

THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

(The House of Representatives was called to order at 10:30 o'clock a.m., Speaker Joe Aresimowicz of the 30th District in the Chair.)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) Will the House please come to order. Will members, staff, and guests please rise and direct your attention to the Dias, where Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz will lead us in prayer.

RABBI ALAN LEFKOWITZ:

Good morning. The Jewish community just completed the holiday of Freedom called Passover, when Moses and Aaron confronted Pharaoh by saying, Thus says the Lord, let my people go, so that we may serve the Lord. Let my people go is actually half the sentence, completed is, so that we may serve the Lord.

Here we are reminded that our work is all about

service. Service to God involves our speaking, our listening, our action, and not just to do whatever we feel like because we feel like it.

When we speak, let us be conscious of our gift of language. That all our words are holy words; the words that God speaks through us. After all, each of us, we are vessels through whom God works.

We also have the gift of listening. Let us develop the ability to listen. For pure listening. To focus on the uniqueness and the commitments of our fellow human beings.

Let us remain open to listen to the uniqueness of God because God is always speaking to us. Let us also empty ourselves from negative thoughts and negative judgments, so that we could be quiet enough, not to only hear God's voice, but also the voices of others, without any filters or need to fix something.

May we listen as if someone else's life depends on it because it does. And in action, may we always be conscious of that as we walk, every step we take, we are walking in God's ways.

May we always be led to holiness, as our service elevates our humanity. Let us use our service to magnify the divine in ourselves and for those with whom we serve. We say, Amen.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Would Representative Storms of the 60th District, please come to the Dias. He will lead us in the pledge.

REP. STORMS (60TH):

(All) I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have communications from the Governor, Judicial Nomination, corrected letter for Margarita Hartley Moore.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please refer to the Committee on Judiciary.

CLERK:

Favorable reports, House bills and House Joint Resolution to be tabled for the calendar and printing.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good morning, sir.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

I move that we waive the reading of the House favorable reports and that the bills be tabled for the calendar and printing.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

So ordered.

CLERK:

Finally, we have the daily Calendar.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Rose of the 118th, you have the floor.

REP. ROSE (118TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good morning.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good morning.

REP. ROSE (118TH):

For the purpose of an announcement. On behalf of myself, Representative Ferraro and Representative Staneski, we'd like to invite you all to come down to Milford Day today, it's at 11 o'clock. Come have lunch and see all that Milford has to offer.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much for the invite, Madam.

Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Rojas, no, all right. Representative Stafstrom of the 129th.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purpose of an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to have run into one of my constituents in the hallway, a neighbor of mine, Lisa Neff, who is up here today in with her work for the American Heart Association, advocating on behalf of the American Heart Association and a healthier State of Connecticut.

So, I'd ask the Chamber to give a warm welcome to Lisa Neff from Bridgeport, who is joining us here today.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thanks for coming up, Lisa. (Applause)

Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Ackert of the 8th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to request a moment of silence.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

If the Chamber can please give the attention to Representative Ackert, he's requested a moment of silence. Please proceed, sir.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

On March 29th, the Town of Coventry, the State of Connecticut, our dedicated family of first responders and most importantly the family and friends of Trooper First Class Kevin Miller, suffered a great loss.

While on duty Trooper Miller lost his life. Trooper Miller served the great country as a member of the United States Marine Corps and for almost 20 years he served this great State of Connecticut, protecting those of us here in Connecticut.

Kevin was the little brother of his sister Kimberly and her husband, Bob, and they had three wonderful triplets that Kevin enjoyed wrestling with Ian and spending a lot of time with them. His mother, Linda, was a wonderful woman that said that Kevin earned his dress Marine Blues in life. He leaves behind his friend and the mother of his children, Ryan and Sara.

He enjoyed spending a lot of time with Ryan fishing and playing sports. His daughter, Sara, was a very good softball player. Just this weekend, she

hit her first homerun. I would say that probably Kevin was looking down and assisting that ball to carry as far as it did this weekend.

He leaves behind Jennifer, the mother of his children, and a very good friend. Kevin, you will be missed. God bless.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Mr. Ackert, before we do the moment of silence, I know you have a flag that was important to Kevin but also to you, if you'd like to display it, we'll do the moment of silence. That is the Marine's flag.

If we can do a moment of silence for the Trooper. (Gavel)

Thank you very much, Representative.

Representative Zawistowski of the 61st District, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for a point of personal privilege.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Mr. Speaker, last month we lost one of our former House members, William S. Mayer, who passed away at the age of 93. He served in the House from 1962 to 1970, representing East Granby and later East Granby, Suffield, and Granby when the legislature was reorganized in the 1960s.

He later went on to become a Judge of Probate, serving until 1986. His obituary noted that he lived a long life that he enjoyed immensely, leaving this earthly world with no regrets. We should all be so fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask that we observe a moment of silence for our former Representative and Judge, William S. Mayer. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. If we could please stand and observe a moment of silence for our former colleague. (Gavel)

Thank you very much, Madam. The Chamber will stand at ease. The Chamber will return to order.  
(Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No.  
50?

CLERK:

The State of Connecticut, House of  
Representatives, Tuesday, April 10, 2018. House  
Calendar No. 50. House Joint Resolution No. 142.  
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MICHAEL A.  
CARON OF WEST HARTFORD TO BE REAPPOINTED A MEMBER OF  
THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.  
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative DiMassa of the 116th. You have  
the floor.

REP. DIMASSA (116TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance  
of the Joint Committee's favorable report and  
adoption of the resolution, sir.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on  
acceptance of Joint Committee's favorable report and  
adoption of the resolution. Representative DiMassa,

please proceed.

REP. DIMASSA (116TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Caron is from West Hartford. He was the Chair of the Northeast Connecticut Economic Alliance, Chair of Community Health Charities of New England, and an excellent, excellent reappointment.

I move favorable adoption, sir.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Wood of the 141st, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stand in very strong support of the nomination of Michael Caron to be on the PURA Committee, Commission, and it was a unanimous vote. He brings strong ties to legislation and the capitol and urge everyone's support.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Will you remark

further on the resolution before us? Will you  
remark further on the resolution before us?

If not, let me try your minds. All of those in  
favor, please signify by saying, aye. Those  
opposed, nay? The ayes have it. The resolution is  
adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 51?

CLERK:

House Calendar 51, House Joint Resolution No.  
143. RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF PETER  
GARNEAU OF STAMFORD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE  
CONNECTICUT COMMUTER RAIL COUNCIL.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative DiMassa.

REP. DIMASSA (116TH):

Mr. Speaker, I again move acceptance of the  
Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of  
the resolution, sir.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you. The question before the Chamber is

on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

Representative DiMassa, please proceed.

REP. DIMASSA (116TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Garneau is from Stamford. He is Director of Human Resources for [Inaudible -00:15:28] for Stone Conglomerate. He has a BS in Management and Human Resources from the University of Connecticut. An excellent candidate. He brings a lot to the table, and I move adoption, sir.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Echoing Representative DiMassa's sentiment. A very strong candidate. He is a renomination. He is heartfelt in his passion of commitment to this Commuter Rail Service. I urge everyone's support. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me

try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye. Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 108?

CLERK:

House Calendar 108, House Joint Resolution No. 144. RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ANDREW CASCUDO OF HARTFORD TO BE APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and

adoption. Please continue, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mr. Cascudo is from the Capitol City of Hartford. He is currently a Compliance Officer at AETNA International and he's formerly a staff attorney and also formerly a Compliance Officer of the Elections Enforcement Commission, which makes him highly qualified to serve on the Commission. So, I urge a favorable vote.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also stand in strong support of Andrew Cascudo for the State Elections Enforcements Commission for all the reasons my colleague across the aisle mentioned and I urge everyone's support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Would anyone care to remark further on the resolution before us? If not, let me

try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye. All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 109?

CLERK:

House Calendar 109, House Joint Resolution 145.  
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ROSS  
HOLLANDER OF BLOOMFIELD TO BE REAPPOINTED A MEMBER  
OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.  
DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Ms. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint  
Committee's favorable report and adoption of the  
resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance  
of the Joint Committee's favorable report and  
adoption of the resolution. Will you care to

remark, Representative Wood?

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in strong support of Andrew Hollander for this commission and urge everyone's support. Keep it simple, right?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Right.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Is there anyone else who would care to remark on this resolution? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye. All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 110?

CLERK:

Calendar 110, House Joint Resolution 146.

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF CHERRON PAYNE OF FARMINGTON TO BE REAPPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing

Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Madam Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also stand in support of the nomination of Cherron Payne. She understands the job. She brings a lot of heartfelt passion, great background for this, and I urge everyone's support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam.

Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Will you care to remark? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor,

please signify by saying, aye. All those opposed,  
nay. The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

(Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 111?

CLERK:

House Calendar 111, House Joint Resolution No.  
147. RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JOANN  
M. RYAN OF TORRINGTON TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF  
REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Cook, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. COOK (65TH):

Good morning, Madam Speaker, and how are you  
today?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

I'm fine and how are you and good morning to  
you.

REP. COOK (65TH):

Doing well, thank you. Madam Speaker, I move  
acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report

and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Cook.

REP. COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm honored to stand and nominate Joann Ryan. She is currently the President and CEO of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. Formerly an Adjunct Faculty Member of the Winsted and Waterbury Community College. Formerly a history teacher of Stamford High School and Torrington High Schools. Formerly the Regional Manager of the Kelly Services and co-owner of the Oxford Shop. She's also formerly a sales representative of Mettling Real Estate.

Joann is currently the Chairman of the Board of the United Way in Connecticut and the President Leadership of Chamber Insurance Trust, Executive Member of Learning Center of Northwest Connecticut, Advisor of the Nursing Program in Northwest

Community College. She is currently a member of the Trade Advisory Committee at Oliver Wolcott Technical High School as well as member of the Rotary Club of Winsted and Torrington and formerly the Chairman of the Community Foundation of the Northwest Connecticut.

Joann is an amazing woman and I am honored to stand and nominate her, as I know her as my friend, and someone that is just tirelessly advocating for the Northwest Corner and businesses in the communities alike. I urge favorable vote.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Representative Cook. Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. We also stand in support of Joann Ryan for the Board of Regents. She has a deep background in education and understands certainly the manufacturing side of education as it's appropriate to the community colleges and she'll be a great fit. I urge everyone's support. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution? Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Good morning, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good morning, sir.

REP. CASE (63RD):

It's an honor here today to acknowledge Joann Ryan to be nominated for the Board of Regents. Joann lives in my District of the 63rd. She's been a stellar person in our community, not only with the Chamber of Commerce, but she's been a huge advocate for making sure that our businesses throughout the Northwest Connecticut get the properly educated people that they need.

Everybody talks about Connecticut, you know, doesn't have that many jobs. Well, she has picked out where they need jobs. And she works with the vocational schools and this position on the Board of Regents will help her even further our chances in the State of Connecticut of educating people for the

positions that she has spearheaded and found in the communities of the Northwest Corner.

So, Madam Speaker, it's an honor to have this nomination. I look forward to my colleagues for voting for Joann Ryan to be and serve on the Board of Regents. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Will you care to remark? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye. All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 112?

CLERK:

House Calendar 112, House Joint Resolution No. 148, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JOSEPH M. SUGGS, JR. OF BLOOMFIELD TO BE REAPPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing

Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mr. Suggs is from Bloomfield and all of those individuals that are active in the Greater Hartford area and know Joe by reputation, he's a former Mayor of the Town of Bloomfield and he's been very, very active for many, many years and many, many different roles throughout the communities. So, I urge all my colleagues to support him and I urge a favorable. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And also concurring with the good Chairman of the Executive Nominations Committee, I stand in strong support of Joseph Suggs for the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. It's a reappointment. He understands the issues. He's fair. He's balanced. Strong support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Good morning, Madam. I stand in support also of Joseph Suggs for the member to be reappointed to the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities. He is from my district. He is a champion for humankind and he will be a great person to be on the board. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Will you care to remark? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye. All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

The Chamber will stand at ease. The Chamber will come back to order, please. And will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 23.

CLERK:

House Calendar 23, House Joint Resolution No. 20, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE RAHEEM L. MULLINS OF FARMINGTON TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT AND A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's

favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Judge Mullins has been serving on the Superior Court bench from 2012 through the time of mid last year, where he was appointed as an interim appointment to the Supreme Court. The resolution before us is to confirm him as a full-term member of the Supreme Court. He is a graduate of Clark University and the Northeastern University School of Law.

The Committee was impressed with his demeanor, his intelligence and the manner in which he conducted himself before the Committee. I think he is an extreme asset, not just to the Supreme Court bench, but also to our Judiciary and I would urge support of his nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

(Gavel) Representative Rebimbas, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Good morning, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good morning.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Judge Mullins. He's come before the Judicial Committee and certainly I believe, in my humble opinion, did an excellent job in addressing the questions that were posed by the various members. He certainly has a very professional background and he will continue to be the asset that we know, serving us on the Supreme Court. So, I do rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 20.

Total Number of Voting	139
Necessary for Passage	70
Those Voting Yea	138
Those Voting Nay	1
Those absent and not voting	11

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution passes. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 9?

CLERK:

On page 1, House Calendar No. 9, House Joint Resolution No. 5, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD F. COMERFORD, JR. OF STAMFORD TO BE A STATE REFEREE.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Tong, good morning.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Good morning, Madam Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a renomination of Judge Comerford to be a Trial Referee here in our state. He is a graduate of Fairfield University and Fordham, where he received his law degree. He has done most of his work in the

Judicial branch and on the bench on our criminal courts. And I don't think it's much of a stretch to say that Judge Comerford is one of the most well-respected judges, not just on our criminal bench, but across the state. I know that practitioners in our neck of the woods, down in Stamford and in that judicial district hold him in the highest esteem. And I urge support for his renomination. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. The distinguished ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this renomination of Judge Comerford. I concur with the good Chair, as indicated, that he is well respected. He certainly has dedicated many years on the bench and it is a great asset to have him continue.

And as we have an ongoing little joke on the Judiciary Committee, he's a fellow alumni of

Fairfield University, so go Stags in that regard. I do rise in his support, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Will you care to remark further on the resolution? If not, will staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the machine to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 5.

Total Number of Voting	140
Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	136
Those Voting Nay	4
Those absent and not voting	10

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution passes. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 10?

CLERK:

On page 1, House Calendar 10, House Joint Resolution No. 6, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE SUSAN A. CONNORS OF OLD LYME TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Conley, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's good to see you up there. I move acceptance of the Joint

Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you, Madam. Judge Connors has been the presiding judge in New Britain Superior Court. She's been a family court judge in Norwich Superior Court from 2012 to 2017. Prior to that, she worked in New Haven Judicial District from 2010 to 2012. She hails from Old Lyme and she is a double Huskie, graduating from UConn, undergrad, and UConn law school. She's been appointed to the bench since 2010, and she's also a member of the Education Committee on the Judicial Bench.

She's done a very good job serving and I urge reappointment of her.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Judge Connor's reappointment. She certainly is a great asset, not only serving on the bench, but she continues also to serve in the community as well as a variety of professional organizations.

So, where we have judges who are able to give back in that regard in trying to certainly improve the system that we currently have, we certainly want to maintain them. So, she is an asset to the judicial branch, and I encourage people to support her.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Will you care to remark further? Representative Ziobron, good morning.

REP. ZIOBRON (34TH):

Good morning, Madam Speaker, how are you today?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

I'm great. How are you?

REP. ZIOBRON (34TH):

Very good. Madam Speaker, I'm getting up for the consistency of my no vote against all judges for the purpose of not having a state budget. This past week, upon learning some additional information, our judiciary would very much like to have 85 employees to add to the safety, to ensure the safety of our court rooms. Our marshals are lacking. They would like to have new classes of marshals. I heard recently of a judge who had hit the red button looking to have a marshal come into the room. She couldn't find one and had to leave the courtroom for fear of her own safety.

Until we have a state budget, I will continue to vote no on judges. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further? Representative Carney.

REP. CARNEY (23RD):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I just rise in support of Judge Connors from the great town

of Old Lyme. She's done a wonderful job as a judge for our courts here in the state and has done a wonderful job for the community. So, I would urge all of my colleagues to support the renomination of Judge Connors. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Would you care to remark further on the resolution before us? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 10.

Total Number of Voting	140
Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	137
Those Voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	10

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 16?

CLERK:

On page 2, Calendar 16, House Joint Resolution No. 12, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE DAVID R. TOBIN OF OLD GREENWICH TO BE A STATE REFEREE.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move acceptance to

the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you. Judge Tobin, who is a Family Support Magistrate, hails from Old Greenwich. He currently is assigned to the Stamford/Norwalk Judicial District. He has previously worked for the Fairfield Judicial District and the Stamford Judicial District in Norwalk.

Judge Tobin got his degree from the University of Notre Dame and his law degree from New York University School of Law. Besides practicing on the bench for many years, being appointed in 2002, Judge Tobin also does an awful lot of charity work. He works in the United Way, Greenwich Hospital Advisory Board, Greenwich Teen Voice, Youth Leadership Conference, Youth Life, and is on the Advisory

Committee for Sacred Heart University.

So, we appreciate Judge Tobin's work on the bench as well as his charitable work and urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Judge Tobin. Again, many years of service to the Judicial Branch. He brings great knowledge and experience and I rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark?

Representative Floren.

REP. FLOREN (149TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you know, presiding over 151 legislators is no easy task. But Madam Speaker, how would you like to have 230 cats to heard? That is exactly what Justice David Tobin did for 16 years as the Moderator of the Greenwich representative town meeting, the largest legislative body in the state. With his calm demeanor and

gentle smile, Justice Tobin later served as a probate judge and he has held a seat on the Superior Court bench since 2002.

He, his wife Kathy, and sons Brendon and Shane, are stitched into the fabric of civic life in Greenwich and they have been for many, many years.

It is an honor to support Justice David Tobin's nomination for State Referee. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Will you care to remark further?

If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members

voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

And will the Clerk please announce that tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 12.

Total Number of Voting	141
Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	138
Those Voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	9

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 18?

CLERK:

On page 2, Calendar No. 18, House Joint Resolution 50, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE STUART BEAR OF WEST HARTFORD TO BE A STATE REFEREE.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Judge Bear has served our Judicial Branch with distinction for several years now. First, having been appointed in 2003. He served on our Appellate Court for a number of years and is currently a Judge Trial Referee for the Appellate Court, serving on an as-needed basis on that court.

He is a graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Law School. I urge support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Judge Bear for all the purposes that the good Vice Chairman just articulated. He certainly is an asset as a Judge Referee for the Appellate Court in that regard. So, I do rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Will you care to remark? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to determine if your vote has been

properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked,  
and the Clerk will take a tally.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 15.

Total Number of Voting	141
Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	138
Those Voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	9

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Announcements or introductions? Representative

O'Dea, you have the floor, sir.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Good  
morning.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good morning.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

I just want to announce for the Chamber this is

one day a year where it's National Lawyer's Day.

So, one day out of the year my fellow counselors, we have this day, people have to be nice to us.

(Laughter)

So, please, one day a year be nice to your lawyer. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Did you just make that up?

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

No. (Laughter) Believe it or not, since 2008, this has been the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in April is National Lawyer's Day, since 2008. And I didn't think of it, but if I did I would have been sooner, so. Anyway, thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and Happy Lawyer's Day.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Well, thank you for that and Happy Lawyer's Day to you and to many of you in the Chamber. Of course, there are too many.

And with that, are there any other announcements or introductions? If not, we will return to the call of the Calendar, and will the

Clerk please call Calendar No. 19.

CLERK:

On page 2, Calendar 19, House Joint Resolution 16, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JOHN L. CARBONNEAU, JR. OF EAST LYME TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Happy Attorney Day, Representative Tong.

(Laughter)

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Does that mean we get a cake or something? I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is the renomination of Judge Carbonneau, who was first appointed in May of 2010. Judge Carbonneau is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and also the Catholic University Columbus School of Law. He's active in a number of his local civic organizations and religious organizations in East Lyme, including St. Agnes Parish in Niantic.

He's also done a fair bit of work on various bar committees and judicial committees, particularly around independent judicial calendaring and Judge Carbonneau has an excellent reputation. He impressed us with his demeanor and knowledge of the law and I urge support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Happy Lawyer's Day, Happy Attorney Day to Representative Rebimbas, who is a female attorney, which is very nice. You have the floor, Madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I greatly appreciate that, especially coming from you. Madam Speaker, I

do rise in support of Judge Carbonneau who, as the good Chairman had indicated, is an asset to our bench, is highly respected and continues to give to the community as well as the professional legal community. So, he certainly will continue to be an asset. So, I do rise in his support and I'll take this quick opportunity also to extend my congratulations and Happy National Attorney's Day to the good Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who I work closely with. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution? Representative Cheeseman, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I too want to rise in support. I am privileged to have Judge Carbonneau as a member of my community. He is, as was cited, active in a number of worthy community organizations. He's well respected by the bar. Exactly the kind of person we are lucky to have on

the bench. And I too urge support. Thank you,  
Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark  
further on the resolution before us? Will you care  
to remark further on the resolution before us? If  
not, staff and guests, please come to the well of  
the House. Members take your seats. The machine  
will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is  
voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House  
of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to  
the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members  
voted? Please check the board to determine if your  
vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine  
will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 16.

Total Number of Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	139
Those Voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	8

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Madam Speaker, just so I don't forget later. I move to refer the bills to the committees as indicated on today's go list, except for Calendar 156, which should be referred to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Is there objection? Is there objection? If not, so ordered. (Gavel)

Back to the call of the Calendar. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 21?

CLERK:

On page 2, House Calendar 21, House Joint

Resolution No. 18. RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE  
NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE GEORGE LEVINE OF WEST  
HARTFORD TO BE A STATE REFEREE.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you, Madam. I move acceptance of the  
Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of  
the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on  
acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report  
and adoption of the resolution. Representative  
Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you. Judge Levine has been serving on  
the Tax and Administrative Appeals Court in New  
Britain for quite a while, a very specialized court.  
Doing well and note Tax Day is the 17th of April if  
anyone needs to cut their checks.

Judge Levine has been on the bench since 1994. He's a graduate of Yale College and Columbia Law School. He's received very good words from his colleagues and those who served before him and we urge for reappointment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Representative Rebimbas of the 70th, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Judge Levine. Certainly, Judge Levine is still very sharp and, like I said, an asset to the Judiciary Branch on our Judiciary Committee. And certainly, his professional knowledge on the Tax and Administration of Appeals Court has been greatly admired and certainly we look forward to having him continue in that capacity. So, I rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution? Representative Dubitsky, you have the floor, sir.

REP. DUBITSKY (47TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I need to recuse myself on this judge.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The Chamber will stand at ease, while Representative Dubitsky leaves the Chamber, he is recusing himself from this vote.

Okay. As we come back to order, would anyone else care to remark on the resolution before us? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally,

please.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 18.

Total Number of Voting	141
Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	138
Those Voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	9

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 22?

CLERK:

On page 3, Calendar No. 22, House Joint Resolution No. 19, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN E. MCNAMARA OF EAST HARTFORD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Good morning, Madam Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good morning.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Madam Chair, I rise for the reappointment nomination of Superior Court, Judge Kathleen McNamara. Judge McNamara is currently a Meriden Civil, Family, Housing and Restraining Orders and Criminal Judge. Her assignments over the past couple of years have been in Meriden Court, Hartford Criminal Pretrial, Enfield GA, Hartford Criminal, Family, and Meriden GA.

She was appointed to the bench on May 5, 1990. She attended Western New England Law School, Springfield School of Law, as well as her

undergraduate degrees at Northwestern University, Manchester Community College, where she received her education.

Judge McNamara is a strong candidate and we rise for her nomination of reappointment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. She certainly impressed the Judiciary Committee and she has certainly a very professional background that I think has made her an asset in the Judiciary Branch and has proven herself to that regard.

Madam Speaker, there's many times that we have people from the community, specifically from the legal community, who submit commentaries on the individuals that get nominated. And specifically, regarding the nominee McNamara, we have someone who provided the information that they found her to be fair, good temperament, conscientious and thoughtful and pragmatic. And these are certainly the

individuals that we want to maintain on our branch.  
So, I do certainly want to make sure that I support  
this nominee and ask others to do so as well.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark?

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Good morning, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good morning, sir.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

It's very nice to see you again. I just want  
to stand in support of Judge McNamara. I've been  
before her many, many times. Not only in Meriden,  
criminal matters and civil matters and family  
matters, but Hartford, many, many times on criminal  
matters and civil matters. And her demeanor is  
always welcoming. It was a pro se on the other  
side, she's helpful and tries to explain the process  
and I think she deserves to stay on the bench. And  
thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Representative Genga.

REP. GENGA (10TH):

Thank you, Madam Chair. I stand in support of the nomination of Kathleen McNamara from East Hartford for reappointment as a Superior Court Judge. Knowing her for many years, formerly as a policeman, who went on to get a law degree and has a great set of skills and is doing a great job now representing the Judiciary. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Representative Genga. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to ensure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 19.

Total Number of Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	140
Those Voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	7

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Representative Ritter of the 1st District, I understand you have an announcement.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

I do, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Blare family for having the Capitol Hoops Tournament yesterday, named after John's father, for the 31st

time. And I'm also proud to announce that for the second consecutive year, the House Democrats, yourself, myself, Representative Soto, Representative Arconti, aided a little by Franklin Perry, were able to win the second consecutive championship for House Dems, so we will maintain the trophy for at least another 364 days, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Representative.

(Applause)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Congratulations to you and we will now return to the call of the Calendar. If the Clerk will please call Calendar No. 24.

CLERK:

On page 3, Calendar No. 24, House Joint Resolution No. 21, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE STANLEY NOVACK OF STAMFORD TO BE A STATE REFEREE.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Hall.

REP. HALL (7TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Hall.

REP. HALL (7TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Judge Novack of Stamford is a graduate of UConn, undergrad at UConn Law School. Additionally, he has been a member of the Connecticut Bar since 1956, over 60 years of service here in the State of Connecticut. He was first appointed to the bench in 1975. He has worked in the area of family law since 1982. He has been a great asset to the family court system. And I am confident he will perform equally well as a State Referee. I urge my colleagues to support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Judge Novack. Certainly, for all of the reasons already articulated, but I certainly had the pleasure of walking into his courtroom when he's sitting on the bench and I must say, Madam Speaker, there is not an individual that appears before his court that does not leave with a smile. He has an amazing sense of humor that made some of the toughest situations bearable.

So, certainly I think, you know, it's a great gift that we have that he wants to continue to serve the Judicial Branch after his long experience and we hope to continue that.

So, I rise in strong support of his nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark on the resolution before us? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. And if so, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 21.

Total Number of Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	140
Those Voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. And the resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 26?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 23, RESOLUTION  
CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE BARRY K.  
STEVENS OF STRATFORD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR  
COURT.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The Chamber is going to stand at ease for just  
one second here, while we talk to Representative  
O'Dea. We're not at ease. Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Because I have a  
matter before Judge Stevens, I need to recuse  
myself. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Now the Chamber will stand at ease as we await  
Representative O'Dea's departure.

And the Chamber will come back to order.

We are on House Joint Resolution No. 23. And  
Representative Young, you have the floor, sir.

REP. YOUNG (120TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Will you remark, sir?

REP. YOUNG (120TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is my pleasure to support fellow Stratford citizen, Judge Barry Stevens of Stratford, Connecticut to Superior Court. Mr. Stevens currently serves on the Civil Division of Ansonia and Milford and has also served in the Fairfield/Bridgeport District.

He has served on the bench since 1994 and graduated from New York University of Law. So, I urge that we pass this nomination. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I

rise in support of Judge Stevens. Also, just to share one of the comments that an individual from the legal community provided as a description for him. He found him to be polite and friendly. He is also very well liked and highly intelligent individual. So, certainly, when we accept comments from the legal community, they take the time to analyze these individuals and based on their experience before them. So, we do certainly review all of that and hold it in high regard. So, I stand in support of the nominee before us.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Gresko.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Judge Stevens has served admirably. I fully support his nomination. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark on the resolution before us? Will you care to remark on

the resolution before us? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 23.

Total Number of Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	139
Those Voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	8

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

I have to pay close attention to this next nominee. So, if it would just be a little quiet in the House so that I can hear what has to be said about this gentleman that we are possibly nominating next.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 47?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 141, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF STEVEN D. DARGAN OF WEST HAVEN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Borer, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. BORER (115H):

I move acceptance to the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on

acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Borer, do you have anything nice to say? (Laughter)  
REP. BORER (115H):

Yes, Madam Speaker, I have plenty nice to say. It is my pleasure to introduce the Joint Committee's favorable report receiving Steve Dargan to the Board of Pardons and Parole. As many of you may know, Steve is a former member of the House of Representatives, having served with distinction for over 26 years for the 115th District.

During this time, he not only earned tremendous respect from his colleagues, but he became a mentor and leader to many here in Hartford and throughout our state. In his time in the General Assembly, he Chaired the Public Safety Committee and worked closely with the Judiciary Committee. It was very difficult to fill Steve Dargan's shoes when I was elected.

He not only serves with dignity and honor in the General Assembly, but through his tireless work, thousands of constituents, he earned a reputation

for fair, hardworking and ethical.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to ask for support and adoption of my colleagues in supporting this nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it's an honor to stand in support of the individual before us, Stephen Dargan. There's been many years that I've had the opportunity to get to know him as many others in this Chamber. I have always found him to be direct, honest, and fair minded.

I believe he's going to be a great asset to this board. But Madam Speaker, he did pass out of the Judiciary unanimously. But most importantly what I'm going to do is because, Madam Speaker, I'm going to be watching your vote. You for many years have sat near him and know many secrets that many of us don't know. So, I will be watching your vote closely in order to see how you vote in order to take that into consideration as well.

But certainly, for everything that I know up until now, until I see your vote, I am in strong support of Stephen Dargan.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further? Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given the commentary that I've heard from some people on both sides of the aisle and the momentous occasion we have before us, I think we have to do a roll call vote, Madam Speaker, on this one. So, I'd ask that when the vote be taken, it be taken by roll. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. When the vote is taken, it will be taken by roll. Will you care to remark on the resolution before us? Representative O'Dea, you have the floor, sir.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to be heard and a few questions to the proponent, if I may, through you,

Madam Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Borer, please prepare yourself.

Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and based on some of the commentary you've given me, based on your years of knowing this fine gentleman. To the proponent, will he have to recuse himself on voting on his own pardon, if he's sitting on the Board of Pardons at a time that he comes up?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Borer.

REP. BORER (115H):

I'm sure that Steve Dargan will recuse himself if he needs to vote on his own pardon.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, I will conclude my remarks by saying that we'll keep an eye on that and make sure he does recuse himself when appropriate. And

thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And I would urge my colleagues to reconsider and actually vote for this candidate. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark?  
Representative Dillon.

REP. DILLON (92ND):

Madam Speaker, I rise in a very difficult situation. This is a tough vote. And although I certainly understand why the Majority Leader suggested that a roll call might be important, it really forces some of us to show our hand.

I served with Representative Dargan. We were seatmates over there, before I was punished and moved away. He was -- but we had become acquaintances because his aunt, who was a member of the religious order, was my boss when I was teaching. And alas, and I must disclose this because I mentioned this in committee, Representative Dargan did attend a dinner, which women were excluded from, which was one of the ways

we got to know each other very well. Because we didn't agree on that. That, in fact, became a running theme in our relationship. I'm proud to say that when he came to the state legislature, he acquitted himself honorably and straightforwardly, so that his serving here gave him a second chance. And I believe that he will serve, continue to serve in an honorable way. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further? Representative Mushinsky, the Dean of the House, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support the nomination of Steve Dargan as an even-tempered and careful person, who listens well and deliberates carefully.

On the other hand, I would like to remind the Chamber that he is probably praying to every one of us at least once. And Madam Speaker, I think he's praying to at least 20 times, so when the vote is open, I hope we will cast our vote accordingly.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution? Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's interesting to be considering this nominee on Lawyer's Day. I hadn't realized today was Lawyer's Day, until it was called to our attention by Representative Tom O'Dea, who asked some penetrating questions there.

So, through you, Madam Speaker, there was a lot of hubbub in the Chamber when Mr. Dargan's name came before us, and I couldn't quite hear, through you, to Representative Borer, is Representative Dargan the holder of a law degree, either a J.D. or LLB?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Borer, do you care to answer?

REP. BORER (115H):

I do not care to answer. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. That's unusual in this Chamber. I believe it's important to know the answer to a question you're asking before you pose it. And I think, in fact, Representative Dargan does not hold a law degree and I think that, you know, that speaks well for Representative Dargan, even though it's Lawyer's Day because he does, in fact, have a tremendous understanding of our criminal justice system and how our prisons and pardons and paroles work, having served as Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

So, you know, I'm still deliberating how I'm going to vote on this nominee because though he is a person of serious intent, though not always serious demeanor, I think he's a candidate with great merits on the one hand. On the other hand, having served with him, I know him. So, I'll be listening to the debate and mulling this over and I guess I'll conclude my remarks by saying, bye, bye now.

(Laughter)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Very appropriate, Representative Fleischmann. Just to have the Chamber know, my cell phone has been ringing up here and it says Dargan. So, I just thought I would share that with you.

Will you care to remark on the resolution before us? Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49TH):

Thank you, Madam Chair. And I rise because my first term here I was a seatmate with you and Representative Dargan. And I learned a lot from Representative Dargan sitting next to him. One thing I wanted to make sure that he knew is I have plenty of paper for him, if he has any needs for paper, I'll be giving him several reams for his new position. Thank you, Madam Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam, and I do remember those days when you as a freshman had piles and piles of paper and you kept putting them on the floor for Representative, former Representative Dargan to trip

over. So, I'm sure he'll appreciate the paper.

Will you care to remark further?

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and through you, just a couple of comments.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

I've known former Representative Steve Dargan from childhood, since I was 8 years old. And Steve always had, former Representative Dargan always had a good sense of humor, as everybody knows, but it never really dictated what he felt beneath the surface.

He's a very serious individual. He served up here with distinction for many, many, many years. I've never heard a word out of his mouth that was prejudicial in any way, shape or form. And I stand in very strong support of Representative Dargan's new position. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you care to remark? Representative Zupkus, you have the floor.

REP. ZUPKUS (89TH):

Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise in strong support of Dargan. I was going to say Representative Dargan. I served as Ranking Member of Public Safety with him, and I have to say that is probably was, probably still is, but for me being there was the most bipartisan committee here. He always included me, respected me, took my suggestions, my thoughts and included them. And I was very fortunate to be able to work with him and you, Madam Chair, on that committee. So, I do stand in strong support of Steve, and I'm sure that we will be hearing from him on our cell phones. Thank you. (Laughter)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

I'm sure we will. Thank you. Will you care to remark further on the nomination before us?

Representative Bob Godfrey, you have the floor, sir.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm a little

befuddled and puzzled about what's going on because, you know, I remember that Mr. Dargan had run for reelection, but didn't take the oath of office last, the beginning of last year. And I was wondering because I'm on both Judiciary and Executive Noms, so I'm kind of used to dealing with nominations from all over the place. And I'm wondering what took so long from last January, a year ago January, here we are in April, what 15 months later. And then when I listen to Representative O'Dea's testimony about having to recuse himself perhaps from his own pardon, I'm trying to connect those two dots.

Maybe I'd like to ask a question of the proponent, what took so long?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Borer.

REP. BORER (115H):

Madam Speaker, we had to find him. (Laughter)

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Now, it's all making --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Godfrey.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Now, it's all making perfect sense to me, Madam Speaker. Yes, trying to find Steve Dargan has often been a difficult idea. I will listen to the rest of the debate. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Representative Ritter. Can we go to Representative Rovero, who I believe he had his light on first?

REP. ROVERO (51ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, my first committee that I was on was in Public Safety with Mr. Dargan as his Chairman. And after I spent a couple of terms with him as Chairman, I think every one of us should think long and hard before we push that green button. Remember, folks, who this gentleman is. I'm not afraid to push the red button, so I think you all should think long and hard before you push the green one. Thank you, Mad Chairman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Ritter of the 1st District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

All right. We'll wrap this up, Madam Speaker. I do have one question though to Representative Borer if she doesn't mind. I apologize for that, I know you were sitting down. I assume that in this role, he has to speak. Will there be a translation machine for Representative Dargan? (Laughter)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Borer.

REP. BORER (115H):

Me. Then yes, there will be a translation, Madam Speaker.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

I believe my concerns have been adequately addressed by the good Representative, I appreciate that. All the kidding aside, I think you get the sense of how beloved he was a legislator by both

sides. I can't tell you what he means to me personally or to my family. He's a wonderful, wonderful man, and I think we're all very, very happy he's going to get there after we play a little joke on him first. So, thank you, Madam Speaker, I appreciate it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the resolution concerning Stevie Dargan? Will you care to remark further on the resolution? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to see if your vote is properly cast. If so, the machine will be

locked, and the Clerk will take a tally, please.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 141.

Total Number of Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	141
Those Voting Nay	1
Those absent and not voting	8

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted. Bye, bye now.

(Gavel) (Laughter)

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Announcements or introductions? Representative

Scanlon?

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, I'd like to make an introduction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

I would like all my colleagues to look up into

the gallery and say hello to the students from Tisko Elementary School in Branford, who are here visiting us today. Thank you, guys, for coming. (Applause)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Welcome to the Chamber. Are there any further announcements? Representative Zupkus?

REP. ZUPKUS (89TH):

Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise for a point of introduction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. ZUPKUS (89TH):

Thank you. Today I have with me here some very fine young individuals. These individuals are homeschooled, and they are also here for Teens P.A.C.T. And if you are not familiar with Teens P.A.C.T, it is one of the most incredible programs that I know of. It brings students that are homeschooled up to the Capitol for a week and they go through the whole process of our legislature. They run for offices. They pass legislation. They debate. They do everything. And it is really a

phenomenal experience. Who I have here with me today is one of my favorite constituents, Rebekah Wallace. I have Joseph Narkewicz and Chris Mims. So, would you all please help me welcome them to the Chamber. (Applause)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Welcome to the Chamber and you certainly have a great Representative there. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Announcements or introductions? If not, we will return to the call of the Calendar.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 99?

CLERK:

On page 15, Calendar No. 99, Substitute House Bill No. 5167, AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT A TOWN MAY DEPOSIT INTO A NONLAPSING ACCOUNT FOR UNEXPENDED EDUCATION FUNDS.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move acceptance to the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, you may recall that in 2010, the General Assembly, in its wisdom, allowed Boards of Education to create a non-lapsing account, essentially a Rainy-Day Fund that could be filled with up to 1 percent of the Board of Education's budget in the event that there would be unforeseen challenges in the following fiscal year that they could address.

Many boards of ed have told us that they really appreciate this, that it's been a helpful cushion to them in some of the hard times that we have faced since. Those hard times have only gotten tougher over the last several years, as you are also aware.

There have been circumstances in the current fiscal year and the last where, contrary to the wishes of many of us in this Chamber, there were recisions made to education cost-sharing allocations that had been put forward at the beginning of the fiscal year, requiring districts to revamp and retool their budgets in the middle of a fiscal year, never easy for any organization.

Our Majority Leader, in his wisdom, think about these things, proposed to me and my committee that we consider allowing this non-lapsing fund, this Rainy-Day Fund to be larger, to be 2 percent of the total budget instead of 1 percent. That's an idea that was brought forward for public hearing. It received broad support. The one area of concern related to regional boards of ed. So, we decided to have a bill that spoke only to local boards of education to address those concerns we heard.

The measure passed the Education Committee unanimously. So, I hope the entire membership of this Chamber will join the Education Committee in moving forward this important piece of legislation.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Good  
afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good afternoon.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

I have just a couple of questions for  
clarification to the good Chairman of the --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you very much. I wondered if this, as  
the Representative pointed out, this did clear the  
Education Committee unanimously. So, everyone felt  
it was a good idea. I just wanted to get a little  
bit further clarification on where the need was most  
felt when the bill was brought to us for an increase  
in the allowable amount of funds to be put aside and  
what the purpose was.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe I described the purpose in bringing out the bill, which was to provide districts that are facing greater and greater budget uncertainties during the course of the fiscal year with a slightly larger cushion with which to address those uncertainties. And this bill received support when put out for public hearing from an array of different members of the education community, including our Commissioner of Education, our Superintendent of Public Schools for Thomaston, for Bethel, the folks who do research for the Connecticut Association, the Connecticut Education Association, Brooklyn schools, the Town of Scotland, and then an array of individuals and others who showed up in support of the bill.

And if memory serves, their primary reason for supporting was that having a Rainy-Day Fund is a good idea in a climate where it often rains.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Who actually makes the deposit of the monies into the fund? Is it the town, some instance of the town, or is it the Board of Ed?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. I believe the language speaks to this. I would direct my good Ranking Member to the beginning of the bill, in line 6, the Board of Finance in each town having a Board of Finance, the Board of Selectmen in each town having no Board of Finance, or the authority making appropriations for the school district for each town may deposit into a non-lapsing account any unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year from the budgeted appropriation for education for the town.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And in the case of a regional district, how would that work?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. This measure before us does not address regional boards of education for the reasons I mentioned earlier.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the good Chair for his answers. I think my impression of this bill was that it is seriously meant to help districts deal with some of the uncertainties that we've had to cope with lately with budgets going up and down and up and down due to unreliability of

state grants and so on and so forth.

And as the Chair said, it does provide a little bit more of a cushion. The provision already existed in current law that a town could put 1 percent of the budget away. This simply raises that 1 percent to 2 percent. It's not a new concept. We've been doing it for a long time.

So, thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I do appreciate the legislation in front of us here. I do have a question on the legislation. My town has approximately a \$300 -- I don't mean a \$300, I wish they had a \$300-million-dollar education fund.

(Laughter) But a \$30-million-dollar education budget, roundabout, that's about \$600,000 that can be used into this, that can be moved to this. Is that accumulative? The language does not speak to

it. It talks about a deposit on a yearly basis.  
But can the fund hold more than the 2 percent  
because I don't see the language in there on that?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. The bill speaks to  
the amount that's permitted for deposit each year.  
So, the deposit that's made in any given year may  
not exceed 2 percent of the total budgeted  
appropriation for education from the prior fiscal  
year.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Ackert.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Madam Speaker, I was not through. So, that's -

-

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

I'm so sorry. I am, so I thought that you were  
too, so. (Laughter)

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

It's good for all of us to be sensitive to each other's needs, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

I apologize.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

So, it speaks to the amount that may be deposited in any given fiscal year. It does not speak to the total amount that ends up in said account. So, I believe that, in fact, the amount may grow over time, if not withdrawn by the fiscal authority through the town.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, and that's how I read the legislation as presented is that it's account that you can add into it each year, but there's no cap on what that cap could have. I've had some small communities that I represent that have struggled with the MBR over time and this -- the savings that they have from not expenditures -- primarily of

special education could go into this fund. This fund could grow to any level though, and that's kind of what my thoughts were on it and spending it again, I would hope that they would do their due diligence if they have the ability to spend on education. Some are small towns; the student size is dropping. So, I do want to thank the good Chairman for his answers and I appreciate the dialogue. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Delnicki.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Good afternoon. Please proceed.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

I rise in support of this bill because it makes common sense. I served on a Board of Education, I served on a town council, I served as mayor. And having the ability to build a Rainy-Day Fund up, for unforeseen circumstances, is just good fiscal policy

for a Board of Education. Now, my Board of Education would not look to spend everything down at the end of a year. But there are many boards of education that would look to spend down to that 1 percent, even though they may not have needed to do that.

By having the ability to save up 2 percent, gives them the flexibility to negotiate their way through tough economic times as we have seen when the budget comes out from here, because that was one of the things that always concerned me when I was a chief elected official in my community was, where would we be and how would we handle it?

This provides a degree of flexibility. This is good common sense. And I think it's a very reasonable approach and good fiscal policy. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Wilms.

REP. WILMS (142ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also rise in support of this bill. I chaired the Board of Finance in Norwalk for eight years, especially during the great recession when fiscal challenges were severe in terms of taxes and also school spending. And there were a number of instances when the school board did have unexpended funds that we were able to roll over. And what this did was it relieved pressure on the taxpayers and also it provided incentive for the Board of Ed not to needlessly spend money because they would have lost it if they hadn't -- we hadn't done this.

So, I think it's a very good measure and I strongly support it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. The good Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think it's the first time in this building I've been called "good." But anyway, thank you. (Laughter) I just had a preliminary question for the proponent of the bill,

if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Fleischmann, please prepare yourself. Please proceed, Representative.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you. Am I to understand that if this Rainy-Day Fund is created, that it in no way, shape or form, affects the MBR for the following year?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. I believe under our current minimum budget requirement that is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, I had no other questions. But philosophically, I'm opposed. You know, I sit on my local town council, our Board of Ed has used this over the last four or five years at

the 1 percent level, but we are still hamstrung by the MBR. So, when one argues that it's going to save taxpayer dollars, I would be in support of this, if in conjunction with this, we could lower the MBR by the Rainy-Day Fund, but that's not what we have here.

Also, it appears that we are changing who authorizes the expenditures of these funds that we are totally giving that power to the Board of Ed, and I think that's a change fundamentally and procedurally as well. So, thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on this bill? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, will staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Will members please take your seats? The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast? If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 5167.

Total Number of Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	133
Those Voting Nay	10
Those absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel)

Would the Clerk please call Calendar No. 72?

CLERK:

On page 11, Calendar No. 72, House Bill No. 5192, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE MACHINES.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing

Committee on General Law.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Arconti, you have the floor.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this bill allows alcoholic liquor permittees authorized to serve alcohol for on-premise consumption to use an automated machine to serve beer, cider, and wine. The bill before us is the same bill that we had before us last legislative session that passed the House on a very strong bipartisan vote. It just got stalled upstairs in the Senate.

The only addition to the bill this year is a

little more bipartisan at the suggestion of Representative Kurt Vail, we added cider to the bill.

Connecticut would join the 40 other states that currently allow for self-pouring technology and I recently learned that Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins also allows for these beer machines to operate.

Self-pouring technology helps to support our booming industry of craft beer in our state by growing their exposure to new patrons. This legislation has the positive fiscal note or a positive fiscal impact to the state and is a pro-job bill. All of the operators that I have met and spoken to, which operate these machines in New York have told me they have needed to add employees to their payroll after implementing this technology.

And if this concept were to be approved, it would not only encourage relevant businesses to open up, but it would add to the overall economic vitality of the areas of which they open. And I hope my colleagues join me in supporting this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on this bill? Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Good afternoon, and thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, this bill is an interesting bill, as Rep. Arconti indicated. This was before the Chamber last year, received very strong support. There was a lot of questions when it first came up in a public hearing as to this whole new concept, but as you've heard here today, it's not really a new concept, there's 40 other states that actually have this type of machine in their restaurants and bars.

The thing I like about this bill that I've come to learn is, you know, I was a little concerned at first that we'd be replacing bartenders with machines and I wasn't really too keen on that. But a Rep. Arconti indicated, this is a pro-employer bill, pro-business bill, in a sense that new employees are being hired to monitor these machines, to clean the machines, to make sure that they're working properly. So, this adds to our business

climate here in the State of Connecticut, which as we all know, we could use.

It also monitors the amount of alcohol that one can actually take out of the machine by usage of the card. So, you cannot go to the machine and buy 10 drinks. There's a limit on what you can actually purchase, 10 ounces for a glass of wine and 32 ounces for beer.

So, I've come to very much be in favor of this bill and I hope my colleagues would join in as well. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative from the 95th.

REP. CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. A question through you to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Please proceed.

REP. CANDELARIA (95TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. If the machine stops at a 32-ounce serving of beer, at what

particular point does the individual walk before the permittee to reactive the card? And my question is, who is responsible to ensure that that individual is not actually under the influence, more specifically drunk above the limit, who will inspect that and ensure that they can reactivate that card?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, when a patron reaches the 32 ounces of beer in this bill, the RFID chip that's in the card is deactivated and it can only be reactivated after a bartender, an employee verifies sobriety. So, you have to reactivate the card, go see a bartender, an employee again, to reactivate. And at that point, can be verified for their sobriety. And if the bartender employees, you know, thinks you should be cut off, they have the opportunity to do that at that time.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Candelaria.

REP. CANDELARIA (95TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker, has there been any instances in other cities, I know you mentioned that 40 other states have adopted this similar policy, where the ship may have failed, and the machine continues to dispense liquor?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Not to my knowledge, no.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Candelaria.

REP. CANDELARIA (95TH):

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his answers. Thank you so much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Byron.

REP. BYRON (27TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do have just a couple of questions to the passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Please proceed.

REP. BYRON (27TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do have a question when it comes to this card. Can you explain this card a little bit more in depth, Representative?

Thank you.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Sure. Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, the only way a patron can use these machines is if they have been given one of these cards with an RFID chip installed in it. That's what activates the machine. So, you have to first go see an employee, bartender of the establishment. You get ID'd, then you will be -- and you could either put cash on the card, because you only pay by the ounce, or you give the bartender a credit card to hold for when you're

finished with the machines. You're given the card and then you can, depending on how many taps are set up, you can pour as many ounces as you would like, up to one drink for each flavor. And that would be my explanation of the cards. I can try to do a little better, if that's not clear enough.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Byron.

REP. BYRON (27TH):

Okay. Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, you could only purpose one drink at a time through this card?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Yes, Madam Speaker. You'll be given a glass, a typical glass of 12 to 16 ounces, and you can only pour through the machine up to that amount.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Byron.

REP. BYRON (27TH):

Is this only for beer or is this for all alcoholic beverages?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is for beer, cider and wine. Any liquor, the hard stuff is not included in this piece of legislation.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Byron.

REP. BYRON (27TH):

Thank you. And if I could only get one drink per use of the card, then I'm trying to differentiate between utilizing the services of a bartender and utilizing the machine.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

So, the machines, it's a little bit of a niche business. So, the machines are for really tastings. Because you don't have to commit yourself to a full drink. I can use the card to only pour myself 3 ounces for a taste and if I like the flavor, I can fill up the glass for a full drink if I were to choose.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Byron.

REP. BYRON (27TH):

Okay. And just my final question. So, this is kind of like an ala carte thing where the person who is purchasing these alcoholic beverages is more or less on their own to take as much, up to 32 ounces, as they would like?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Through you, yes.

REP. BYRON (27TH):

Okay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Byron.

REP. BYRON (27TH):

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative  
D'Amelio.

REP. D'AMELIO (71ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I  
rise in support of the bill. This concept is not  
new. It will be new to Connecticut, but it's been  
in many other states. It's a great way, as it was  
just discussed amongst our colleagues, a great way  
to introduce new products to the marketplace. As a  
bartender, it's very hard for you to gage a 3-ounce  
pour of beer or wine. There are so many new  
breweries that are out in our own districts and  
stuff. This will give them an opportunity to  
display their products in different restaurants and  
bars, so that we can become accustomed to them also.

You know, 32 ounces isn't a lot. You know, a

normal size of Budweiser, for example, is 12 ounces. So, it's, you know, less than 3 bottles of beer that you're able to purchase or glasses of wine. So, I stand in support. I think this would go a long way in helping our small businesses out in our own communities to get their market, their product out to the marketplace, so that we could try it without spending a lot of money doing so.

So, I urge everyone to adopt it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you, Madam Chair. And I have a question for the proponent of the bill. I apologize if this question has already been answered.

What's to prevent me from going, putting money on my card and then giving it to someone underage to dispense alcohol for him or herself?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, all of the same penalties that we have in current law right now that prevent people underage being served would still apply to all of this.

So, it is up to the permittee in the establishment to monitor the machines, monitor the establishment to make sure this isn't happening. And I'd just like to further go on that I don't believe that this increases the exposure to underage drinking. Patrons are checked for valid ID before being allowed access to the tap system. And you're linked to that card. So, if, you know, I purchased a card, my name is linked to that card and it will show up on the tap machine screens.

So, if I were to give it to an underage person, one, I'd be violating state law and two, I would be on the hook for that because my name is associated with that card. So, there is, in my opinion, an inherent disincentive right there to pass this on, a card on to an underage person.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

You mentioned, through you, Madam Speaker, you mentioned obviously when you dispense the card, you're looking at the person and you're checking their ID. But is there subsequent monitoring of the machines or are they simply, one would think, unattended to free up the bartenders to do the more elaborate service?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Through you, that would be up to the establishment. The operators I have spoken to that operate these machines do typically have a monitor of the machines to one, to address the concerns that you have in their establishment and two, to help people along with how to work them, customer service rep.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you. I presume it's much like the self-checkouts at supermarkets where they still have to have two or three people to help you when you can't scan your item, so. Thank you very much for your help answering these questions, Madam Speaker.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on this bill? Representative Carney.

REP. CARNEY (23RD):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Just through you, one question for the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CARNEY (23RD):

Thank you. And I apologize if this was asked already. But I was just curious as to why 32 ounces of beer or cider is in the bill? Why was that

number chosen?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. When I first started researching this legislation, that was the limit chosen, the vast majority of the other states, so I figured to model it off of that. And 32 ounces is equal to one pitcher. So, an individual can purpose a pitcher currently. So, I feel it's in line with that. And also, the standard craft beer serving size in a can is 16 ounces. So, this equals to two cans essentially of craft beer.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Carney.

REP. CARNEY (23RD):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. So, if I were to purpose a card and put 32 ounces, would everyone at the table I am at have to be checked for ID, who will be using that pitcher?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Through you, yes, same as, you know, now if a pitcher were served at a table, I would imagine the bartender, employee, would ID everybody at the table. But again, only the person who's issued the card can use that card.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Carney.

REP. CARNEY (23RD):

Okay. One final question. Is there any specific limit that the bartender or a restaurant employee would impose on a particular person or if someone seemed okay, would they be able to continue putting money on their card or continue using the card if the restaurant employee or bartender had their credit card?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

No, through you, once the 32 ounces is met, that card deactivates itself and you have to go back to bartender, employee, and at that point they have the opportunity to assess your sobriety and can choose not to reactivate your card and you have to then pay for the ounces you consumed.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Carney.

REP. CARNEY (23RD):

Okay. I apologize. One last question, if someone is alone, could that person purchase 32 ounces, I guess, at one time for themselves?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Through you, I suppose so. If you're given a 12, 16-ounce glass to use at the machines and you fill it up twice, which is essentially two cans of

craft beer, yes, you could consume the 32 ounces on your own.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Carney.

REP. CARNEY (23RD):

Okay. I appreciate the good proponent of the bill for answering my questions. Unfortunately, I am going to have to oppose this legislation. I spoke against it last year. I just -- I believe that this will take away jobs and will actually hurt or make it so that there are more intoxicated people using our roadways because I think that serving themselves will increase that likability as opposed to having to go to a bartender every time. So, I will be opposing this.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Harding.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to make

a comment on this bill if I may, Madam Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Please proceed.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

And that is I'm in strong favor of the bill. I understand there's some concerns, but I know Representative Arconti has worked very hard to address those concerns. This is something that the City Center of Danbury has worked hard on trying to address. So, the businesses and restaurants that some individuals may have concerns about, have approached Representative Arconti and many other legislators in favor of this bill.

I think it will bring a vibrant new technique to the restaurant and bar industry and I would hope, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I think this is a pro-business bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Delnicki.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just a question or two for the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Please proceed.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

So, an individual would purpose a card that could grant them 32 ounces of alcohol. And you spoke of having an attendant watching the dispensing machines. The question then becomes, what prevents the attendant -- or let me rephrase that. What precludes the consumer from utilizing the card when they've had one beer too many with an attendant say watching half a dozen machines?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Through you. I suppose -- the one beer too many, I suppose, I mean -- let me think how I want to phrase this. I know I keep -- all right. So, I know I keep going back to this, but the card is limited to the 32 ounces, which is essentially two

cans of craft beer. After that, they cannot purpose anymore with that card. They have to -- the card is deactivated, and they have to see an employee for a sobriety check essentially. So, I mean, at least in personal experience, if going to a bar after two beers, three or four, I'm not ID'd again on my fourth beer and every transaction. But you are ID'd at every transaction after 32. So, I think this adds a little bit more protections, in my opinion.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Delnicki.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and again through you another question. You spoke of not being carded by the bartender a second time, but as part of a bartender's training, it's to be able to identify an individual that is on the verge of having that one too many beer that I spoke of. And being able to, in essence, purpose 32 ounces at one shot, which was referred to as basically a pitcher of beer, the machine, will the machine have a way of determining

as a bartender would when an individual walks up to ask for that second drink, whether or not that individual is coming up upon the level of being intoxicated?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Through you, the issuance of the RFID cards is the validation that the patron has been properly checked and ID'd. So, to the question as directly as possible, the machine itself cannot judge sobriety. That has to be done by a person.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Delnicki.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. One last follow up and then a comment. So, then basically we would be depending upon an attendant that may be watching, say six machines or more or less, depending on how the area is staffed to spot an individual that may

be a significant distance away and make the determination that that individual should not be able to get another beer?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Through you. Yes, that can be one mode of trying to determine one's sobriety. And again, if you wish to have more than 32 ounces, being checked again at that point is another opportunity.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Delnicki.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the proponent. I have some significant concerns about the ability of one individual watching a number of machines to make the determination whether someone has had one drink too many. We have a big enough problem with intoxicated drivers on the streets presently. We don't need to make the problem

bigger.

And I also agree with Representative Carney when it comes to, this could actually affect jobs that people depend upon to make ends meet as bartenders. And typically, they are trained to spot folks that have had one drink too many. And I think there's a deficiency in the machine being able to do that and depending on say one person watching a half a dozen machines. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Madam Speaker, thank you for the second time. I just thought I might try to clarify some of the comments and questions that have been asked and answered. It's my understanding of the legislation that's before us that in order to reactivate the card after 32 ounces, that person would have to go up to an attendant or a bartender, if he or she wishes to have another card activated. So, at that point, there is more of a security check than our

current system allows.

I'll give you an example. I presume most of us have gone to a restaurant or a bar at one time or another and we have purchased drinks or alcohol for our friends who are with us. So, I'll walk up to a bar and I'll say, I'll take two drinks and bring them back to the table. That procedure is commonplace now in our bars.

This particular legislation, if I have a 32 ounce card and I'm done with it and I wish to purchase more alcohol, I have go up to the bartender or the attendant, look and him and her face-to-face and request an additional card for another 32 ounces, at which time the attendant or the bartender can say, I'm sorry, Rep. Smith, you've had too much to drink. I cannot give you another card.

So, I think this gives a further safeguard, which is why I'm in favor of it as opposed to the current practice that we have. So, I thought I might clarify that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative

Godfrey from the 110th.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of the bill. And I think Representative Smith is right. I think there's a little bit of confusion over the process because we've got the plastic, the card. We've got not one person, but two people keeping an eye on the customer. The bartender, who's issuing the card still has the responsibility to make sure that someone isn't getting illegally inebriated to the point where they couldn't drive.

And number two, you've got an attendant, which is an addition, not a substitution for it. And the penalties for the proprietor and for the bartender and for other people don't change. You still have our very strict alcohol consumption laws fully in effect. We've got the penalties are there, the laws are there. And I think it's a convenience for the owners and certainly it's a new approach to the wine tasting, for example, that has been mentioned a few times.

So, I don't see this in any way contributing to

more drinking, more drinking over the point of inebriation than the current law. In fact, I think it has built into it an additional step to help prevent that. So, I hope everybody will rest easy on that point. Two people watching instead of just one, still the training is there. Still all of the penalties are there.

So, I would hope everybody would join Representative Arconti in voting for this bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on this bill? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, will staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Will members please take your seats? The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast? If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take the tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 5192.

Total Number of Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those Voting Yea	110
Those Voting Nay	34
Those absent and not voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel)

Would the Clerk please call Calendar No. 130?

CLERK:

On page 20, Calendar 130, House Bill No. 5184,  
AN ACT PERMITTING THE AMENDMENT OF MUNICIPAL  
CHARTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MODIFYING BUDGET  
ADOPTION DATES.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing

Committee on Planning and Development.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Lemar.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Good afternoon, sir. Please proceed.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Madam Speaker, I move the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Lemar, you have the floor, sir.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the legislation before us permits towns and cities to amend their municipal charters for purpose of modifying their budget adoption dates. This issue arose most recently last year as we struggle to adopt our budget during the course of our normal

session. But this also highlighted an underlying fact that many of our local communities have budget adoption processes that begin well in advance of any reasonable expectation the state could have a budget to provide reasonable certainty of what the dollar amount will be. Many towns are requiring their first selectmen and mayors to come before their town councils or local legislative bodies early as March, when there is no reasonable expectation that the state will have reliable information to provide these towns a large funding source they'll receive.

Madam Speaker, this issue had bipartisan support last year. It made it out of our committee, experiencing robust support from the local communities cost and CCM as well. So, I urge adoption. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. The good Representative from the 61st.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Madam Chair, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Madam, please proceed.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

A couple of informational questions for the proponent of the bill, if I may?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

We're having difficulty hearing. Thank you. Please proceed, Madam.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Madam Speaker, under the current statute, may a municipality make other changes to their charter while they have it open for this specific purpose?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Lemar.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you, no. A municipality is only allowed to open up their charter for the expressed purposes inherent in the language, which would be regarding the executive presentation of the proposed budget, public hearings related to the budget, and action by the fiscal

authority and the associated publications referenda and final budget adoption. There can be no other consideration under this two-thirds local legislative authority. Thank you.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH): 1

Representative Zawistowski.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. One follow-up question as well. How does a municipality initiate this process? Is this something that can be done by the town council or by a simple vote?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Lemar.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you, Madam Speaker. The local municipalities governing legislative body must initiate this action and via a two-thirds vote of that body.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Zawistowski.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a very good bill. A lot of municipalities have difficulties in dealing with how the lateness of the budget that we've created for the state and are having a terrible time with mismatches. This will allow a simple remedy, just to open a charter, just for a single item. And I do urge my colleagues to support it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the good Chairman and Ranking Member for bringing this, unfortunately, disturbing bill to us and the fact that it is disturbing is that we talk about the towns having, passing their budgets after the state's, I mean, prior to the state's budget, well, they've done it every year. But before they used to have some ability to understand what the state was

going to do and provide for them year-to-year. They never really were concerned about getting drastic and horrific cuts like we've been imposing on them. This should be an unnecessary piece of legislation. But because of what we do in this building has been essentially very disruptive to our towns. So, maybe when we get our fiscal house in order that they can have their fiscal house in order. I will support this, but I wish we wouldn't have to do this legislation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Will members please take your seats? The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 5184.

Total Number of Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	143
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 64?

CLERK:

On page 10, Calendar 64, House Bill No. 5375,  
AN ACT CREATING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY HOUSING  
OPTIONS FOR PERSONS REENTERING THE COMMUNITY AFTER  
INCARCERATION.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing

Committee on Housing.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Good afternoon, sir. Please proceed.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Butler, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this legislation will facilitate allowing the Commission on Equity and Opportunity to convene a workgroup to first of all, study solutions for people who are reentering the community from incarceration. And secondly, to actually implement evidence-based

solutions to provide housing for that community. It also will consist of group of employees from the Commission, the Commissioner, the Department of Housing or her designee, the Commissioner of Department of Corrections or his designee, and several people from the community to make up this group. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. The question before the Chamber -- will you remark further on the bill?

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Yes. Madam Speaker, I would just like to thank Representative McGee for actually bringing this before the Housing Committee for consideration. I think it's important to note that while our incarceration population has been declining to actually keep that trend, we need to do things like providing jobs to people coming back to the community. We need to help them with expunging their records so that they will get that employment and I think it's really incumbent upon this General Assembly to give them the opportunity to have a roof

over their head. So, hopefully this workgroup will work on that solution. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Will you remark further on the bill?

Representative Belsito.

REP. BELSITO (53RD):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Oh, my God, another study, number 12,545. How many studies do we have to do? This is getting totally ridiculous. In the past, we have had so many studies and of those studies, 40 percent of those never came to fruition, they never, ever had a meeting.

I had a bill that they killed that said that if you present a study, you have to be on that committee and attend every single meeting. But that was not good enough.

So, now we have a study on housing for people who are getting out of prison. And it doesn't really say much about it. Are we going to pay for their housing? Through you, Madam Speaker, to the proponent of the bill. Who is going to pay for the

housing for these people?

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. That's the purpose of the study. And, I mean, there's -- I know that a lot of us would rather see action in statute instead of studies, but it's really incumbent upon actually studying this so we can come up with a very viable solution to figure out how to pay for it and other matters concerning this initiative.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Belsito.

REP. BELSITO (53RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. That is great. We're going to do a study on how to handle these people who need housing. Up until this point in time, this is not the first day that people have come out of prison and have needed a place to live. Through you, Madam Speaker, to the proponent of the bill, where have these people gone in the past and

it hasn't been just one day, it's been many, many, many years that they have come out of prison and have to have some place to live.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. That's some -- you're actually touching on part of the problem because part of the problem is there hasn't been a solution for those people actually returning to communities. And as a result of that, they just become a part of statistics in a couple of different areas.

One, they become a statistic of the homeless community. Secondly, some of them who can't have or find a roof over their head will result to the same criminal activity that they did before they were released. And, in fact, find it comfortable to go back to incarceration. So, at the cost of what it takes to incarcerate somebody, I would much rather find a solution to integrate them back into the

community to become productive members of society.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. (Gavel) If you all could please take your conversations outside. We're having difficulty hearing each other, question and answer.

Representative Belsito, please proceed.

REP. BELSITO (53RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is another study that is really probably not going to go anywhere. So, this is going to be one of the 40 percenters that never ever leave the desk because the proponent of the bill would have to be on this study. But thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in support of this legislation. I think that many times people who do enter prison come out and don't have a lot of

resources available to them and they end up going right back in.

One of the most basic rights any person should have is somewhere to live and I think that having a group to look at this and if you look at the language, there are some people who are qualified to look into this issue and try to offer some resources or ideas to the state and not necessarily funding resources, but just some program resources to offer people the ability to start their lives over. And I think all of us would agree that everyone should at least be given that chance, once they've served their prison term, to have a chance to reintegrate into society. So, I stand in strong support. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80TH):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker, and thank you very much for giving me the time. I just want to say yeah briefly that I sincerely respect and

appreciate the comments made by my good friend, the Chairman of the Housing Committee, from Waterbury, and also the Ranking Member from Fairfield. I agree with the sentiment behind this bill completely that I'm certain that someone that's been incarcerated would have a very difficult time reentering back into the job market, housing market, et cetera.

The question really is, who's responsibility is that and what the responsibility of this body is. And I think that this is a laudable goal, but it is something that ought to be taken up outside of this legislature.

I think the number one responsibility lies with that person themselves and then potentially to their family and their loved ones and then to maybe some sort of community advocacy group. It's a long way down the road before it becomes the responsibility of the taxpayers of this state, whether it's to pay for a study or whatever the results of that study become before we get involved in it.

And I would urge my colleagues to reflect upon all of the things that we are charged to do here and

realize that this is just one additional thing that is far from our purview can be done without the government being responsible and vote no. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Reyes.

REP. REYES (75TH):

Good afternoon, thank you, Madam Speaker. To the proponent of the bill, I'd just like to ask a few questions. But before, I also want to echo my sentiments of having the constituents and dealing with population that has a variety of challenges when reentering into general population that the -- although some of us might believe that this is beyond our scope here in the legislation, but these are also citizens of the State of Connecticut and it's a body of folks that have a great need and probably don't have the wherewithal of how to get these things done. And having said that, I will ask the proponent of the bill if the fact that there's a study, my question to Representative Butler is, has

he given any thought as to who should be on this taskforce?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, it's outlined in the bill itself. Members of the Commission on Equity and Opportunity are going to be on this workgroup as well as the Commissioner of the Department of Housing or her designee, the Commissioner of Department of Corrections or his designee and members of the community. I would envision like four people from the community who have a background or concern that can best help the success of a proposal to come forward for our consideration.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Reyes.

REP. REYES (75TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Representative Butler for that answer. And at this point I'd just like to thank Representative McGee for continual work with this body of constituents. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just stand in support of the bill. I can't disagree with my colleagues, who have a concern about studies and about having the government involved too much in this kind of work. But this is the area where, if we're going to spend some money, we can perhaps prevent somebody from going down the wrong path. So, I would urge my colleagues to support this bill and I think it's a good way of trying to get the right groups together. And I thank the proponent and the Ranking Member for their efforts. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative  
Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to join  
some of my colleagues in support of this bill. I  
was particularly heartened by the testimony from the  
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. I think it's  
vital that our active not-for-profit sector be  
included in this. I know with their Best Chance  
Program and their Reentry Program they've spent  
hundreds of thousands of dollars helping our  
citizens who have been incarcerated, return to  
society, find housing and lead productive lives.  
And I would encourage the good proponent of the bill  
to make sure the not-for-profit sector is included.

This is also a wonderful way to engage that  
sector, given our limited state funds, and really  
leverage our state money with that very well-  
informed investment from the not-for-profit sector.  
So, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.  
thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also stand in very strong support of this bill. And some of the taskforces and work study groups I'm not so keen on for the reasons that have been mentioned. But I do think Representative Butler and Representative Kupchick have made some very salient points that make it make sense for this particular bill to all stand in support of it.

We do need to figure out how we can help break the cycle of the recidivism. And I think this bill -- we need to look at it and this is an opportunity to do so. I think Representative Cheeseman also made a very good point that the not-for-profit sector should definitely be involved to help share their expertise and share their grassroots and their experience in the ground level of this. So, again I stand in support and thank you very much, and thank you to the good Representative Butler, always for his work on this. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Simanski.

REP. SIMANSKI (62ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in strong support of this bill. I'm a member of the Kairos Prison Ministry and quite routinely I go behind bars to interact with these gentlemen. And I have to tell you, their biggest concern is that after they've served their time and paid their debt to society, what's going to happen with them when their released and set out on the street. I certainly would like to go to our next Kairos reunion and tell these gentleman the State of Connecticut is, in fact, looking at ways to help them and I stand in strong support of this bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Belsito, for the second time.

REP. BELSITO (53RD):

Hello. Thank you, Madam Speaker. One more

time, you heard Representative Cheeseman give you the answer. We don't need a study. What is being done, it's being done already, through a non-profit, who stands up and takes these individuals who are coming out of prison and helps them find a location to live. What do we need a study for, if it's already being done? Could it be expanded? Maybe. Should the state pay more? Maybe. But my point is this, we don't need a study because we are already performing a service for these individuals to get them acclimated to living within a community, within housing. And if we do a study, remember what I said, 40 percent of studies never materialize, and this is going to be one of those because you're asking for so many different people from higher up organizations to join this and they already know that there are non-profit organizations who are doing exactly what you want this study to study. So, it's a study on a study, and it's not a good study. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker. I just had a few questions for the proponent, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Butler, please prepare yourself. Go ahead, Representative.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Sir, I'm looking at the language that's before us I notice a new term, it's evidence-based housing policy. And if I may, what is that?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good question. I believe it refers to looking at some experience that has been utilized in the past with great results and efficiency. So, I believe that's what it's speaking to.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Then I must ask then why doesn't it say that? I'm understanding that we are given a charge to state employees in some cases here. Why doesn't it state more clearly what the good Representative believes he language to mean, because I don't think there's a definition.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, it's not my actually exact language, but I think that the very nature of what it's saying will imply what I'm saying. Evidence-based, evidence, talking about something that, material that supports the initiative and based is based on the evidence that has made itself clear in the past. I think it's very clear the way it's stated.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just -- I offer that if we're looking at a housing policy for such individuals, we would not need the modifier, evidence-based. I don't know what it means. I'm not comfortable with voting on something that I don't know what it means. We're dealing with state employees here. When we deal with things like this, as I saw last session, we use the term within available appropriations, which is also a concern because that's not here. And while I do support the underlying intent or what I glean to be perhaps the intent, I just don't think it's properly drafted, so. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Thank you, Madam Chair. I stand for the purpose of just a few comments.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Thank you. First and foremost, I'd like to thank the Chair of the Housing Committee, Ranking Member and the rest of the Committee for indulging in this concept of providing housing to formerly incarcerated, but more specifically, taking a journey through the lens that we often look through and that is to study this subject matter.

And I got to say, last session in this Chamber, both sides of the aisle, helped to pass a policy on a study bill. And I know my colleague, he and I, we tend to disagree at times, but toward the end we always come around and we agree. But I think study bill 15,453 actually made it last year with his help and I'm extremely excited about it. And I got to say House Bill 6912, which was a study bill to take a look at ways in which, by which the State of Connecticut supports formerly incarcerated. And from that study, which is now called Hope for Success, we had several key findings. Chief among the findings were to discuss housing.

And here in the State of Connecticut, while our

Department of Housing and many social service agencies as well as the foundation, among others, have done an outstanding job to support those formerly incarcerated. We do not have a system in place that helps to transition those fully into the community.

So, I think this is a great opportunity to really carry that conversation forward at no cost to the state, but within the coffers of our Commission on Equity and Opportunity. They will have the resources to facilitate that study. I did hear a little bit about evidence-based housing, and it is a loosely-used term. But if I could add a definition to it, it's basically using national models of success to address housing and stability. And I think for that reason, I just, again would like to thank the Chair of the Housing Committee, the Ranking Member, and everyone from both sides of the aisle. This matter is extremely personal and important to me, having been a child whose parent suffered greatly as a result of this system.

I'm glad to say that we're here to address it

and to hold people accountable. So, again, thank you so much.

Through you, Madam Chair or Speaker, excuse me.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Gonzalez.

REP. GONZALEZ (3RD):

Sorry, my mistake.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

No worries, ma'am.

REP. GONZALEZ (3RD):

My mistake.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Will members please take your seats? The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to

the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast. If all the members have voted the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take the tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 5032.

Total Number of Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	143
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel)

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just the Chamber may be curious to hear this because it will affect our schedule for next week. We had a hold for session

next Tuesday. There's going to be a bunch of committee meetings based on a bill that's being referred to four separate committees. As a result, we are not going to have session next Tuesday. We will send around an updated schedule after we all have a chance to discuss other dates. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 81?

CLERK:

On page 12, Calendar 81, House Bill No. 5253, AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND REPEALING OBSOLETE STATUTES.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Human Services.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Abercrombie.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Good afternoon, dear, please proceed.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Representative Abercrombie, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this proposal repeals the statutory cap for Money Follows the Person, which is currently at \$5,000. This is a program that's been around since 2008 and what it does is allows individuals that are in institutionalized care to be able to go back home and live their life with dignity.

The second part of this also repeals some statutes that are outdated. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I agree totally with the Chairwoman of Human Services. This bill is a good bill. It allows people coming out of the institutions to live out their life in their homes, which is one of our core messages in Human Services, to give the people the dignity and the power and the finances to do so.

So, I appreciate it and I look for a positive vote from all of our colleagues. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. And I too want to speak in favor of this bill before us. I originally brought forward the concept of Money Follows the Person back in, I think it was 2007. And we at that time added I think one line to an implement or maybe even just a couple of words to an implement or in the Appropriations Committee, but the idea was to get people out of the institutions,

to bring them back home. It not only improves their lives a great deal, but it also saves the state a great deal of money. And the more people that we can take care of in their homes, the better it is for them and financially the better it is for the State of Connecticut. And I'm glad to see the cap is being removed. I'm not sure if I ever understood fully why we needed to have a cap in the first place. But certainly, it's a good move to get rid of it.

And finally, I think it will be the last thing I say on this point. It is relatively rare to hear me say positive things about Governor Malloy's administration. It's not that there aren't any positive things, but this is one place where I think after the Malloy administration leaves office, they and everyone in Connecticut will be able to look back at what they have managed to accomplish in bringing the Money Follows the Person Program to fruition, to advance it to where it is today, to actually get it to work and to really promote it. That's something that I've always felt the

administration deserves credit for having done. It wasn't really done very much in the previous administration, I'm not quite sure why, but I'm very glad that it was done here and I'm glad that we are getting rid of this cap. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, will staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Will members take your seats? The machine will be open.

CLERK:

(Ringing) The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast? If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 5253.

Total Number of Voting	140
Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	140
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	10

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel)

Is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Yes, Madam Speaker. Favorable reports, House Joint Resolutions to be tabled for the Calendar and printing.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move that we waive the reading of the list of resolutions and the resolutions be tabled for the Calendar for printing.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

So ordered. (Gavel)  
Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for the immediate transmission of any House Joint Resolutions requiring further action in the Senate to the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Without objection, so ordered. (Gavel)  
Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for the suspension of the rules for the purpose of reconsidering the referral of Calendars No. 65 and 143 to the Appropriations Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Without objection, the rules are suspended for that purpose.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that we reconsider Calendar No. 65.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

If no objection to reconsider, will be reconsidered.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Instead of the previous action we took to refer the bill, I move that this bill be passed temporarily.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill is passed temporarily. (Gavel)

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Madam Speaker, I move we reconsider Calendar No. 143.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Is there objection to reconsideration? If not, the bill will be reconsidered.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Instead of the previous action we took to refer the bill, I move that this bill be passed temporarily.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill passes temporarily. (Gavel)

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

And one more thing, Madam Speaker, I move that we refer Calendar No. 74 to the Appropriations Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Without objection, so ordered. (Gavel)

Are there any announcements? Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Republicans are having a caucus in Room 110 downstairs. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, at the end of this day.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to let the Chamber know for the purpose of an announcement that Representative Pavalock-D'Amato had a baby on Saturday, April 7th, 6 pounds 3 ounces, 18 inches long. The name of the baby is Napoleon Leo Gordon D'Amato, and she will be going home tomorrow. (Applause)

And for the purposes of journal notation, obviously Representative Pavalock-D'Amato is on maternity leave. Representative Perillo is out of the Chamber for Chamber business. And Representative MacLachlan is away due to business. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative, and congratulations to our colleague and her family. Representative Santiago.

REP. SANTIAGO (84TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. For journal notations, Representative Ziogas is out on personal business. Representative Gentile is out ill. Representative Berger, business in the district. Representative Candelaria, business in the district. Representative Morris, business in the district. Representative Tercyak, business in the district. Representative Rovero, personal family matter. Representative Perone, meeting. Representative D'Agostino, personal business. Representative Ezequiel Santiago, personal business.

Representative Verrengia in-district business. And  
Representative Roland Lemar, in-district business.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative  
Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I move for  
adjournment, I just want to let folks know that we  
will be in session tomorrow, beginning at 10:30  
promptly, so looking forward to seeing you all  
tomorrow morning.

And there being no further business on the  
Clerk's desk, I move that we adjourn, subject to the  
call of the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The motion is to adjourn, subject to the call  
of the Chair. Is there objection? Hearing none,  
the House is adjourned, subject to the call of the  
Chair. (Gavel)

(On motion of Representative Albis of the 99th

District, the House adjourned at 3:09 o'clock p.m.,  
sine die.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 172 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on April 10, 2018.

I further certify that the digital sound recording was transcribed by the word processing department employees of Alphatranscription, under my direction.

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