

Government Administration and Elections Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5529 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING POLL BOOKS FOR THE CHECKING OF ELECTORS

Title: AT ELECTIONS, PRIMARIES AND REFERENDA.

Vote Date: 3/23/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/13/2026

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:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

There has been a trend of poll books for municipalities being converted to an online version and there has been concern that not all interested parties are being notified. Currently the Secretary of State doesn't have uniform guidelines on the adoption of online poll books. This bill would impose a fine as well as require registrars of voters to notify certain stakeholders in towns about polling operation no matter if the poll book is digital or paper. The bill would allow certain interested parties to have a sense of how polling operations will work on election day.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

Narrows the committees that must receive these notices and adjusts language to reflect current law.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Ryan Burns, Executive Director, General Counsel, SEEC – written testimony was submitted noting that the SEEC had no comment on the policy behind the bill but recommended clarifying the language on lines 10-12 to specify which committees need to be noticed. As drafted, it could mean that every committee needs to be noticed, including those that don't have any involvement in that election, primary or referendum. Such a burden on the registrars would be considerable given the number of committees in the state.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Thomas Pugliese, Registrar of Voters, Rocky Hill – submitted written testimony in support of the bill because the Secretary of the State has publicly stated that she intends to approve the use of electronic Poll Books for use in future elections. This bill will codify a secure process.

Anonymous 93 – submitted testimony in support of administrative election improvement.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Lisa Amatruda, Registrar of Voters, Woodbury – submitted written testimony in opposition because the bill creates confusion and imposes unnecessary requirements on local election officials. This adds another administrative requirement during an already demanding pre-election period without improving voter access and election integrity.

The language suggests that registrars have a choice between using paper or electronic poll books, but that option is only for referenda. Connecticut law requires paper ballots for elections and primaries, and that should remain in place. Some municipalities may use electronic poll books as a backup tool, but that is not a replacement for the paper process. She also states that this bill requires registrars to notify party committees, candidate committees and political committees formed to support or oppose a referendum question at least fourteen days before an election as to whether paper or electronic poll books will be used. This requirement is impractical as registrars do not necessarily know when these committees exist, particularly referendum committees that may form late or operate independently of local election officials. Requiring registrars to identify and notify these entities and imposing a fine if notice is not provided, creates an unreasonable expectation.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Anonymous 95 – submitted testimony stating that there are too many items and to consider decreasing bills to seven (7).

Reported by: Jacqueline Olsen

Date: 3/30/26