

THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

(The House of Representatives was called to order at 10:15 o'clock a.m., Deputy Speaker Morin in the Chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

The House will please come to order. Will the members, staff and guests, please rise and direct your attention to the Dais, where Guest Chaplain Representative Zupkus will lead us in prayer.

GUEST CHAPLAIN REPRESENTATIVE LEZLYE W. ZUPKUS:

Let us pray. Dear Lord, bless us as we come together today for this Veto Session. Guide us in our deliberations to result in effective solutions for our great State and our citizens. Grant us your wisdom in our decisions made today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Thank you, Representative Zupkus. Would Representative Borer of the 115th District, please come to the Dais and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REP. BORER (115TH):

(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.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Thank you, Representative Borer. Is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, there's the call of the session.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Would the Clerk please read the call.

CLERK:

The call reconvening the 2018 session of the General Assembly, whereas the regular session of the 2018 General Assembly adjourned on May 9, 2018, in accordance with the Constitution of Connecticut.

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And whereas, the Governor has disapproved certain bills passed by the regular session of the 2018 General Assembly and has transmitted same to the Secretary of the State with his objections. And whereas, said bills were not reconsidered by the General Assembly or were so disapproved by the Governor after said adjournment. Now, therefore, as required by Article Third of the Amendments to the Constitution of Connecticut, I hereby call the 2018 General Assembly to reconvene in session at Hartford on Monday, June 25, 2018, at 10 o'clock in the morning for a period not to exceed three days, following such reconvening for the sole purpose of reconsidering and if the General Assembly so desires, repassing said bills. Given under my hand and Seal of the State of City of Hartford this 19th Day of June in the year of our Lord 2018, Denise Merrill, Secretary of State.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

I order the call be printed in the journal. Is there any additional business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Communications from the Secretary of the State,  
Governor's veto messages.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

The fine Majority Leader, Representative  
Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, top of the morning to you. I move  
that the reading of the veto messages be waived and  
that they be ordered printed in the journal.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Is there objection? Is there objection?  
Hearing none, so ordered. Is there any other  
business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Communication from the Secretary of the State,  
return of votes cast forth Assembly District.

Dear Mr. Jortner: This is to advise you that  
the return of votes cast at the special election  
held in the 4th Assembly District on June 4, 2018  
for the purpose of filling a vacancy in the office  
of State Representative for said district, states  
the following candidates received the number of

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votes annexed to their names. Julio A. Concepcion,  
464. Bryan Nelson, 36. Jessica Inacio, 2016.  
Write-In candidate, Mary L. Sanders, 12.

— In accordance with Connecticut General Statute  
9-215, Julio A. Concepcion will appear before me on  
June 12, 2018 to be administered the oath of office.  
A copy of the official statement of oath signed by  
this State Board of Canvassers is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Denise W. Merrill,

Secretary of the State.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

We will order this to be printed in the  
journal. Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and if I could just  
have the Chamber's attention for one minute here.  
We have not been in session since that June 4th  
Special Election, so it gives me great pleasure to  
introduce not only a new colleague of ours, but a  
very good friend who I've known for a very long  
time, our newest State Representative from the City

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of Hartford and from the State of Connecticut,  
please give a warm reception to State Representative  
Julio Concepcion. (Applause)

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Welcome, Representative Concepcion. I'm sure  
it will be a pleasure to work with you. Is there  
any other business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

The Daily Calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Will the Clerk please call House Resolution  
101.

CLERK:

House Resolution No. 101, RESOLUTION CONCERNING  
THE RULES OF THE HOUSE FOR THE RECONVENED SESSION OF  
THE 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY. Introduced by  
Representative Ritter.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of the resolution. Will you remark? Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, these are just our normal Veto Session rules, they've been worked out in a bipartisan way. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Thank you, Representative Ritter. Thank you very much. Would you care to remark further? Would you care to remark further on the resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the resolution, please signify by saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

All opposed nay. The ayes have it. (Gavel)  
The resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please call House Joint  
Resolution 201?

CLERK:

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House Joint Resolution No. 201, RESOLUTION  
CONCERNING THE JOINT RULES OF THE RECONVENED SESSION  
OF THE 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY. Introduced by  
Representative Ritter, Senator Duff, Senator Witkos.  
DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption  
of the resolution. Will you remark? Representative  
Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

All good.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Thank you very much. Would you care to remark  
further? Would you care to remark further on the  
resolution before us? If not, let me try your  
minds. All those in favor of the resolution, please  
signify by saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

All those opposed, nay. (Gavel) The ayes have  
it, the resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please call House Joint  
Resolution 2012.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 202, RESOLUTION  
CONCERNING THE EXPENSES OF THE RECONVENED SESSION OF  
THE 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY. Introduced by  
Representative Ritter, Senator Duff, Senator Witkos.  
DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

I move ~~acceptance~~adoption of the resolution,  
Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption  
of the resolution. Will you remark further?  
Representative Ritter. No. Thank you very much.  
Will you care to remark further? Would you care to  
remark further on the resolution before us? If not,

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let me try your minds. All those in favor of the  
resolution, please signify by saying, aye?

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it.

(Gavel) The resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please call House Joint  
Resolution 203.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 203, RESOLUTION  
CONCERNING THE PRINTING OF THE JOURNALS OF THE  
SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE  
RECONVENED SESSION OF THE 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Introduced by Representative Ritter, Senator Duff,  
Senator Witkos.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

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The question before the Chamber is on adoption of the resolution. Will you remark? Representative Ritter. I see none. Will you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further on the resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor with the resolution, please signify by saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

That's very energetic. All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. (Gavel) The resolution is adopted.

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know there was a little confusion. We are not going to jump right into business. We know that some folks are stuck in traffic and I would remind the Chamber that we are here for a veto override. There are only two bills that we can currently even act upon. The vast majority of the bills that were vetoed by the

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Governor are currently awaiting action in the State Senate. So, we'll have to be patient and allow them to go through their process as well today. So, with that said, we're going to take a recess and go into Caucus on our side and we hope to get back here as soon as we can. Thank you everybody.

~~DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):~~ DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN  
(28TH)

Representative Klarides.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you can imagine, the House Republicans will also be Caucusing immediately upon recess.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Thank you, Representative Klarides.

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Just in case there's no confusion, I would move that we immediately transmit all items awaiting further action on the Senate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORIN (28TH):

Is there objection? Is there objection?  
Seeing none, so ordered, be transmitted to the  
Senate. Is there objection to recess? Is there  
objection to recess? If not, the Chamber is in  
recess.

(On motion of Deputy Speaker Morin of the 28th  
District, the House recessed at 10:25 o'clock a.m.,  
to meet again at the Call of the Chair.)

(The House reconvened at 12:54 o'clock p.m.,  
Speaker Joe Aresimowicz in the Chair.)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will the House please come to order. Will the  
Clerk please call House Calendar 0113.

CLERK:

House Calendar 0113, Substitute House Bill No.  
5171. AN ACT PROHIBITING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FROM  
MAKING RESCISSIONS OR OTHER REDUCTIONS TO THE  
EDUCATION THE EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANT DURING

THE FISCAL YEAR. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Ladies and gentlemen, Representative Fleischmann is preparing to bring out this bill. But before he does so and before I call on him, I'd like to point out to the Chamber, in order to take up a bill vetoed by the Governor, we need to follow a two-step process.

The first is a motion for reconsideration. Assuming that motion is adopted, we then move on to the second motion. That motion would be a motion to repass the vetoed bill. The first motion, the motion for reconsideration is decided by a simple majority vote. The second motion is a motion to repass the legislation. That motion requires a two-third vote or at least 101 members. I am requesting that the members avoid prolonged discussion on the first procedural motion and reserve their comments and remarks for the second motion to repass the legislation.

With that being said, Representative Fleischmann of the 18th District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for reconsideration of the measure before us.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on reconsideration of Bill No. 5171. For the benefit of the Chamber, I will note that Representative Fleischmann was on the prevailing side of this when the Chamber passed this measure and is therefore an appropriate member to make the motion for reconsideration. Will you remark? Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for repassage of the bill.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

We have to move the motion to reconsideration first, Representative Fleischmann and then we can move on to the repassage.

So, the question before the Chamber is, will you remark on the motion to reconsider?

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Oh, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe reconsideration is the appropriate step at this -- at this point in time and I hope members will join me in supporting that.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Are there any other remarks on the motion to reconsider? 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's been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

Substitute House Bill No. 5171,

Total Number of Voting	132
Necessary for Passage	67
Those Voting Yea	101
Those Voting Nay	31
Those absent and not voting	19

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The bill is now reconsidered. (Gavel) Ladies and gentlemen, now we'll be moving the bill and we'll be asking for repassage. A two-step process. We've now completed step one, we move on to step two.

Representative Fleischmann of the 18th District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For step two of our two-step, I move for repassage of the bill.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on repassage of the bill. Representative Fleischmann, you have the floor.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

~~Representative Fleischmann~~

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Briefly, I would just like to point out to friends in the Chamber that prior to 2016, there had never been --

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Ladies and gentlemen, if we could have quiet in the Chamber. The Representative is bringing out a bill that was vetoed by the Governor and he is offering an explanation why he believes this should be repassed.

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to the year 2016, there had never been a rescission, a lapse or a holdback affecting education cost-sharing dollars.

It simply had not happened. I think many in this Chamber were quite surprised when there was such a holdback in the midst of the school's fiscal year in 2016 and again in '17. The reason for this measure is that our school districts are not just any recipient of state support. They are complex organizations that work hard to provide education to the children whom we serve. And for this Governor, for any Governor, for the Executive Branch to hold back dollars, once they have been put forward by the General Assembly, puts our school districts in a terrible, and I believe untenable position. Trying to carry out a budget that assumes that various programs will roll forward, while looking at revenue streams that have suddenly been adjusted in a downward direction, in a sudden significant and unpredicted way.

Mr. Speaker, when this measure came before the House on May 2nd, we voted by a margin of 117 to 32 to support it. Nothing has changed between May 2nd and today, except for the fact that this bill received a veto from the Governor. I would ask my

good colleagues to join me in once again supporting it and showing that we believe that education cost-sharing is a unique and critically important type of state grant. That it's not appropriate to ever cut a school district in the middle of a school year and that we as a General Assembly stand strongly for that principle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will you remark further? Representative Lavielle of the 143rd, you have the floor, madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good afternoon, madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

I would like to join Representative Fleischmann in his comments in support of repassage of this bill. Again, I agree with his comments that education is a very special use of our financial resources that certainly demands our utmost attention. It is very difficult, as we've seen, and

many of us by the way in this Chamber have served on Boards of Finance and Boards of Ed in our towns and Boards of Selectmen and common counsels and Boards of Aldermen. And we all know how difficult it is to receive notice in the middle of a year, when budgets are long done and passed, often by referendum of the entire population of a town, to receive notice that there is suddenly a dip, ~~or~~ a significant dip, in revenue.

In education, this is particularly difficult to deal with because hiring decisions on teachers. Decisions about whether to go forward with programs are made in the spring and the summer preceding the beginning of an academic year. Once they're made and everything is underway, it's very difficult to stop them. It can change the entire complexion of a child's school year to have something like that happen midyear. And yet, we saw cuts coming from the Executive Branch midyear, in the month of December and the month of January. This is practically impossible for a town or a school district to deal with effectively.

I think respectfully that there may be some confusion coming from the Governor's veto message, which suggested that this bill had something to do with how education dollars in the state are allocated among our 169 towns. I would argue very strongly that that is not the case at all. This bill has nothing to do with the way dollars are allocated. It has to do with timing. It has to do with springing a surprise on school boards and towns midyear they were not expecting.

The Governor has ample opportunity now and in future to influence the use of education funds while the budget process is going on at the state level, not after the towns have already made their budget decisions. That is what this bill is about, it's about timing. I know that many of us in this Caucus have suggested that we change timing so that some of these decisions are made by the state before, before the towns complete their budget process. Repassing this bill is consistent with that aim.

So, I would suggest strongly and support strongly an override of this veto, a repassage of

this bill for the good of all of our towns, all of our school districts and all of the children who are studying in them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will you remark further? Representative Johnson of the 49th District, you have the floor, madam.

REP. JOHNSON (49TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I get up in strong opposition to overriding this veto. Why? Because I represent Windham, the 49th House District. 49th House District only gets 72 percent of the education cost grant -- sharing grant formula that it should receive. 72 percent. While my neighboring surrounding towns are getting 80, 90, 100 percent. And when you look at the state, some of the towns are getting almost 200 percent of education cost-sharing formula. This is incredibly unfair and the only way that we could have ever been able to address this and the only time it's ever been addressed is when Governor Malloy decided to do some

changes in our, our, our formulas, by taking some of the district money where the cost-sharing formula was at 100 percent or 200 percent of ECS and applying it to the budget.

Now, I agree that, you know, it's difficult to do this mid, mid-budget t for your municipalities. However, just think of how difficult it is for a district that is one of the poorest districts in the entire state to come up with the additional money that it needs for the 72 percent of -- to make up the difference for the 72 percent of education cost-sharing. Just think about that. Think about how hard it is when we have the highest, almost the highest proportion of students who have English language learning issues. And that wasn't even in the ECS formula.

Think about how hard it is when we have 3 percent of our students are homeless and we have to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder of our homeless students. Think about that. It's very, very difficult for Windham, for Bridgeport, for Waterbury, for New Haven, for all the districts that



are alliance districts, we have about 30 of them in the state, to actually get the total ECS formula that we should be receiving. And where will that money come from now, if you can't get it from the municipalities? Well, maybe we'll take it from granny when she's in the nursing home, huh? Take the Medicaid money from her. Kick granny out of the nursing home, is that what we're gonna do? Is that how we roll?

So, you know, I, I really think that we have to think very carefully about where we're going to get our money. We have a no tax increase policy. We're not willing to help, help our lower income people in our districts. Just think about this, too. Less than 50 percent of the students being educated in the suburban towns, yeah, we have more than 50 percent of the students in the urban districts, in the alliance districts. And they are getting less money and actually their appropriated cost would actually be less because they're more regionally located. So, there are a lot of things here that our education committee has failed us. Our state

has failed us. We have failed the people in these districts for years and years and years, ever since Horton v. Meskill back in the '70s and then it was reformed again in the '80s. Ever since Sheff v. O'Neill in the '90s. And then CCJEF, Connecticut Coalition for Justice and Education Funding also failed. And the judge in the circumstance said, hey, legislature, please do something about the education cost-sharing formula. It's up to you. It's up to the legislation branch of government to do something about that.

And yet, now we're going to override the only methodology that this Governor has been able to use to try and create some equalization in our education systems. So, please, please give that some consideration. Where will the money come from?

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Will you remark further? Representative Bolinsky of the 106th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BOLINSKY (106TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in strong support of overriding this veto because of several reasons. First of all, and most important, when the State of Connecticut makes a commitment to a town or to an education system, that commitment is made to be kept as a promise. Pulling the strings and pulling the rug out from under a district midyear does nothing to advance anything resembling the inequities that occur from state to state, city to city, town to town or addressing the achievement gap.

As a matter of fact, this bill has nothing to do with the achievement gap. It has everything to do with simply keeping a promise. On the subject of the educational achievement gap, the Education Committee is working continuously as are other people in this building at coming up with a more equitable formula and we're in the process right now of actually implementing one. Will it be perfect? Probably not. However, we work on that in earnest with the goal of addressing achievement gaps. But it has nothing to do with this particular bill.

And leaving it to one man to arbitrarily cut promised, committed ECS dollars to a town, is just simply not acceptable. I stand in very strong support along with 60 other people that co-sponsored this measure and call for its override of the veto.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Representative Ziobron of the 34th District, you have the floor, madam.

REP. ZIOBRON (34TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I stand up in strong support of the override, but I can't help but go back to what I think I believe is one of the largest problems we are -- where we are when it comes to this subject matter which is, the timing in which we do our budgets here at the state, compared to when our municipalities are developing their budget. So, I'd like to align my comments with that of the Ranking Member of the Education Committee. We must start recognizing that we have a job to do in this

building, which is to pass a budget first. Let's start doing our job, the most important job we have, so that our municipalities know exactly how much money they're getting back from their taxpayers because it's not state money, it's not state aid, it's taxpayer dollars.

We did work hard developing a new ECS formula. So, I have to correct the record because we are for the first time having English learner weighted values in the ECS formula. It used to be not considered at all, now it's 15 percent. In addition, we have a concentrated poverty weight of 5 percent. We have a base-aid ratio, it used to be a wealth factor of 90 percent and now it's 70 percent. In addition, we have an income wealth factor now that we look at as well.

So, to have comments that our new ECS formula, while not perfect, does not address some of those with the most needs is patently false. We do. It is not perfect. We have a long way to go, but we do address some of those issues that my good colleague and friend just spoke of recently. But at the end

of the day, our real issue for this, this veto bill and blocking the Governor or any Governor in the future from taking away municipal aid is simply the fact that every single town in this state has no idea how much money they're going to receive until after they've already developed their budget process. That's patently wrong and I hope one day we'll fix it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Will you remark further? Representative Stafstrom of the 129th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill for much the same reasons that I opposed it when it first came before us during the session. While I certainly understand the intent of it and very much appreciate the leadership of the Education Committee for their hard work on this and bringing it to us. It's my understanding that the budget we pass this year

actually fixes this issue at least for the following year. But on a going forward basis, my concern is that we're singling out one pot of municipal aid. We're singling out ECS and placing that in a special category over and above any other levy of municipal aid that we give, be that PILOT, Pequot, TAR money, you name it, any other source of revenue that we give to our towns.

We're protecting ECS from midyear budget cuts, but we're not protecting our towns from those other pots and those other pots potentially being cut midyear. And in fact, I would submit, by passing this legislation, we're putting those pots money at even greater risk of midyear cuts because a Governor who is forced with the unfortunate circumstance of trying to balance a budget midyear when it falls into deficit or when this legislature passes lapses onto it, is forced to look at a shrinking pool of available midyear money to cut.

And I'm afraid that the unintended consequences, not just for alliance districts and for the poorer towns in our state, but for every

town is going to be that risk that their PILOT money, their Pequot money, their other sources of town aid are going to be that much more at risk. And for that reason, Mr. Speaker, as much as I love the intent and the leadership of the Education Committee on their work on this bill, I have to oppose the bill here.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Porter of the 94th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. PORTER (94TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I will make this very brief. I'm just rising in staunch opposition of this bill. I'm going to support my no vote as I did when it was on the floor initially. And I will have to agree with my colleague across the aisle. This is not about the achievement gap because as far as I'm concerned, there is no achievement gap. It is an opportunity and resource gap. And as this bill stands, it will do damage to areas in this state, particularly my district, where we need so desperately need the resources.



So, I would like for those of us that are going to be voting today to also take that into consideration. No achievement gap. Opportunity and resource gap. And we have areas in this state that need more resources than others. And I believe that that should be taken into consideration. We have to meet the needs of the students that are most vulnerable and need it the most. And I think that's the right thing to do, the equitable thing to do, the fair thing to do.

So, I would hope that I would have other colleagues in this Chamber that will join me today and stand in opposition to this.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Will you remark further? Representative Dubitsky of the 47th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. DUBITSKY (47TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm looking at this from the perspective of small towns that have volunteers that run their boards of

finance and set their budgets. And also from the perspective of the legislature. We in the legislature go through a lot of efforts and a lot of negotiations and work very hard to put together a state budget that takes into account a lot of different factors, including how much the towns will get and how they are going to expect to satisfy their obligations of educating their children.

And then once we do that, which is unfortunately often very, very late in the process and after the towns are required to get their budgets in, then the towns take whatever we told them they were going to get, and they put together a budget that also weighs and balances a lot of factors. They send it to their constituents. They send it to the towns, to the people to vote on. And at that point, we as a legislature and the towns and the people of the towns, have certain expectations about what's going to happen, how money has been allocated and how money is going to be spent.

And then to have the Governor simply sweep away those decisions and throw the education of our

children in complete turmoil, really isn't being true to the process of the legislative budget making process and the local budget making process.

So, ~~you know,~~ I certainly support overriding this veto and I think anybody who lives in a town who spends most of the money in that town on education, which I know is all of my towns and probably just about every town in this state, where most of the money goes to education, the towns have to have some reasonable expectation as to what money is going to be there for education.

Now, we've heard that we're singling out education above all else. Well, I tell you, in my town, the education budget for our schools is many, many times greater than the budget of all other things put together. So, yes, we're singling out education because that's the biggest expense that many towns, and I'm going to guess almost all towns in this state have. So, yeah, we're going to single that one out and we're going to say that we really need to make sure that when the legislature says

it's going to give the towns a certain amount of money for education, that it actually does so.

Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will you remark further? Representative Klarides of the 114th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you heard from so many of our colleagues today, there are differing of opinions on this particular bill. And while I understand and appreciate some of my colleagues that spoke against this and in support of the veto today, I don't find the reasoning to be particularly accurate.

We have all lived in the past two years with experiences in this building that oftentimes have not happened ever in the history of the State of Connecticut. They're experiences that I've had in the past two years that I certainly haven't had in my career and many before me have not had in their career. And because of that, we must assess the

situation as it comes up and make the necessary changes.

We have talked about predictability and sustainability and I know some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have actually taken those terms and used them. If you believe that we owe our towns and cities that predictability, if you believe as we've talked about towns and cities passed budgets, they sit around there sitting on their hands waiting for us to do our job. Last year that took way too long. And they were forced to make decisions they've never made before and do it in different ways they've never done it before. But they did that because of the circumstances of this state.

And we understand that whether it's education, whether it's overall town aid, whatever the case may be, there have been cuts and there will be cuts overall. But one thing that we can control, one thing, is knowing we make those decisions going in and our towns and cities then make their decisions based on what we're giving them. To cut off their

legs in midstream for something as important as children's education, is something we have the ability to stop today and we should.

I support the override, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm actually not even going to talk to the underlying bill as I understand both sides and have heard both sides and people will vote as they will.

I do want to comment on timing because we did deal with timing a little bit this year. And I think it's important for everyone here, for all of us to think about this as we talk to our mayors and first selectmen. We have two types of towns in the State of Connecticut. We have statutory towns and we have charter towns. So, if you're a statutory town, it's a little different. But if you're a charter town, your budget adoption dates are specified in your town charter.

And the income tax came in in 1991. Municipal charters were mostly adopted in the 1960s and '70s, when we passed the Home Rule Act as a legislature. The dates don't match up anymore. We can work as hard as we ever could, and people could meet as much as they ever wanted, but we don't really know our revenue until April 15th. That's not our fault. Now, granted, last year was not anyone's plan to go that late. But generally speaking, in an odd year, there is no practical way to adopt a budget, no way, until after April 15th and before we adjourn on the first Wednesday in June.

So, if you're adopting your budget earlier than April 15th, it may be time to revisit that. We passed a law in a bipartisan way that allows communities with charters to amend their charter without going through charter revision only to change your budget adoption dates.

The Governor had previously vetoed many of those bills about not going through charter revision for minor changes, but even he agreed that for budget adoption it may be time.

So, I agree with everything that was said about predictability, it's important. We also don't have to put big lapses in, that could be something we could look at internally. But from a budget adoption perspective, legally speaking, we have to wait till April -- not legally, from a financial perspective, we have to wait till April 15th.

So, I would just encourage communities that are thinking about their budgets in the future, it doesn't matter who the Governor is, it doesn't matter who runs the legislature, if you're adopting your budget in March, you are going to be susceptible to not knowing how much revenue you're going to be because there's nothing any of us can do about that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. 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. The Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

Substitute House Bill No. 5171,

Total Number of Voting	136
Necessary for <u>Re</u> Passage	101
Those Voting Yea	103
Those Voting Nay	33
Those absent and not voting	15

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The bill is repassed. (Gavel)

Are there any announcements or introductions?  
Representative Ritter. Representative Ritter, you  
have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we  
immediately transmit any items awaiting further  
action to the Senate.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Without objection, so ordered. Any  
announcements or introductions? Representative  
Morris of the 140th District, sir, you have the  
floor.

REP. MORRIS (140TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sir, I rise to make an  
announcement to my colleagues here, if they had not  
already heard that after 12 years of having the  
honor of serving in this legislature, I've  
determined not to go forward and run during this  
session going forward.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) Ladies and gentlemen, can we please  
have our conversations out in the hall. We have a

long-term member that didn't have the opportunity to address the General Assembly. He's not running for reelection. Can we please give him the respect he deserves.

Representative Morris, please proceed, sir.

REP. MORRIS (140TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been my deepest honor, lifelong honor to be able to serve with many of you here. This place with all of its decorum is just phenomenal. But being with each one of you, I tell people and I've said it over many of my sessions, that to work with members of this House of Representatives, we are a special group of people. We go out every year, we ask, we beg, we knock on doors for that opportunity to be able to represent people, so we can sit here until 4 o'clock in the morning or whatever is necessary and make tough decisions.

So, I cannot begin to tell you even the honor that I've had, I've been able to end this career here at this point as Deputy Speaker of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been a phenomenal

ride for me, a phenomenal ride, having the tough decisions. But I can say this much, and I look at many of you in the face, you've been family to me. You'll continue to be family to me. The only difference is I will now at 3 o'clock in the morning watch you on CTN. (Laughter)

So, thank you for this opportunity to speak, Mr. Speaker. Again, I applaud you, I honor, I respect each one of you. Even outside these doors, sometimes people extol us and say that we're something wonderful and then other times what they have to say to us is not so nice. And that's why you are special. We entrust in many of you especially the new members that are here. You'll have tough decisions in front of you. But guess what? You'll make it together as you continue to work in bipartisan fashion, respecting and honoring each other. Respecting the fact that other people that are in this place have made the same decisions that you have and the great burden that is upon us.

For those of you that have been here for a long time, especially the time that I've been here, I

would say I think we did real well. In the last 12 years, we were handed, we had to deal with the toughest time this country and this world has ever had to deal with. And fortunately we've done some major education reforms, judicial reforms, much of the country looks forward to.

I leave here with a heavy heart in that regard. I won't be here with you in some ways to continue to do those things, but I trust that you will. I thank each one of you for your friendship. I thank you for your service.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Applause).

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Representative, for your many years of service. The State of Connecticut and this Chamber greatly appreciate it. Thank you, sir.

Any announcements or introductions?

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Deputy Speaker Morris, thank you for your words here. We will miss you. Please don't watch us at 3 a.m., I know

there's better things on at that time than us. So,  
with that, thanks everyone for our veto override  
session and I would move that we go into recess  
| subject to the Call of the Chair.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is the recess,  
subject to the Call of the Chair. Without  
| objection, so ordered. (Gavel)

(On motion of Representative Ritter of the 1st  
District, the House recessed at 1:40 o'clock p.m.,  
| to meet again at the Call of the Chair.)

(The House reconvened at 2:12 o'clock p.m.,  
Assistant Deputy Speaker Emil Altobello in the  
| Chair.)

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO (82ND):

| Will the House please come back to order?  
(Gavel) Are there any announcements or

introductions? Representative Piscopo of the 76th trombones, you have the floor. (Laughter)

REP. PISCOPO (76TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the journal notation, please?

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO (82ND):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. PISCOPO (76TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the journal please note that representative missed votes whose out of state on legislative business, Representative Kokoruda, illness. Representative Wood, attending a funeral. Representative Floren, family illness. Representative France, illness in the family. And would the transcript please note that Representative D'Amelio missed votes, he was out of the Chamber on legislative business.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO (82ND):

Thank you, Representative Piscopo. Are there any other announcements or introductions?

Representative Godfrey of the 110th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great delight to move that we adjourn sine die.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO (82ND):

Is there objection to the motion? If not, all in favor, aye. (Gavel) We are adjourned sine die.

Thank you all.

(On motion of Representative Godfrey of the 110th District, the House adjourned at 2:13 o'clock p.m., sine die.)



CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing ~~48~~<sup>7</sup> pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on Monday, June 25, 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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Thomas Bailey  
President  
Alpha Transcription