

Government Administration and Elections Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5308

AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS OF

Title: NURSING HOMES.

Vote Date: 3/22/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration & Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would add nursing home residents to an already existing state statute for hospital patients to allow these residents to apply for an absentee ballot if they are a resident of a nursing home within six days of an election.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Stephanie Thomas, Connecticut Secretary of The State: Supports this bill because it improves the ease of access to voting for vulnerable populations by extending the window the patients of nursing homes can apply for an absentee ballot.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Bob Godfrey, Speaker Pro Tempore, Connecticut General Assembly: Supports this bill because it would acknowledge the growing trend of patients staying in nursing homes rather than hospitals for certain treatments and adjusts the state statutes to improve voting accessibility to these individuals.

Mary Consoli, League of Women Voters, Northern Fairfield County: Supports this bill because it will improve voter access to those who are in care facilities due to unexpected injuries close to the election. States that they would like to see the term "community health center" replace the term "nursing home" in Section 19 of the legislation.

Mag Morelli, President, Leading Age Connecticut: Supports this bill because it adds nursing home patients to an already existing statute regarding hospital patients who would be allowed to apply for an absentee ballot if they are a resident of a nursing home within six days of an election and have someone designated to deliver that ballot.

Antoinette Spinelli, Co-Legislative Chair, CT Town Clerks Association: Supports this bill because it will allow those who missed the cutoff to participate in supervised absentee voting at a nursing home to designate someone to deliver a ballot to the applicant.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Linda Dalessio: Opposes this bill because it would invite more voter fraud by giving certain groups the ability to go into nursing homes and take advantage of vulnerable populations and mentally incapacitated patients. They question how it can be proven that an elderly person designates someone to deliver a ballot.

Lisa Maloney: Opposes this bill because they believe absentee voting needs requirements to ensure valid ID of a voter.

Mark Cunningham: Opposes this bill and states that ballot drop boxes must be removed.

Reported by: Gabriel Marques, Assistant Clerk Date: 4/3/2024