

THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

(The House of Representatives was called to order at 10:39 o'clock a.m., Speaker Joe Aresimowicz of the 30th District in the Chair.)

CLERK:

The House of Representatives will convene immediately. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives will convene immediately. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives will convene immediately. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) Will the House please come to order? Will the members, staff, and guests please rise, direct your attention to the Dais where Father Charles Jacobs will lead us in prayer?

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN CHARLES E. JACOBS:

Acknowledging the presence of God among us and within us, let us pray. Lord the work before us

echoes the needs of your people. We ask you to bless the leaders we have elected and granted through their discussions and decisions, we may solve our problems effectively and enhance the wellbeing of our state and to this prayer, let us respond, Amen.

(All) Amen.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

At this time, we have some guests, but I'd like Representative Boyd of the 50th district to please come to the Dais. He will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, but he is also joined by the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard comprised of career and volunteer firefighters from throughout the state, followed by the Connecticut Firefighters Pipe and Drums, a service pipe band founded in 1992 dedicated to providing traditional bagpipe and drums music to the fire departments of Connecticut for funerals, memorials, parades, and other ceremonies. [Pipe Band Music]

REP. BOYD (50TH):

(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. [Pipe Band Music]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

If we can give our career and volunteer firefighters a round of applause and thank them for their service. [Applause] Representative Boyd of the 50th district, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BOYD (50TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to on behalf of the legislative fire/EMS caucus, Representative Ohler and myself, welcome everybody to fire service day here at the Capitol. Again, to our chiefs, our volunteer, and career professionals who spend each day protecting our communities, thank you for coming up and helping to advocative. We would like to encourage all members of the House to join us downstairs by Nathan Hale today to learn more about the issues facing the fire service. We're going to be doing a press event at 11 and most importantly, there's also ice cream there as well, so please get to know your representatives of the

fire service and the important work that they do,
and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Thank you very much
again ladies and gentlemen for your service.

[Applause] Are there any other announcements or
introductions? Representative Zawistowski of the
61st, you have the floor, madam.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm
delighted to share with my colleagues that a member
of our House republican family. Bree Berner has
received an award from the Suffield Volunteer
Ambulance Association -- I have firefighters on the
mind. She was awarded a Hero 2017 award along with
her search and rescue dog, Sapphire. Show the
award. This important award is for assistance in
locating and rescuing an emotionally disturbed
person who had gotten lost in Sunrise Park in
Suffield in 2017. Bree along with her dog and with
other members of the Connecticut canine team, as
well as other first responders from Suffield were

able to bring the lost person to safety. Bree has been involved with canine search and rescue for many years, starting from when she was a member of the horse guard. She currently has three search and rescue dogs. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask my House colleagues to congratulate Bree and to wish her the best of luck to her and her dogs. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much and congratulations on your award. Representative Zupkus of the 89th.

REP. ZUPKUS (89TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the point of an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. ZUPKUS (89TH):

Thank you. Today, I have with me Mr. Steven DeWitt who has been a longtime friend of mine and one of my constituents, a dear friend, Mr. Joe Kelley, and in the back, you'll see their family members and some support advocate members; and today is Parkinson's awareness day worldwide and April is

Parkinson's awareness month and this disease it affects about 1 million people in the United States and about 10 million in the world, about 60,000 people are diagnosed every single year in the United States, so this is -- there's no cure. It's not an easy, simple disease. It's very complex so I'm really honored today, and I hope y'all will help me welcome them to the Chamber today. Thank you.

[Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much and welcome to our Chamber. Representative Zupkus, that's the first time I've heard a y'all on the floor so I really like that aspect of it. [Laughter] Representative Smith of the 108th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good morning.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

I am delighted today because we have perhaps some future firemen and women up in the gallery and

some future leaders that we have this morning with us. The 3rd grade from the Sherman School, and I ask my colleagues to welcome them please.

[Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Representative.
Representative Linehan of the 103rd, you have the floor, madam.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purpose of an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce a very impressive young man. Come on up here. This is Ethan Solury. He is an 8th grade honor student at DePaolo Middle School in Southington. His interest in politics is strong and he has volunteered on many local and state campaigns, and most recently, Ethan has written argumentative essay in his language arts class on the electoral college,

and you all know how much I like argumentative essays. [Laughing] He wrote about the benefits in presidential elections and the history of how it began. Ethan received an A+ on his paper and he plans on pursuing his interest in politics in high school and beyond. His mother, Bethany, is a 3rd grade teacher at Walter Derynoski Elementary School in Southington and his father, John, is a deputy fire marshal in Southington. I ask the House to please give them a warm welcome. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Ethan, I know you came up here on the Dais before. I appreciate you being up today and I know you're in my district. I only have a couple years left so if you want this spot, you can come up and get it at any point in time, so thank you.

Representative Ziobron of the 34th. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. ZIOBRON (34TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. I rise for an opportunity for an introduction please, sir.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. ZIOBRON (34TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning I have the great privilege of introducing a wonderful woman, business owner, and resident of the town of East Haddam, Tamara Jackson, who owns Jackson Chevrolet with her family in Middletown, but she is also a wonderful civic participant, does a lot to rescue animals and horses in our community, is a wonderful community partner to many nonprofits, and I hope the General Assembly will give her a warm welcome.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Welcome to our Chamber. [Applause]

Representative Klarides, I'm a little nervous. I believe that's a boxing glove or something on your desk, but we'll call it.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

Nope, it's actually a punching bag and you can understand why I have it. [Laughter]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

[Laughing] Please proceed, madam.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My sister got it for me. She understands now that she's in this Chamber why I would need this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For point of personal privilege, I have Representative Gentile and Representative Klarides-Ditria standing here with me because we would like to first of all say thank you to all the firefighters and all the amazing work you do for us in keeping us safe and in particular, the Derby and Orange firefighters who are here with us today and Beacon Falls, so welcome everyone. We're proud to have you and proud to have you here with us. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Klarides, I think I've seen on Facebook a couple times some parade or something you're typically on the fire truck, correct?

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

Yes, from the first time I ran, they invited me to walk with them in our Memorial Day parade and I

didn't know that everybody didn't walk with somebody so as we were walking through the parade, we get to the grandstand and every other elected official is on the grandstand and I'm the one walking, and I've now come endeared the rest of my colleagues to do the same and I wouldn't have it any other way. We're proud to walk with them and proud for what they do for our community.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

And, I think that speaks volume in your appreciation for them. Thank you, Madam Minority Leader. [Applause] Representative Delnicki of the 14th. You have the floor.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good morning.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Representative Currey and I both rise here to recognize Fire Chief Kevin Cooney, 35-year member of the South Windsor Fire Department, 20-year plus member of the Manchester Fire Department, a

professional career department, Commander Emeritus of the Connecticut Honor Guard, and I believe one of the founders of the Connecticut Honor Guard, former Commander of the South Windsor Fire Department Honor Guard, and president of the Connecticut Fire Chief's Association. I hope that we can all give him a great round of applause and all of the other fire chiefs and firefighters here today. Thank you, Chief. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

I'd be interested to hear what he does in his spare time if he actually has any.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

He has no spare time. We keep him busy in South Windsor and throughout the state and the country.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

[Laughing] Great, thank you for your service. Representative McCarty of the 38th.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for the purpose of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Thank you. I would just like to inform the Assembly that recently the Waterford boys high school basketball team defeated Avon in the state championship. They are state champions in Division 3, and I can tell you that these young men are stars not only on the basketball court but in the community as well, and the entire Waterford community is very proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Give them a little round of applause, please. [Applause]

I know it's not typical but because I have the microphone and I'm in charge of whether it's on or off, I want to remind folks we start on time. Today, we were delayed by 9 minutes, which in my books is not acceptable. Committees do have to take action but I urge committee chairs, committee ranking members to ensure members are here. I will

not be holding up waiting for committees. If bills die because committee members can't get here to vote, then that is what will happen. We will be starting on time. It's a promise I made to all of you, so even 9 minutes is not acceptable, so please be diligent. [Applause] All right, Mr. Clerk. Any business on your desk?

CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Favorable Reports House Bills to be tabled for the Calendar and printing.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

So ordered. Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good morning.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

So ordered.

CLERK:

And, the last piece is the daily Calendar.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 98?

CLERK:

On page 9, House Calendar 98, House Bill No. 5377, AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY METHODS TO PREVENT THE OVERCROWDING OF SATELLITE DISHES ON THE ROOFS OF SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY HOMES IN THIS STATE. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on housing.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Chamber will recognize Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. It's good to see the Speaker from Waterbury on the Dais today. I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill before us is a bill to form a taskforce to actually look at the overcrowding of satellite dishes on single and multifamily homes. While this is a problem that's primarily very evident in the urban areas, we know that it could be an issue in many towns around the state of Connecticut. What we hope to do is have this taskforce evaluate what can be done to provide incentives to property owners to help remove some of their inoperable satellite dishes and to actually find out how many of these dishes really aren't being used and just sitting in perpetuity properties.

Now, I know that at least one member of this General Assembly doesn't particular care for studies, workgroups, and the like but there's various reasons that you would have one. I will say that just for the sake of argument that in a short session many concepts come before us where there's

just not enough time to put together all of what you would need in a bill to be very effective like the bill we passed yesterday, which is very important but there really wasn't enough time to put together the language that we would like to present to this General Assembly. I will say that sometimes those kids of bills come before this body and many people just consider it a work in progress and really don't like to see those kind of bills come to the floor.

Some bills need to be studied and have a taskforce because of the shear depth and breadth of the particular subject matter. In this case, we really need a taskforce because often times when a concept comes before the General Assembly one of the things that we do here in the State of Connecticut is look to see what other states in the country are addressing this issue and interestingly enough that there is no other state in the country who actually has taken this up, so --

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler, if you could hold one minute please? (Gavel) Hi, if we could hold our

conversations down in the Chamber, please? I'm having a little difficult time hearing Representative Butler. I'm sure other representatives are having that same problem. Thank you for your indulgence. Excuse me, Representative Butler, please proceed.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, so as I was stating that this particular issue we are trying to look around the country to see if there is any other state that has dealt with this and as it turns out, there is no other example anywhere in the country that actually deals with this, so this is going to be trailblazing grounds that we're going to be looking at here today in terms of putting together a taskforce to actually evaluate this and come up with ways to effectively deal with it. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Butler.
Representative Kupchick of the 132nd.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you, Mr.

Speaker to the chair a question or two.

Through you, Mr. Speaker --

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler, please prepare yourself.

Representative Kupchick, please proceed, please.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, just a couple questions. I understand the premise of wanting to have a taskforce to review and get additional information, but in my mind, I'm trying to get my mind around how this couldn't be handled through the town itself that's having the issue, through some sort of town-wide or city-wide working group that could develop an ordinance through that town.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Excellent question and as it turns out, the taskforce, once they study this issue, there may be a way to enable municipalities to deal with it directly. That may be a possibility

but until we actually look into all the details or possible solutions, we won't know that, but that is a possible solution. I will say this though, if the municipalities you know really felt this was an issue I would think long before now somebody -- some municipality would have taken the time to address it, none has.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you Representative. Representative Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you, Mr. Speaker, who would -- what -- who would consist of the membership of this taskforce?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

The usual people that we -- when we set up a taskforce. It actually comes down to two people appointed by the president pro tempore of the

Senate, one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, and that is I guess the usual format that we put together in terms of populating certain taskforce.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you, Mr. Speaker, is there some -- do we know if there are some federal guidelines for example through the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) that has guidelines that are already in place that possibly these towns or state are not aware of?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another good question

and that's another reason why we need to take the time to do our due diligence and look into all those matters. I don't know of any federal guidelines that actually are directed to this particular issue. As I stated earlier, this is not another state in the whole country that has taken up this matter but if you bear with me, I just want to describe this scenario to some of the people who are saying, well you know satellite dishes. Is this really, you know, an issue?

Well, when Representative Reyes actually brought this forward and we had a public hearing, I happened to be driving in his district in the main thoroughfare and I was halfway into this and actually drove half the distance and every other house had a satellite dish and then it was every house had a satellite dish and then it was houses had two satellite dishes, and I didn't get three-quarters of the way down this road and there were houses that had three satellite dishes. Okay and then after I, you know, visited this meeting and on my way home, I drove the other length of this road

and once I got where I started going back the other way, there was again every other house had a satellite, then every house had a satellite, and again, certain houses had two satellites and before I got three-quarters of a mile, there were houses that had three satellites.

It's like ridiculous and then I said, oh well maybe it is this part of the city and then on my way home, I went in the main artery of my district and oddly enough -- you know, it's surprising how many things are in plain view that you never notice before -- well, on the main thoroughfare, it started off the same way. Every other house had a satellite dish in my district. Then every house and then there were houses that had two and then there were houses that had three. Even before I got home, which was probably a mile and a half, I seen houses that had four satellite dishes. Now, I never noticed these things before but guess what, when you drive around, get off the main thoroughfares, it's even more prevalent, so it is an issue and I would just like to say that you know while I don't know --

I don't believe that the federal government has any guidelines on addressing this issue, that is something that we need to take up, start the taskforce so we can actually look in what we can possibly do, whether that's at the state level or the municipal level.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you, Mr. Speaker, did Representative Reyes reach out to his town, his community to try to work this through the local city council or through the mayor in any way?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I don't think I'm at liberty to speak for Representative Reyes [Laughing] but I will say this. He is a state representative and he can offer concepts for

consideration here at the state of Connecticut and as it turns out, we will look at our municipalities and actually inquire as to what they may or may not want to do. I would imagine -- just think about this for a second -- municipalities -- I don't think the municipalities are lining up to say we want to do something about this, so Representative Reyes had the conviction to bring it to the General Assembly so we could at least start the conversation.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Kupchick, Representative Reyes is on our list so you'll have an opportunity to query him on that specific topic. Please proceed.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

[Laughing] Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will just say that listen, I am not opposed to working groups and taskforce. I understand that they can bring quite a lot of value to an issue, specifically issues that we need to have more information on and can even develop into very good

legislation. However, I'm not quite sure how I feel about this. I'm not sure that we need -- that the state needs to be involved in this issue specifically because we would be the only state looking into it and I think there maybe potentially could have been some work done within the community, so I'm not quite sure how I'm gonna vote on this. [Laughing] I'm sorry to my good chair.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

[Laughing]

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

But, I will listen [Laughing] to some more of this discussion and I will decide then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Belsito, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BELSITO (53RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Oh my God, another taskforce, number 14,455. How many more do we need? People of the General Assembly, state legislatures, wake up. It's time to stop and let's stop with this

one [Laughter]. First of all, I'm gonna put a satellite on my house, it's on my house. I've seen some photos of apartments that have 8, 9 satellites, and it doesn't look good but guess what, that's the owner's responsibility. If I was the owner of an apartment house and you put a satellite on my apartment, I would tell you when you move, you take that satellite down or you don't get your deposit back, so what they're proclaiming here is that we should not have satellites, we should all go to cable. That would solve the problem.

Well, very shortly, we may have something new that's coming out that will not require satellites to be put on the homes and apartments and that is the problem. How long can we go on with these studies that are worthless? This problem is a problem for the owners of the house. If the town doesn't like the way it looks, the town should write an ordinance that says satellites -- you can have two satellite dishes or three satellite dishes depending on how many apartments you have in the complex, and when these people leave, the satellite

dishes have to come down period. We don't need a state law, to waste our time to get something passed that says you have to take down your satellite dish. We are locked in a state right now that is going bankrupt and it's time for us to work on the budget, and this has nothing to do with the budget. This is another basically almost and I say almost worthless idea that has come before us. Why should we have to take care of this? This has nothing to do with what we are regulating here. It's time to stop and we should be voting this down, so we send a message to all the people who are writing these studies. It's time to stop unless you have a very, very valid study. This is not a valid study, and I'd like to ask the proponent of the bill a question if I may?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler, please prepare yourself.
Representative Belsito, please proceed.

REP. BELSITO (53RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Exactly how do you expect to write a law to get the satellite dishes

down that have been put up by different companies who no longer may be in business or the people who had them installed may no longer be living there?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Representative, I can say that's one of the exact reasons why we need a taskforce to actually study this and come up with recommendations. If in a short session, if we had the time to sit all the stakeholders at the table, we could have come up with some way in language to address this now, but as you know in a short session, the time just is not available. That's why we need to make sure that we start the taskforce in June, so people can answer all those questions, and to your point -- other issues that you brought up. You brought up an example where there was one building that had 8 satellite dishes. You know, how many of those satellite dishes are actually operable? Okay, and as you

pointed out when people leave, you know, how do we know if there's any rules in place that when they leave that they should be on the hook for removing them or discarding them?

That's another issue. We need a taskforce to study that. Once these become a moot point -- you brought up the point there may soon be a solution that we no longer need satellite dishes. That the company that -- for the most part -- has these dishes will go to cable, which will make -- render the satellite dishes, you know, a moot point. Well, guess what? If that happens, what do you think gonna happen to all those satellite dishes that nobody uses anymore? Nobody's gonna do anything about them and there will be no need or no initiative to actually deal with it because nobody uses them anymore, but they're still gonna litter the rooftops of our houses, so that's why we need a taskforce so we can do an in-depth study, look at if municipalities can deal with this but not only that but bring all the stakeholders to the table and talk about how to actually handle this, and it's a valid

reason for a taskforce and if there's any reason to have a taskforce, this is as good of reason as any other topic that comes before us here at the General Assembly.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Belsito.

REP. BELSITO (53RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the proponent. I am going to give you the answer to this taskforce right now. It's very simple. The responsibility lies within the owner of the house, the apartment, the building, or whatever. It's got to go through the towns. It has nothing to do with the state to enforce a taskforce. It's very simple. As the owner of a building, it is your responsibility to keep your building looking halfway decent. Now, if you feel that a satellite dish is bad for the environment or bad for looks, then take it down. Like I said before, if I own the building and they were left there, I would get up there and take the satellite dishes down myself. It's time

for us to stop wasting our time on a lot of these taskforces. It's a very simple solution. You have to get to the owner of the building. It's time to have those satellites removed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Reyes, you have the floor, sir.

REP. REYES (75TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good morning.

REP. REYES (75TH):

I rise completely with mixed feelings on the debate that we're having here but I think it's a healthy debate because the issue with satellite dishes, although it's predominantly an inner-city problem, but it's pollution and it's (inaudible - 46:19) by its general form and although not all representatives that are here live in this type of district, I do and I am speaking for those people that have tried to actually remove these satellite

dishes and if anyone's ever called any of these companies to actually come back and get a satellite dish, good luck. They will not come and take it off and furthermore, this process is very vague and with all do respect with Representative Belsito's comments and I respect them wholly, and it is not as easy as asking or telling a landlord to do something when there is no statute making him do anything.

These satellite dishes that are -- I'm not standing here before my colleagues and saying that this is more important than the budget. There's nothing more important than a balanced state budget. What I'm telling you is that a problem that exist in my district and other districts of other representatives that are sitting here with me. It is litter. It is pollution. It is blight and there is no question in my mind that somewhere down the road these satellite dishes will actually be sitting curbside just like all the tv's and all the different apparatus -- electronic apparatus that people don't want anymore and discard them, and what will we be saying then about these satellite dishes

that are just sitting there, and I whole-heartedly believe that just because it's an inner-city problem it does not make it any less important or any less of an issue for anybody who's in here because we only have one planet, one earth, and it's our responsibility to take care of it. I am not advocating for any cable company at all. I don't have a dog in this fight either way. My issue simply is straightforward. If you put a satellite dish on, I would like to see a bill -- a legislation that says you have one on, you take one off. Right now, there's nobody or nothing mandating such an action and it will not happen on its own, and as I said in my opening statement, satellite dish companies are not in the satellite dish removing business. They only install new, and Representative Butler, I have a question for you, sir. Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Through the Speaker, Representative Butler, prepare yourself. Representative Reyes, please proceed.

REP. REYES (75TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to answer the good representative's question about municipalities and ordinance, and as of for my municipality, I have investigated this particular ordinance and there is no such ordinance, and I believe, Representative, that if we start making ordinance a la carte that we will end up with a variety of different issues and it will be all over the place. I would like to see a consistent bill across the state and the same language for everybody, so through you, Mr. Speaker, I would ask Representative Butler if he has had an opportunity to actually talk with any other representatives from our district?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've talked to a number of representatives who actually never considered this because a lot of times, like I said, our focus when we drive our streets is usually

street level. You can drive through cities and you really don't look up. Very many people aren't looking at people's roofs as they're driving through streets because -- unless you're in the roofing business. If you're in a roofing business, you're probably looking to see who needs one but other than that, I could say that there's other representatives in other districts that have recognized this and they're just curious to see how we're going to go forward with this. As a matter of fact, Representative, I think that we're an uncharted area but it's worth actually forming a taskforce because we should look into it and as you pointed out, if we don't do something on state level, if it's on a municipal level, you could wind up with 169 solutions to something and somebody's going to come here and say it didn't make sense to have one solution versus 169 for all the municipalities, so that's pretty much what the thought was. If we have a taskforce, we can come up with something, a uniform solution for the entire state.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Reyes.

REP. REYES (75TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, Representative Butler, and I again have no doubt Representative Butler that we are clearly in uncharted waters because we have actually done some background checking and nowhere in the nation is there any language that actually deals with this specifically, and in my estimation, it is again our obligation and our responsibility to do the best of our ability with the environment that we have, and I believe that this should be treated with the same seriousness as we treat the air and the water because it would be no different than if we were able to see pollutants going into the air or pollutants going into the river we would have a whole different attitude towards this particular situation.

But, because it's almost out of sight/out of mind, we're taking a little indifferent approach,

but I think it's a good bill and it's a study that's important because I believe out of this particular study will come a lot of points and clear issues on how to address these satellite dishes, and I think it's a good bill and it should pass bipartisan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative D'Amelio of the 71st assembly, sir, you have the floor.

REP. D'AMELIO (71ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to stand here today to support my Waterbury family in the house and by the way, you look good up there on the Dais. You know, when I first say this bill, I didn't really know what to think about -- you know, how to think about this bill. Coming from a city like Waterbury, you start looking at these satellite dishes and they're all over the place. There's one building in my area that has about 8 satellite dishes on it and you wonder what the heck is going on. Why do they just keep adding these satellite

dishes to these buildings? I own a building in Waterbury and this just happened to me not to long ago. I had a tenant that came in, wanted a satellite. They put a dish on the roof. Another tenant came in and wanted satellite. They put another dish on the roof. One tenant left. The same company -- another tenant came in, the same company comes puts another satellite dish on the roof instead of using the one that was there already, so I wanted to get rid of that satellite dish. Well, it cost me over \$500 dollars because once you get on a roof and you take a satellite dish off that was on that roof, now you have to fix the roof because you want to make sure it doesn't leak and there are all kinds of issues that occur with that.

I don't think it was fair to me so am I going to keep doing that? I don't want to deprive tenants of having satellite tv if that's what they prefer to do, so I think this is a worthwhile study because I think there should be some kind of liability on behalf of the satellite companies. If there's a

satellite on the roof already and another tenant or another user comes in and wants to use that service, why not use that satellite dish or take it off and put a new one in, so right now, it's just a free for all. You know, there's a house in your district, Representative Berger, that I counted 7 and they weren't even on the roof. They were on the side of the building because there was big trees in the way and they probably need a better satellite, so it's out of hand and I think this is worthwhile study. We're not mandating anything to do right now, but I think that, you know, especially when you come from the city areas, it's a lot more difficult and I think it's worthwhile, so I hope and urge this Chamber to support it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative D'Amelio, and if you could enlighten the Speaker and Representative of that building so I can notify the city so we can take care of that problem? Representative Butler.

[Laughter]

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you [Laughing]. I would just like to say that I heard what Representative D'Amelio has talked about and that's another reason for the taskforce because I know he's really concerned about these kind of issues, especially where property owners are concerned and just what he mentioned is something that the taskforce could consider. How to -- and it's spelled out in a bill that we should try to find incentives for property owners to deal with this. That should be one of the goals, so I strongly urge a strong bipartisan approach to this because it's something that we can -- like I said, we can actually make a big difference and with just some of the ideas we had here today, that would be the genesis for a lot being done in terms of the removal but also talking about how to actually discard these satellite dishes.

If you look at the material they're made out of, they're made out of steel, aluminum, copper, and gold so of course, you know, gold is in the small quantity because if it was the big quantity, most of these satellite dishes -- we wouldn't have to worry

about the removal. They will probably start disappearing all on their own [Laughing] but again, if -- like Representative Reyes pointed out, if we find these things by the curbside, we don't want these things in our city dumps. We don't want that out there. We need to think about how to discard these things in a reasonable way that makes sense, so with that being said, Mr. Speaker, I will -- I'll conclude with that, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rovero of the 51st, sir, you have the floor.

REP. ROVERO (51ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple comments and a question for the proponent of the bill. First of all, I laugh every time my fellow representative talks about a taskforce -- 14,455 he thinks is ridiculous. I think this one is ridiculous also. I'd like to ask the proponent of the bill who has a problem with this --

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler, could you please prepare

yourself? Representative Rovero, please proceed through the Speaker.

REP. ROVERO (51ST):

You talked about people having a problem with the disc on the homes. Who had the problem?

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I just described a scenario in one urban center where I talked about two major thoroughfares, okay, and amount of satellite dishes on just two streets. The streets were probably about a mile and a half long each of them and there was tons, tons, so in your district, you may see very few of them and if you think that you're not -- you know, it's a matter that you don't think actually warrants attention, I could see that if you live in a rural area and don't see many of these but come visit my neighborhood, and here in the state of Connecticut, we just don't make laws, you know, for one area or not do laws because of one area. We make policy that will address concerns anywhere in the state of Connecticut and that's why

there's the need for this taskforce.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Rovero.

REP. ROVERO (51ST):

That is a problem, sir, Mr. Butler. What you have a problem with in your area and I don't have a problem in my area with it, why should we pass a law that covers everybody? You pass a law for your problem but don't pass a law for my problem. The first thing you know you're going to want to do the study committee because someone has nice flowers in front of their house and you don't like them. You're going to turn around and say I don't like someone with a green lawn because mine's not green and it makes me look bad. You know, this to me this is a joke of somebody's time. Every town can pass an ordinance if they want to regulate disc on the homes. We don't need the state of Connecticut telling every town how to run their business. Most

of your towns can do a lot better without our influence, so I think this is another study like some of the others that I think is a joke where the state of Connecticut is trying to tell too many towns how to run their business. Folks, let's think about it. Who runs a better financial problem? The state or the towns? Usually, the towns do a better job.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Rovero, was that in the form of a question or a comment or an opinion?

REP. ROVERO (51ST):

Both of them, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Okay, would you care to respond, Representative Butler, to that query?

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly would love to respond.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

And, to the good gentleman's perspective on what we do here for the state of Connecticut and just because there's not something of concern in one area that that's a reason that we shouldn't be concerned with passing some kind of policy here in the state of Connecticut, I will just say I have a perfect example for you why we should. If we look at one issue that everybody's familiar with called crumbling foundations. Well, maybe in your neck of the woods there may be a lot of homes that face that issue. You know what, you know how many of those -- my homes in my district that face that? But, I'm on the Finance Committee where our bonding aspect actually bonded what \$100-million dollar to help those homeowners in another part of the state where half the state doesn't have a problem with that. You know why? Because we represent the entire state of Connecticut and when one part of the state has a problem, we come together to help every part of the state of Connecticut.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Rovero.

REP. ROVERO (51ST):

I think you're comparing apples to oranges. If you're talking about homes and things like that, you're talking about one problem. If you're talking about someone that had something on their home, that's altogether different.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Okay, thank you, Representative Rovero. Are you -- are you good?

REP. ROVERO (51ST):

I'm all done. I just --

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Okay.

REP. ROVERO (51ST):

I've just had enough. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. CASE (63RD):

No, it's still good morning. Sorry. You know, we've been up here for a half hour and we're talking about satellites on the roof. We have a big budget problem and we need to be working on that, but a few questions.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Though we have up here a taskforce, who would you see, with this ordinance, enforcing it?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, as I stated, the very need for this taskforce is to put together the people who could make that decision. If I could answer that question and a few other questions, I

would have put it in language and had a bill here to solve the whole thing today. That's not the case. We need to take the time to do due diligence over a period of time with responsible parties to come up with a reasonable and effective policy to address that concern that you just asked me about.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, so given the short session we talk about budgets, would the state be the one enforcing this ordinance; therefore, it would be costing the state of Connecticut?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have a policy initiative in mind. I just know I want to form a taskforce that is going to come up with all the decisions and once they come up with a policy

and it comes before this body, then we can ask these kind of pertinent questions and we could vote yea or nay on whether or not we'd like to support it, but at least let us do the due diligence to come up with good policy for consideration for this body to vote on.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and a few comments and I'll end it. We've got 35 minutes on this bill. I'd rather us work on a budget and seeing as though what the bottom line would have probably come out about, which it should go to the local towns and cities to form an ordinance and not to the state of Connecticut, unless it's gonna cost the state of Connecticut, but this obviously will end up being a mandate on our local towns and I cannot support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative

Baker of the 124th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. BAKER (124TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this bill. I think it's a bill that is greatly needed as I ride around and look in some of my districts you see the satellite dishes that are mounted on the roofs of multiple dwellings and it's a nuisance per se as you see a lot of these abandoned buildings and you know, there are no residents in there and you have 4, 5, maybe 6 satellite dishes, along with it the wiring that is hanging off there. I think as we look to some of the communities that want to have some kind of beautification who we need to put some parameters, things in motion in terms of creating some sort of mechanism in place.

One of the things I did find out is when these satellite companies along with the cable companies come to put these individual devices up, there is nothing in place that states that they have to meet or authorize any kind of -- with the owners themselves -- have some kind of authorization in

place. They could just mount them anywhere they want. There is no mechanism in place that holds them accountable to have these devices removed, so I think that this is just the beginning and the start for us to be able to put this in place and be able to move along and maybe find something that will be concrete, so I urge my colleagues to support this as we begin to move forward and have some kind of beautification for these satellite dishes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Belsito, for the second time, sir. Did you want to speak?

REP. BELSITO (53RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the second time. I just have a few more comments to make. First of all, this problem is strictly the problems of the cities and towns. It has nothing to do with this House of Representatives. There are two things I want to mention. One is that we are in dire straights to get a budget through and two, in my

district, we have thousands of homes that have crumbling foundations -- crumbling foundations where we have people who are living there who are distraught. They are weakened. They are saddened. They are crying. They need help and we stand here for over an hour and we're talking about satellite dishes on homes that can be removed by the owners of the homes. It's time to really start to look at what we are calling. We should not have allowed this to come through here. This is strictly a city and town problem. When are we going to start to tackle the problems of the state. We have many problems. This is not one of them. This bill should be pulled. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Deputy Speaker Representative Morin of the 28th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. MORIN (28TH):

Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nice to see you up there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good to see you, sir.

REP. MORIN (28TH):

You know, I've been listening to this debate and I guess there's a bit of frustration. There's been a lot appointed questions to the chair, Representative Butler, about policy, about what's gonna happen, who's gonna do what, when are they gonna do it. Last I checked, this is a study bill. Now, I can get that certain people don't like study bills but the bottom line is people in certain districts have some problems and it's -- they're trying to address those problems through a study group that will help them to address the problems.

I take a little bit of umbrage to people that'll continuously use the pontification that we should be only working on the budget. Oh really? Well, no kidding folks, but I have faith in my leadership and I'm sure my friends on the other side of the aisle have faith in their leadership when all four leader in the caucuses agree to be working together on a bipartisan agreement, so why don't we stop saying every time that there's a bill being

brought out we shouldn't be talking about anything because it's the budget? I happen to respect all of the four leaders and I take them for their word that they are going to be working together and I look forward to working with them as well, but to take shots at people that might live in a district that's different than the one I live in or that you live in -- if you don't agree with it, vote no. That's pretty easy. I do it a lot. It's pretty easy, but I wanted to say that everybody that's represented up here, whether you represent a rural town, urban, suburban, you have the right to represent your constituents and it's inherent upon us to take it -- take the time to listen to those concerns and see if they're valid or not, and a study group that will try to figure out a way to address a problem in the long coming is much better than just trying to rush through some kind of legislation that might have unintended consequences, so I've appreciated listening to the representative talk about this because it's not something that necessarily hits me in my town but I have noticed it when I'm driving

through other areas and said, boy this doesn't look right, so thank you for bringing this issue up.

I appreciate -- and I do appreciate even the people that have other point of views. I try to learn from them but to just sit here and say that we shouldn't talk about anything else if it doesn't have to do with the budget, well we've been up here -- many of us have been up here for a lot of years and just because something's not important to you, doesn't mean it's not important. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us? 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 BERGER (73RD):

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to see if your vote has been properly cast? If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally. Representative Kokoruda, do you wish to be recognized, ma'am?

REP. KOKORUDA (101ST):

Yes, I do. Mr. Speaker, I was late pushing my button. I'd like to lodge my vote as a nay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Kokoruda will be in the no. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 5377

Total number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	83
Those voting Nay	61
Absent not Voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Bill passed (Gavel). Representative Lesser,
what was the reason why you rise, sir?

REP. LESSER (100TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. LESSER (100TH):

Mr. Speaker, we are joined this morning by
students from the McDonough School in Middletown. I
want to welcome so many constituents to this
Chamber. They are in the gallery right now and I
would just ask that this House extend our usual warm
welcome to the students of McDonough School.

[Applause]

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Lesser. The Chamber
will return to the Calendar. Will the Clerk please
call Calendar No. 89?

CLERK:

On page 7, Calendar No. 89, House Bill No.
5331, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHILDREN'S REPORT CARD.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Children.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43RD):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Urban, you have the floor.

REP. URBAN (43RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would let our good colleague, Representative Belsito know that this bill or this law actually did start with a study group and the study group was enormously successful and we now are the only state in the country that has a children's report card. We have other states that have been enormously interested. I presented in Ireland on this. I presented in

Montana, Oregon, New York, Tennessee, Texas, so we are actually leading the country in what we do on using data-informed decision making with our children. However, we need to catch up a little bit on the language in the bill, Mr. Speaker, because we are now going to formally have -- instead of just a working group -- we are going to formally have a group that will advance the issues for children and families in the state of Connecticut. That would be a 38-member group. We are changing some of the indicators because of things being updated, and we are also now looking not just to primary indicators but secondary indicators. With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

And, you're moving adoption. Is that correct?

REP. URBAN (43RD):

Yes, and I would move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, madam. Representative Zupkus of the 89th, ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. ZUPKUS (89TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my good colleague, the chair, her being an economist and my data skills when I look at this one of the things it adds is a group of 38 people and to me that does seem like a lot of people on a committee, but I do stand in support of this and I thank my good chair for all of her good work through her report card that she has done on this, so I encourage my colleagues to vote yes. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Abercrombie.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good morning. Just a quick question for the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Yes, madam. Please proceed.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in favor of this body. I think that the report card has done some great work around children's issue. My question for you and I apologize that I didn't see it in here.

Who will be clerking this work group?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43RD):

Thank you for that question, Representative Abercrombie. As always, the Children's Committee has been the one that has been clerking this.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the bill before us? Will you comment further on the bill before us? 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 BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 5331

Total number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Absent not Voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The bill passes (Gavel). Clerk, please call Calendar 94.

CLERK:

On page 8, House Calendar 94, substitute House Bill No. 5364, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF HORSESHOE CRABS. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Gresko.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. H.B. 5364 and its amended language would PROHIBIT HAND HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE CRABS FROM THE STRATFORD SHORT BEACH AREA, SPECIFICALLY SNIFFENS POINT TO STRATFORD POINT. We passed this bill in a similar form last year. The major change is that the DEEP Commissioner would need to report back by 2020 where they believe additional harvesting restrictions could be in place along Connecticut's shoreline. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. The bill has been moved for adoption. Will you comment further on the bill? Representative Harding of the 107th, sir.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Mr. Speaker, just a couple of questions to the proponent if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please prepare yourself, Representative Gresko. Please proceed, Representative Harding.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker, just one question in regards to the Stratford shoreline. Could the good proponent please explain what makes the Stratford shoreline extraordinary in the circumstances where a ban would be necessary?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Gresko.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A 20 or close to 20-

year-long project called Project Limulus. It's earmarked and done by Sacred Heart University, and they have documented through numerous years-worth of data the need for protection in this area, and it is also a prime spawning area, so these creatures have been around for 400+ million years. They just need a little privacy.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Harding.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker [Laughing]. Through you, Mr. Speaker, and what is the hope that this ban would accomplish?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Gresko.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ban would hope to accomplish an increase in spawning. Over the course of the last decade, the numbers of horseshoe crabs, not only in Stratford, but in Long Island Sound have

been on the decline, so we're hoping to bump up the population.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Harding.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you, Mr. Speaker, another question if I may? It's my understanding that also within this bill it requires DEEP to make recommendations to the Environment Committee on possible other areas where a ban would be in place or maybe some changes to the season, so those are strictly recommendations and would have to be passed through the legislature, anything that DEEP would recommend.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Gresko.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct. 2020 is the target date so that DEEP can get some data from Sacred Heart University hopefully and also the

Atlantic Marine fisheries and their population count with the idea of putting out a more uniform positioned regulations as far as the population of horseshoe crabs so we don't end up having a patchwork of materials. Right now, there's a prohibited area in Milford. There's also one in Westbrook, and there's also one out towards Stonington way, so we're looking for a more uniformed regulation. Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you. Representative Harding.

REP. HARDING (107th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and one more question if I may, Mr. Speaker, through you? Has the good proponent or does the good proponent know of the fishing industry and their thoughts on this particular bill?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Gresko.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The number of licenses

that have been issued to hand harvest horseshoe crabs over the past few years has been on the decline with the age of the individual who is actually taking out the license also increasing, so the thought is that as we get more educated as to the importance of the horseshoe crab, to vaccines for us for one thing, that we'll have a positive outcome with this. Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Harding.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and if I may just a final comment. I want to thank the good proponent for his work on this bill, as well as the leadership in the Environment Committee. The Sacred Heart Study that's referenced by the good proponent in this particular bill brings some great statistics to this particular issue in regards to how important the Stratford shoreline is to the spawning in the horseshoe crab community, so I think it is a common

sense initiative. It's a good approach for the environment and for the health of the sound, and I would urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Gresko, you had moved passage. Am I correct?

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

I did move adoption. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Passage.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Passage.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Yes.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us? If not, will staff and guest come to the well of the House? Will members please take your

seat? 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 BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 5364

Total number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Absent not Voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Bill passed (Gavel). Chamber recognizes

Representative McGee. For what purpose do you rise, sir?

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

I stand for the purpose of an introduction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. On today, we have the grand opportunity of welcoming the ladies of Links -- the Links Incorporated during their Links at the legislature day, and so you can see clearly, I am surrounded by beautiful women here in the Chamber [Cheering] [Applause]. With that said, this organization represents just about every town, city, you name it in this Chamber and I'd like to just recognize several of the local presidents. We have Cathy Graves of New Haven; Cheryl Battles, Fairfield, Connecticut; Lillian Holmes, Milford; Elizabeth Ross-Norman, Farmington Valley; and lastly, Adrian Parkman of Waterbury. If this Chamber could just indulge me for a second, stand to your feet and give these ladies a round of applause

for being here? Thank you so much. [Applause]

[Cheering]

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative McGee, and welcome to the Chamber ladies. Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. May I make an introduction, please?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. TERCYAK (26TH):

Thank you. Today, we are joined in the gallery. Many of us have gone out and met them already by folks who are coming here from our state universities. I have spoken with folks from CCSU. I see folks from Southern are up in the gallery and others have been well represented too. They are here talking to us about the future of our state and supporting higher education appropriately. I'd hope that we'd all be able to stand, applaud, give them a good welcome, thank you very much for coming and joining us in the legislature. [Applause]

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Tercyak. The Chamber will now return to the call of the Calendar. Will the Clerk please call Emergency Certified House Bill 5592?

CLERK:

Emergency Certification Bill No. 5592, AN ACT WAIVING ANY PENALTIES IMPOSED ON A BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR MAKING REDUCTIONS TO ITS BUDGETED APPROPRIATION FOR EDUCATION AS A RESULT OF CUTS TO ITS EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018, introduced by Representative Aresimowicz, Representative Ritter, Representative Klarides, Representative Candelora, Senator Looney, Senator Duff, Senator Fasano, and Senator Witkos.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fleischmann of the 18th, sir.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bill before us represents the collaboration of the leaders of all four caucuses of the General Assembly and my hat is really off to them for recognizing and responding to a challenge that we faced due to the unusual budget circumstances that we've had over the last year. As most people in this Chamber know, after the last fiscal year got underway, there were a number of districts that faced rescissions to their ECS dollars from the executive branch and without action by the General Assembly, there was a danger that many of the districts that had to endure these rescissions would have a second unfair indignity visited upon them namely a penalty from the state of Connecticut for their failing to satisfy the minimum budget requirement. Now, that penalty would make no sense because most of the districts that reduce

their education spending only did so because their dollar from the state had been cut and their reductions reflected those cuts, so the measure before us in section 1 protects all those districts from an unfair penalty that would otherwise be imposed.

Sections 2 and 3 also recognize the unusual circumstances we have. Essentially, they make sure that the base for calculation of minimum budget requirement going forward and the education arena is based on what was budgeted in the last fiscal year and what's budgeted in the next fiscal year. The folks on the 5th floor working in conjunction with our leaders figured out that this would be the fairest way to make sure that education expenditures reflected what was appropriate and also reflective of state support for the local education authorities, so I hope the entire Chamber will join me in supporting this good measure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Fleischmann.

Representative Dubitsky. Representative Lavielle of the 143rd.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Still. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this bill and I just wanted to confirm with the chair of the Education Committee something for -- I think that the way the MBR works is not always understood by everyone and it is something that we look at once every 2 years with the budget cycle and sometimes modify, sometimes don't, so this particular bill applies to the current 2-year budget cycle that is now in progress? That's my question.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the good

representative for his answer and again, I urge everyone to join me as well in supporting the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Dubitsky of the 47th.

REP. DUBITSKY (47TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I echo the sentiments of the chairman and the ranking member of the Education Committee. I thank the leadership of all four caucuses for putting this bill together. There are towns that sort of got swept up in the whole budgetary processing and had problems with their education budgets and this bill thankfully will resolve most of that, so I encourage my colleagues to support it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative O'Dea of the 125th.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a brief question. Through you to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fleischmann, please prepare yourself. Representative O'Dea, please proceed.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

What towns are affected to the point where this is going to assist them in their -- in the subject issue?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I do not have a list of the affected towns in front of me but an easy way to think about it is this -- none of the 30 alliance districts in the state of Connecticut had any rescissions visited upon them during the fall of 2017, so none of them were in danger. Many of the districts that are not alliance did have these cuts, and the ones that we're protecting most are the ones that had reductions that they made in their education budgets that were large enough that they would not have met the prior definition of minimum budget requirement.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that response. I would urge my colleagues to support this. I don't think there should be the minimum requirement on any of our towns but at least, this rectifies a problem that the state created for our districts. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative McCarty of the 38th.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to make a quick comment. I too rise in support of this bill as it has adversely impacted some of the towns and Montville happens to be one of those towns, so I would urge my colleagues to please support this bill, and I also thank the leadership and the leaders of the Education Committee for their work on this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Ryan of the 139th. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to join with my colleagues in thanking the chairman of the Education Committee, as well as our leadership for remedying a situation that the towns found themselves in, not making of themselves. I'm just also having to concur with Representative Dubitsky - - something I thought I'd never say on the floor of this House [Laughter] -- and I appreciate his comments as well, sir. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Harding of the 107th.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and just through you, Mr. Speaker. Just one question to the proponent if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, this -- any cuts made by the Board of Education in these matters, it would have to be strictly due to the cuts from Hartford. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fleischmann.
REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Not quite. What this bill does is it says if a district got rescissions from the state of Connecticut and then responded as many districts did by making commensurate cuts in their local education spending and those cuts that they made locally brought them below the minimum budget requirement that we had previously established, they were gonna get penalized and this bill protects them from those penalties, so your colleague had asked me, you know, what districts are affected. There were potentially dozens but the only one's who local cuts would have put them in harms way for the type of penalty that we're protecting them from here are Killingly,

Southington, Watertown, Canterbury, Montville, and Groton.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Harding.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to appreciate -- I appreciate the good proponents answer, as well as the hard work by the leadership in the Education Committee on this bill. It's certainly the last thing we want to do is impose a penalty on these board of educations for something -- for us not doing our job in Hartford to properly fund these schools, so it makes sense to address this, and I appreciate all the hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us? 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 BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

Emergency Certification 5592

Total number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	141
Those voting Nay	2
Absent not Voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Bill passed (Gavel). Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 185?

CLERK:

House Bill No. 5492, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS' NONPAYMENT FOR CERTAIN UTILITY AND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Banking.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Lesser of the 100th.

REP. LESSER (100TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's House Bill 5402. Mr. Speaker, I move the acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Lesser, you have the floor, sir.

REP. LESSER (100TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a pro consumer bill that makes a minor change to the requirements for certain utilities to report certain information to consumer credit agencies that extends for certain licensed utilities the amount of time from 60 to 120 days that expands notice requirements. Many of the members of this House will think that this is Deja vu all over again because this identical language passed the House unanimously in the 2017 legislative session. Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Lesser.
Representative Simanski of the 62nd, sir.

REP. SIMANSKI (62ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stand in strong support of this bill. Yes, we did pass it out of the Chamber last year and this makes the bill a little more consumer friendly. It may not be important to members of this Chamber here but to our low income and to our seniors, this is an extremely

significant change because what it does is it requires change from 60 days to 120 days before utilities can report a credit delinquency and many of our low income and seniors they have a problem paying their basic utility bills, so this will make them bring a little less concern and anxiety on their part and many of them don't even realize that a report of a 60-day delinquency to one of these credit reporting agencies can lower their FICO score by as much as 70 points, making it pretty much impossible for them to get loans, mortgages, and other things that require a credit report.

So, I would strongly urge all the members of this assembly to support this bill as I will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the bill before us? Representative Candelora of the 86th, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I may, just a question to the proponent of the bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Thank you, sir. I was just wondering -- we're leaving the telecommunication companies at 60 days and why we're making that distinction between them and the utilities?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you to the good representative from North Branford, you know, I think the concern was that there was a more competitive market there and it was in response to a variety of conversations with industry stakeholders that we agree to strengthen notice requirements but leave the 60-day threshold intact.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No further questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us? 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 BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 5402

Total number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Absent not Voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Bill passed (Gavel). Chamber recognizes Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that we immediately transmit Emergency Certified Bill No. 5592 to the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

So moved. Representative Guerrero.

REP. GUERRERA (29TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a point of introduction?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. GUERRERA (29TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Chamber, it gives me great honor today to introduce

two individuals from my district from Rocky Hill, two extraordinary people that have helped the town of Rocky Hill in regards to their service. The mother, first of all, Tejal Vallam, who is from Rocky Hill. Give her a big hand [Applause] and ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you this. The future governor and I mean this. This individual knows everything there is to know about politics inside and out and I guarantee this that someday he will be in the House or in the Senate and even in the governor's office. It's a great pleasure to introduce Sheel Vallam. Give him a big hand everyone. [Cheering] [Applause]

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Welcome to the Chamber. I'm sure you should be very, very proud and we look forward -- everyone in this Chamber -- to your future political career and knowledge. Thank you. Welcome again. We will now return to the call of the Calendar. Will the Clerk please call -- oh, I'm sorry. Excuse me.

Representative Lemar of the 96th.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for -- are you okay?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

I'm fine.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

I rise for the purpose of announcement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Federal Fair Housing Act and while we're here in Connecticut, we have in the last few decades taken a meaningful role in providing affordable housing and ending chronic homelessness in our communities. I want people to think back to 50 years ago before the Federal Fair Housing Act was signed, a time when redlining and racially restrictive covenants, a time where racial segregation was so pervasive in this country that President Lyndon Johnson said at the time that America was moving toward two societies, one black, one black, separate, and unequal.

Fifty years ago, we removed from many of our communities the ability to write home loans, to restrict the purchase of property, and to remove from those communities the ability to say who can and cannot live there based upon the color of their skin. It has only been these five decades in Connecticut where we finally allowed truly open and accessible communities for all of our residents. We still have work to do here in Connecticut. You'll often see bills proposed by either my committee Planning and Development or the Housing Committee to help address these underlying structural systemic issues that still persist, but Connecticut has taken many positive steps in achieving that true vision established 50 years ago today, so I just want to make sure that this Chamber was aware of the importance that April 11 has in our history and how far that we have come, but that there is still work to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Cook.

REP. COOK (65TH):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. How are you today?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good afternoon, ma'am.

REP. COOK (65TH):

Mr. Speaker, we are honored to have students from the Vogel-Wetmore School in Torrington up in the gallery. They were with us a little while ago and then they left and now they're back. They are making their rounds of all of the government offices here in the state, so I would just like our Chamber to give them the honorary welcome and let them know that we're very happy to see us in action.

[Applause]

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Welcome to the Chamber. Representative O'Dea of the 125th, sir.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick question to Representative Guerrero's guest, Mr.

Vallam. I'm just curious are you in favor of tolls or not? [Laughter]

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Guerrero, the esteemed chair -- House chair of the Transportation. Do you care to answer that, Representative?

REP. GUERRERA (29TH):

Without a doubt, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. GUERRERA (29TH):

And, I thank the individual for that question and I think from the smile on this young man's face says it all. Absolutely! [Cheering] [Applause]

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

It seems somewhat like a divided House, Representative. Representative Case of the 63rd.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of myself and Representative Ohler, who also represents Torrington, we want to welcome Vogel School here

today, so thank you for coming in. Thank you.

[Applause]

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Very well done. I believe we can now return to the call of the Calendar. Would the Clerk please call Calendar No. 140?

CLERK:

On page 13, Calendar 140, House Bill No. 5255, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER ADVISORY COUNCIL. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Human Services.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Abercrombie, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good afternoon.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Autism Advisory Council was established back in 2006, I believe, and at that time, we didn't know what the future would look like of this body, so we had put a sunset date in the proposal. What this does is just remove the sunset date.

Through you, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The good Representative moves passage of the bill. Will there be comment further on the bill as before us? Representative Case of the 63rd.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and as the good chairwoman says, this is a bill that we just don't want to allow the Autism Spectrum Group to sunset, so I urge all my colleagues to approve so this good

advocacy group can move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the bill before us? Representative Kokoruda of the 101st.

REP. KOKORUDA (101ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support. The Autism Advisory Council is doing great work and I think everyone should support taking this sunset date off. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, ma'am. Will you comment further on the bill before us? Will you comment further on the bill before us? If not, will staff and guest 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 BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 5255

Total number Voting	145
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	145
Those voting Nay	0
Absent not Voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Bill passed (Gavel). Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 121?

CLERK:

On page 11, Calendar 121, House Bill No 5335,

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALIGNMENT OF THE COORDINATED STATE-WIDE READING PLAN WITH THE STATE'S TWO-GENERATIONAL INITIATIVE. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The Chamber recognized Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Request is for the Chamber on acceptance of Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Fleischmann, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the eye contact. The measure that is before us today will make a modification to the state-wide reading plan that this general assembly instructed the State

Department of Ed to put in place 5 years ago, and the two-generational initiative, which members of this Chamber helped lead into it since last year in conjunction with the office of Early Childhood. Essentially, what the measure before us does is ensures that when it comes to reading instruction the State Department of Ed will make sure that all the initiatives we have recently taken are incorporated into the state-wide reading plan, and when it comes to the two-generational initiative, that the Office of Early Childhood will make sure we have alignment there for kindergartners through 3rd graders.

So, in essence, this measure takes some good steps we've taken and makes them stronger. I'd like to thank the State Department of Education and the office of Early Childhood for supporting this, the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors, and Representative Pat Billie Miller, who I haven't seen here today, but who has been a leader in making sure that early childhood reading gets properly incorporated into all of our state-wide plans. I

hope the entire Chamber will join me in supporting this important measure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Fleischmann. Representative Hampton. Representative Lavielle of the 143rd.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this bill, which essentially takes two very good initiatives that are already in progress and are doing well and ensures that they are coordinated. It has no fiscal note. This seems to be very -- to make extremely good sense and I'm very pleased to support it. There's nothing more important than early reading. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Adams of the 146th. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Will members -- Representative McCarty.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. It took me a while to press the button there. I just wanted to stand in very, very strong support of the legislation before us. You know, this is a comprehensive approach to help our families with literacy. It helps the children K through 3, but it also helps the adults and hopefully, it will lead to more employment and to a better quality of life for the entire families, so I rise in very strong support and I am very pleased to say that there was notice given to the Even Start program and that there will be an effort to subsume the Even Start program into the Two-Gen program and to continue the great work and the critical work that has taken place there, so thank you for the opportunity to rise in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the bill before us? Will you comment further on the bill before us? 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 BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

Bill No. 5335

Total number Voting	145
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	145

Those voting Nay 0

Absent not Voting 5

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Bill passes (Gavel). Clerk, please call
Calendar No. 44.

CLERK:

On page 2, Calendar 44, Substitute House Bill
No. 5177, AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION OF
REQUESTS MADE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.
Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on
Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The Chamber recognizes Representative Winkler.
REP. WINKLER (56TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

The only change in the statute this bill makes is if a state employee's information is the subject of an FOI request, after the information is released, the employee and his or her union, if any, will receive a copy of the FOI request within a reasonable time. The substitute language in this bill passed unanimously 16 to nothing in GAE and I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Winkler, move passage of the bill?

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Move passage. Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the bill? Representative Devlin of the 134th, ma'am.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Mr. Chairman, thank you. Through you, a question of questions for the proponent of the bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Winkler, please prepare

yourself. Representative Devlin, please proceed.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you, so through you Mr. Chairman, what would constitute a reasonable timeframe for which one of these requests to be shared with the individual that it was requested about?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Thanks to esteemed member -- ranking member for that question. The agency would determine what a reasonable time would be. We did not provide a hard deadline because we didn't want anybody to get caught up in violating any sort of deadline, and we did not believe this would be a problem in that the agency shortly after it releases the information will want to notify the person and then close the file.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Good, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and then through you to the good representative, could he please define what defines a reasonable attempt to be able to make notice.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (73RD):

Yes, any attempt be it email or regular mail. There is no certification of acceptance that would be needed. All they would have to do is show that they made an attempt through either email or regular mail to inform the person of the request.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the good Representative's answers. This is a common-sense bill. It meets the simple requirement of sharing information with somebody if there has been a request made within their employee file that they be notified of that and shared a copy. The good Representative has answered my questions and I urge

support for the bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Fishbein of the 90th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. FISHBEIN (98TH):

If I may, I just had a few questions for the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. GUERRERA (29TH):

Thank you, sir. I notice that we're putting the onus on the determination of what constitutes a -- what legally constitutes an invasion of privacy on the agency, and is it true -- from what I see, we give no guidance to the agency as to what would possibly constitute an invasion of privacy?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Thank you for the question. That is existing statute. That is not new, and each agency has somebody who's trained to make that determination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking on, we're still in that (2) section. Am I to read this correctly in that the agency is to collect the documents they believe not to be an invasion of privacy, to send them to the requestor, and then after that at some unknown, although reasonable time, to send a copy to the employee. Is that fair?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker. They don't send a copy of the information. They only send a copy of the request for the information.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there some reason why it wouldn't be done at the same time? If it's merely a copy of the request but not the documents, why not give the employee notice at the time the documents are going out?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Well, the member can certainly ask what information was released about them. It is possible that most agencies will make a package with the request and the information and send it to all parties, but we did not want to put the onus on the agency to have to send more than a single page.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I heard incorrectly. I thought that all the employee gets

is that copy of the request, which is more than like a single page.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

That is correct.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, so I renew my question why is the employee not given a copy of that single page at the time that they're employee records are going out?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Yes. Representative Fishbein, could you hold one second, please? (Gavel) Yes, the Chamber -- we're having a little bit of difficult hearing the dialogue between the representatives on the Q&A, so if we could please take our louder conversations out

of the Chamber. Representative Fishbein, could you please restate the question for Representative Winkler.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the request is one page, as I think we've established, my inquiry is why we would not give the employee who knows nothing about this request at this time, a copy of that request at the time the records are going out?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Well, we do give the employee a copy of the request within a reasonable time of the documents going out. We didn't want to put an additional burden on the agency for something that the worker probably already knows. For instance, say that a request was made for the employee's attendance records. The employee already knows their attendance record, so there's really no reason to

force the agency to provide the employee with information they already have about themselves. Certainly, a member can go and ask to see what was released but, in many cases, it would not be necessary.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, so a scenario -- the Hartford Courant does a request for the representative's aide's attendance records. Am I to understand that there is no statutory notice to that individual that request is being done by the Hartford Courant until after the Hartford Courant already has those records?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

That is correct. There is no requirement for notification now and under this bill, there would

only be notification after the information was released.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out how we deal with this differently with the banking statute. If I was to subpoena somebody's banking records, there's a statute that says that I have to give them at least 10 days to object to the disclosure of those records. I think here employment records, things that are in somebody's employee package are perhaps even more protected, and I just find it very difficult to understand why we would have the records go to a third party before the employee even knows those records are going out, so thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the rest of the debate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the bill before us? Will you remark

further on the bill before us? 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 BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 5177

Total number Voting	145
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	2

Absent not Voting

5

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Bill passes (Gavel). The Chamber recognizes esteemed Majority Leader Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick housekeeping announcement for the Chamber. You may want to pay attention, particularly if you're a member. We are not going to be in session tomorrow, so we will not -- that is a no -- for a session tomorrow. We've acknowledged that Tuesday we will also not be in session already, so we will resume our business Wednesday at 10:30. Given the speed with which we did the last two days, I would imagine we have some very longer days and light nights potentially going forward, so we're back in next Wednesday, and we have one bill remaining today, so if members could stay close to the Chamber, we can wrap that up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader. The Chamber recognizes esteemed chair of the Aging Committee,

Representative Serra, for an announcement, sir.

REP. SERRA (33RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for people who are attending the Italian-American Legislative Caucus Educational Fund this evening in Middletown, it will -- cocktails hour will start at 6, dinner at 7 sharp. I would tell people who are going down there leave around 5:30 or so because there's traffic and you can park anywhere around the facility, and if you have any problems, see me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

[Laughing] Thank you, Representative Serra. The Chamber will now return to the call of the Calendar. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 116?

CLERK:

On page 10, Calendar 116, Substitute House Bill No. 5205, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTEE ASSOCIATION. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Real Estate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This bill makes several changes to the Connecticut Life and Health Insurance Guarantee Association, which pays the valid claims that policy holders and certain other claimants when a member insurer defaults. It's a bill that had broad support in our committee and I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative moves passage of the bill, sir?

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Move for passage of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Yes, sir. Representative Sampson of the 8th.

REP. SAMPSON (8TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur with the esteemed House Chairman of the insurance committee. The bill before us is a good bill. Essentially, what it does is it strengthens the safety net for consumers when it comes to protecting against the insolvency of different types of insurers. If you have been following the news, you know that long-term care insurance is something that's constantly in the news because it's a relatively new type of product and the insurers that have invested in that line of business have taken great risk to do so, and we want to make sure that we have a competitive marketplace with as many possible insurance carriers participating and competing in that marketplace, and the way to do that is to make sure that there is protections in place to make sure that they can

remain solvent. This is an agreement that had been put together by members of the insurance industry to essentially spread the risk against insolvency among a larger group of insurers. It's a good bill. It has support of the insurance department. It came out of our committee unanimously. It is both pro-business and pro-consumer, and it's a wonderful thing when we get to do something that's positive across the board that everyone seems to agree with, and I urge my colleagues to support it wholeheartedly. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Sampson. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us? 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 BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 5205

Total number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Absent not Voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Bill passed (Gavel). The Chamber recognizes Representative Hilda Santiago for the purpose of announcement. Chair recognizes for purpose of announcements, Representative Santiago.

REP. SANTIAGO (84TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to do the

Chamber Journal notations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, ma'am.

REP. SANTIAGO (84TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative D'Agostino in district business. Representative Pat Miller personal family emergency. Representative Ziogas out on district business. Representative Genga is ill. Rep Lemar legislative business outside the Chamber, and that's it Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purpose of Journal notations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Representative Pavalock-D'Amato is out on maternity leave and Representative Machlachlan is

back in the district working. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. The Chamber recognizes
Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move
that we refer the bills on the go list to the
committees indicated.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Is there objection? I'm seeing none. Without
objection, they are so ordered.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and if there is no
further business on the Clerk's desk -- [off record
talking]. Oh, I guess there's more announcements,
so I will hold off. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Walker, I'm sorry.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a point
of announcement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, ma'am.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

I'd like to say that Appropriations will be meeting on Tuesday at 11 o'clock in 2c to review bills that have been submitted to us.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Than you, Madam Chair. Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For an introduction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ROJAS (9TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For many school districts around the state, this week is a vacation week and with that, that gives me the opportunity for my daughters and my wife to come visit us today and I would be remiss if I didn't introduce them. I'd be in big trouble when I got home, so.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Yes.

REP. ROJAS (9TH):

[Cheering] [Applause] So, thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Again, welcome to the Chamber. The Chamber recognizes Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that there is no further business on the Clerk's desk, I move that we adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Is there objection? I'm hearing none. The House is adjourned subject to Call of the Chair.

(On motion of Representative Albis of the 99th District, the House adjourned at 1:53 o'clock p.m., sine die.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 126 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on Wednesday, April 11, 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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