

Government Administration and Elections Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-352

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO VIEW A BALLOT DURING

Title: RECANVASS PROCEDURES.

Vote Date: 3/22/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/8/2024

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:

Government Administration & Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would deter an election moderator from denying someone the ability to view a ballot during recanvassing by imposing a five-hundred dollar fine on the moderator if they interfere with a party representative's right to view a ballot.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Stephanie Thomas, Connecticut Secretary of The State: Supports this bill but suggests some changes: changing line 31 to say that only knowingly denying the right the view a ballot can be penalized. Also suggests that the fine may be too high compared to similar statutes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

No sources of support were provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Sue Larsen, Legislative Chair, ROVAC: Opposes this bill because it would penalize election officials for doing their job and maintaining custody of ballots for security reasons. States that it is important not to dissuade people from becoming election workers by proposing penalties that exceed what they are earning. Also states that the Secretary of The State's office can easily address concerns of interfering without putting the pressure on local officials.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Linda Dalessio: Supports this bill but not as written. States that the fine needs to be increased and the potential for jail time needs to be established as a deterrent for moderators ignoring the requests of voters. States that organizations will pay the small fine in order to cover up potential fraud and corruption.

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