

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 16-84

HB5245

Senate	2949, 2955-2956	3
Gov. Admin. & Elections	105-108, 129, 131, 427, 428-429, 455-457, 1566-1567	14
House Transcripts have not been received. They are available on CGA website, but are not the Official copy. Contact House Clerk for assistance (860) 240-0400		17

Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives Proceedings

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2016**

**VOL. 59
PART 9
2751 – 3097**

/je
SENATE

199
May 4, 2016

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 6, Calendar 389, House Bill 5177,
I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 25, Calendar 556, House Bill 5245,
I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 26, Calendar 561, House Bill 5340,
I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 8, Calendar 419, House Bill 5606,
I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir. I'm sorry,
Senator Leone, you were not objecting, right?

/je
SENATE

205
May 4, 2016

I'm ready.

THE CHAIR:

Would you please call off the Consent Calendar, sir.

THE CLERK:

On page 6, Calendar 389, House Bill 5177; page 8, Calendar 419, House Bill 5606; page 11, Calendar 448, House Bill 5546; page 11, Calendar 445, House Bill 5328; page 12, Calendar 456, House Bill 5277; page 13, Calendar 474, House Bill 5383; page 14, Calendar 483, House Bill 5279; page 16, Calendar 494, House Bill 5496; page 17, Calendar 495, House Bill 5324; page 19, Calendar 514, House Bill 5583; page 21, Calendar 529, House Bill 5466; page 23, Calendar 543, House Bill 5587; page 23, Calendar 542, House Bill 5437; page 25, Calendar 554, House Bill 5642; page 25, Calendar 556, House Bill 5245; page 26, Calendar 561, House Bill 5340; page 26, Calendar 562, House Bill 5247; page 30, Calendar 589, House bill 5469; page 31, Calendar 592, House Bill 5636; page 37, Calendar 397, House Joint Resolution Number 25.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Will you please call for a roll call vote on Consent Calendar 1. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call on Consent Calendar Number 1 has been ordered in the Senate.

/je
SENATE

206
May 4, 2016

THE CHAIR:

All members have voted? All members have voted?
The machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you
please call the tally on Consent Calendar 1.

THE CLERK:

On Consent Calendar 1,

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For some markings,
please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If I could mark three
items Go. Calendar page 23, Calendar 541, House
Bill 5376; followed by Calendar page 2, Calendar
538, House Bill 5233; followed by Calendar page 3,
Calendar 272, Senate Bill 388.

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS
PART 1
1 – 468**

**2016
INDEX**

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

12:00 P.M.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH): I don't feel a lot better but thank you.

JOHN MATTIS: I know and I'm sorry I couldn't make you feel better.

REP. JUTILA (37TH): Any other questions? Other questions? Thank you for your testimony.

JOHN MATTIS: Thank you for the opportunity.

REP. JUTILA (37TH): Next up is Representative Wilms.

REP. WILMS (142ND): Good afternoon Chairman Jutila, Chairman Cassano, ranking members McLachlan and Smith and also members of the committee. I'm here to testify in favor of raised Bill 5245 AN ACT PERMITTING ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL SESSION. I believe you should have my written testimony but I will just share with you. Well, as you know I'm a freshman so everything I experience I experience for the first time so last December when we had our special session I experienced that for the first time.

What was interesting and certainly it was interesting to all my neighbors in my condo complex on the Saturday when the notification went out from a state trooper, I wasn't around. I was out shopping, doing things but apparently the state trooper visited my apartment on multiple occasions on that day and a lot of my neighbors were wondering what I possibly could have done but in any event I got back around 10:30 and well I went to bed and so I was quite startled to be woken up at midnight by a

buzzer that wouldn't keep, wouldn't stop and so I looked through the door and it was the state trooper and he was very professional, you know, very courteous and it was a great interaction but, you know, clearly he pointed out that he had stopped at my apartment on multiple occasions and it just seemed to me that, you know, now that we're in the electronic age an e-mail with text message would just be a better use of state resources than, you know, tying up a state trooper all day and then there is 180, about 7 of us.

Hence, my letter and I'm pleased to see that it's a raised bill by this committee and I hope you will pass it.

REP. JUTILA (37TH): Thank you Representative. I was actually surprised to see it as a request for a raised bill because I thought we passed it last year.

REP. WILMS (142ND): Okay, well --

REP. JUTILA (37TH): And I, I can relate to your experience because I had my own as a freshman. I was sitting in the backyard out by our pool with a friend who was visiting from, from Atlanta and the fence opened up and the state trooper walked into my backyard so you know, we were both a little surprised to see a trooper but he was smiling so I figured everything was okay. And now we're very used to seeing troopers around because we have parallel driveways with our neighbors who is a state trooper so we're very used to seeing it and happy to have him there. Questions? Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH): Thank you Mr. Chairman and welcome Representative. It's great to have you here as a freshman and you did a great job testifying. You know when I saw the bill come before the committee I was wondering well how much money are we actually spending on sending out our state troopers in light of our budget crisis here in Connecticut and I'm not sure if you came across that figure or not. If you have any idea how much the state could save?

REP. WILMS (142ND): I haven't officially. I did hear anecdotally from one of your committee members. I'm not going to mention any names but I heard a number of \$60,000. I don't know if that's. I have no idea what that is but clearly certainly in my case there was a state trooper who, you know, consumed his resources for an entire weekend day so certainly I think it will add up.

REP. SMITH (108TH): Well whether it is \$60,000 or \$50,000 or some number other than that, any money that we can save here in the state is a good idea and I agree with you that in today's electronic age it certainly makes more sense to notify us. I think we all knew anyway but it certainly makes more sense to notify us by other means than by sending a state trooper. State trooper actually tried to serve me and he kept coming back to my office. My office was naturally concerned about a state trooper showing up and thought I might be ducking him. The fact is I wasn't ducking him. I was out of the country but he didn't realize that so he kept popping up but think of all the resources we wasted in having them have to travel to our various communities to serve us when there is no need.

February 22, 2016

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION 12:00 P.M.
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

Certainly, I'm sure they have plenty of things they would rather be doing and know they could be doing so this is a good bill. I hope it moves forward and as the Chairman mentioned we thought we did it last year but maybe this is the year. Thank you.

REP. JUTILA (37TH): Thank you Representative. Other questions? Any other questions? Well thank you for coming by and offering your thoughts on this and for bringing it to our attention again. We might not have done it because Representative Smith and I both thought we already did so thank you again.

REP. WILMS (142ND): Well thank you for your consideration.

REP. JUTILA (37TH): Thank you. So next up is Bill Henderson. Speaking of neighbors, good to see you Bill.

BILL HENDERSON: Good to see you too (laughter). My son's a state trooper by the way so that's good.

HB 5049

I just wanted to say good morning Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Bill Henderson. I am President of the Communication Workers of America Local 1298 representing 3,500 workers at AT&T and Frontier just to mention a few of the companies. I am here with my legislative director, Paul Salsbury, and we are here supporting the elimination of the broadband advocacy office proposed by the governor's interim budget adjustments for 2017.

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120
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February 22, 2016

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION 12:00 P.M.
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

REP. JUTILA (37TH): Secretary Merrill.

HB 5049

HB 5245

SB 16

SB 104

SECRETARY DENISE MERRILL: Good afternoon Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutila, ranking members and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Denise Merrill. I'm Secretary of the state of Connecticut and in view of the hour I will try to be brief. I know you have a lot of my written testimony but I will just bring your attention to 4 items before the committee today. First, I'll start with the governor's budget recommendations which will deeply affect my agency as all agencies this year I think.

HB 5049

The budget moves, the governor's budget moves the State Board of Accountancy out of my office into the Department of Consumer Protection. We've worked very hard over the last few years to improve the Board of Accountancy. They are now a well-managed, high-performing department so I would ask that it not be moved. The Board performs an important function protecting consumers from fraud and negligence. We've invested a lot of energy into reinvigorating the office which is now highly productive and firmly integrated into the functions of our office. There is a list of their accomplishments and functions and the kinds of things they are doing in my testimony so I won't belabor it by reading them all but there are a number of them. I think it's a very lean, high-performing agency and we would like to have it stay where it is in order to avoid disruption of its work. If there is a decision which may be made elsewhere than in this committee, namely the Appropriations Committee I'm sure, the 3 positions

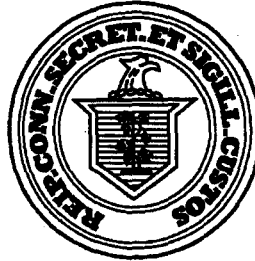
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

Then I go to raised Bill 5245 AN ACT PERMITTING ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL SESSIONS. I think there has been some discussion here already about this. Basically, all we're doing is saying we should add email to our list of ways we can notify you about special sessions. This is coming out of some situations that arose and came to our attention that people were getting notices after the session had already occurred, for example, so we would still be able to use those other methods but we would also be able to send emails and have a notification back system so that's what that's about.

Senate Bill 16 AN ACT INCREASING AGENCY EFFICIENCY IN THE REGULATION PROCESS which I believe is a governor's bill. We have one small. We support the intent of the bill but we need to draw your attention to a small discrepancy. It's an inconsistency between the SGS section 4-168G2 and 4-172B regarding the effective date of an emergency regulation. I believe it's section 3 of this bill. The bill provides that an emergency regulation becomes effective on the date it's posted to the E-reg system but the statute, existing statute provides that an emergency regulation becomes effective when the electronically submitted to my office or a date less than 20 days thereafter. These need to be conformed. I would just, if this is something we caught in the screening of our attorneys, that the bill should conform to the statutory effective date. So with that clarification we do support the bill.

And then finally I wanted just to weigh in on raised Bill 104 establishing the state's civic network. I think CTN has been a remarkable success. I was here

Pg 14, Line 7



**GAE Committee
Public Hearing
February 22, 2016**

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

- **AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT (House Bill 5049)**
- **AN ACT PERMITTING ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL SESSIONS (Raised Bill 5245)**
- **AN ACT INCREASING AGENCY EFFICIENCY IN THE REGULATION PROCESS (Senate Bill 16)**
- **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STATE CIVIC NETWORK (Raised Bill 104)**

Good morning Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutila, Ranking Members McLachlan and Smith and members of the committee. My name is Denise Merrill and I am the Secretary of the State of Connecticut. I would like to address four bills before the committee this morning.

- **House Bill 5049, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

The Governor's proposed budget moves the State Board of Accountancy out of my office and into the Department of Consumer Protection. This is not the first time I've asked you not to move this department. We have worked very hard over the years to improve the Board of Accountancy. They are now a well-managed, high-performing department.

The Board performs an important function that protects consumers from fraud and negligence, and we have invested a lot of energy into reinvigorating the office, which is now highly productive and firmly **integrated** into the functions of the Secretary of the State's office.

The Board's recent accomplishments include the launch of a partnership with the State Society of Certified Public Accountants to go to universities and talk to college students about

the career. The Board's staff explain the requirements and the process in the hopes of increasing the pipeline into the profession.

The Board also revised its regulations to reflect modernized national standards and to provide clarity to licensees.

The dissemination capacity of the Board of Accountancy also expanded greatly in 2015. The department dramatically increased the volume of information on the website to provide more value to current and potential licensees. In addition, the Board published its first-ever newsletter, which was disseminated nationally and locally to CPAs and Boards of Accountancy.

The Board resolved more than 112 cases in the calendar year, in settlement, dismissal, hearing, revocation and suspension of licensure. It has also increased its case referral partnerships with local and federal agencies.

The Board of Accountancy operates on less than 10 percent of the revenue it brings to the state, which is well over \$3-million in license and enforcement fees. The office is an extremely lean staff with only 3 employees, including an attorney who serves as both the acting executive director and legal counsel to the board.

The Board processes upwards of 300 new license, certificate and firm applications per year. This volume is possible because of a knowledgeable and proficient who have years of experience.

I ask that it not be moved. If a decision is made to move the Board, the three positions should go with it, rather than being eliminated, so that the Board may continue to carry out its important regulatory functions without disruption or delay.

I also want to take this opportunity to mention that in this budget year, and in the Governor's proposed adjustments, there is no funding allocated for the e-Regulations program, which as you know is housed at my office and has been running quite smoothly. I mention this because GAE is, of course, the committee of cognizance.

Bonding was used to fund the program's creation and secure the necessary software and licenses. The plan was that upon the expiration of the initial three-year contracts for IT software and licenses those operating expenses would then be the responsibility of the Secretary of the State. That time has come and those contracts have expired. However, there is no new allocation to the agency for that purpose, so without that allocation the program would be forced to end on June 30.

The total allocation required is \$150,000 per year. There is a lot of support for the continuation of this program and I hope that you would agree and would help me to make sure it continues.

- **Raised Bill 5245, AN ACT PERMITTING ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL SESSIONS**

This bill would enable my office to notify members of the General Assembly via electronic notification whenever the governor, the members of the General Assembly or the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives call a special session of the General Assembly. I support this bill.

The bill reserves the ability to send postal mail, first class with a certificate of mailing, to each member of the House of Representatives and the Senate at his or her address as it appears on the records no less than 10 days and no more than 15 days before the date of convening of the special session. We will also be able to deliver the notice of the call by a member of the state

marshal, constable, policeman or other authority at least 24 hours in advance of the special session.

However, the bill does not mandate these other methods.

The existing methods at our disposal are not ideal. House calls by a state trooper are not the best use of law enforcement resources. We hope that using email to reach out to members of the General Assembly will reduce the reliance on expensive mail and police officials' time. In addition, these home visits from law enforcement can be alarming to family members of the legislators who may mistakenly assume tragedy has struck.

We have also heard reports that postal mail is occasionally delayed. In fact, last spring we were told by more than one legislator that the postal notification was delivered after the special session had concluded.

We can send emails with an electronic confirmation of receipt. We are confident that email will be a more effective means of reaching members of the General Assembly. Everyone has different travel schedules, availabilities, commitments beyond the Capitol and preferred means of communication. Email provides greater assurance that we are using every tool available to provide notification to members of the General Assembly.

I support this bill and urge its passage.

- **Senate Bill 16, AN ACT INCREASING AGENCY EFFICIENCY IN THE REGULATION PROCESS**

I support the intent of this bill however I want to draw your attention to a small matter concerning an inconsistency between C.G.S. sections 4-168(g)(2) and 4-172(b) regarding the effective date of an emergency regulation.

The bill provides that an emergency regulation becomes effective on the date it is posted to the eRegulations system. But 4-172(b) provides that an emergency regulation becomes effective when the electronically submitted to my office, or a date less than 20 days thereafter.

The bill should conform 4-172(b) to say that the emergency regulation is effective when it is posted, just as the bill proposes to do in 4-168(g)(2). With that clarification, we support this bill.

- **Raised Bill 104, AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STATE CIVIC NETWORK**

This bill would modernize, develop, expand and enhance our beloved CT-N without a major cost to the state. I believe this bill is an absolutely vital contribution to our civic life and I wholeheartedly support it.

A major part of my work in public life has been devoted to enhancing civic engagement. Voting is the most obvious way that people participate in civic life, but we know that democracy doesn't begin and end on Election Day. Civic life takes place in town meetings, at our dinner tables, in community web forums and elsewhere. The question for us is: what can we do to engage people in the debates that impact their lives?

For almost 20 years, CT-N has been a valuable resource, bringing the work of the government to the people of our state. I am proud to have been one of its earliest champions during my time in the legislature. When we first advocated for its creation we knew it would shine sunlight on the important work of this legislature. The Network has lived up to its promise in bringing legislative debates and town hall forums onto the laptops and into the living rooms of our friends and neighbors. It is a vehicle for government, non-profit and community



State of Connecticut

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STATE CAPITOL**

REPRESENTATIVE LEZLYE ZUPKUS
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RANKING MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Government, Administrative & Elections Committee
February 22, 2016

Testimony in support of H.B. 5245
An Act Permitting Electronic Notification Of Special Session

Senator Cassano, Senator MacLachlan, Representative Jutila, Representative Smith and members of the Government, Administrative & Elections Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of H.B. 5245, An Act Permitting Electronic Notification Of Special Session. The bill seeks to permit electronic notification to legislators of special session.

Under certain circumstances, the State Police personally deliver a notice to all legislators to report to special session. According to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, the total estimated cost per service of a legislator is \$51.4. Servicing 187 legislators adds to a total estimated cost to serve legislators of \$9,612. This is in addition to the \$11,000 per day for the legislature to hold special session. By eliminating the need to have each notice of special session personally delivered to all 187 legislators, we can substantially cut the cost of special session. With the current budget situation, these measures could be invaluable depending on how often the legislature is called into special session.

In today's day and age, there are more practical and efficient ways to inform the legislature of a special session. We are more connected than ever and there are measures that can be taken to ensure that each member is properly notified of a special session. The current system is not only a waste of taxpayer money, but it is also a misallocation of one of the State's most vital resources, the State Police. By requiring the officers to drive across Connecticut to deliver notices of special session, we are diverting resources that otherwise would be contributing to the overall safety of the state.

It is time to improve the efficiency and lower the cost of special session.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Lezlye Zupkus
State Representative – 89th District
Bethany • Cheshire • Prospect

Pg 11, Line 25



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of H.B. No. 5245
AN ACT PERMITTING ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL SESSION

Government Administration and Elections

February 22, 2016

Dear Senator Cassano, Representative Julita, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith, and all other distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee; Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on H.B. 5245.

In order to achieve greater efficiency in state government, I support the use of electronic service to provide notice of special session under CGS 2-7.

For our special session in December 2015, I received notice via a hand delivered letter from a Connecticut State Trooper at 11:45pm on a Saturday evening. This untimely delivery was because I was away all day, and after repeated attempts the only time the State Trooper could reach me was at 11:45pm. I must say the State Trooper was extremely professional and courteous. On a personal level our interaction was very positive. However repeated attempts to deliver the notice throughout the day meant the Trooper was not able to perform his regular duties.

While perhaps hand delivery was necessary in the past, in 2016 electronic forms of communication have become the norm. Whether it is email, text messages, social media, twitter, etc. there are numerous electronic options available to notify state legislators of an upcoming special session.

In conclusion, allowing electronic message delivery will not only cut costs but free up our State Troopers to perform their normal duties.

Thank you.

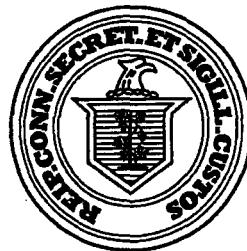
Fred Wilms
State Representative
142nd District

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS
PART 3
1087 – 1567**

2016

Non Speaking



**GAE Committee
Public Hearing
March 18, 2016**

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

- House Bill 5616, AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICES AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

HB 5616

The bill proposes meeting notices be received and shared electronically. It is a common-sense proposal that will help us get announcements to the public faster, more efficiently and enable customers of state services access this information more easily.

We request that you support this initiative.

Currently, public meeting notices are listed on the Secretary of the State's website. However, the process is a surprisingly outdated and labor-intensive task. Requests are received through a variety of means including email, fax and postal mail. Those announcements are then individually scanned and posted to the website. At busy times it can create backlogs and bottlenecks.

An online portal that enables agencies to directly input meeting notices on their own is already in production. Notices will be instantly viewable by the public. The notices will be searchable and sortable by agency or date. A digital map (like a Google map) will be conveniently provided, and a QR code is offered so customers can download the event directly into a mobile calendar.

Delaware uses a similar system that is a good, illustrative case study for the Committee.

The new system comes at no cost to the state as this project is being pursued through a vendor that is already on contract.

The Secretary of the State's office is committed to the dissemination of meeting notices. My staff will manage the vendor and approve passwords. However, this will be a much more convenient method for state agencies to share information with the public.

All that is needed now is a clarification of the change in procedure for the agencies in statute. We hope you will approve this proposal.

There are a few additional issues in the bill that need to be addressed.

As written, the bill includes multi-district municipal agencies as being required to post to our website. The Secretary of the State's office currently does not require that information as it is highly localized. The Secretary of the State's office has less contact with these local agencies and managing passwords as well as appropriate notices would add considerable difficulty. We would like that portion of the legislation to reflect only state and quasi-state agencies.

There is also a portion of this bill, beginning at line 139, which would allow for notice of special and reconvened sessions to be sent electronically. I support it. However, this was addressed by Raised Bill 5245, AN ACT PERMITTING ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL SESSIONS, which has already received a joint favorable report from this Committee. I would suggest we consider how we can merge any language from this bill with 5245.

In addition, as I noted last week, portions of this bill concerning the protection of voters' birth date information and the publication of the voter file on the internet may be duplicative of House Bill 5613. I have previously conveyed constituent concerns regarding privacy violation in my testimony on HB 5613.