

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7129

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER TO MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS OF  
VOTING TABULATORS AND ACCESSORIES PURCHASED BY THE

**Title:** SECRETARY OF THE STATE.

**Vote Date:** 3/12/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/7/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

**Government Administration and Elections Committee:**

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The Secretary of the State received funds to purchase new voting equipment for the state. The last purchase of voting equipment occurred 20 years ago, in which the Secretary of the State purchase said equipment and gifted them to the towns. However, the current law would incur perceived unnecessary administrative costs. This bill would seek to transfer voting tabulators and accessories purchased by the Secretary of the State to municipal officials and reduce financial burdens for the state and towns.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

#### **Stephanie Thomas, Connecticut Secretary of the State:**

The office of the Secretary of the state was bonded to update the voting equipment. This has not been done in nearly 20 years. We are rolling out 2,750 new voting tabulators in every municipality. This bill allows us to transfer ownership to the municipalities rather than a leasing agreement. This would be like the last equipment purchase. Currently our offices lease these machines, and we would face immediate challenges that negatively impact municipalities and our office. These would be an increased burden to the towns and an additional cost to the state. We have already begun rolling out these new tabulators so this needs to be processed swiftly.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None Expressed.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:****Sue Larsen, Registrar of Voters, South Windsor:**

As past President of ROVAC and Chairman of their Legislative Committee, I wish to comment on the past maintenance agreement and its reasonable cost. The University of Connecticut has now determined the allocation of tabulators. Many towns have limited resources in money, storage, and need. I am asking that the registrars within the municipality determine the number of tabulators necessary and the type of tabulators. The cost of early voting and now new routers has made municipalities take a closer look at their election budget. Included in the contract should be the ability for the Registrars of Voters to determine the number of tabulators.

**Lisa Kops, Registrar of Voters, Guildford:**

As a Member of ROVAC I have a concern with the expense of transferring ownership of the new voting tabulators to municipalities. There needs to be assurances as to the cost of maintenance if it be based on a unit or hourly rate. We also question the wisdom of using more than one brand of tabulator. Operating with the same machine in all districts and municipalities would be more effective in our voting infrastructures.

**Reported by: Pamela Bianca**

**Date: March 14, 2025**