



FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

**ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

**SB 44**, relative to hand counts of ballots in elections.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Timothy Lang for the committee.

The original bill requires a hand recount upon the request of 100 registered voters in one city, town, or municipality using electronic ballot counting machines. The committee heard concerns that requiring a hand count by a municipality could affect the integrity of ballots and interfere with the preparation of ballots for the next election. The committee amendment addresses these concerns by allowing a voter who wishes to have their ballot counted by hand to request that it be hand counted when the voter presents their ballot to the moderator. For these reasons, the committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment.