

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HJ-47

RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF SIXTEEN TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION AS ELECTORS AND TO BE SO ADMITTED UPON

Title: ATTAINING THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.

Vote Date: 2/28/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/7/2025

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 and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The youth voters are a demographic that has had historically low voter-turnout rates in elections. This bill would allow individuals to pre-register to vote once they have turned 16 instead of waiting until their 18th birthday for registration. This bill would seek to increase civic participation among youth voters and keep them civically engaged.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Stephanie Thomas, Secretary of State:

This allows future voters to take hold of their stake in democracy. Twenty states already allow sixteen-year-olds to pre-register to vote and it has increased their voter turnouts significantly. This increased turnout comes from a variety of voting subgroups and notably is equally effective for Democratic and Republican registrants. Connecticut's newly established centralized voter registration system will enable this program to be easily implemented.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Cylie Kirejczyk, Intern at the Connecticut Secretary of State office:

This empowers 16-year-olds, allowing them to register to vote before the responsibilities of adulthood can prevent them from doing so. Early involvement also makes people feel more relevant to the democratic process and encourages continued involvement. We already trust 16-year-olds to work, pay taxes, and drive – we should trust them to prepare to vote.

Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel for ACLU-CT:

This works towards the goal of maximizing voter turnout. It has been shown that engaging future voters at a young age increases voter registration in both the short and long term.

The following support the bill because it empowers voters and encourages people to be more involved in the electoral process:

Nicolas Garcia

Lillian Curtin

Anonymous

The following expressed uncharacterized support for the bill:

Leo Smith

Sarah Baillargeon

Anonymous

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Aubrey Blathley:

The bill does not change the voting age and as such does not do anything meaningful.

The following expressed opposition for the bill because of a belief that 16 is too young to vote:

Linda Dalessio, Dr

Barbara Kovacs

The following expressed uncharacterized opposition for the bill:

Debbie Esposito

Anonymous

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Sue Larsen, Chairmen for Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut:

Provides questions towards the implementation of this bill. Requests that the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut be part of a task force or commission established to implement the execution of the bill.

Reported by: Aston Foley

Date: 03/03/2025