

# Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

*Deb Chroniak 271-1403*

**HB 595-FN**, relative to positions in the corporations division of the secretary of state's office.

**Hearing Date:** March 22, 2017

**Time Opened:** 9:59 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:04 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Carson, Reagan and Gannon

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senators Soucy and Woodburn

**Bill Analysis:** This bill abolishes certain vacant, classified positions in the corporations division of the secretary of state's office and establishes certain new classified positions in that office.

The bill is a request of the secretary of state.

**Sponsors:**

Rep. L. Ober  
Rep. Spanos  
Sen. Carson

Rep. Burt  
Rep. Leishman

Rep. Seidel  
Sen. Reagan

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**Who supports the bill:** Senator Sharon Carson, District 14; Representative Carol McGuire, Merrimack 19; Representative Peter Spanos, Belknap 3; David Scanlan, Deputy Secretary of State

**Who opposes the bill:** No one

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Peter Spanos (in support) (testimony provided by prime sponsor, Representative Lynne Ober):**

Representative Spanos presented Representative Ober's prime legislation.

- The bill essentially a housekeeping bill filed at the request of the Secretary of State. Their office anticipated an influx of voluminous volumes of paperwork needing to be archived.

- Staff to be added on as needed.

- No jobs are taken away that are not presently vacant.

- Abolishes several vacant positions that have been open in the Corporations Division.

- Concerns are that of changes listed that represent tonnage in papers in filing boxes that need to be not only filed, but retrieved.
- There is electronic storage, but the state requires hard copies be filed for obvious reasons.

**David Scanlan (in support):**

- Budget neutral bill.
- Process of completing their new business services software program in the Corporations Division.
- This bill is designed to restructure staffing.
- There were a number of old clerical jobs of employees responsible for processing paperwork, filing and retrieving. They are presently computerized so customers are able to do everything on line with the Corporations Division. It makes sense to have people in this area that can assist customers to get through the system and filings with their business on-line, acting at a help desk or chat room in keeping up with how business is conducted in the modern era.
- Positions being eliminated are all vacant positions through attrition and retirements. These positions will be replaced with higher professional type offices where people can handle technology and productively and who are able to answer questions from customers.
- Representative Ober brought an amendment in for the House ED & A Committee to add a position at Archives. Through the General Fund budget cuts over the past several bienniums, positions were eliminated at Archives. This has made their operations inefficient where archivists and records manager are also handling receptionist position. This takes them away from their own work. They are asking for a position to handle these responsibilities so that the archivist and records manager can attend to their own responsibilities.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** No one

**Future Action:** Ought to Pass

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 24, 2017  
[file: HB 595-FN-F report]