



DENISE W. MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE APPROVES 'PARTY PURGING' BILL

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill applauded the General Assembly's Government Administration and Elections Committee's action to repeal 'party purging' statutes. These laws allow political parties to eject party members—through local registrars of voters working in concert with town chairs—for a handful of activities.

Secretary Merrill said, "Democracy is intended to be inclusive and promote some level of disruption. I am deeply troubled by the fact that an individual who is removed will be disenfranchised from voting in a primary. I understand that there is a certain amount of organizational integrity and identity that parties expect. But that line is hard to draw and should never be lay down in such a way that an individual's right to vote would be taken away. I am pleased that this bill is moving ahead."

Raised Bill 257, An Act Concerning Removal from Party Enrollment Lists and Denial of Privileges, received a joint favorable report on Friday, March 11.