



***GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND  
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE***

July 21, 2020

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 100% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

**AAC ABSENTEE VOTING AT THE 2020 STATEWIDE ELECTION  
AND ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION**

CCM supports the efforts to ensure that all eligible residents can safely participate in the 2020 statewide election through the expanded use of absentee ballots. CCM does have concerns that the expansion of the eligibility to use an absentee ballot may result in additional costs to towns and cities. The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in significant financial hardship and uncertainty for municipalities across the state and any additional costs will be impose a significant burden on local taxpayers. CCM would urge the Committee to work with the SOTS and municipal leaders to identify and allocate adequate funding to address the any additional costs incurred by the expanded use of absentee ballots.

CCM supports the changes to the Election Day Registration (EDR) process as drafted in LCO 3576.

The proposed changes would improve the current EDR process by allowing municipalities to work with the Secretary of the State (SOTS) and by request establish a second EDR processing location. This would allow communities that have experienced high EDR turnout to be better prepared to process those applications and ensure that all eligible voters who wish to vote have the opportunity.

CCM also supports the elimination of the mandated cross check requirement, if as recommended by this bill, people in line to register by 8pm will be allowed to both register and vote. If the cross check remains in place, a single location with higher a than expected or late turn out for EDR, would require all towns and cities to maintain staff at their election offices in case a cross check

call comes in. Additionally, this may have the impact of delaying election results for all towns and cities.

Allowing towns and cities to request a second EDR location is a common sense solution that enables municipalities to plan based on their experience and does not mandate a solution for towns that have not experienced problems in handing EDR requests.

★★★★

If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Advocacy Manager of CCM at [rcollins@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rcollins@ccm-ct.org) or (860) 707-6446.