

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
Tricia Melillo 271-3077

HB 77, requiring town and city clerks to provide daily notification to the secretary of state of any filings for elected office.

Hearing Date: May 3, 2021

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires that town and city clerks provide a daily update of candidates who have filed for nomination to the secretary of state.

Sponsors:

Rep. Boehm

Rep. Ladd

Who supports the bill: Rep. Ralph Boehm, Rep. Joe Sweeney, Alvin See, Daniel Healey

Who opposes the bill: Frances Taylor, Joanne Casino, Susan Bruce, Cindy Kudlik, Janet Lucas

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Boehm

- This bill will require town and city clerks to provide daily notification to the Secretary of State for any filings for State Representative that they receive.
- Currently, statute requires town clerks to mail in the filing paperwork which can take up to a week before the Secretary of State receives it.
- All other candidates for office, except for candidates for State Representative, file at the Secretary of State's office and their information is on the web site that day.
- This will level the playing field for all candidates and make it easy for the Secretary of State's office to follow up on the paperwork.
- Senator Soucy asked if the clerks would still be required to mail the actual documents to the Secretary of State.
 - Representative Boehm replied that they would email a list of candidate names daily as well as mail the documents for official purposes.

David Scanlan – Deputy Secretary of State

- He agrees it is a good idea to have the clerks notify them daily of any candidates filing.
- There have been problems in the past with the mail being received by their office in a timely manner.
- This will allow them to start the process sooner if they receive the information electronically.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

TJM

Date Hearing Report completed: May 4, 2021