



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 24, 2025

Testimony
in Support of

LD 1702 An Act to Amend Election Polling Place Candidate Restrictions

Dear Senator Hickman, Rep. Supica and Members of Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, I am State Representative Mark Cooper representing District 107, part of Windham.

I am here to submit this bill **LD 1702 An Act to Amend Election Polling Place Candidate Restrictions** in response to a situation that occurred at the June Primary in Windham last year.

On primary day, I was one of 5-6 candidates from the House and Senate Republican AND Democrat parties that were greeting voters in a space outside the polling location pre-approved by the Town Clerk and Town Election Warden. It was discovered that an independent or non-enrolled candidate was allowed to campaign, handout material and collect clean election signatures and contributions inside the polling place alongside other petition gatherers.

The Town Clerk and Election Warden pointed out the "loop hole" that allowed any candidate for office, not from a recognized party and not on the primary ballot to participate in campaign activities. The current statutes allow any Independent, Un-enrolled party candidate or Write In candidate to legally participate in campaign activities at a Primary Election Polling Place. The recommendation of the Town Clerk and Election Warden was to amend the current state law to treat all the candidates equally regardless of party or absences of party affiliation. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Cooper".

Mark C. Cooper
State Representative

District 107 Windham (part)