

# Legislative History for Connecticut Act

## PA 16-53

HB5393

Senate 2700-2701, 2746-2747 4

Gov. Admin. & 652, 684, 688 3  
Elections

House Transcripts have not been received. They are available 7  
on CGA website, but are not the Official copy. Contact House  
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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2016**

**VOL. 59  
PART 8  
2400 – 2750**

Yes, this is the Controller's bill. I'm sorry. Again, this was unanimous in committee. It was unanimous in the House. The bill updates the statutes of the Connecticut State Employees campaign for charitable giving and assigns a deadline for review of all previous -- the previous year's campaign.

This is a major pool of money. It's voluntary contributed by the State Employees and basically run by them, through the Controller's office. It has a tremendous impact on many charities throughout the state. I would urge adoption of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Seeing no comments, I'd ask it be placed on Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

In concurrence with the House, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page number 6, Calendar 384, House Bill Number 5393, AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION. There are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano.

cf  
Senate

257  
May 3, 2016

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes, Madam Chair. I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill and seek to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Please continue.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

This is another bill again 15 to another unanimous in the committee and unanimous in the House. This is an act concerning election administration. It changes from 14 days to seven days before an election. The deadline for submitting online voter registration applications. This aligns it with the deadline for submitting mail-in and in-person applications, and I would move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark? Senator --  
Senator --

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Seeing no remarks, I'd urge that it be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

In concurrence with the House, so ordered, sir. Mr. Clerk.

Senate Bill 351, on page 2, Calendar 157, Senate Bill 69. Page 4, Calendar 341, Senate Bill 328, page 5, Calendar 375, House Bill 5296, page 6, Calendar 384, House Bill 5393. Also on page 6, Calendar 383, House Bill 5430. On page 7, Calendar 385, House Bill 5254. Page 8, Calendar 393, House Bill 5255, page 11, Calendar 440, House Bill 5252. On page 14, Calendar 475, House Bill 5627, Page 15, Calendar 477, House Bill 5072. Page 18, Calendar 498, House Bill 5513, Page 19, Calendar 502, House Bill 5526. Page 20, Calendar 504, House Bill 5403. Page 22, Calendar 516, House Bill 3 -- I'm sorry -- 5358. Page 22, Calendar 519, House Bill 5053. On page 24, Calendar 533, House Bill 5605, Calendar 532, House Bill 5335, Calendar 530, House Bill 5498, and Calendar 534, House Bill 5621. On page 27, Calendar 549, House Bill 5416. Also on page 27, Calendar 546, House Bill 5571. Page 28, Calendar 552, House Bill 5180. On page 30, Calendar 563, House Bill 5412. Page 31, Calendar 567, House Bill 5537. Page 31, Calendar 569, House Bill 5620. On page 32, Calendar 571, House Bill 5435. Page 34, Calendar 583, House Bill 5400. On page 35, Calendar 586, House Bill 5521. Page 36, Calendar 169, Senate Bill 266. Page 37, Calendar 207, Senate Bill 327. Page 39, Calendar 361, Senate Bill 15. Page 41, Calendar 246, Senate Bill 88. Also on page 41, Calendar 464, House Joint Resolution Number 38. Calendar 465, House Joint Resolution 43. On page 42, Calendar 466, House Joint Resolution 99. Page 42, Calendar 467, House Joint Resolution 121. Also on page 42, Calendar 468, House Joint Resolution Number 133, and on page 43, Calendar 470, House Joint Resolution Number 136.

THE CHAIR:

cf  
Senate

303  
May 3, 2016

Okay. The clerk shall announce pendency of a roll call vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine is open. Please cast your vote.

THE CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call on today's Consent Calendar has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members have voted? Have members have voted? Please check to see that your votes have been properly recorded. If so, the machine shall be closed and the clerk shall announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total number voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar is done. Senator Duff, for what reason do you rise?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Many reasons, Madam President, thank you. Madam President, I move that all items that require action

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS  
PART 2  
469 – 1086**

**2016**

Pg 5, Line 13



**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 29, 2016**

HB 5391  
SB 255  
SB 252

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, and members of the GAE committee,

My name is Sue W. Larsen, and I am a Registrar of Voters in South Windsor and the Legislative Committee Chairman for ROVAC. I am here today to give an overview of ROVAC's position on several bills. Members of the Legislative Committee have submitted more detailed written testimony on a variety of bills, for your reference.

**ROVAC supports the following bills:**

**SB 250 An Act Concerning Hours of Election Day Registration**

ROVAC is anticipating a large turnout for EDR this Presidential Election. The current adaptation of EDR is that only those having completed the registration process at 8:00 pm are allowed to vote. Those in line for hours and cannot get to the registration process through no fault of their own. They are truly disenfranchised and ROVAC is attempting to be proactive in finding ways to allow those potential voters an opportunity. We do not believe they should be treated differently than those voting a presidential ballot.

**SB 251 An Act Concerning Reporting of Municipal Results**

ROVAC strives for consistency in election law. Having two reporting styles leads to unnecessary confusion about what is reported and in what timeframe. The bottom line is that most people and candidates want to know who won. The statistics are useful afterwards when analysis begins. We believe this was meant to happen in last year's bill and hope it will be approved this year.

**HB 5386 An Concerning Votes for Cross Endorsed Candidates**

This has continued to be an issue for Registrars of Voters. We are mandated to determine a party designation for the voter. Confusion by the voters as to how they are voting and how many times are still issues to be dealt with. To alleviate one issue, we could change the word unknown to unassigned. The candidate will receive one vote, but it would be unassigned to a political party.

**HB 5390 An Act Concerning Written Instructions and Opinions From the Secretary of the State**

An online information section on the Secretary of the State's website is critical for consistency and transparency. There should be one site for general statutes, regulations, opinions and directives. This should be supported by ROVAC and SOTS as a long term cost savings for both parties. Research could be done by the Registrars of Voters and SOTS office could spend more time doing other tasks than responding to the same questions and emails from Registrars.

**HB 5392 An Act Concerning Training by the Secretary of the State Regarding Motor Vehicle Licenses**

Training is essential to insuring that all Registrars of Voters are consistent in their approach to elections, primaries and referenda. Training on licenses may not take a long to complete, but it is extremely important that there is no confusion on the type of driver's license presented as identification.

**HB 5393 An Act Concerning Election Administration**

Online voter registration deadlines should be consistent with the other registration deadlines. We believe that many potential voters would use the system prior to Election Day if it was available but as of today, the system is shut down one week earlier than in person or by mail registration. These people could end up in the EDR line.



PG 1, Line 2



**GAE Committee  
Public Hearing  
February 29, 2016**

SB254SB255SB257

**TESTIMONY OF SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE W. MERRILL REGARDING:**

- Raised Bill 5387, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CIRCULATION OF NOMINATING PETITIONS
- House Bill 5388, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN THE TOWN OF BROOKLYN
- House Bill 5390, AN ACT CONCERNING WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS AND OPINIONS FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE
- House Bill 5391, AN ACT CONCERNING THE HANDLING OF VOTER AFFIDAVITS
- House Bill 5392, AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING BY THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE REGARDING MOTOR VEHICLES LICENSES
- House Bill 5393, AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION
- House Bill 5394, ACT CONCERNING ENDORSEMENTS OF TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
- Senate Bill 250, AN ACT CONCERNING HOURS OF ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION
- Senate Bill 251, AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS
- Senate Bill 252, AN ACT CONCERNING POST-ELECTION AUDIT INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY

We do provide information to the registrars about identification requirements and the registrars, in turn, work with the moderators. In fact, there are now posters at all polling places articulating exactly what identification is acceptable. We are comfortable with the current arrangement.

Lastly, we have not received complaints about actual attempts to use Drive Only licenses at the polls. I oppose this bill.

- House Bill 5393, AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

My office is putting forward this bill, which would simply change the deadline for online voter registration from 14 days before an election to one week. This would conform the deadline for online voter registration to the same deadline as in-person or mail-in registrations.

It is a small, sensible change and I hope you will support it.

- House Bill 5394, ACT CONCERNING ENDORSEMENTS OF TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

This bill would exempt candidates endorsed for election as town committee members from the requirement to sign the certification of such endorsement. I support this bill.

As we know, candidates for state and municipal office must sign a certificate of party endorsement under a recently enacted legislation. However, this has caused considerable inconvenience for the parties to gather the signatures of the thousands of local party officials in our state because town committee membership is a "municipal office" under Title 9.

This bill would rectify the issue and I hope you will support it.

- Senate Bill 250, AN ACT CONCERNING HOURS OF ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

This bill would require anyone seeking to register to vote on Election Day to appear no later than 7 o'clock at the location where they may register to vote. I oppose this bill.

I should add that I want to see the issues that have led to voters being turned away corrected. I will never forget seeing UCONN students who were so excited to vote in 2008 turned away because they thought they were registered but they weren't. Many were enraged. Others wept. I thought of those students when we passed Election Day Registration because citizens should not be disenfranchised because of bureaucratic hurdles. Unfortunately, I think this proposal simply creates a new bureaucratic rule and doesn't solve the problem that it seeks to solve.

Demand for Election Day registration rises and falls according to the type of election. This November, we can predict high turnout and we will likely see intense demand for Election Day registration, and I can appreciate that the proponents of the bill are thinking ahead about how to effectively serve those voters. But we should also remember that next year, we won't see the same demand.