

Name: John Fahan

Title: Treasurer

Organization or Agency: Independent Party of CT

Topic: HB05498 - AAC ELECTION SECURITY AND TRANSPARENCY AND VARIOUS OTHER REVISIONS RELATED TO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.

General Comments

Testimony:

I am writing to express my opposition to lines 917 through 928 of bill HB05498 page 29 which states in part "Any party for which a reservation of a party designation has been recorded pursuant to this section prior to January 1, 2025, which party designation incorporates the words "unaffiliated", "unenrolled" or "independent", or any similarly antonymous form of the words "affiliated", "enrolled", or "dependent", shall apply to reserve a new party designation in accordance with the provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section, and have reservation recorded, pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, before making any nomination on or after January 1, 2025." It is difficult to understand why such a provision with no rationale provided here would be placed in the middle of this bill that has nothing to do with this legislation concerning election transparency and security. The Independent Party of CT is one of the largest minor political parties in the State of CT with up to 30,000 registered electors. It is undemocratic and unjust to target a political party and its members in such a flagrant manner. Furthermore, the logistics and legalities of switching a party name for up 30,000 voters has not even been thought through by the legislature. Lawmakers should remain focused on the important aspects of this bill which rightly include video recording of secure absentee ballot boxes and of holding individuals guilty of felonies who attempt to interfere with the voting process through fraud, threats, or force. The focus should be on things like enhanced cybersecurity protocols to safeguard voter registration databases, voting machines, and election results from hacking attempts. Regular audits and rigorous verification procedures to ensure the integrity of the electoral process. The State Elections Enforcement Commission should be provided more statutory authority and staff to help assist the State's Attorney's Office and authorities like the FBI to make arrests for situations like the recent widespread election fraud that has taken place in the City of Bridgeport. Additionally, the focus if it is going to be on anything outside of election security and transparency should be on the Implementation of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) that allow voters to rank candidates in order of preference. This system ensures that the winner has majority support, eliminates the "spoiler effect," and promotes more positive campaigning. The focus on legislation to require a political party to change its name is derisive and has no place in election reform and security and the section I cited above should be removed from HB05498.

Sincerely,

John Fahan

Treasurer, State Central Committee, Independent Party of CT