

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1163

AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED TO

**Title:** SERVE AS MODERATORS AT ELECTIONS AND PRIMARIES.

**Vote Date:** 3/19/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

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

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

With the addition of early voting and same-day election registration, there has been a concern over ensuring that moderators for these events are subject to the existing provisions governing their duties. This bill requires that moderators for elections, as chosen by registrars of voters, be certified by the Secretary of the State. The Secretary of the State will also establish a curriculum for these moderators and train them in the duties of their role. This would ensure a standard of quality for moderators before their appointment by the registrar.

### SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language added language to ensure that the registrar does not appoint any moderator that has been convicted of election law offenses and certain felonies. This was done to provide clarity on the existing statutes, as under current law, the secretary of the state may not award certifications to individuals convicted of those crimes. However, moderators may be appointed in certain situations before they are certified allowing for a potential discrepancy in the written law and enforcement. This language change would seek to prevent circumvention.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

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

The Secretary of the State of Connecticut supports the concept put forward by this bill and offers alternative language to the committee for review.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:****April C. Teveris, Registrar of Voters:**

They endorse the intent of bringing greater accountability and professionalism to the Election process. A certification process for moderators is a step towards greater confidence and trust in Connecticut's election process.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

No opinions expressed.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

No opinions expressed.

**Reported by: Aston Foley**

**Date: 03/24/2025**