



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 546

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5529

House of Representatives, April 9, 2026

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING POLL BOOKS FOR THE CHECKING OF ELECTORS AT ELECTIONS, PRIMARIES AND REFERENDA.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "election", "referendum", "municipality" and "elector" have the same
3 meanings as provided in section 9-1 of the general statutes; "primary"
4 has the same meaning as provided in section 9-372 of the general
5 statutes; and "political committee" and "candidate committee" have the
6 same meanings as provided in section 9-601 of the general statutes.

7 (b) Not later than fourteen days prior to any election, primary or
8 referendum held in a municipality, the registrars of voters of such
9 municipality shall provide notice to each (1) town committee within
10 such municipality, (2) political committee formed solely to aid or
11 promote the success or defeat of a referendum question that is to appear
12 on the ballot at such referendum, and (3) candidate committee of a
13 candidate whose name is to appear on the ballot at such election or

14 primary, of whether the poll books containing the official checklist to be
 15 used at such election, primary or referendum for the checking of any
 16 elector appearing at the polling place or location designated for the
 17 conduct of early voting will include an electronic version.

18 (c) Each registrar of voters who fails to provide notice in accordance
 19 with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not
 20 less than fifty dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2027	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (b)(2), "that is to appear on the ballot at such referendum" was added for clarity; and in Subsec. (b)(3), "such election, primary or referendum" was changed to "such election or primary" for accuracy.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires registrars to notify electors at least 14 days prior to an election what kind of poll book¹ will be used in that election or referendum, and establishes a \$50 minimum penalty for each registrar who fails to provide that notice, resulting in a potential minimal revenue gain to the General Fund beginning in FY 27. The exact revenue gain will depend on the number and amount of fines imposed due to the legislation.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future, subject to inflation and the number of penalties imposed.

¹ The Secretary of the State (SOTS) is required to approve any electronic poll book prior to it being used by towns. SOTS has not approved any electronic poll book at this time.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5529

AN ACT CONCERNING POLL BOOKS FOR THE CHECKING OF ELECTORS AT ELECTIONS, PRIMARIES AND REFERENDA.

SUMMARY

This bill requires each registrar of voters, at least 14 days before any election, primary, or referendum in a municipality, to notify certain entities whether electronic polls books containing the official checklist will be used to check in voters on election day or for early voting (under current practice, these can only be used as a backup to paper-based poll books). The registrars must notify all (1) town committees in the municipality, (2) political committees formed solely to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question, and (3) candidate committees for candidates on the ballot.

The bill subjects any registrar who fails to provide the notice to a fine of at least \$50. (The bill does not specify a maximum allowable amount for the fine nor how it will be imposed or enforced.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/20/2026)