

THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2018

(The House of Representatives was called to order at 11:12 o'clock a.m., Speaker Aresimowicz of the 30th District in the Chair.)

CLERK:

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

Members to the Chamber.

CLERK:

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

(Gavel) Will the House please come to order. Will members, staff, and guests please rise and direct your attention to the Dais where Guest Chaplain, Representative Buckbee will lead us in

prayer.

REP. BUCKBEE (67TH):

Good morning.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as we come together today, we give you thanks for the good gifts you give us. Help us to keep our minds clear and focused on all we need to achieve and guide us as we continue to serve the good citizens of our state. Amen.

(All) Amen.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Thank you. Not only would I like to thank Representative Buckbee for the wonderful prayer, but also the tee shirt he brought me [Laughter]. A little, Schoolhouse Rock, for all of us that remember. [Applause] I have a special guest here today and I would like Bella Salina who lives in the 30th District to come up and she will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. [Applause]

ISABELLA D. SALINA:

(All) I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for

which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible,  
with liberty and justice for all.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Thank you. Is there any business on the  
clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. The only business I have is  
the daily calendar.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative  
Ritter of the 1st District.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, top of the morning to you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Good morning, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Just for - I'll make the announcement on our  
side, although I think the same thing will happen on  
the other side. We're going to do a couple bills  
this morning and then we're going to go into caucus,  
just so people are aware. Again, a couple bills and  
then the caucus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Abercrombie of the 83rd. You have the floor, madam.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Good morning, madam.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Just for the purpose of announcement, I feel like a mother that has to keep telling her children, 'guys, Friday is dress down day, please, please give your contributions. This Chamber has always been more than generous and we would expect nothing less. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Representative Abercrombie, would you remind us the charity that will be benefitting from our donations again, please?

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. It's the home in Bridgeport for women Veterans and their children. We did give

to them a couple of years ago and they were actually here last week when we were doing our donations for clothing. It's a great organization and actually the organization has such recognition that now New York has come into Connecticut to work with them with this population and to try and build a home there that mirrors what we're doing in Connecticut, so this is just a really worthy organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Representative Hennessy of the 127th. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just another friendly announcement that Save a Suit is being held May 3rd, Thursday. We're going to help Veterans look great for job interviews and we're asking that you donate your gently used men's and women's professional clothing; suits, dresses, shoes, ties, shirts, sports jackets, etc. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Orange of the 48th District. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Please proceed.

REP. ORANGE (48TH):

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to Cathy Abercrombie as well as, and I don't see her in the Chamber, Melissa Ziobron. They not only share the same day, but they share the same year, Mr. Speaker. If we could give them an applause here. [Applause]

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Thank you very much, madam. I see Representative Urban of the 43rd District. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. URBAN (43RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Please proceed.

REP. URBAN (43RD):

Mr. Speaker, in the Capitol today between 12:00 and 2:00 p.m., they will be honoring the life of Bob Burns who is an amazing guy who worked with NOFA organic farming food. Ben and Jerrys will be there as will Cornucopia, so I know that people are gonna wanna come down, share some really good food, and celebrate the life of Bob Burns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Representative Albis of the 99th District. You have the floor, sir.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Good morning.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to know.

Representative Orange maybe purposefully forgot to

mention this, but yesterday was Representative Lesser's birthday, so I don't see him in the Chamber right now, but if we could just give him a round of applause, I'm sure he'll appreciate it.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Sure. [Applause] Representative Ackert of the 8th District. You have the floor, sir.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to make sure that when I made this announcement you were there because you're a big football fan. The drafts were just completed over the last week and many of our own state players are going on to the NFL and at Coventry zone, Tommy Myers from UCONN graduated and is headed to 'oh boy, here we go', that place down in Louisiana. He's headed down there. His folks are big Patriots fan, but they're now proud fans of that team down south, so good luck to Tommy Myers and his future in the NFL.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Let's give a round of applause to all the Connecticut athletes that were successful this

weekend. [Applause] Are there any other announcements or introductions? Announcements or introductions? Seeing none. We'll go to the calendar. Oh, Representative Orange, for the second time.

REP. ORANGE (48TH):

I rise for another announcement, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Please proceed, madam.

REP. ORANGE (48TH):

As I hang my head low here, I was told by Representative Abercrombie that Representative Ziobron and Representative Abercrombie do not share the same year to which I thought they did, so I don't want to hear about it from Representative Ziobron who is 10 years younger than Representative Abercrombie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

I'm not sure if that announcement helped you at all, Representative Orange, but we'll accept it just the same. [Laughing]. Will the clerk please call House Calendar 115?

CLERK:

Connecticut General Assembly House of  
Representatives, April 30, 2018. Calendar No. 15.  
Calendar No. 115, Substitute House Bill 5203, AN ACT  
CONCERNING ELECTRONIC PROOF OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE.  
Favorable report of Joint Standing Committee on  
Insurance and Real Estate.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

The esteemed Chair of the Insurance and Real  
Estate Committee, Representative Scanlon, you have  
the floor, sir.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

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

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and good  
morning everybody. The bill before us is a bill

that we passed 137 to 13 last year. It has been before us several times and what it does is it gives consumers and our constituents the right to present an electronic proof of their auto insurance during a traffic stop or when they are proving to the DMV that they do have insurance when they go to register their vehicle. I believe this is a very common sense bill. We are one of only two states in the entire United States that does not allow people to do this. It's us and Utah. Let's try to get to number 49. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Thank you very much, sir. The Ranking Member of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, Representative Sampson of the 80th District. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. SAMPSON (80TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Delightful to see you up there today.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (39TH):

Good to see you, sir.

REP. SAMPSON (80TH):

So, I will just follow-up on the remarks by my good friend and colleague, the Chairman of the Insurance Committee. This particular bill - I'll just make one quick correction. This bill essentially requires that law enforcement accept a digital version of an electronic ID card. My understanding is that this practice is already going on, that law enforcement officials around our state seem to be very willing to accept any type of proof of insurance at a traffic stop including something that's on an ID card. This bill would actually put this into our state law and mandate that that is an acceptable form. You can see where the insurance industry may want to support legislation like this because it may one day lead to them eliminating the requirement that they have to send out a printed ID card.

This is a bill that I've supported over the years in concept and ultimately I voted against it last year on the floor because the language in the bill, it just has some issues on both sides of the argument. In one respect, I think that the concern

is from law enforcement officials that they're being required to do something and they don't necessarily want to be in a box where they have to accept being in contact with the motorist's telephone because there's a potential that something could happen with that telephone.

The other side of the coin is that in this language, to satisfy law enforcement, we have made it so that there is essentially a blanket immunity from liability and, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to vote against the bill today and it is for that express reason. I support this concept. I think it's already happening and the bill is unnecessary because smart people on the street are doing this already. They don't need us to tell them how to do it and the way that this immunity clause is written in the bill is far too broad. It just says that neither the state nor municipality nor agency nor employee of the state or municipality shall be liable for any damage.

And, it doesn't even carve out intentional acts, and for me, that's just too broad a liability

and I'm gonna oppose it. I don't think the legislation before us is the end of the world. It's not that I'm voting no in such tremendous opposition. It's just that I think that before a bill becomes law, before it comes to this Chamber for a vote, it ought to be drafted in a way that is fully thought out and I just don't think this bill makes the cut, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Vail of the 52nd. You have the floor.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and if I could, just a few comments. I think this is good common sense legislation here if people can prove they have insurance. It's 2018. We have new technology. When the bill was originally written, that didn't exist, so I think if they can prove they have the insurance, it keeps people out of court, they don't have to take a day off from work, it's a good consumer bill, and it's good for our court system as well. So, I urge my colleagues to support it.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Ohler of the 64th.

REP. OHLER (64TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can, a few questions to the proponent of the bill.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Yes. Please prepare yourself, Representative Scanlon. Representative Ohler, please proceed.

REP. OHLER (64TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Is this practice already being done in the state, although not a mandate, but is it an option depending on the state police or a local municipality, please Representative?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding as my good friend, the Ranking Member

said, that there are some municipalities and some police officers who automatically do this because most people do assume that they can do that already. This just puts it into statute that as Representative Sampson said they are now required to do this as an option to take it. The person, the motorist, can still use the paper copy to prove they have insurance if they're not comfortable giving the police officer their phone, but they now under this bill would have the option of giving them the phone.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Ohler.

REP. OHLER (64TH):

Thank you and through you, Mr. Speaker, if the motorist only has an electronic version, can the police officer then require that they still have the paper copy or now must the police officer now accept mandated the electronic version?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The police officer must accept the electronic proof of insurance if this bill is to become law.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Ohler.

REP. OHLER (64TH):

Thank you, through you, Mr. Speaker. I noticed testimony from the insurance agencies and the state police department and local police departments who are against this because the language is broad and the fact that this practice is done in certain situations; however, there could be situations where there's a traffic accident and the motorist has to be taken in an ambulance and now that officer has their phone because that's their only proof of insurance.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, has the proponent considered those instances?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I said this in the Committee and I'll say it again. I'm the son, brother, and brother-in-law of police officers and I had some conversations with my relatives about this bill. One of them is a police officer in a different state where this is legal and it's my understanding, just because it's been passed in 40 other states, that in talking to my family members that they just find ways to make this work. You know, whether it's they follow-up with somebody, they talk to the next of kin that arrives at the scene or is going to hospital, and I don't believe that that is a problem that would require us or prohibit us to pass this bill as 40 other states law enforcement has figured out a way to make it work.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Ohler.

REP. OHLER (64TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the good Representative for his time and the answers to the

questions. I will reserve judgement. I know there's a few more speakers on the board, but I do have some concerns about the bill, and again, I'll reserve judgement until I hear other speakers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Albis of the 99th.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise for the purpose of just a few comments. First of all, I want to echo the sentiments that have been said so far this morning that we are one of only two states that don't have this law in current practice and I believe this will help bring Connecticut into the 21st century when it comes to ease of use for the consumer.

I understand that some of the police community did have some concerns about this. I've spoken with a number of folks from the police community and I hear their concerns. I think one thing we can look to do outside of the context of this bill is work

with our DMV to improve the type of information that is provided to police officers at the time of accidents when they look up a driver to find out if they have insurance or not. I could tell, Mr. Speaker, I myself was in a minor accident a couple years ago and I did not have a paper copy of my insurance. I provided the information from my Geico app. The police officer wrote it down. He did not take my phone. He wrote it down by looking at my screen and was able to use that information to process all the necessary paperwork from his end, so there is a way to do this with ease.

I want to thank Chairman Scanlon for taking this bill out and for his work on it. I also want to thank Representative Vail who I worked with on coming up with a compromise on this legislation. I think this is a good piece of legislation that will help move Connecticut into the 21st century. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

Representative Case of the 63rd. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and just a few questions to the promotor of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon. Please prepare yourself. Representative Case, please proceed.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And, so in an instance, you get pulled over and the officer takes your phone and goes and runs records. That phone gets damaged. It says in the bill it holds harmless, but who's actually responsible for that damage to the phone?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. One of the biggest concerns from our friends in law enforcement was incidental damage to a phone. The example was

raised that it's a rainy night. The police officer is juggling multiple phones. One of them accidentally falls, nothing malicious there. We wanted to make sure that the liability there was not gonna be on the police officer who is just trying to do his or her job, so we said specifically in the bill that no municipality or the state, in the case of the state police, would be held liable in the event that the phone was damaged, so therefore, it would be on the motorist themselves would have to incur the cost of the damage.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, through you, if an officer damages the phone, just for clarification, the owner of the phone is responsible.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct, and again, the premise of this bill is to give motorists the choice of either doing a paper copy or an electronic copy, so if you are one of the people who is uneasy with the prospect of giving that officer your phone and potentially having that officer drop the phone, you can continue just giving them the paper copy, and therefore, not the electronic proof.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, and I'm just trying to understand a little bit more. Another question. So, if the officer does take the phone and the phone times out, what does the officer do at that time?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is the officer would have to go back to the motorist

and ask them to use their passcode to unlock the phone. In my understanding based on my conversation with law enforcement, it would be very similar to the story that we heard earlier from Representative Albis where in front of the passenger, the office would maybe take down the person's information and then go back to the patrol car to actually check the insurance as opposed to keeping the phone the entire time, mostly because that problem does probably happen often in other states.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the good Chairman for his answers. I'll listen to anybody else who has some comments to make on this. I am concerned on who's responsible for the phone, if the phone or the device is broken at the time, even if it's for something that's not to be found as an offense, but the phone is dropped and the person that's gotten pulled over is responsible because the

phone is damaged. I think it's very broad in here and I think if you look at the testimony on this bill, it does speak on the very broadness of the bill. I think we are moving towards that and I think it is good intent, but I'll reserve my right when I vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. Representative McGee of the 5th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MCGEE (005TH):

First of all, I got to say thank you so much for bringing this back to the Chamber. It's a very importance piece of legislation. I definitely plan to support it, but just a question. Given the history of many of our police men and women with respect to pulling individuals over and then asking

for insurance, license, etc., a lot of movement happens and perhaps other things could trigger.

My question to you is will there be any training provided to police men and women, state troopers, etc. around this new technology with respect to insurance being available on our phones?

Through you, Mr. Chair, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think that's an excellent question and I think that's something that we need to figure out. I have not in my conversations with law enforcement around this bill been apprised of any - whether it's municipal or state level entity that is planning to train their officers, but the concerns that you're raising are obviously tremendously important, not just in some communities in the state, in every community in the state given the sensitivities around people reaching for things in cars and tragedies that have happened because of misunderstandings there between police

and passengers.

So, I don't know of any specific training that will come of this. There's nothing in the bill mandating that kind of training, but I think it's an important topic that we should be working on together with our partners in law enforcement to ensure that that training happens and to ensure that officers know going forward that people are going to be using things like cellphones to prove that they have auto insurance.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (005TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, I'd also like to, through you, thank the kind gentleman for his response. I just think it's extremely important that as we move along we consider some sort of training or perhaps even deepen the conversation around this, but I think this is a great bill. I really appreciate the Chair for bringing this back to the Chamber and hopefully it will pass. Thank

you so much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. Representative Cook of the  
65th. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. COOK (65TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good morning.

REP. COOK (65TH):

Through you, a couple of questions to the  
proponent of the legislation, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, madam.

REP. COOK (65TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the proponent. As  
I'm reading this legislation and hearing the debate,  
I am to understand that you do have the choice to  
use your cellphone or a paper copy of your insurance  
as we traditionally do today.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Cook.

REP. COOK (65TH):

And, I am understanding, through you, Mr. Speaker, that I would be the person liable if my phone dropped and not the municipality and not the state and not the police officer.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

That is correct.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Cook.

REP. COOK (65TH):

And, through you, Mr. Speaker, as of current day, if I do not have proof of insurance in my paper copy, I could be fined for not having said proof of insurance. Would that be the same if I do not have

proof on my phone and/or on a paper copy?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

That is correct.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Cook.

REP. COOK (65TH):

And, my final question, through you. Given the fact that we are the last remaining two states that do not do this, could the fine proponent of this legislation please explain to me, as we've heard the multiple concerns about this proposed legislation, what have the other states done to rectify their concerns like we have here in our state and is there anything else that we can do to make this better? Me, I think this is a piece of no-brainer legislation. You know, we live by our cellphones and our devices. I went to borrow a car when I had to get a courtesy car on Friday. I didn't have my

hard copy of insurance and they pulled it right off of my phone. I emailed it to them so they had the copy, so for me, I just think this is - this is just the best way for us to go, and quite frankly, people live by those devices and we know that things can get lost in translation, things and you're moving in your car.

So, this protects us I feel as a consumer and a driver. So, my final question again would be through you, Mr. Speaker. Is there anything that differs from our piece of legislation to other states?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It's an excellent question. The two biggest issues the other states have tackled with regard to this is regard to liability and civil liberties. We've talked a lot about the liability piece today, but the civil liberty thing has not come up yet and that is the question of when a person is to use their phone as

proof of insurance, if they were to hand that to a police officer and somebody texted them and said 'hey, the illegal guns and drugs are located at 223 Capitol Avenue', that would not be admissible in court and the police officer could not use that information to then further search the phone or use that as probable cause. They can only view the insurance piece of the phone. They can't look through the phone.

That would be a violation of this law. In addition to that, we have the liability issue, so when we looked around to what other states have done, we modeled our legislation off of other states that took care of their police officers by making sure that they were not liable for accidents and to protect our constituents from invasive searches from the police by making sure the civil liberty protection was in there.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Cook.

REP. COOK (65TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the kind gentleman for that information. It's not actually something that I was thinking about, but you do bring up great points and I believe that we have by putting this piece of legislation forward - have kind of crossed all of our T's and dotted our I's and we know that with any piece of legislation that we pass here, we might need to move forward and make some tweaks maybe next year, the year after, if we find that there's some issues, but I stand in strong support, and again, want to thank the kind gentleman for his legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Cook. Representative Delnicki of the 14th.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Morning.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

I was one of the few people that voted against

the proposed legislation in Committee and at that time I voted against it because I was receiving mixed messages from folks in law enforcement. Some thought it was a great idea. Some thought it was a bad idea.

But, since then I've had an opportunity to speak to the Chief of Police in my community, the Deputy Chief, the line officers, a number of state troopers, and friends that I have in law enforcement and they've all told me that they believe that there are adequate protections in the bill, both for them and for the public. The public still has the opportunity to have a paper copy and not give up their cellphone to show proof of insurance and they also have the option if they chose to.

So, based on that, I will be supporting it today, but again, for anyone that noted that I had voted against it in Committee, I didn't have the information at that point that would lead me to support it. I do support it today, and again, I thank you for the opportunity here, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Linehan of the 103rd. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few questions for the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, through you, my question is that we have had some discussion here today regarding liability on breaking the phone and also about civil liberties. And, it is my belief that that would happen if you hand over the phone; however, my question for you is, because we're talking about the electronic ability to show that you're insured, does that also include the ability to either text message or email the police officer your information so that your phone doesn't need to be handed over at all?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. If you'll bear with me one second, I'll check the exact language of this.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The Chair will please stand at ease.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Through you. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please prepare the Chamber. We'll come back.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

The language does not prohibit you from emailing or texting it to your friendly police officer. It says that the requirement that a person present an automobile insurance card to the Commissioner may be satisfied by electronic means including by an in-person display of an electronic image or a cellular mobile telephone, so in theory that would not prohibit that, but certainly this does not say to law enforcement that they must accept text messages and email copies of this. It just says that they can show it to them and that

does count towards proving that you have insurance.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you very much for that answer and through you, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the ability to text message or email really eliminates these two problems that we've been bringing up; the liability of actually handing over the phone and the civil liberty protections, so even though it is not expressly stated that it is mandated, I do believe that the way the legislation is written that it is possible and I think that you have satisfied those questions here today with that, so I stand in strong support of the legislation and I thank you very much.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, madam. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us? If not, will staff and guests come

to the well of the House? Members, please take your seats. The machine will be open. [Ringing]

CLERK:

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 to confirm if your vote has been properly cast. After all the Members have voted, the machine will be locked. The clerk will take a tally. Clerk, please announce the count.

CLERK:

H.B. 5203.

Total Number Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	139
Those Voting Nay	3
Absent not Voting	8

The bill passed. [Gavel]

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Clerk, please call Calendar No. 133.

CLERK:

On page 16, Calendar 133, Substitute H.B. No. 5219, AN ACT ALLOWING APPLICANTS FOR SECURITY OFFICER LICENSES TO WORK AS SECURITY OFFICERS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Safety and Security.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Verrengia, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, you have the floor, sir.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Request for the Chamber to accept the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is meant to end the delays and the hiring and deployment of security

officers which serve to enhance our public safety. It would allow for newly hired security officers to begin service in an unarmed capacity while their applications are pending a background check, so as long as they successfully complete the training requirements and are under the direct supervision of a fully licensed colleague with at least one year of experience. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Request for Chamber's adoption. Do you have amendment LCO number?

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO 4364, the designated House Amendment A.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

House Amendment A.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 4364 which will be designated House Amendment Schedule A?

CLERK:

LCO No. 4364 designated House Amendment  
Schedule A and offered by Representative Verrengia,  
et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representatives seeks leave of the Chamber to  
summarize the Amendment. Is there objection to  
summarization? Is there objection? Hearing none.  
Representative Verrengia, you may proceed with your  
summarization.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Mr. Speaker, this Amendment would eliminate  
security officers from performing such duties at  
certain locations, specifically at a public or  
private preschool, elementary, or secondary school  
or at a facility licensed and used exclusively as a  
childcare center. I move for adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Question before the Chamber is adoption of the  
Amendment. Will you comment further on the  
Amendment Schedule A that is before us?  
Representative Sredzinski of the 112th. Sir, you  
have the floor.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to speaking on the rest of the bill as the Amendment passes. The Amendment makes the bill stronger and a little safer, so I urge my colleagues to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the Amendment before us? If not, I would try your minds. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Nay? The Ayes have it. Amendment passed. [Gavel]. Will you comment further on the bill as amended? Will you comment further on the bill as amended? Representative Sredzinski of the 112th, sir.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is overall a good job's bill, a good public safety bill, and

something that helps our state of Connecticut in the private sector that deals with security officers. There are 12,000 unarmed private security officers in the state of Connecticut. They're dealing with an issue right now due to no fault of their own because of the backlog of fingerprinted background checks where you will have an applicant go apply to be a security guard and they'll have to wait 14 to 16 weeks for that background check to come. Current state law says that they have to wait for that background check to be complete before they're allowed to work as a private security guard.

As you can imagine, a lot of people during that time decide to take employment elsewhere, move on to a different place, so this bill would prevent that, and there are a lot of safeguards including the ones included on the Amendment that makes this bill strong for public safety as well.

There is an initial background check that has to be done by the agency that hires them. The applicant and the person waiting for their background check needs to be under supervision, not

just supervision, but direct on-site supervision by another security guard that has at least 1 years' experience, so there's a lot of safeguards in this bill that makes it a good bill and one that is not only good for public safety, but good for jobs in the state of Connecticut, so I urge my colleagues to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good morning, sir.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

I, too, stand in support of this bill with Public Safety. We spent a lot of time talking about this, the problem with the background checks coming back for these individuals. I just want to let my colleagues know that the onus is put on the employer here to actually do a background check preliminarily to make sure that, at least through the records that

are available to them, that the person doesn't have a bad criminal record. I'm a little disappointed in the Amendment, although I did support it. I think it waters down the bill a bit, but this is a good start and I just want to point out 'cause I really can't glean it from the language here that this is unarmed security and that should be of some solace to my colleagues also as we open up this market which is sadly needing for the ability of people to fill spots, so thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Cheeseman of the 37th. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and through you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, madam.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Through you, I see that you're required to do federal and state level criminal background checks.

Do such checks include looking at the sexual offender registry? I noticed that we've removed contact with young children, but I was curious as to whether employers were required to check the sexual offender registry as well.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

The answer to that is yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Carpino of the 32nd. Madam, you have the floor. Representative Carpino.

REP. CARPINO (32ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just stand with some concerns, but not any questions. I appreciate the intent of the bill. I understand that it is intended to be a pro jobs bill, but I am concerned

that the Amendment maybe in my eyes didn't go as far. I'm concerned about some of our healthcare institutions, some of our facilities with our seniors, or others who may not have complete use of their faculties at the moment. Unfortunately, I cannot support it based on those reasons. Thank you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Ackert of the 8th. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Good morning, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Morning.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Good to see you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good to see you, sir.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

To the question to the proponent of the bill as amended.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

I am in support of the legislation, but I'm curious as to what got us to this position that we have this much backlog.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

That's a very good question and the answer to that lies in the staffing of our desk and the people responsible for doing the fingerprinting and the background checks, but having said that, we are aware of that and we're working to address that very core issue that is creating this problem.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know we've done things just like this for those that need to get specific occupational licensing. I mean, driver's licenses to be bus drivers and things like this. I

think sometimes we do legislation when we really need to fix the issue that's out there and that is to get the people that are responsible to do their job, the resources, whatever it may be, and you know, people say 'well, Tim, you wanna spend money'.

We're talking about a jobs bill here and we invested job support in some manner, but I guess in this case too often we get backlogged when we should make sure that the jobs are being done so that we can move this along, so I thank the good gentleman for his work on this and others. I will be supportive of the legislation, but I think we really need to fix the underlying problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the bill as amended? Will you comment further on the bill as amended? 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. [Ringing]

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by role.  
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? Have all the Members voted?  
Members, please check the board to see if your vote  
has been properly cast. After all the Members have  
voted, the machine will be locked and Clerk will  
take a tally. Clerk, please announce the count.

CLERK:

Substitute H.B. 5219 as amended by House A.

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those Voting Yea	142
Those Voting Nay	2
Absent not Voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The bill passed. [Gavel] Will the Clerk  
please call Calendar No. 246?

CLERK:

On page 27, Calendar 246, Substitute H.B. No. 5440, AN ACT CONCERNING BUSINESSES REGISTRATION, LICENSING, AND PERMITTING THROUGH THE STATE'S ELECTRONIC BUSINESS PORTAL, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for 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 Simmons, you have the floor.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is a pro-business bill that aims to make it easier for businesses to start up in our state by improving and streamlining the permitting and licensing process. Oftentimes, we hear from businesses that they have

to access multiple permits from multiple different agencies and go through different processes and carry out different reporting requirements for each license and this bill aims to make a one stop shop portal for licensing and permitting.

Other states are moving in this direction and we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to make it as easy as possible for businesses to get the license and permits they need so that they can focus on growing and creating jobs in our state.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has Amendment LCO 4452. I would ask the Clerk to please call the Amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 4452 which we designated as House Amendment Schedule A.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule A, LCO No. 4452, offered by Representative Simmons, Representative Yaccarino, Senator Hartley, Senator Frantz.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the Amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection to summarization? Hearing none. Representative Simmons, you may proceed with your summarization, please.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a friendly Amendment that simply changes the lead for focusing on this business portal expansion to the information in Telecommunication Systems Executive Steering Committee which is currently being co-led by the Department of Administrative Services and OPM.

After consulting with the agencies, we felt that this group would be most appropriate to lead the expansion since they're already working on a number of E-government initiatives including the rollout of CT.gov and I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Question before the Chamber is adoption of Amendment. Will you comment further on House Amendment A? Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. A couple questions to the good Chair of Commerce.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Amendment strikes out --. On my goodness, I can't find the bill. The Secretary of State adds OPM and DAS. Could you explain why?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMANSKI (62ND):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my good REP. for the question. Essentially what the Amendment does is replaces the Secretary of State's office in DCED with this more broad working group, the Information and Telecommunication Systems Executive Steering Committee which includes DAS, OPM, the Secretary of State's office, DCED, and other agencies. Since there's so many different state agencies involved in the permitting process, we thought it would make sense for all these

agencies to collaborate instead of operating in silos as they look to rollout this one stop shop permitting process.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Thank you for that answer. In 2013, this Chamber passed the Steering Committee to task for upgrading our telecommunications and to lead businesses to job sites. I think it's an important Amendment. I do support it. I would personally like to see this actually implemented. It's going to be technically a study. If you listen to businesses, many times it is hard to find certain portals. In 2018, this should be very, very simple, so I support it. I think we should do more for our telecommunications, our communications, and really streamline. You can go to your phone now and pretty much find anything, but if you go to DRS website and DAS or other sites, it's very difficult, so I'd like to see this go forward, but eventually actually

implemented, so I support the Amendment and I support the underlying bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you Representative Simmons.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you. Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the Amendment before us? Will you comment further? If not, I'll try your minds. Those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

All those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. Amendment passed. Will you comment further on the bill as amended? Will you comment further on the bill as amended? Representative Cheeseman of the 37th. Ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I just have a comment. I want to applaud the good Chair of the Commerce Committee for proposing this and the Ranking Member. It is very important that we make it as easy and seamless as possible for those who

wish to start businesses and invest in Connecticut to do so. Ohio has a portal called Ohio Business Central. Seventy-five percent of all the new businesses started in Ohio are started through this portal. One-hundred percent of the filings are available online and I would urge those who are serving on this taskforce to look at best practices from other states. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. If we can steal someone else's wheel and copy it, all to the good because the sooner we make this state as business friendly as possible, the better, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, madam. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended? 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.

[Ringing].

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by role. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by role. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Sampson. Do you want to ask him if he wants to vote? Hey, Andy, do you want to see if Representative Sampson wants to vote? Okay. That's good. Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? Members, please check the board and see if your vote has been properly cast. Have all the Members voted? The machine will be locked. Clerk will take a tally. Clerk, please announce the count.

CLERK:

H.B. 5440 as amended by House A.

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those Voting Yea	144
Those Voting Nay	0
Absent and not Voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The bill as amended passed. [Gavel].

Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As many of you know, we are now going to have a Democratic Caucus in Room 207A immediately upon recess, and if there are no further announcements, then I move that we recess until the call of the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Albis. Are there objections? Seeing none. Chamber will be in recess. [Gavel].

(On motion of Representative Albis of the 99th District, the House adjourned at 12:24 o'clock p.m., sine die.)

(The House reconvened at 3:02 o'clock p.m., Deputy Speaker Berger in the Chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 119?

CLERK:

On page 15, Calendar 119, Substitute House Bill No. 5235, AN ACT CONCERNING LEASING OF MILITARY DEPARTMENT FACILITIES. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Hennessey.

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Hennessey, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What this bill does is it allows the National Guard to open its facility for guard members for certain significant events such as awards, receiving awards, retirement, promotional celebrations.

This is a very important retention tool for the military and it will bring parity to the National Guard that their active Guard members now have, which a member can bring friends and family on to the facility to celebrate significant events, including weddings. I move adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is adoption of the bill. Will you comment further on the bill? Will you comment further on the bill? Representative Ferraro of the 117th, sir.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, I just rise in support of this bill. This bill is a common-sense bill. It basically gives the military a chance to incentivize and help with recruitment by allowing its members and family members to use the on-grounds facilities for certain events. There's no extra cost to the military. And the only time that there would be a cost it would be a chargeable event to cover overtime for employees that might

have to work overtime at the event.

Other than that, there is no fiscal note. It's a great bill and it provides great motivation to our military and their families. Thank you very much, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative, will you comment further on the bill? Will you comment further on the bill? If not, then 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):

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

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Bill 5235,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	147
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The bill passes. (Gavel) The Chamber will stand at ease. The Chamber will come back to order. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 431?

CLERK:

On page 6, Calendar 431, House Joint Resolution No. 156, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF TRACY LEE DAYTON, ESQUIRE, OF WESTON TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Esteemed House Chair of the Judiciary Committee, Representative Tong, you have the floor, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How's Waterbury today?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

It is fine, sir. Thank you.

REP. TONG (147TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the nomination of Tracy Lee Dayton of Weston, Connecticut. Ms. Dayton has a particularly varied career, has had a particularly varied career as a lawyer. She practices now at Levine Lee in New York City, but before that she was the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut for seven years. Before that at Mastercard in-house and then before that

worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York and also in the District Attorney's Office in Los Angeles.

So, Ms. Dayton has practiced in many different fora and courts and offices and has very deep experience. She's a graduate of Princeton and the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law. She made a very strong impression on the Committee and I urge support for the nomination. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative and adoption of the resolution. The esteemed Minority Leader, Representative Klarides, you have the floor, madam.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know we're a little bit out of order. We usually hear from our esteemed Ranking Member at this point, which you will also hear from today. I just felt the need to stand up and make a few comments in regards not just this nominee, but the other new judicial nominees who you will be seeing on the

board today.

For any of you that watch the Judiciary Committee, we had a very robust vetting process as always happens with the Chairs, the Ranking Members and the Members of the Judiciary Committee. The new nominees were asked the appropriate questions to decide if they had the skillset, disposition, background, et cetera, as to whether they would be able to fulfill the job as Superior Court Judge in the State of Connecticut. And I believe every one of them, but one, who has now been withdrawn, hits that standard.

So, I will say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to this Chamber, that we have no question in regard to the qualifications of the judges that we will hear about today that the Governor has nominated as new appointments to the Judicial Superior Court. But we have a much bigger concern with the budget of the State of Connecticut and considering there are 31 judges that the Governor has nominated to the Superior Court, and the Judicial Branch has told us that we can only fund half of those judges. I and

my colleagues on this side of the aisle have serious concerns in regard to the need and more importantly, the ability to fund and pay for these new judges.

Now, I have heard from many people, we'll find the money somewhere. We don't need to find the money somewhere because we don't need all these judges. We could satisfy our need for judges by appointing half of the amount that the Governor appointed, but it has become very clear, the Governor is not interested in that nor have we seen any interest on the other side of the aisle in doing that.

So, I'm standing now, Mr. Speaker, to just let everybody know that this side of the aisle will be voting no on the new judge appointments, but it has nothing to do with their qualifications. I'm sure they are all very qualified to sit on the bench. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebinbas of the 70th, ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. REBINBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly echo everything that the good Minority Leader just shared with the Chamber because we are, and we find ourselves in a very interesting predicament. As the good Chairman had indicated, the nominee before us is a very highly-qualified individual. And I believe would serve as an asset to the bench.

But what we have right now is over 30 nominations of qualified individuals that we absolutely just do not have the ability to house them, afford them or specifically, Mr. Speaker, the need for them.

So, unfortunately right now, our court houses are not equipped for the number of nominees that's before us. Our courthouse does not have the need for it. We don't have the work to support 30 additional nominees. We have statistics, and I'd be more than happy to share it with anyone, showing that all of the business in the courthouses from civil to family to criminal is down, a considerable reduction. And certainly, that's to the credit of

the staff that we currently have. That's to the credit of efficiencies. That's to the credit of E-filing. Many different things that we've already established.

But what we do have a lack of is staff in order for these judges to carry on the business that we ask them to do so. We need Clerks, we need court monitors and for the safety of all, both staff at the courthouses as well as the public that go to the courthouses, we need court marshals.

We are considerably understaffed. We have judges right now doing the work that typically their Clerk's do. That should be unacceptable. So, for that reason, the need is not there. As I indicated, we cannot afford them.

When you take into consideration any one of these nominees, their salary, their benefits, and then the support that's necessary, Clerks and monitors and even court marshals, you're anywhere between \$9-million to \$12-million-dollars a year, a year, for each and every one of these nominees. It's unsustainable.

How are we then going to be able to support them? I would say right now, if we voted for these nominees, right now, we don't have a budget. We do not have a budget. So, how are we going to pay for them?

If you vote for these nominees here today, what you're essentially saying to the residents of the State of Connecticut is you're sending another mandate, a big mandate, a large mandate.

The only way to support these nominees, and I think it's much too easy for people to say, oh, the state will pay for it, the state will pay for it. Last time I checked, the state doesn't have their own budget. In other words, they don't have their own account. The state's account is the people's account, that's our money, our tax dollars.

So, the state essentially is us. So, if we don't have a budget, and we have no way of sustaining let alone the need for these nominees, by voting for these nominees here today, we are fiscally irresponsible because we are mandating that each and every resident of the State of Connecticut

has to pay for individuals that at this time we can't afford, and we have no way of determining how we could afford them.

But I'm still going to go back to the responsibility of the need. Now, it's unfortunate that we find ourselves in this situation, but we didn't place ourselves in this situation. We're simply responsible as legislators to vote responsibly on behalf of our constituents.

It's unfortunate that these qualified individuals, the one before us and any of the ones that are going to be coming further, that they have to be able to suffer in this regard. It's irresponsible. But certainly, Mr. Speaker, not I or my colleagues can support another unfunded mandate that this will cause on our residents in the State of Connecticut.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative O'Dea of 125th. After you -- take a quick drink.

(Laughter)

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

I apologize, Mr. Speaker, I had some chocolate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

That's fine, sir.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

But please don't tell my wife. Sorry, just a couple of quick questions to the proponent, if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong, please prepare yourself. Please proceed, Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

How many unfulfilled staff positions are there in Judiciary at this point in time, not including the judges?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. According to the Judicial Branch, it's my understanding that the Judicial Branch is operating with 650 fewer employees compared to just two years ago.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much. As a practicing litigator, I can tell you firsthand that we have to wait, and I'm talking 10, 15 attorneys at a time, have to wait for court reporters to be done with one courtroom to get to another courtroom. We have to wait for clerks. Many times, there are no clerks.

I know firsthand that a judge literally pushed the red button because of a litigant getting out of control and it took 10 minutes for marshals to finally appear. The judge literally had to run out of the courtroom for her own safety.

This is not the time for us to be putting more judges on the bench when we can't even secure the safety of our current Judiciary and can't have it at the proper staffing levels.

So, I have to agree, back in '09, the Judiciary Committee sent a letter to Governor Rell saying that, you know, at that point in time 12 judges at a cost of about \$3-million-dollars per year should not

be appointed until a budget was passed and a shortfall in staffing of 300 positions. So, literally staffing problems at that point in time were more than half of what the staffing problems are now.

And back then with 300 positions vacant, the leaders of Judiciary Committee had told Governor Rell they wanted to address the budget shortfall prior to appointing any new judges. And back then, the problem was much less than it is now.

My colleagues right now, the proverbial house is on fire fiscally. There are a number of people on this list who are friends of mine, who I know will be excellent jurists. Unfortunately, based on safety concerns, financial concerns, and the state of our House at this point in time, I ask my colleagues to reluctantly vote no against any further appointments. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Smith, you have the floor.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I had the fortunate opportunity to listen to the judges appear before the Judiciary Committee. I must say I was very, very, very impressed with the quality of the candidates that appeared before that committee, with the exception of one.

And I have stood in this Chamber on many occasions in support of the nominees to be members of the bench. And normally I would be doing so today. I did say at the committee level that unless we were to find some money to actually support the funding of these judges that if this vote were to come to a House call that I would have to vote against it. And with reluctance, that's what I'll have to do today, Mr. Speaker, because there is no money to pay, as you have heard. And I hate to reiterate and repeat what's already been said by the Minority Leader, by the Ranking Member of this Committee and a very high-profile member of the Judiciary Committee, Representative O'Dea, but the facts are the facts.

In speaking with the Administrative Judge for the State of Connecticut, he's made it clear to us, several of us who actually practice law and appear before the courts, that the judges are, in fact, not needed. Were that not the case, then we'd be here arguing and trying to find some money to actually support these nominees.

Now, we're going to have a bunch of them and there's no need to stand up for each nominee, it will be an overall position that I'll take to state here today that my vote for a no is a vote because we do not have the money, not because the candidate is not qualified and well deserving, because they are.

Unfortunately, they are and unfortunately, we do not have the money to actually support them. As Representative O'Dea has indicated, and others as well, I have been in court and I have been waiting, along with other lawyers and clients, for members of the staff to appear in court so we can get on with the day's business. And it's not because they're not doing their job, it's because they're called to

two courtrooms at one time and they can only unfortunately be in one place.

So, our court staff as we have it are doing an outstanding job. In fact, they're doing more than they should probably be doing, but they can only do so much. If we're going to spend money, Mr. Speaker, let's spend it on the marshals, let's spend it on the clerks, let's spend it on the staff that support our judges, so we can have a judiciary system that actually works on a timely basis and not hold up the litigants, not hold up the parties, not hold up the cases.

So, again, with reluctance, I stand here today in opposition of the nominees that will appear before us as new members of the court, solely for budgetary reasons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative De La Cruz of the 41st, sir, you have the floor.

REP. DE LA CRUZ (41ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a little statement. I know part of our duties here

are to take care of systems that seem to cost too much money like our schools and judges, for instance but, you know, I'm in a situation right now where this December, I mean this May 11th will be two years since my son was murdered.

The person that murdered my son was arraigned on May 18th. We still don't have a trial date. So, I'm not quite sure of the expediency in the program that we've been talking about. We may be talking about two different areas of the court because I don't think, and I'm not a big fan of the person, but I think a year-and-a-half in jail without a trial is probably a decent amount of time before you can be seen or heard. Again, these judges are 31 and I think through hearing about it, we have about 20 or 25 folks that are going to be retiring.

So, I don't think we're piling on 31 judges on top of the judges we have. And I'm afraid if we don't appoint any judges this year, I'm not sure what the number would be, but if 25 retire from what we have now, are we going to go to a two- or three-year waiting list for a trial? And I hear about how

Texas and everyone talks about how they can move people through the system quickly, I think that's the opposite direction where we're going. We may be looking at these really long lead times and I'm not exactly sure how the judges affect the court room and the scheduling. And I just could only imagine with less judges will come longer waiting time.

So, I think that's part of our responsibility here as an Assembly. We have to weigh everything, you know, and people's justice and their right to a speedy justice. And as a victim's family, I would have loved this trial to be over six months ago, eight months ago.

So, I'm thinking of the next victim that hopefully they can push that trial through faster. Again, I'm sure the amount of judges we have has a lot to do with the speed of the trial. So, I'm going to be voting yes on these judges today because I think we definitely want the system to move in the fashion that it should. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative

Polletta of the 68th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. POLLETTA (68TH):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good afternoon.

REP. POLLETTA (68TH):

I just have a quick question for the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. POLLETTA (68TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that there are 30 new appointments. I have a quick question here, through you. What would the financial impact be of these 30 new appointments on our budget?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe its 30, I believe it's 29, plus 2 additional nominees for 31 and I think it's important to provide as close as I

can a net number. It's my understanding that the cost of a Superior Court judge in annual salary is \$167,634, and that the benefits total \$111,041, for a total, per judge of \$278,675.

So, if you multiplied that by 31, you would get roughly \$8.6-million-dollars. However, it's important to note that there are a number of retirements that have taken place and a number of funded vacancies. And so, in fact, people left the bench, leaving a funded vacancy and we anticipate many more who are either in the process of retiring or going to retire or reach the mandatory minimum, mandatory retirement age.

So, to give you a complete answer, prior to January 1st of 2018, there were already, there were already 28 funded vacancies as of the 1st of the year. As of today, I believe there are an additional four funded vacancies and we anticipate an additional six by the end of the year, based on people's age.

And so, the net number, I understand, is something around \$5-million and not \$8.6-million.

It's also important to note because I think Representative O'Dea made reference to -- I think he said that the house is on fire, but that there is a significant backlog in our Superior Court, at all levels of our court system because of the lack of staff and a crisis with respect to judicial marshals and court reporters and clerks and other staff.

And I would tend to agree that as an experienced litigator, like many people like the Ranking Member, who I know is in our state courts almost every day, that there is a significant need for staff and that there's a significant backlog. The fact that there is a need for staff and a significant backlog of work, doesn't mean that there are a sufficient number of judges. And so, we need to continue to nominate judges to fill what in total is 38, 38 funded vacancies. And so, 31 is less than the 38 funded vacancies.

One more thing I would note is that right now, we are at a 35-year-low, I think, we have 157 total members of the Judiciary. If you add these new nominees and net of the retirements we anticipate at

the end of Governor Malloy's term, there would be 179 judges in panel if all of these nominees are approved.

By way of reference, when Governor Rell left office, there were 193 members of the Judiciary. And with reference to the letter that was referred to earlier by Representative O'Dea, we did ultimately approve all of those judges that Governor Rell nominated and at that time, I believe that \$1.8-million-dollars from the Rainy-Day Fund was dedicated to funding those nominees.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Polletta.

REP. POLLETTA (68TH):

And Mr. Speaker, I thank the good Chair of the Judiciary Committee for his answer. So, if I'm understanding correctly, we're looking at a roughly \$5-million-dollar additional mandate to this budget?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It's an additional net cost, doing rough math, of \$5-million-dollars, it's my understanding.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Polletta.

REP. POLLETTA (68TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again, Representative. So, just my opinion, and echoing off of some of my colleagues' opinions, I can't support spending an additional \$5-million-dollars, especially in times when we're grappling with a large budget deficit and perhaps cutting services across the State of Connecticut. Even a dollar is too much at this point. So, I will be opposed as well to any new appointments today. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Boyd of the 50th.

REP. BOYD (50TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick comment

on everything that we have going on here. Our system is in a way that doesn't account for this type of thing. The Governor has the ability to make appointments and we approve the consent through a process. And as since I've been here, we've talked a lot about temperament. We've talked a lot about interpretation of the law. We've talked a lot about how things are applied in their position as a judge.

Do I stand here, and I'm not concerned about the financial impact, I would be lying if I said that I was not concerned about it. But there's two pieces to this, there's the appointing of judges. I don't know Judge Dayton or Attorney Dayton on the Board. All I have to go by is what was vetted to the Judiciary Committee, comments that were made and vote counts that are there.

I'm sure that at this point she's watching CTN right now and we're not debating the merits of her judgeship. Now, but I also know that we have a very robust appropriations process and we need to make decisions. And we need to prioritize things that are important to the running of the government. We

need to prioritize things that work and there are things that ultimately cannot be funded.

As I've spoken before with budget debates, we can't afford the state that we're accustomed to. We can't afford the state that we want. But those two are almost unrelated. And for me, I'm very conflicted because do I want to sit here and vote no on 30 qualified people, I don't. But I think we need to figure out a way that if we're going to honor the system that's before us, and we really need to look at it regardless of who the legislature is and who the Governor is, that do they have the power to appoint people.

Now, he made the decision to appoint 30 people. Would I have made that same decision, probably not? Is it his right, in his power as the Governor of the state to make that position, those appointments, it is. And we need to judge them on their merits to sit in the bench.

So, the corollary to all this for me is, if we're going to confirm 30 additional judges, we now need to, as we're finalizing, hopefully finalizing,

hopefully in a bipartisan manner that looks out for the citizens of the state, a budget fix for next year, this has to be accounted for into it.

And I know it's not necessarily appropriate to the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, but if he would indulge me a question for the proponent of the nominee?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Yes, sir, Representative Tong, please prepare yourself. Representative Boyd, proceed, sir.

REP. BOYD (50TH):

Thank you, sir. From where you sit going forward, have there been any conversations on the Appropriations side of how we can move forward and be able to fund this deficit piece that we're ultimately creating in a budget that's already been put out, so that we're not setting ourselves up and violating the balanced budget requirement that we have by adding additional spending?

Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken to the Chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee about funding for these nominees. I don't sit on Appropriations, but we have had extended conversations about this, yes.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Boyd.

REP. BOYD (50TH):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Is it your understanding that through the Appropriations process these costs are going to be accounted for with the final budget that this legislature will have the ability to thumb up or thumb down?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do understand that the cost of these nominees will be accounted for in this budget. And I expect in this session,

I've spoken actually not just to the Chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, but also the Speaker of the House about this very issue today. And I think I heard from both of them a recognition that because the Judicial Branch is in need because judges perform a vital function, many of our members have said to me that, you know, referred to the old adage that justice delayed is justice denied. And have reminded many of this on this side that as the backlog worsens in our Superior Court and people are unable to get access to the justice that they need, that that's a very real issue for the people in this state. And that's why it's important to approve these nominees and candidly to find the money.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Boyd.

REP. BOYD (50TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, to just kind of summarize so others can have a chance to speak, where I'm falling on this is that I feel very strongly that our obligation is to judge the merits

of the nominees that are coming forward.

However, I will say very clearly for the record that when it comes to an Appropriations piece and that's a different debate that I'm not looking for us to be approving a budget with massive new spending. We need to live within our means. And I'm going to take the word, the good word of the Judiciary Chair that as this goes forward, that we will be accounting for this and we're not going to present a budget that has a ton of new spending in it, including this and some other things because we're in a fix year and we need to be responsible with what we do, but I really have a hard time looking at these nominees from a clear Appropriations point of view, when that is an argument or discussion we have to have, we need to debate, we need to vet out, and not necessarily look as the merits of the nominees that are up there. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Candelora of the 86th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I need to do the difficult thing and rise in opposition to these nominees. I had the good fortune of serving on the Judiciary Committee and actually being able to support all of these nominees through the Judicial Committee process.

My comments today do not, like the other, I think my other Republican colleagues, does not go toward any specific qualification for these individuals. It's actually, you know, emotionally from a compassionate standpoint, a very difficult vote to make because these individuals when they're nominated sort of put their life on hold. They have to, if they're practicing in private practice, have to put their files aside and start preparing for the transition.

So, I really don't take this vote lightly by any means. But what has compelled me is being very familiar with our budget process and hearing from our Judicial Branch and trying to reconcile where we are. I need to go through mental gymnastics in

order to be able to financially justify this vote today.

And because I believe that we are in such a dire financial situation, billions of dollars of deficits in the outyears, I want to be careful before I take a vote to add any new position in state government.

You know, we've heard today that justice is slow and therefore, we need to add these positions, but I haven't heard that through the judiciary process and all the public hearings that we have heard on a myriad of bills dealing with every different aspect of our courts, I've not heard this session that we have had a massive backlog that we need to address.

To the contrary, I've heard pieces of legislation of how to make our courts more efficient, how to streamline our process to make it so that we could save, actually save money.

When our Chief Court Administrator was asked, could we afford these 30 positions, the initial response was, I think I could absorb 11 and now with

retirements, maybe 17. But the Governor went ahead and appointed 30. And part of me, frankly I get a bit angry, because it's sort of that behavior is why we are where we are today.

The Governor has sole authority to make appointments to the Judiciary. He also has the ability to put bond projects on Bond Commission agenda. And low and behold, moreover a bond cap. We could blame the Governor on that, but ultimately, we do have members that sit on that committee. And at what point do we say, enough is enough?

And so, unfortunately, that's why I am standing here today. And I just -- I need to respond to the comments about if we add judges, we're going to be more efficient in our courtrooms. What we all need to understand in this Chamber is when we add a judge, we can't just add that position. We need to add the support staff that go along with it. Because when a judge is presiding in a room, they need a Clerk and they need a court monitor. And so, my understanding is that that total for these judges would amount to about \$12-1/2-million-dollars that

the State of Connecticut needs to find.

And I guess the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee I think is correct that it may net out to about \$5-million with the retirements. But the reality is also, when judges retire, they're able to take senior status. And so, they're paid on a per diem basis, which arguably is a more efficient way to operate our courtrooms because they don't get paid all the fringe, which costs us 86 percent. The fringe alone is about 86 percent of a judge's salary. Those things go away for the Senior Trial Referees.

So, there are other options, if we're really looking for efficiencies to make cases run better, which I don't think we are, but if we really were, there's other alternatives. I think we also need to factor in that our case load, my understanding, has decreased by about 20 percent.

When I look at these things from a fiscal standpoint, there are other priorities in the State of Connecticut that we need to make.

And finally, I think, and I would hope we would

hear from our Appropriations Committee, but it was my understanding that Judge Carroll had asked for about \$4-million-dollars to cover support personnel that they need in the courtrooms in order to handle the current level of judges that we have. And I think it points to what Representative O'Dea alluded to, where judges are waiting to be able to convene their courtroom because the support staff aren't there. And yet we are not doing that in this process today.

Currently today, there's about a \$4-million-dollar hole for support staff that needs to be filled. And then finally, we haven't even calculated the impact that SEBAC is going to have on this appointment and the other appointments. My understanding is it's \$7.9-million-dollars it is going to cost the Judiciary Branch in order to pay these additional judges with the \$2,000 annual stipend that's built into the SEBAC agreement.

So, I will just say and conclude, and I appreciate the Speaker giving me this indulgence, I would just conclude that it is a shame that I have

to push my red button. And I think it's a shame for many of us that are pushing our red button, it does not reflect on the qualifications of these individuals. But what it does reflect is a need to recognize where we are as a state to stop looking at things in a vacuum, to stop looking at things with our blinders on, and to start looking at holistically the impact that one decision has on another.

And certainly, these votes today are going to have a significant impact on our budget to the tune of upward of \$20-million-dollars. And I, for one, can think of many other ways to spend that money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Ziobron of the 34th, ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. ZIOBRON (34TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to you. I've been listening intently to the debate and specifically listened to my colleague across the aisle talk about trying to make sure that the State

of Connecticut lives within its means. And that's essentially what we're talking about here is living within our means.

I have voted against every single judge since the beginning of session. Not because they weren't qualified, because I knew what the conversations were in the Appropriations Committee about the affordability of this process, specifically the support staff. And I couldn't in my good conscience vote for judges, even reappointments, knowing that we have unsafe courtrooms in our state. And frankly, that is exactly what we heard in the Appropriations process.

So, my good friend, the Deputy Minority Leader, just spoke about some of those court support staff services. So, let me refresh your memory on some of the things I spoke about over the last month-and-a-half.

The first thing is that there certainly was a request in the Appropriations process from the head of the Judiciary Department for money, for additional support staff to support the existing

judges, never mind any of these new appointments. And that request was for over \$4-million-dollars. And it was detailed in position counts, mostly around Judicial marshals. They are at an all-time low in our courtroom. And I have heard some pretty startling stories from attorneys and my constituents about what's happening in our courtroom.

When a judge feels like the courtroom is unsafe and they go to press that button, we as legislators have an obligation to make sure that when that button is pressed, somebody is going to come into that courtroom to take charge. And it's been my understanding that there's been a few times where the button has been pressed and no one comes.

And that's why I've been voting no for the last six weeks. I've been voting no because we're hearing stories of courtrooms not starting on time. Our constituents are missing work to appear in court, only to sit there for hours because there's not a recording person to take the minutes or whatever the legalese is. So, that \$4.3, a little bit more from Judge Carroll would have been for

existing court staff, 85 new positions, Judicial marshals, juvenile justice and some others. But for the operations of the current system, so the idea that we would add new judges on to a system that is not fully operational, is something that blows my mind.

Because when I look at the budgets that were presented last week in the Appropriations Committee, the Republicans with our Senate colleagues presented a budget that was fully balanced, meaning it had revenue and spending. And when we looked at those both sides of the ledger, we figured out that we couldn't afford to do all the ask of the over \$4-million-dollars and we could only afford to do \$2-million.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, who did not present a full spending package, who had zero revenue in their budget proposal, zero, only spending, had a ton of new programs, but still only provided, and I have it right in front of me, it's on page 170 of the Democrats Appropriation Budget, they were only able to provide \$2.3-million-dollars.

Far less than what Judge Carroll has asked for. Certainly, the Republicans couldn't meet the full ask either. But we had a balanced budget that showed revenue and spending. But my friends on the other side of the aisle went a little further and created new programs within the Judicial Department, costing over \$3.6-million-dollars. Why not prioritize that money for the safety of our courtrooms? But no, that's not what happened in that budget.

That budget proposal had tons of new programs and new spending. So, when I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about living within their means, I listen very closely because that shouldn't be a partisan issue. We should all be striving to live within our means as we are here to amend a budget in 2019, a budget that right now is out of balance in 2018 by over \$300-million-dollars and in 2019 much more.

So, I'm going to continue to listen to the debate, but let's make sure that we understand clearly what we're talking about. That over \$4-

million-dollars that was requested by the Judicial Department is for existing judges. It doesn't contemplate these new judges that the Deputy Minority Leader detailed, you're talking huge new appropriations. And if you're going to advocate for that, I'd like to see where's the money coming from. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, madam. Representative Belsito of the 53rd, sir, you have the floor.

REP. BELSITO (53RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a very short statement to make. Right now, we do not have a budget. You're spending money that we don't have. My recommendation to you, Mr. Speaker and to Representative Aresimowicz, bring out the budget, then we can see what we have and what we can spend. Until we do that, we should be at recess because this is not going to accomplish anything.

We're spending money we don't have and that is a bad sign. That's something the people the State of Connecticut do not like. And this is all falling

on the Democrats. So, it's time to bring out the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebinbas, do you need the floor, ma'am -- you have the floor.

REP. REBINBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I understand it's for a second time, so I appreciate that. But many times, as a Ranking Member, when you hear individuals commenting, you want to make sure that you properly respond to a lot of their comments and/or flush out the facts circulating it.

So, I do have a question for the good Chairman. I believe he had indicated that we have 38 funded vacancies. If the good Chairman can highlight exactly what those 38 vacancies are and where are they funded?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that as of January 1, 2018, there were 28 funded vacancies. And as of today, there's an additional four vacancies that have occurred since January 1st and we anticipate another six by the end of the calendar year.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, when you're saying "vacancies," is that vacancies throughout the entire Judicial Branch or are you say judge vacancies that are funded, actually funded?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

It is my understanding as of January 1, 2018, for example, that those were judge vacancies, sorry, Superior Court positions for judges that were funded at the time that those vacancies occurred and so, a

Superior Court Judge either retired, took senior status, resigned, left the bench for some other reason, and that resulted in 28 funded vacancies as of January 1, 2018. And, yes, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that response even made me more confused. It's my understanding that the Judicial Branch does not have a line item for judges. So, if the good Chairman could indicate where that information is being extracted from because that's not the information I have?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure that whether or not there's a line item or not for judicial salaries makes a difference to the analysis. I agree that there isn't a line item for judicial salaries. But the fact is is that what I'm

trying to communicate is as of January 1, 2018, it is my understanding, based on data reported to me, that there were 28 vacancies based on judges who had served on our Superior Court and left their office and; therefore, created a vacancy.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I can have a conversation with the good Chairman because certainly that would be conflicting information that I have. The Judicial Branch does not have a line item for judges. The Judicial Branch has salaries for staff that includes judges and that's identified as Judicial Branches personal services.

In the last two years, the Judicial Branch has been functioning with over 650 less employees, that's all of them. That's all of them. And if you want to talk about filling vacancies, we've continually filled vacancies in the last 10 years.

To be specific, in 2008, just to highlight the last 10 years, we nominated 10. 2009, 9. 2010, 9. 2011, 4. 2012, 6. 2013, 15. 2014, and that was the highest, 16. 2015, 9. 2016, 0. 2017, 13. We're in 2018, and we're faced with 31 nominees, unprecedented in the last 10 years. Unprecedented that the Judicial Branch has been working and functioning with considerably less than 600 employees in the last two years.

But I'm going to highlight the efficiencies that the Judicial Branch had that I indicated, they're functioning with less. They need more. They need more staff. So, for the good Representative previously also on the other side of the aisle that said that we needed additional judges to provide trials. And I believe the good Chairman even said, justice delayed is justice denied. That's lack of staff.

The good Chairman was correct. I spend a lot of time in courthouses. There's a lack of staff. I have yet to hear that we need more judges. If you walk into any courthouse on a Friday afternoon, it's

like a ghost town. And I commend them for that because they do their business and they get people out. The less time people spend in court, the better. We don't have business for 31 nominees. We don't have court space for 31 nominees. We don't have staff for 31 nominees.

Our safety is already jeopardized currently. And instead of subjecting the good Chairman to additional questions, I'll highlight the information that I've been provided that's been made public from a variety of different questions that we pose directly to the Judicial Branch. Between January 1, 2018 through June 30th, 2019, it is expected that only 11, 11 judges are going to retire.

And as somebody else had previously indicated, many of those take usually senior status become Trial Referees. The reason is why allow and the reason why we encourage those judges to become Trial Referees actually is a cost savings to the State of Connecticut. They take on additional work after they retire. These are individuals that have expertise that saves us from putting a completely

new judge to fill that position. With a new judge comes benefits, salary and then obviously, should come with the support staff that they deserve in order to conduct business.

So, I just wanted to make sure that I addressed a lot of the concerns or comments that had been previously raised. But I also just for certainly statistics, and I'll be more than happy to share it, the business in courthouses in the last five years, and I have the last five years, in 2017 it's decreased. In all the years, 2017, it has decreased in civil cases, criminal cases, family cases, certain juvenile cases. Credit to the individuals we have working in the Judicial Branch now.

We also have, Mr. Speaker, that the Judicial Branch still has not been fully funded for the SEBAC mandates that it's currently facing. We don't have a budget. Even the Governor's budget there was not sufficiency, back mandate funding. And now in addition to, we are mandating the State of Connecticut to fund 31 new nominees, that's the action we're taking here today.

And I think it's also very important to point out because I know that many legislatures on both sides of the aisle have worked tirelessly, tirelessly to try to reform our Department of Children and Families.

In the proposed budget under the Governor's proposal, \$7-million-dollars of funds targeted for the transfer of juvenile justice responsibilities from the Department of Children and Families has been taken from the Judicial Branch where that's to transfer to. So, let me just recap. No budget. No funds for the SEBAC mandate. Taking away funds from a transfer that was worked on for many years. No need for the nominees. Lack of support currently for the judges serving on the bench as well as the court marshals that protect us every day. This is a mandate that I can't support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Rebimbas.  
Representative Tong, for the second time, sir, you have the floor.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may just respond and summarize. I think it's important to clarify and correct the record in a couple of important respects.

First of all, we do have a budget. We're operating under a biennial budget approved with bipartisan support by this Chamber.

And so, I wanted to make sure that it's clear that we have a budget that we're currently functioning under.

I do think that the Ranking Member made some good points. She made an important point that from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, fiscal year '16, we did zero judicial nominations. And in the past, there's been between 5 and 15 nominations under both Republican and Democratic governors on average. But there was a year recently, ending in June 2016, where we did not do any judicial nominations for that year.

So, that's an important point to know. And I want to clarify again that I don't disagree that

there are not enough staff in the Judicial Branch, that we need more staff to assist not just judges, but the litigants that appear in our courts with the administration of justice.

But the fact that there are not enough staff doesn't mean that there are enough judges. And I think that's an important point. And the fact is, is that right now we are at a 35-year-low, at 158. We're about to lose one to retirement, 157 judges that since the last time the Governor appointed judges in May of 2017, fully a year ago, there have or will be 25 judges reaching mandatory retirement age by the end of this year.

And it's important to note the good Ranking Member noted that as of January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, the Judicial Branch anticipates 11 retirements, starting on January 1, 2018. That does not take into account all of the vacancies that have accrued up until that point, which, as I indicated, up to January 1, 2018, was 28 vacancies.

So, there's a significant backlog of judges. And even if we approve, and I anticipate that we

will, every single one of these nominees, we will be at a staffing level of judges' total in the entire system of 179, which is less than the 193 that Governor Rell had at the time that she left office.

So, I think that is an important perspective to have and I urge support for this nominee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the resolution before us? Will you comment further? 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):

If all the members have voted, if all the members voted, members voted, 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. The Clerk will please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 156,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	77
Those Voting Nay	70
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution passes. (Gavel) Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, madam.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Thank you. I would like my colleagues to know that today is my intern, Connor Dunleavy's last day. And to show you what a great legislator I was, he

brought me flowers. (Applause)

So, I want to really thank Connor for the hard work that he's done for me this legislative session and he's graduating. So, let's give him applause. (Applause)

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. And thank you for your commitment, Connor, to the legislature and Representative Miller.

The House now will return to the call of the Calendar. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 427?

CLERK:

Page 5, Calendar 427, House Joint Resolution 152, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ROBERT WITH. CLARK, ESQUIRE, OF DURHAM TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the adoption of the resolution. Please proceed.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the nominee before us certainly is no stranger to many of here in the Chamber and particularly those of us on the Judiciary Committee. Attorney Clark is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and the UConn School of Law. After several years in private practice in Connecticut, he has devoted much of his professional career to serving the state in the Office of the Attorney General.

For the past several years he has served as Special Counsel to the Connecticut Attorney General and in that capacity, is responsible for advising the AG on a broad variety of legal and policy matters, including serving on the Six-Person

Litigation Management Committee for the Office of the AG and overseeing legislative affairs for that office.

Certainly, I would submit to this Chamber that Attorney Clark is well prepared for the position he is up for, would be an asset to our Judiciary, and I would firmly urge support for his nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebimbas, madam, you have the floor.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Attorney Clark is not a stranger to many of here in this Chamber and certainly, I believe, that his public hearing demonstrated that he would make an amazing jurist. He certainly has always been forthright, honest, and as we have indicated previously, a fair broker. I think he would be highly qualified for the bench. And quite frankly, I think in the narrow margin of specific individuals that are needed after the retirement vacancies, he would certainly be amongst the top.

As many of my colleagues have already stated, it has nothing to do with the qualifications of the individuals that come before us. It's for all the reasons previously stated that I as well as some other colleagues of mine will be voting no against Attorney Clark and again, not based on qualifications.

But I did also want to, Mr. Speaker, previously we were talking about the budget and there were some comments of, well, we have a budget, we passed a budget last year. And, in fact, it was entitled also or referred to as a bipartisan budget, which not everyone signed on to, but there were enough people on both sides of the aisle that negotiated and supported that budget.

Well, that budget is in a deficit. We have currently, we're operating with \$321-million-dollars of a deficit. I think that's very important to repeat. \$321-million-dollars of a deficit that does not take into account this additional mandate that we would be putting on the residents of Connecticut of 31 new nominees.

I can't support this nominee, Mr. Speaker,  
based on that stance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, madam. Representative Candelora of  
the 86th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know Attorney  
Clark I think in this Chamber. He happens to be a  
constituent in my district. So, I just feel  
compelled to get up and put some good words for him  
on the record. I wish that this nomination was  
coming at a different time. I think he is a top-  
notch candidate, a great choice. I just wish that  
we could pay for this seat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment  
further on the resolution before us? Will you  
comment further on the resolution 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):

Just to notify the Chamber, we're going to be going through the list of nominees through resolution here. So, I would please ask that members stay close to the Chamber, so we could "plow through this list somewhat quicker." Thank you.

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If all the members voted, 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. The Clerk will please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 152,

Total Number of Voting	145
Necessary for Passage	73
Those Voting Yea	75
Those Voting Nay	70

Those absent and not voting 5

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 442.

CLERK:

On page 8, House Calendar 442, House Joint Resolution 167, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JOSEPH B. SCHWARTZ, ESQUIRE, OF WETS HARTFORD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Please proceed, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This nominee, Attorney

Schwartz was very impressive, indeed, before the Committee. He's a graduate of UConn School of Law and George Washington University. He has practiced at some of our most esteemed firms here in Connecticut, including Murtha Cullina and McElroy, Deutsch, before that at Cohen & Wolf. A number of cases that he has tried in very significant litigation matters, impressed us with his knowledge of the law and his experience and I urge support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Tong. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to acknowledge, certainly, the credentials that the good Chairman just highlighted for the nominee before us. Certainly, he is qualified for the position. I'll take the opportunity, I see as one of the Representatives had indicated earlier, concerns regarding the court being able to move caseloads and trials and things of that nature.

I just wanted to indicate that the Judicial

Branch in response to one of our questions actually indicated that, in fact, that quite often because of the current staff shortage that there are very, and I'll quote, "Very often courts cannot go into session or are delayed because of staff shortages."

So, again, this is a concern regarding the staff, not judges. And, in fact, the judges, the potential judges that we have, which are these nominees, not only create as we've indicated a fiscal mandate, but an additional concern regarding the staff levels and also as we've indicated regarding safety.

So, I thought it was important to say that if there are any scheduling delays it's because of the short staff. Again, 650 employees less than the last two years, not additional judges. So, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, once again, we take the same position. I will not be able to support this nominee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Further on the

resolution 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):

Again, I would just implore all the members to try to stay close to the Chamber. The sooner we get through this list, the sooner we may have the ability to be able to leave.

If all the members have voted? If all the members have voted? If all the members have voted, 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. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 167,

Total Number of Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	77
Those Voting Nay	69
Those absent and not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 443.

CLERK:

On page 8, house Calendar 443, House Joint Resolution 168, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JAMES FIELD SPALLONE, ESQUIRE, OF ESSEX TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's -- Mr. Speaker, if I may, before I move, I believe that we have a member that would like to step out of the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The Chamber will stand at ease. The Chamber will come back in session. Representative Tong, I believe you have the floor, sir.

REP. YOUNG (120TH):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to be recorded as voting in the affirmative, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Young. We are going to acknowledge you, Representative Young, after the vote on this and then it will be noted in the Journal. Representative Tong, I believe you have the floor.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

For the second time.

REP. TONG (147TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

and adoption of the resolution.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

I believe the next nominee, James Field Spallone, does not need any real introduction to this Chamber. He served here with distinction for many years. Served as a Deputy to the Madam Secretary of the State here and as the Chairman of the Government and Administration and Elections Committee.

Attorney Spallone's distinction that he shares with just a few lawyers here in Connecticut is that he has served in all three branches of state government, very capably and ably in the Executive Branch, with the Secretary of State, in the Legislature, as I mentioned earlier. And now he, we expect will be a Judge of the Superior Court.

We haven't voted yet, that's correct.

(Laughter) But I just want to say that Jamey

Spallone is one of the finest people that I have served with in my 12 years in office. He's a person of great compassion. Always with a smile and friendly and very knowledgeable and helpful, always ready to lend a helping hand and I think that Jamey Spallone will make a great Judge of the Superior Court. And I enthusiastically urge support for his nomination today.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebimbas, you have the floor, madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly, I concur with the good Chairman's representations of Attorney Spallone. I know many of us here at the Chamber has had the opportunity to work with him firsthand and certainly would attest to his qualifications to serve on the bench.

Unfortunately, the timing of his nomination comes at the timing of this fiscal crisis that we have and the unfortunate situation that far too many nominees have been nominated for the limited

positions that we have available and certainly, like I said for the budget crisis.

I do also just want to share with the Chamber some information from the Office of Fiscal Analysis. I think it's important that again we provide as much information as necessary in order to show and determine that at this time, these 31 nominees, including staff, is unsustainable.

So, from OFA, we have that approximately 31 nominees and that would include not only the judges' salary, but clerks and court monitors, we're looking at well over \$12-million-dollars.

So, once again, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately even for this nominee, I will not be able to support him.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Rebimbas. Will you comment further on the resolution 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:

(Ring) 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? Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take the tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 168,

Total Number of Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those Voting Yea	79
Those Voting Nay	69
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution passes. (Gavel) Representative Young, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

REP. YOUNG (120TH):

Mr. Speaker, a note for the record, please.  
Had I been present for House Joint Resolution 167, I

would have voted in the affirmative --

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir.

REP. YOUNG (120TH):

-- Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. The transcript will be noted.

If we could return to the call of the Calendar.

Calendar No. 426.

CLERK:

On page 5, House Calendar 426, House Joint Resolution 151, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF SUZANNE E. CARON, ESQUIRE, OF BLOOMFIELD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. You have the floor, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Attorney Caron is a graduate of Bates College and the University of Connecticut School of Law. She is an experienced family court practitioner, having worked most recently her practice is dedicated to mediation and collaborative divorces. I think she would be an asset to our bench and I would as for support from the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly concur with the good Vice Chairman of the Judiciary Committee's description of this nominee. I think this nominee comes to us with a very good professional background and an asset when it comes to mediation and such because these are the type of

diversionary programs or offers that we want the Judicial Branch to continue to offer in order to minimize hearings and trials.

Unfortunately, her nomination comes at a timing, which has already been previously stated of a lack of need as well as budgetary. So, for that purpose I can't support her nomination today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you. Representative Gibson of the 15th.  
REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the nomination of Suzanne Caron, from the great town of Bloomfield, Connecticut. I know Suzanne -- yes, it's a great town. I know Suzanne very well. She is a partner at Caron & Parris. She served as an adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut.

She has extensive experience with 30 years as a litigation attorney. Since 1991, she has served as Special Master in the District of Tolland. She has served in leadership capacity of the Connecticut Bar as well as in the area of domestic violence. And

better yet, she graduated with a Law Degree from the University of Connecticut. So, it is without hesitation, I support the nomination of Suzanne Caron to the appointed position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Will you remark further? 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 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. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 151,

Total Number of Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those Voting Yea	77
Those Voting Nay	71
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

(Gavel) The resolution passes. Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 439?

CLERK:

On page 8, House Calendar 439, House Joint Resolution 164, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MARGARITA HARTLEY MOORE, ESQUIRE, OF MILFORD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my mother is watching at home. She said my tie wasn't

straight, so I hope I got it straightened out here.  
So, hi, mom. I move for acceptance of the Joint  
Committee's favorable report and adoption of the  
resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Attorney  
Moore is a graduate of the University of Connecticut  
and the Pace University School of Law. She has an  
extensive and varied general practice down in the  
Milford/Stratford area. She has also served in the  
Bridgeport Superior Court as a temporary assistant  
Clerk. She has served on several local boards and  
commissions giving back to her communities in  
Milford and Stratford and provided significant pro  
bono assistance and service, which the committee was  
impressed with through her work with statewide legal  
services of Connecticut. I'd ask for the Chamber's

support for her nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly concur with everything that the good Vice Chairman said and also concur with his mother's comment regarding his tie and I'm happy he fixed that.

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, once again, just because of the timing of this nominee, we're not going to be able to support her. But I certainly just wanted to share that this is an attorney I actually had an opportunity to have a case with. She was on the other side. And I certainly found her to be fair. And both she and I on many occasions had conversations about how could we expedite this in the fairest way for our clients without having to expend additional time and needless money on the case.

So, I do believe that this nominee is certainly an individual that comes with a professional

background and also the correct mindset to serve appropriately on the bench. Again, unfortunately, certainly, the timing is a challenge that we have. So, Mr. Speaker, at this time, I won't be able to support her.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you. Representative Staneski of the 119th.

REP. STANESKI (119TH):

Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Good afternoon.

REP. STANESKI (119TH):

I think it's 5 o'clock still, if you can call that afternoon. I just would like to align my comments with the good Ranking Member of Judiciary. This is somebody who is clearly qualified for this position, if it wasn't for the timing, I would be giving 100 percent of my support. And I hope that soon I will be able to do that, but at this point I will not be able to support this nominee. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the resolution before us? Will you remark further on the resolution 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):

If all the members have voted, if all the members have voted. 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. The Clerk will please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 164,

Total Number of Voting 148

Necessary for Passage	75
Those Voting Yea	78
Those Voting Nay	70
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 438.

CLERK:

On page 7, House Calendar 438, House Joint Resolution No. 163, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF STEPHANIE A. MCLAUGHLIN, ESQUIRE, OF STAMFORD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is on the Joint

Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Please proceed, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Attorney McLaughlin is a graduate of American University and the DePaul University College of Law. She has practiced for the last 12 years at Sandak, Hennessey & Greco, in Stamford. Has contributed significantly to her local community serving among other roles on the Stamford Hospital Foundation Board.

I believe she would make an asset to our Judiciary and is well qualified for her nomination. I urge support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly do rise and believe that this individual would certainly be an asset and is qualified for the bench. Again, unfortunately, the nomination comes at the timing where we can't support any new nominees for all of the fiscal reasons and shortages

of staff that we've already previously stated. So, I cannot support this individual at this time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, madam. Representative O'Dea of the 125, you have the floor, sir.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand in strong support for Ms. McLaughlin. She's a practitioner down in Stamford. She would be an outstanding jurist, but unfortunately at this point in time because of the fiscal constraints, I'm urging my colleagues to vote no. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further? Will you remark further? 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? If all the members  
have voted, if all the members have voted, please  
check the board to see if your vote is properly  
cast. If all the members voted, the machine will be  
locked. The Clerk will take the tally. Will the  
Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 163,

Total Number of Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those Voting Yea	78
Those Voting Nay	70
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the  
Clerk please call House Calendar No. 425.

CLERK:

On page 5, House Calendar 425, House Joint  
Resolution 150, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION

OF MAUREEN PRICE BORELAND, ESQUIRE, OF DURHAM TO BE  
A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of  
the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance  
of the Joint Committee's favorable report and  
adoption of resolution. You have the floor, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Attorney Price  
Boreland is a graduate of Central Connecticut State  
University and the University of Connecticut Law  
School. So, she is a homegrown lawyer here, has  
published extensively on criminal justice issues,  
has a real depth of experience in criminal justice  
matters, also in matters related to children and  
also the Sentencing Commission. I urge support for  
this nominee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative  
Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the  
nominee before us is certainly qualified. She has a  
different background, doesn't spend too much time in  
court, but certainly is an asset in other areas that  
she can bring to the bench. So, once again, I do  
believe that she's qualified, but unfortunately the  
timing will not allow us to be able to support her  
at this time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Will you comment further on the resolution  
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):

If all the members voted, if all the members voted. 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. The Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 150,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	78
Those Voting Nay	69
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 428.

CLERK:

On page 5, House Calendar 428, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF RANDY L. COHEN OF WESTPORT TO BE A WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on

Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Conley of the 40th.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Please proceed, madam, you have the floor.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Commissioner Randy Cohen is a re-appointment. This is not a new appointment. Commissioner Cohen has been serving as a Worker's Comp Commission since 2007. Prior to serving, she was -- she went to UConn. Excuse me. I had her education. I apologize for the delay. But, yeah, she did go to UConn and got her BA there and she got her J.D. from Suffolk School of Law. She has been doing a very good job as Commissioner,

serving in Bridgeport. And just to know that the Workers' Comp Commission is fully funded by employers in the State of Connecticut and has no impact in the general fund. And again, this is a reappointment. I would urge adoption to keep Commissioner Cohen as the Commissioner.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebinbas.

REP. REBINBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, the good Representative highlighted this is a reappointment. This is not a new position. I appreciate that the good Representative highlighted the budget impact of this nominee. I think we should be doing that will all nominees.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

remark further? If not, 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, if all the members voted, 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. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 153,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	147
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 434.

CLERK:

On page 7, House Calendar 434, House Joint Resolution No. 159, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE ANTHONY P. FUSCO OF BROOKFIELD TO BE A FAMILY SUPPORT MAGISTRATE. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Please proceed, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Mr. Speaker, this is the renomination of Mr.

Fusco to serve as a Family Support Magistrate. He has been serving in such role since 2009 in the courts in Bridgeport, Danbury, Derby and Stamford. I would urge the Chamber's support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. As the good Vice Chairman indicated, this is a reappointment. So, this is an individual who is currently serving as a magistrate. I did share in Committee that I briefly had an opportunity to appear before him. I don't do much magistrate work. But certainly, what I observed in the courtroom that he was very attentive to each and every case and individual that came before him. Certainly, that's always refreshing, and I think he's an asset to the bench.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, madam. Representative Harding of 107, sir, you have the floor.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I rise in strong support of this nomination. Magistrate Fusco has done a fantastic job with the courts. I'm also proud to have him as my constituent in Brookfield. I urge my colleagues to support him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 159,

Total Number of Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	145
Those Voting Nay	1
Those absent and not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 429.

CLERK:

On page 6, House Calendar 429, House Joint Resolution 154, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF CAROLYN M. COLANGELO OF EASTON TO BE A WORKER'S COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

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

of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Attorney Colangelo is the Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Norwalk. She is also of counsel to Maslan Associates, also based in Darien. She's a graduate of Quinnipiac School of Law, where she was the Symposium Editor for the Quinnipiac Law Review. She'd make a great Workers' Compensation Commissioner and I urge support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I can just have a moment, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The Chamber will stand at ease. The Chamber will come back.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to make sure I had the correct file in front of me. Mr. Speaker, just a quick question through you to the good Chairman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong, please prepare yourself. Please proceed, Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the good Chairman, is this a new nominee to the Workers' Compensation?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the nominee is a new nominee.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you, Mr. Speaker. Is this filling a vacancy that currently exists?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I can't hear the question being posed to me.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Please hold. (Gavel) Please, members in the Chamber, the two colleagues cannot hear the communication between each other for Q & A. So, if we could please take your conversations outside the Chamber. Representative Rebimbas, could you please repeat that question for Representative Tong.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Certainly, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Does the good Chairman know if this individual is filling a current vacancy?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the nominee is filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Christine Engel.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just for clarification, does the good Chairman know that once, whether or not once a Workers' Compensation Commissioner retires, whether or not they could serve in any other capacity?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Through you. No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, based on

the certainly the qualifications of the individual that's been reviewed and the representations made by the good Chairman regarding that in fact this is a new nominee to become Commissioner, filling a position in the Workers' Compensation position, certainly, I would welcome my colleagues to make their decision as to whether or not to support the individual at this time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you. Representative Dunsby of the 135th.

REP. DUNSBY (135TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of serving with Carrie Colangelo on the Easton Board of Selectmen. She is a dedicated public servant. She will make an excellent addition to this commission and I urge my colleagues to support her. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the resolution 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 see if your vote has been properly cast. If all the members voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take the tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 154,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	142
Those Voting Nay	5
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the

Clerk please call Calendar No. 432.

CLERK:

On page 6, House Calendar 432, House Joint Resolution 157, Maureen E. Driscoll of Fairfield to be a Workers' Compensation Commissioner. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Mr. Speaker, Attorney Driscoll has a long career as a Workers' Compensation practitioner. She has served in private practice down in the Bridgeport and Shelton area for several years. In

addition to her service as an attorney, she and her family also have a long and distinguished career of public service to the City of Bridgeport and the surrounding towns. I believe she would make a fine addition to the Workers' Comp Commission. She would be filling the vacancy that was created by the retirement of the Honorable Ernest Walker and I would ask the Chamber's support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, she came before us qualified. And as the good Vice Chairman just indicated, it is filling a current vacancy on the Workers' Compensation to become a Commissioner. So, I rise in support of this nominee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further? Will you comment further? 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 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. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 157,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	147
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 435.

CLERK:

On page 7, House Calendar 435, House Joint Resolution 160, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JODI MURRAY GREGG OF STAMFORD TO BE A WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Conley, for what purpose do you rise? Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would need to recuse myself as I have a formal hearing pending before this Commissioner.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The Chamber will stand at ease. The Chamber will reconvene. Representative Stafstrom, I believe you have the floor, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Please proceed, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a reappointment of Commissioner Gregg to serve another 5-year-term as a Workers' Compensation Commissioner. She currently is serving in the Bridgeport District 4 location. She is a graduate of Northeastern University and the Seton Hall University School of Law. Has an extensive resume of service both to the bar and to the community and I would ask for support for nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. This is a renomination, so the individual is currently serving. Certainly, she's qualified and for all the

good reasons that the Vice Chairman had indicated, I  
rise in support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, madam. Will you comment further on  
the resolution before us? Will you remark further?  
Seeing none, 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 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. Will the Clerk please  
announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 160,

Total Number of Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	146
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 441.

CLERK:

On page 8, House Calendar 441, House Joint Resolution No. 166, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF DAVID W. SCHOOLCRAFT OF HEBRON TO BE A WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance

of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Please proceed, ma'am.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Commissioner Schoolcraft has been a Commissioner on the Workers' Compensation Commission since 2008. He is a graduate of Fitch High School in Groton, Connecticut. He then attended UConn Storrs and Western New England College School of Law. He not only presides in Middletown over their normal Workers' Comp Docket, but he hears the Asbestos Docket, which he hears all the cases for the State of Connecticut for folks affected by asbestos and asbestosis. So, he's a very busy man in Middletown, doing good to keep that very busy docket moving along, and I urge reappointment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. This is a renomination, so he is currently serving as a

Commissioner. And certainly, his expertise and experience, specifically with the Asbestos Docket is greatly needed and appreciated. So, I do rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Rebimbas. Will you comment further on the resolution before us? Will you comment further on the resolution before us? If not, will staff and guests 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, 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, and the Clerk

will take the tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 166,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	147
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 440.

CLERK:

On page 8, House Calendar 440, House Joint Resolution No. 165, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF HONORABLE RICHARD A. ROBINSON OF STRAFORD TO BE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT AND A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Tong. Representative O'Dea, for what purpose do you rise?

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

I'm sorry to interrupt, Mr. Speaker, but I have a conflict as a matter before the Supreme Court, I need to recuse myself. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The Chamber will stand at ease. The Chamber will reconvene. Representative Tong, you have the floor, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. You have the floor, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We now undertake one of the most important responsibilities of the Judiciary Committee and this Chamber to confirm the nomination of the Chief Justice of our Connecticut

Supreme Court. Justice Robinson has served our state ably for several years, starting in 2006, I believe, as -- well, before that actually. March 2000, he was appointed to the bench and then in 2006 he assented to be the Presiding Judge, Civil, in the Ansonia/Milford Judicial District. Then he became the Presiding Judge of Civil in the Stamford Judicial District. In December 2007, he was elevated to the Appellate Court. And December 2013, he became a Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. Before he assented to the bench, Justice Robinson served for 15 years in the City of Stamford's Law Department.

So, I think Justice Robinson, it was clear not just on his resume, on paper, but also during his hearing before the Judiciary Committee that he brings a particularly deep well of experience, having served at all three levels of Judicial Branch here in Connecticut but also previously in a Municipal Law Department, where he saw all manner of legal matters and oversaw them and participated in them for 15 years.

Justice Robinson faced a rigorous confirmation hearing in the Judiciary Committee and several of the members on both sides of the aisle asked him about his philosophy, about his decision-making in some difficult cases, about his view, about the administration of the Judicial Branch. As we've noted, a number of times, the job of being Chief Justice is not to be a super justice or to be more of a justice than the other justices, but to lead a co-equal branch of government and to be the administrative and policy head of the entire branch. And I think Justice Robinson demonstrated throughout this process that he is more than ready to step up and take these responsibilities. And I strongly urge adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebinbas.

REP. REBINBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Justice Robinson, to serve as the Chief Justice of the Connecticut

Supreme Court. Certainly, the good Chairman did an excellent job in highlighting all of Justice Robinson's qualifications. And he certainly comes with the great knowledge, experience and very well qualified to lead the Connecticut Supreme Court. This position is one of high responsibility. One that has to not only lead that court, but the entire Judicial Branch.

It was refreshing to listen to Justice Robinson respond to questions. He was very forthright, honest, direct and responsive. He also painted a picture of a collegial atmosphere in the Connecticut Supreme Court.

I certainly believe that he's contributed to that and he will continue that. And certainly, look forward to then the communication and work relationship that we're going to have with the legislative body as well as the Executive Branch with Justice Robinson leading the Judicial Branch.

So, I do rise in strong support of his nomination. Again, he did an excellent job during the public hearing. He's got a wealth of experience

and well qualified, and I've also had the opportunity to see and observe him in the ins of court of New Haven. And he's well respected by all of his colleagues. We certainly look forward to the Judicial Branch under his leadership. I do rise in his support, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative Rebimbas.  
Representative Gresko of the 121, sir, you have the floor.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in full support of the Honorable Richard Robinson of Stratford as Chief Justice of our Supreme Court. He has served our state with distinction and I encourage my colleagues to support him as well. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Will you remark further on the resolution 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:

(Ring) 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 members voted, 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. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 165,

Total Number of Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	146
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the

Clerk please call House Calendar No. 433.

CLERK:

On page 6, House Calendar 433, House Joint Resolution No. 158, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF HONORABLE STEVEN D. ECKER OF NEW HAVEN TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT AND A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. You have the floor, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question before us on this resolution would be the

elevation of Judge Ecker from the Superior Court to the Supreme Court upon the elevation of Justice Robinson from Associate Justice to Chief Justice, which would create a vacancy on the Supreme Court.

Judge Ecker comes before us with a distinguished pedigree. He is a graduate of Yale College and the Harvard Law School. He has served for many years as one of the leading practitioners in our state in civil litigation, mostly in firms in and around the New Haven area. He has been on the Superior Court bench since April 2014. Most recently serving in the Judicial District of Fairfield at Bridgeport trying civil cases.

I believe when the nominee came before us, he was asked several questions about his judicial philosophy. I think the Committee was impressed by his answers and I would urge support of the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebinbas.

REP. REBINBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in

support of Judge Ecker. As the good Vice Chairman indicated, Judge Ecker currently serves on the Superior Court. He is being elevated to the Connecticut Supreme Court and if he passes both Chambers, he will then be a Justice on the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Certainly, he was only appointed to the bench in 2014, so the elevation is certainly, as some people would say, quick. But I believe Judge Ecker is certainly well qualified and he will be a quick learner as he has already in the four years he's been serving on the bench. He has a good temperament and I'm sure that he will serve nicely with the colleagues on the Supreme Court. And as the good Vice Chairman indicated, he did a good job in responding to the questions and certainly as well as the responses on his questionnaire.

So, at this time, I do support his nomination to become Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court and look forward to the service that he's going to be providing in that capacity. So, I do rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 158,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74

Those Voting Yea	147
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 267.

CLERK:

On page 1, House Calendar 267, Senate Joint Resolution No. 10, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JAMES M. BENTIVEGNA OF AVON TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Representative Stafstrom. Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

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

adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Judge Bentivegna has been on the bench since 2002. He went to the University of Wisconsin/Madison for Law School and got his Undergraduate Degree at Fairfield University. He currently sits in the Judicial District of Torrington. He's done good work for many years and I would urge reappointment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us for all the good reasons that the good Representative just highlighted. He's experienced. He's an individual who is already currently serving, so I rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, madam. Will you remark further on

the resolution 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:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 10, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	142
Those Voting Nay	5

Those absent and not voting 3

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

And the resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 268. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 268?

CLERK:

On page 2, House Calendar 268, Senate Joint Resolution No. 11, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF HONORABLE SUSAN QUINN COBB OF WEST HARTFORD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Judge Cobb has been working civil court for many years. She's been on the bench since 2010. She went to school at Catholic University for undergrad degree and got her law degree with us right over at UConn.

Prior to being Hartford Civil, she's been at Toland, New Britain, Toland again, and she was also in Danbury for some criminal work. I would urge reappointment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further? Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, good to see you there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good to see you, too.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, this is a renomination and

the individual has served greatly in her capacity  
and so I support her renomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

House Bill No. 3511, in concurrence with the  
Senate,

Total Number of Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	141
Those Voting Nay	5
Those absent and not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 270.

CLERK:

On page 2, Calendar No. 270, Senate Resolution No. 13, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF the honorable JOHN A. DANAHER, III, OF WEST HARTFORD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Fleischmann, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate. Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Honorable John Danaher, III, has been on the Connecticut bench since 2010. He's a graduate of the University of Connecticut Law School and Fairfield University and recipient of the Crime Victim Assistance Award in 2010 and the University of Connecticut Law School Alumni Association Public Service Award in 2013.

Madam Speaker, this Justice has received these awards because he is truly an exemplary public servant. Prior to being elevated to the bench, he began his career as law clerk to Judge Emmet Claire of the U.S. District Court. Then he, after a few years at Day, Berry & Howard, he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney and then U.S. Attorney for the State of Connecticut.

After his service in that office for many years, he became Commissioner of our Department of

Public Safety, where he has served with honor for three years.

Madam Speaker, I can think of few people who we've put on the bench or who have served on the bench with so much commitment to public service, so much distinction. His whole family is one that is deeply committed to the public good and I hope the entire Chamber will join me in supporting his renomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, it's an individual who's been very well qualified, has served us well, and will continue to serve us. So, I rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further on the resolution? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House, members take your seats.

The machine will be open.

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally. And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 13, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	143
Those Voting Nay	4
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with

the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call  
Calendar No. 271.

CLERK:

On page 2, Calendar 271, Senate Joint  
Resolution No. 14, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE  
NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE MAUREEN D. DENNIS OF  
SOURTHPORT TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.  
Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this is another renomination of Judge Dennis, who was originally appointed to the bench in 1994. She's a graduate of UConn and the University of Connecticut School of Law, is a very distinguished member of our State's Judiciary, serving as the Pretrial Judge in the very busy Bridgeport GA courthouse.

She does a very good job of managing her docket, is also more than willing to reach out to practitioners in the area and keep folks apprised of what's happening in her court. She also serves as Chair of the Committee on Judicial Ethics.

I would submit to you that she's an outstanding judge and ask for the Chamber's support for her renomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Just for clarifications, through you, Madam Speaker, the good Vice Chairman, is this a judge who's looking to

become a Judge Referee?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. No, I believe this is a renomination for another eight-year term.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, very well respected, based from her colleagues and certainly a good knowledge of professional experience that she serves as well on the bench. I support her nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further? Representative Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I, too, rise in

support of Judge Dennis, who is from my district. And I have heard nothing but very good things and she is a high-quality judge, and I am excited to stand in strong support of her. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

If all the members have voted -- Representative Fusco.

REP. FUSCO (81ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to be recognized in the affirmative, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, the journal will so note.

REP. FUSCO (81ST):

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

There you go, the journal doesn't have to note because you are recorded officially, sir. And with that, does the Clerk have a tally? And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 14, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	140
Those Voting Nay	7
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with

the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call  
Calendar No. 424?

CLERK:

On page 5, Calendar 424, House Joint Resolution  
No. 149, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF  
CLAUDIA A. BAIIO, ESQUIRE, OF ROCKY HILL TO BE A  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of  
the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this  
is a new nomination of Attorney Baio to be a Judge

of the Superior Court. Attorney Baio is a graduate of Trinity College and the University of Connecticut School of Law. Her practice primarily has involved civil litigation defense in a small general practice in and around the Rocky Hill area.

In addition to being an active attorney, she also is heavily involved in her community, most recently serving the past two terms as Mayor of the Town of Rocky Hill. I ask for support from the Chamber for her nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas, you have the floor, madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as most of the nominees that came before us, they were very well qualified for the positions that they sought. That is not any different for the individual that we have now before us. You know, it is just unfortunate and frustrating that we can't simply support these nominees on their merits and know that we would be able to actually see them

through with a positive vote.

Unfortunately, for all of the reasons previously stated, the fact that this is an unfunded mandate at this time, something we cannot afford, is not currently afforded, and we know the current situation that our branch is struggling in.

The good thing is we acted upon a future Chief Justice that if he passes the Senate Chamber, we're going to have a leader within the Judicial Branch who hopefully can address these issues and properly also, then reach out of the legislative body and give everyone a better understanding of truly the necessities versus the wants; 31 nominees is a want, not a necessity and not something we can afford. And unfortunately, these nominees have to leave this Chamber with a variety of different no votes, not based on qualifications, but on the need of the State of Connecticut.

So, Madam Speaker, I, at this time, cannot support this nominee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark?

Representative Guerrero.

REP. GUERRERA (29TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in strong support of the nomination of Claudia A. Baio.

I think she would be an outstanding, outstanding judge. She is compassionate. She's smart. She's articulate. And she cares very, very much about the community and obviously, as a lawyer, she has always held it to the letter of the law. I've seen her at work. She's very good obviously with all the individuals she deals with on both sides, whether it's a criminal case, whether it's a divorce case, you name it. She's always been articulate and to the letter of the law. And I think, having Claudia Baio as our judge will be great for the State of Connecticut. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 149,

Total Number of Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	78
Those Voting Nay	68
Those absent and not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 445?

CLERK:

On page 9, Calendar 445, House Joint Resolution No. 170, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MICHAEL WU, ESQUIRE, OF CANTON TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Another nominee with deep and varied experience. Attorney Wu is a graduate of Blackburn College, Western New England University School of Law and also Yale University Divinity School. So, in addition to being a lawyer,

Mr. Wu is a Pastor at the Canton Community Baptist Church in Canton, Connecticut, and has served in a variety of other clerical roles.

He impressed us with his knowledge and commitment to the law and I urge support. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the new nominee before us to become judge was certainly very well qualified and I think he brought with him a very good unique background that certainly will serve him well on the bench if he was to go on to be confirmed.

Again, unfortunately, timing wise with the challenges that we have, he will get some no votes, but not based on qualifications, but we have no choice but to consider the situation and burden that this has on the State of Connecticut and the residents of Connecticut. So, because he's one of 31 nominees, and we're left with this decision, at

this time I cannot support him.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? If all members have voted, please check the board to determine if it has. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally. And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 170,

Total Number of Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74

Those Voting Yea	77
Those Voting Nay	69
Those absent and not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 437.

CLERK:

On page 7, House Calendar 437, House Joint Resolution No. 162, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF RONALD E. KOWALSKI, II, ESQUIRE, OF NORWALK TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Attorney Kowalski has done extensive public service during his career. He has served as a Registrar of Voters in his previous town of residence in Easton. He clerked for the esteemed Judge Lavery when he was on the Appellate Court and later Chief Court Administrator. He's a graduate of Fairfield University and Suffolk University Law School. I know that his Fairfield University attendance makes the Vice Chairman very happy and with that I urge, and the Ranking Member, and the Ranking Member, and I urge support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, other than the timing of this nominee, I would certainly be standing in his support as he is qualified, and as certainly I share with the good Vice Chairman, being an alumnus of Fairfield University, it brings us pride to be able to elevate individuals when

they're so well qualified.

It's also very frustrating that it prevents us from seeing these individuals through with a positive vote record out of the Chamber. But once again, unfortunately, because of the timing of the nomination and the absolute lack of necessity and unfunded mandate that this creates on the State of Connecticut because there's 31 nominees, not because of any one individual nominee or even arguably the 11 that we already have knowledge that are going to be retiring from the bench, but because we're faced with 31 nominees, unfortunately, Madam Speaker, we have to make the responsible decision of voting against the individual.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark?  
Representative Perone.

REP. PERONE (137TH):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, it's a pleasure to see you up there. I just really briefly would like to say just how much Mr. Kowalski brings and I feel would bring to the bench. I think his

intelligence, his compassion, and his community service really make it an honor and a pleasure to be supporting him for this nomination. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. MORRIS (140TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I stand to associate my comments with those of Representative Perone. Attorney Kowalski is phenomenal within our community. His community service as well as talked about in so many other places, I would say that he has been a personal advocate for those who are down trodden, those who really need someone to stand up and an objective person. So, I'm just pleased and honored that the nomination has come forward and we have the opportunity to vote for him today. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the nomination before us? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House,

members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 162,

Total Number of Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	78
Those Voting Nay	69
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Mr. Clerk, the resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call

Calendar No. 272?

CLERK:

On page 2, House Calendar 272, Senate Joint Resolution No. 15, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. GENUARIO OF NORWALK TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

I believe we have someone, Representative O'Dea needs to say something.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Oh, hi, Representative O'Dea. (Laughter)

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Hello, Madam Speaker, due to the fact that I have a pending matter before Judge Genuario, I need to recuse myself from this vote, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

We will stand at ease. Okey dokey, back to order. Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This judge has been on the bench since 2010. He graduated undergrad from Villanova and continued to stay at Villanova through law school. He's most recently been at Stamford Courthouse, serving on the civil matters in Stamford and Norwalk. Prior to that he was at Stamford Criminal, Civil, and also spent some time recently doing Stamford Complex Litigation Docket. He's been a good judge and I would urge reappointment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark, Representative Rebimbas?

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the reappointment of the individual before us. Again, he served us well on the branch and he'll certainly continue to do so. So, I do rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the resolution? Representative Wilms.

REP. WILMS (142ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in strong support of Judge Genuario. I've known him, he and his family for almost 30 years. His family has been in Norwalk for at least two or three generations. Judge Genuario started office as Chairman of the Board of Education for Norwalk, then he was elected State Senator, representing Norwalk and Darien. After that he was the Chief Budget Director under Governor Rell. And then he was move on to the bench and he's now the Administrative Judge in Stamford, which is no surprise to me or anyone who knows him.

He's a kind, compassionate, smart, wonderful

man. A real credit to the community and to the state and I think it's wonderful that he's back up for reappointment. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER (73RD):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark, Representative Lavielle of the 143rd, you have the floor, madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, good evening.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good evening.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

I too rise in very strong support of Judge Genuario. He is an institution in Norwalk. Very, very beloved in the community. Very well versed in the Judiciary and also in all of state government. A real contributor to everything that he does, and I am very, very strongly in support of his renomination. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also stand in very strong support of Judge Genuario. Have known him 15 years and the utmost of intelligence and integrity. He is head of the court in Stamford and we're very, very luck to have him serve. I stand in strong support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will you care to remark further on the nomination before us, on the resolution? Will you care to remark further? If not -- Representative Morris.

REP. MORRIS (140TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in strong support of Judge Genuario. Aside from everything else that you've heard about him, so why don't we talk about Judicial, the demeanor, in which our judges operate. Judge Genuario, aside from me, one of the most objective people as a judge. His demeanor such that nothing really ruffles him. He's a perfect example of what you'd want to see in many judges. He's an icon in the City of Norwalk. So,

thank you very much. I strongly endorse and ask all of my colleagues to support this nomination, this renomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 15, in concurrence with

the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	145
Necessary for Passage	73
Those Voting Yea	137
Those Voting Nay	8
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 273?

CLERK:

On page 2, House Calendar 273, Senate Joint Resolution No. 16, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JAMES T. GRAHAM OF BLOOMFIELD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Good evening, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good evening, sir.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise once again, but this time in support of the Honorable James T. Graham for the Superior Court. The Honorable Graham has passed the Connecticut Bar in New Haven in 1976 of October. The Honorable Graham is currently a Criminal Trial Judge in the City of New Britain Judicial District. His current assignments are Civil Presiding Judge of Hartford Judicial District, the Criminal Trial Judge, Tolland Judicial District, Civil Trial Judge, Tolland District.

In 1994, he was appointed to the bench. Law

school attended was the University of Michigan in 1976. Undergraduate degree also from the University of Michigan. The Honorable James T. Graham is a humanitarian, Madam Speaker. He has served for the Connecticut Special Olympics and has done many things in my great district, the Town of Bloomfield. I strongly support the Honorable James T. Graham for the Superior Court, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. The good Representative did an excellent job in highlighting the resume and certainly his professional qualifications. And certainly, during the public hearing, we heard all positive feedback and I know many of my colleagues also will be saying the same. So, I rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark?

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good afternoon, good evening. I also stand in support of Judge Graham. You know, Judge Graham is one of the few appointees that we're dealing with today that's been a presiding judge of civil, family, and criminal in his various assignments.

I also had the pleasure of being his Clerk for almost a year and I know that Judge Graham is very careful with regard to his knowledge of cases and I'm very happy to be here to vote in favor. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

(Ringin) The House of Representatives is

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

Representative Dauphinais.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Madam Speaker, I'm sorry, would you please count me in the affirmative for that vote?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Most certainly.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 16, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting 145

Necessary for Passage	73
Those Voting Yea	139
Those Voting Nay	6
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution passes in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 274.

CLERK:

On page 3, House Calendar 274, Senate Joint Resolution No. 17, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JOHN F. KAVANEWSKY, JR., OF EAST NORWALK TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Good evening, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to present to the Chamber the renomination of Judge Kavanewsky to be a Judge of the Superior Court. Judge Kavanewsky has been on the bench since 1994. He's a graduate of Wake Forest University and the Wake Forest School of Law. His current assignment is in the Criminal Division Part A of the Judicial District of Fairfield, where he's a trial judge on some of the most severe cases that come before that Judicial District.

He's a well-respected judge and is a true gentleman and I urge the Chamber's support for his renomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. This is a reappointment. This individual does bring with him great experience and certainly well respected amongst his colleagues. So, he is an asset to the bench. I do rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark?  
Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in very strong support of Judge Kavanewsky. He is a judge who sincerely has a passion for his work. He's worked on several high-profile cases and many delegate cases including the first child sex assault case where kids testified on video away from the court setting. And in the course of each of these very delicate cases, he has kept order in the courtroom and has been discreet and dignified and has shown absolutely no eagerness whatsoever to claim any limelight for himself. And he is described by all of his peers in the Judiciary as

being an exemplar of temperament and judicial demeanor, those are the words they use.

So, I am very, very much in support of this nomination and I hope that everyone will join me. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further? Representative Wilms.

REP. WILMS (142ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also rise in support of Judge Kavanewsky. He has a wonderful reputation, just a stellar background, a fellow Norwalker. I urge support, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to  
the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 17, in concurrence with  
the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	137
Those Voting Nay	6
Those absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with  
the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call  
Calendar No. 275.

CLERK:

On page 3, Calendar 275, Senate Joint Resolution No. 18, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JOSEPH M. SHORTALL OF BLOOMFIELD TO BE A STATE REFEREE. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Nice seeing you again, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

You as well, sir.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I

rise to perform the hat trick for the great town of Bloomfield, Connecticut. I'm here to support the nomination for State Referee of Joseph M. Shortall. The Honorable Shortall is a part of the Hartford Superior Court or Judicial District Court. Current assignment is the trial of civil cases, foreclosure law and special proceedings calendars. Trial and administrative tax appeals, GA courts, Bristol and New Britain, pre-argument conferences, Appellate Court. Appointed to the bench in 1994, Mr. Shortall attended the Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America in 1964. Undergraduate degree was attained from LaSalle University of Pennsylvania with a BA in Accounting. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the renomination of Judge Shortall. He certainly has served for quite a while on the bench and certainly is an asset and brings great experience, so I do rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 18, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72

Those Voting Yea	138
Those Voting Nay	4
Those absent and not voting	8

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 276?

CLERK:

On page 3, Calendar 276, Senate Joint Resolution No. 19, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM H. BRIGHT, JR. OF COLUMBIA TO BE A JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT AND A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, if this feels a little bit like Ground Hog Day, it's because it is. Judge Bright was actually before us last year as an interim appointment to serve on our Appellate Court. The nomination before us now is for a full term as an Associate Judge of the Appellate Court.

Judge Bright has a distinguished career on our Superior Court bench before his elevation last year to the Appellate Court. Rising quickly from, through the Tolland Judicial District, ultimately rising to become the Chief Administrative Judge of our entire Civil Division.

Judge Bright certainly is an intelligent judge as well as well mannered, great judicial decorum, and I must say was a true asset to the Judiciary Committee in his role as Chief Administrative Judge

helping us with bills that came before our Committee. Certainly, he is making, has made and will continue to make a fine Appellate Court Judge. I urge support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, this is another individual who brings great experience and will be an asset on the Appellate Court. So, I do rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise in strong support of Judge Bright. He's one of the most appropriately named judges we have in the state and I urge my colleagues to vote for him. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 19, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	138
Those Voting Nay	4
Those absent and not voting	8

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 277?

CLERK:

On page 3, Calendar 277, Senate Joint Resolution No. 20, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JACK W. FISCHER OF WATERFORD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution, in concurrence with the Senate.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you. Judge Jack Fischer has been on the bench since 2002. He went to New York Institute of Technology, Quinnipiac Law School. He's currently the AAJ, presiding over Criminal Court in Danielson. Prior to that he was on the Danielson Superior Court, and prior to that he was over in Meriden as the AAJ, presiding over Civil, Family, Criminal and Drug Court. I would move for his reappointment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, again, an individual who has served well on the bench and we want him to continue and all the good reasons that the good Representative had indicated. So, I rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just, I would be

remiss if I didn't mention my support for Judge Fischer. Before his current appointment, he had been in Meriden for about five years, and I've done a ton of cases before Judge Fischer. He always has a very good demeanor, very knowledgeable with regard to the Rules of Evidence and has always treated me in a fair manner, and I support his renomination. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative McCarty.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good evening to you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good evening to you as well.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

I rise in very strong support of the renomination of Honorable Jack Fischer. Judge Fischer is a constituent of mine from the Town of Waterford and as we have heard, he has an exemplary and an extensive legal background. So, I would urge his renomination and support. Thank you, Madam

Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally. And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 20, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72

Those Voting Yea	134
Those Voting Nay	8
Those absent and not voting	8

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 279?

CLERK:

On page 4, House Calendar 279, Senate Joint Resolution No. 25, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE AARON MENT OF EAST HARTFORD TO BE A STATE REFEREE. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Hall, good evening to you.

REP. HALL (7TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

and adoption of the resolution, in concurrence with the Senate. Representative Hall.

REP. HALL (7TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Judge Ment is a graduate of UConn, undergrad, and Boston University Law School. He was first appointed to the bench in 1976. He served the United States Air Force and is a recipient of several awards and honors. He has served our judicial system honorably and will continue to serve our judicial system as a State Referee. I urge the entire Chamber to support his renomination. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. He's certainly very sharp and still an asset to the Judicial Branch, so we definitely appreciate his service. So, I rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 25, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	138

Those Voting Nay 4

Those absent and not voting 8

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution passes and is adopted in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 280?

CLERK:

On page 4, Calendar 280, Senate Joint Resolution No. 26, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE MARYLOUISE SCHOFIELD OF EASTON TO BE A SENIOR JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on

acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution, in concurrence with the Senate. Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Judge Schofield is a graduate of Stone Hill College. She got a master's at Fairfield University and a Law Degree at Pace University. She has been on the bench since 2002, serving most recently in the Waterbury Judicial District on the Family Docket. I urge support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, I've had the ability to see her serving on the bench and this is an individual with great experience and professional background that continues to be an asset. So, I rise in her support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 26, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	141
Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	137

Those Voting Nay 4

Those absent and not voting 9

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel) And will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 281?

CLERK:

On page 4, House Calendar 281, Senate Joint Resolution No. 27, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE DAVID M. SHERIDAN OF MANCHESTER TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Hall.

REP. HALL (7TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

and adoption of the resolution, in concurrence with the Senate. Representative Hall.

REP. HALL (7TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Judge Sheridan attended the United States Naval Academy, received his BS from the University of Arizona, and he's a graduate of UConn Law School. He was first appointed to the bench in 2010 and has served honorably since that time. I urge my colleagues to support the renomination of Judge Sheridan as a Superior Court Judge. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, this is a reappointment in an individual, again, who has served well on the bench and hope to continue to do so. So, I rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Representative Tweedie.

REP. TWEEDIE (13TH):

Good evening, Madam Speaker, how are you this evening?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

I'm fine. Good evening to you, sir.

REP. TWEEDIE (13TH):

Thank you. I rise in support of Judge Sheridan. I have known Judge Sheridan for quite a while. I served together with him on Manchester's Governing Board, the Board of Directors, with then Director Sheridan. He served his town very, I don't know -- detailed is, he was very detailed and a great Representative for his constituents. But more important than his political career and his judgeship, Judge Sheridan founded the Manchester Basketball Association, the MBA, which is a girls' basketball league in grade school through junior high school and it was a big success. He brought a lot of girls out on the basketball court, my daughter being one of them. And he actually coached my daughter. And it ended up with Manchester High School winning the State Championship from some of the girls that had played in the league that he

started.

So, he is a great choice, and I firmly stand with my support of him. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Juleson-Scopino, you have the floor.

REP. JULESON-SCOPINO (12TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I, too, rise in strong support of my friend and neighbor, Judge Dave Sheridan. Judge Sheridan has served with distinction since 2010. And while the bench keeps him very busy, I do see him almost every weekend out in his yard, doing yardwork, which I'm sure makes his wife and his daughters very happy. And I urge my colleagues to support him. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? 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 so, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will please take a tally. And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 27, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	141
Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	136
Those Voting Nay	5
Those absent and not voting	9

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 282?

CLERK:

On page 4, Calendar 282, Senate Joint Resolution No. 28, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE EDWARD F. STODOLINK OF STRATFORD TO BE A STATE REFEREE. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Young, you have the floor, sir.

REP. YOUNG (120TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. YOUNG (120TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I recommend the

renomination of Judge Stodolink. He has a distinguished career, graduated from Yale and Columbia Law School. And first being appointed to the bench in 1973. He is a lifelong Stratford resident and I'm very happy to recommend the renomination to my colleagues. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, he continues to be an asset on the bench and I just want to take an opportunity to thank him again for his service to our country. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 28, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting	141
Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	135
Those Voting Nay	6
Those absent and not voting	9

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution passes in concurrence with the

Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call  
Calendar No. 283?

CLERK:

On page 4, Calendar 283, Senate Joint  
Resolution No. 36, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE  
NOMINATION OF NANCY A. TURNER, OF GROTON, TO BE A  
MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE.  
Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Conley.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is on  
acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report  
and adoption of the resolution, in concurrence with  
the Senate. You have the floor, madam.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Nancy Turner has

been on the Board of Pardons and Paroles since August of 2017. She comes from Groton and makes the drive up to the Board of Pardons and Paroles every day. She's done a very good job. Prior to that, she went to George Washington University to get her Master of Arts in Public Policy and Women's Studies. She was also at UConn, getting her Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Resolutions. She's done an awful lot of community service in Groton, including many boards and commissions and being on the Groton Long Point Association Women's Group. She's done well for the community and she served well on the Board of Pardons and Paroles, so I urge her reappointment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, madam. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us for the Pardons and Parole Committee. Certainly, she comes with a great history of background and will serve us greatly, so I do rise in her support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 36, in concurrence with the Senate,

Total Number of Voting 141

Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	141
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	9

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 278?

CLERK:

On page 3, House Calendar 278, Senate Joint Resolution No. 22, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE MARIA ARAUJO KAHN OF CHESHIRE TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT AND A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative O'Dea of the 125th.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker. I need to recuse myself as I have a pending matter before the Supreme Court. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, sir. The Chamber will stand at ease. The Chamber will come back to order. Representative Stafstrom of the 129th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that we're relieved of Representative O'Dea and whatever that flail was. (Laughter) (Applause) It's good to see you up on the dais, sir. Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Justice Kahn has a long, diverse and impressive resume of service to the bar and the bench of the State of

Connecticut. We recently confirmed her as an interim appointment to the Supreme Court last November. The resolution before us would appoint her to a full eight-year-term.

Justice Kahn, before served, elevating to the Supreme Court, served for a brief period of time on our Appellate Court and before that, for over a decade, in our Superior Courts, serving in a variety of functions and also giving back to the branch in a variety of ways, including serving on the Connecticut Judges Institute and the Access to Justice Commission.

I know that the Ranking Member will have some kind words to say as well, so I will with that, urge my colleagues to support her nomination here today.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Rebimbas, you have the floor, madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and before I start, Mr. Speaker, I just want to apologize for Representative O'Dea's lack of grace on his exit. (Laughter)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

As you should, madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought it would be appropriate. But more importantly, I'd like to stand in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, Justice Araujo Kahn is one of the most stellar individuals that I have seen in my professional career.

This is an individual who not only once appointed to the bench, continuously gave to the education of the legal community. She's well respected amongst her colleagues, highly active in a variety of different committees and commissions. And again, only with the inspiration of improving the system and allowing access, equal access to all individuals in the State of Connecticut. And certainly, it's very prideful for me just to have her also a member of the Portuguese Bar Association, having an ethnicity of a Portuguese background. Any time we can diversify our bench, we certainly do so. But with the most qualified individuals and I must

say this is one of them.

So, I rise in strong support of this nominee.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

CLERK:

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 22, in concurrence with the Senate,

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The resolution passes in concurrence. (Gavel)  
Ladies and gentlemen, I'd ask you to stay near your seats. We have about five bills to go before we call it quits for the evening. The quicker we can open and close voting, the quicker you all can get home. With that being said, would the Clerk please call Calendar No. 78?

CLERK:

On page 48, Calendar No. 78, Substitute House Bill No. 5239, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN VETERANS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Development.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Hennessy.

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill seeks to provide towns with more flexibility by providing an optional local Veterans' property tax exemption by expanding the income limits in which a town may grant such an exemption from a max of \$68,000 for a married couple to whatever the local legislative body deems appropriate for that community. I move adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the bill. Quite frankly, the bill is as the good Representative said, an opportunity for towns and municipalities to have more flexibility. It simply does allow the town, if its elected board decides that it's a good idea, to expand the income levels from \$35,300 for single people, plus \$25,000 and \$43,000, plus \$25,000 for married couples to an unlimited amount if the municipality sees fit to do so.

As far as a fiscal note, the only fiscal note would be to a town that elected to do that, and they would have to determine if they needed to adjust their mill rate. But it would be optional and not mandated. I recommend my colleagues support the bill. Thank you very much, sir.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

CLERK:

Substitute House Bill 5239,

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 141?

CLERK:

On page 17, House Calendar 141, Substitute House Bill No. 5257, AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY OR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Human Services.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Abercrombie of the 83rd, you have the floor, madam.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill reduces the time from 72 hours to 48 hours that a

mandated reporter must report abuse and neglect of a person with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 3404. I ask that the amendment be called, and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 3404, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule A.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule A, LCO No. 3404, offered by Representative Abercrombie and Senator Moore.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection to summarization? Seeing none, Representative Abercrombie.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this just makes two technical changes. After peer professionals, it adds licensed behavioral analysts

and in line 28, after weekend, adds holiday. I move adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Will you remark on the amendment before us? Representative Case of the 63rd, on the amendment.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Just a comment, it was a great bipartisan work on this amendment and the bill as a whole, but I support this amendment wholly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the amendment before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, signify by saying, aye. Those opposed, nay. Ayes have it. (Gavel) The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative McCarty of the 38th, you have the floor.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Thank you, madam -- madam, excuse me, Mr.

Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

That's all right. (Laughter)

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Sorry. I do rise in strong support of the legislation in front of us. I think the shortened timeframe will certainly add an extra layer of protection to our individuals with disability and on the autism spectrum disorder. I think it will help us to have a more accurate piece of reporting of mandated abuse of reporters. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guest to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

CLERK:

Substitute House Bill No. 5257, as amended by House A,

Total Number of Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	142
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	8

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The bill passes as amended. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 106?

CLERK:

On page 48, House Calendar 106, Substitute House Bill No. 5332, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND

FAMILIES. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Boyd of the 50th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BOYD (50TH):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. BOYD (50TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill comes out of the Children's' Committee, putting together a number of recommendations that I would have characterized as procedural changes in seven different areas. It also brings us in compliance to continue to receive federal funding, which is important. I will note that this has been supported by the Public Defender,

the Child Advocate, DPH, DDS, and Mental Health and Addictions Services. So, I urge adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. One of my favorite Representatives to hear on the floor, Representative Zupkus of the 89th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. ZUPKUS (89TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a good bill, ought to pass. If it doesn't, we're going to lose a lot of money. So, I encourage y'all to vote for it. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

There's that y'all again, got to love it. Would you like to remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, staff and guests, to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

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

the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

Representative Walker, for what purpose do you rise, madam?

REP. WALKER (93RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently hit the wrong button. (Laughter)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Try again, madam, and see what happens.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

If all the members have voted, the machine will be relocked, and the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

Substitute House Bill 5332,

Total Number of Voting 142

Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	141
Those Voting Nay	1
Those absent and not voting	8

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 54?

CLERK:

On page 11, Calendar 54, Substitute House Bill 5175, AN ACT CONCERNING APPEALS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND PETITIONS FOR RELIEF FROM VEXATIOUS REQUESTERS. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good evening, sir.

REP. FOX (148TH):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's

favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the bill is an effort to assist our towns by providing the FOI Commission with the ability to provide relief to an agency or municipality that is a subject of a frivolous and vexatious requesters, filed under the FOI Act. Lines 104 to 109 includes the new language that outlines the new factors that the FOI Commission must consider when determining whether to hear an appeal. Lines 130 to 161 establishes the procedure by which a public agency may petition the FOI Commission for relief of vexatious requesters.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk's in the possession of an amendment, LCO No. 3777, I'd as that that be called, and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 3777, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule A.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule A, LCO No. 3777, offered by Representative Fox, Representative Devlin, Representative Dunsby.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Seeing none, Representative Fox, you have the floor.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Mr. Speaker, the amendment makes two minor changes the LCO fixes. The underlying bill has no fiscal impact. It's out of Committee with unanimous consent supported by CCM costs. I want to thank Representative Dunsby for his efforts in bringing this bill before us. I move for adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark

further on the amendment before us? Representative Devlin on the amendment? Let me try your minds. All those in favor of the amendment, signify by saying, aye. Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Godfrey of the 110th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick question to the proponent. The original bill was opposed by FOIC, but I understand it had, you had substitute language. Is FOIC on board now? Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The original bill as posted on the website was an incorrect bill. So, FOI's testimony provided was concerning a bill from last session. So, my understanding, FOI currently supports the underlying bill. That's correct.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Representative Dunsby of the 135th.

REP. DUNSBY (135TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Connecticut has tremendous FOI laws, which we should all be very proud of. In recent years, we have seen increased instances of individuals kind of using their rights to burden the municipalities and public agencies. All this bill does is allow a public agency, which believes they began to agree, to petition the Freedom of Information Commission for temporary relief after due process. I hope everyone supports it. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? The esteemed Representative of the 134th District, Representative Devlin, you have the floor, madam.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill came before our Committee last session. It may have made it to

the floor as well. But I do just want to reiterate the amount of due diligence that has gone into this and the close working with Representative Dunsby that he took on with the FOI Commission to ensure that this would be a bill that supports local needs, support agencies and does not compromise people who are legitimately trying to get information. I wholeheartedly endorse this bill and encourage all of my colleagues to support it. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative O'Dea, before you go, we have adopted a no more flailing policy here in the House. (Laughter) With that being said, sir, you have the floor.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize to the Chamber for flailing on my way out. Just a brief question and comment to the proponent, if I may.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

He seems prepared. Representative O'Dea,  
please proceed.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

The number of excessive or vexatious types of  
claims, there's no particular number in mind,  
correct? In other words, if somebody is bringing 12  
complaints through FOI, that by its very nature is,  
you know, one per month, it's not vexatious in and  
of itself.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

That's correct, there's no set standard.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want  
to be clear for legislative intent that it's not  
just the number, but also the type. In other words,  
if there are 12 good FOI complaints, they should be

answered and responded to and that it's not necessarily the number, but frankly the type and the good-faith basis for those complaints; is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

That's correct, as outlined in lines 134 to 135 of the underlying bill. The number of requests filed and total number of pending requests, there's not set specific number, it's more of an overall scope.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH): H):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate it.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Cheeseman of the 37th District, you have the floor.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I just want to thank the members of the Committee and also Representative Dunsby for working on this. In my time serving on the Board of Selectmen in East Lyme, we did, in fact, experience significant numbers of what would have been deemed vexatious requests and I think this strikes a very good balance of respecting the Freedom of Information Act and also allowing municipalities some leeway to respond with the FOI Commission. So, I want to thank the Committee very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

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

the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

CLERK:

Substitute House Bill 5175, as amended by House A,

Total Number of Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	142
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	8

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The bill passes as amended. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 263?

CLERK:

On page 28, House Calendar 263, Substitute House Bill No. 5291, AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO

INFORMATION REGARDING THE SAFETY OF SPORTS HELMETS.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Public Health.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Top of the evening to you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good evening, sir.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill would allow  
manufacturers to sell protective headgear that meet  
the performance standards set by the National  
Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic

Equipment, as we all know is NOCSAE, to report that fact to the State Department of Education, including the severity index, unit score of the headgear. If manufacturers report such information to the Department of Education, the Department must post the information on its website within available appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, in summary, if there was ever a bill that could benefit from an amendment, it is this one. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the bill? Representative Klarides-Ditria of the 105th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, it's LCO No. 3798. Would you please ask the Clerk to call it and I be allowed to summarize?

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 3798, which would be designated as House Amendment Schedule A?

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule A, LCO No. 3798,  
offered by Representative Klarides, Representative  
Klarides-Ditria.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Klarides-Ditria, you have the  
floor, madam.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendment is a --  
that starts, convenes a working group to develop  
recommendations for creating a system for rating the  
safety of youth athletic protective headgear. And  
for public disclosure of such protective headgear  
safety rating. I move adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption  
of the amendment. Will you remark on the amendment?  
Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would view this as  
not only a friendly amendment, but an essential  
amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the amendment before us? If not, let me try your minds. Oh, Representative Butler on the amendment? You have the floor, sir.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the public hearing on this matter, I actually brought up the issue of high school girls, LaCrosse headgear, and I just wanted to know if somehow that was going to be covered in this amendment or is there some other way that that needs to be addressed?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Klarides-Ditria.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Great question. Through the working group, that's what we're going to address is all headgear.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your answer.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will you remark further on the amendment before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye. Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. (Gavel) The amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests to the well -- Representative Betts of the 78th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A good bill, it ought to pass. (Laughter)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee of the 5th.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good evening, sir.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

I have a question to the proponent of the --

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

-- bill as amended?

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

-- as amended.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Steinberg, please prepare yourself. Representative McGee, please proceed.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

So, does that, that amendment that we just voted on make this a study bill?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

That is correct.

Through you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Have a good evening.

(Laughter) (Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will you remark further on the study bill before us? (Laughter) Representative Belsito of the 53rd. (Applause)

REP. BELSITO (53RD):

Oh my God, another study, No. 14,544. (Laughter) But you know, there are some good studies. (Applause) And this happens to be one.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

CLERK:

Substitute House Bill 5291, as Amended by House  
A,

Total Number of Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	142
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	8

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The bill as amended passes. (Gavel) Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Abercrombie of the 83rd, you have the floor, madam.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

I just want to invite all of our members to the Water Safety Awareness. Tomorrow will be our first one. Our Guest Speaker is Stu Leonard, and he's bringing food, guys. It's from 10 to 12 in Room

310. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Are there any other announcements or introductions?

Representative Santiago of the 84th.

REP. SANTIAGO (84TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purposes of journal notations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. SANTIAGO (84TH):

Thank you, and I want to make sure I was the first one to push the button because it's a long list. Representative Borer, funeral. Representative D'Agostino, business outside the Chamber. Elliott, business in the District, business outside the Chamber. Mushinsky, family illness. Rose, business outside the Chamber. Morris, business in the District. Urban, business outside the Chamber. Rosario, business outside the Chamber. Santiago-Ezequiel, business outside the Chamber. Perone, business outside the Chamber.

Gonzalez, business outside the Chamber. Berger, business outside the Chamber. Linda Gentile, ill. Tong, business in the District. Miller, business outside the Chamber. D'Agostino, business outside the Chamber. And Reed, business outside the Chamber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Representative Betts of the 78th.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For purposes of journal notations. We have miss-votes for Representative LeGeyt, due to illness. Representative Floren, illness. Representative France, out-of-state on business. Representative Kokoruda, legislative business in the District. Representative Bocchino, out of the Chamber on legislative business. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Mr. Speaker, I move for suspension of the rules for immediate transmittal of all resolutions requiring further action to the Senate.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on suspension of our rule and immediate transmittal to the Senate of all items acted upon in the House.

Without objection, so ordered. (Gavel)

Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are getting done fairly early this evening and we will not be in until noon tomorrow. So, looking forward to seeing you all in the afternoon, believe it or not. So, with that, there being no further business on the Clerk's desk, I move that we adjourn, subject to the Call of the Chair.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adjournment, subject to the Call of the Chair? Is there objection? Is there objection? Seeing none, we are adjourned, subject to the Call of the Chair.

(Gavel)

(On motion of Representative Albis of the 99th District, the House adjourned at 8:50 o'clock p.m., to meet again at the Call of the Chair).

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 289 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on Monday, April 30, 2018.

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

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