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SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
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## **SECRETARY MERRILL STATEMENT ON SUPERIOR COURT RULING REGARDING HARTFORD REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

**HARTFORD:** Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill released the following statement today regarding a Superior Court judge’s ruling that the City of Hartford does not have the authority to remove its registrars of voters for failure to properly perform their duties:

“Yesterday’s Superior Court decision underscores the need for more accountability in Connecticut’s election system. My office is focusing on a legislative initiative that will finally address that issue—not just for those cities and towns whose problems are covered in the news, like Hartford, Bridgeport or Fairfield—but for all of Connecticut. The comprehensive reform bill approved by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee last month, reflecting an agreement between my office and the registrars, includes a removal provision. Yesterday’s decision confirms that removal is an important and necessary provision in that bill which I hope both chambers of the General Assembly will be taking up in the weeks ahead. I will watch to see what the City of Hartford decides to do in light of yesterday’s decision.”

Senate Bill 1051, “An Act Strengthening the State’s Elections,” was approved 13-2 by the GAE committee on March 30 and awaits further action by the Senate.

Secretary Merrill filed a complaint regarding the Hartford registrars’ conduct on Election Day before the polls closed on November 4, 2014 with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. That matter has not been decided.