. The Secretary notes how the first of these, which includes moving the presidential preference primary would "give the voters in their state a greater voice in the presidential primary outcome". The Secretary then notes that the second section of the bill which includes deadline for minor parties, presents major and perhaps unworkable challenges. The Secretary also notes how this would make it much more difficult for minor parties who wish to endorse major party candidates. Secretary of State Thomas then concludes her testimony by urging members of the committee to reconsider details of the provision.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Nancy J. Dinardo, Chair, Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee: Ms. Dinardo supports the passage of HB-6908, citing its importance as their primary date would coincide

with New York's primary date. Ms. Dinardo further adds that this would make Connecticut more of a priority, as it has not been in the past. She notes that this would increase advertising dollars in the state as well.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anna Posniak, Town Clerk of Windsor & Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee Connecticut Town Clerks Association: Currently the CTCA opposes HB6908, citing the deadline it would place upon minority parties as their reasoning behind their opposition. They ask that an amendment be introduced to change the Friday following the 2nd Tuesday of August. They state that with the proposed amendments they would support this bill and urge its passage.

Linda Dalessio, Taxpayer: Linda Dalessio Opposes HB-6908.

Anonymous, Concerned Citizen: Opposes all bills.

Anonymous: Anonymous opposes HB-6908.

Reported by: Thomas Togneri

Date: 03-24-2023