Bill No.: HB-5043  
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF ATLANTIC STANDARD TIME.  
Vote Date: 4/1/2019  
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute  
PH Date: 2/15/2019  
File No.:  

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SPONSORS OF BILL:  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Co-Sponsors  
Rep. Kurt Vail  
Rep. Quentin Phipps  
Rep. Craig Fishbein  

REASONS FOR BILL:  
The bill would require the governor to apply to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to change the state’s standard time to Atlantic Standard Time (AST) when Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island enact language adopting AST. Under the bill, the time change would go into effect after receiving federal approval.

Substitute Language LCO No. 6409- adds New York to the number of states that need to adopt Atlantic Standard Time before Connecticut follows Suit  

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:  
None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:  
Scott Yates, former resident of Connecticut: Transitioning to Atlantic Standard Time is better than changing clocks twice each year. It’s a myth that farmers supported Daylight Savings Time (changing clocks twice each year). The tradition came about in the U.S. following World War I. While staying in standard time the entire year will be good for public health, reduce traffic/vehicle injuries, and be good for the environment and economy as
workplace productivity will suffer less, this bill (adopting Atlantic Standard Time) would be better than keeping the status quo (Daylight Savings Time).

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

**Michael Ryan, President, Connecticut Broadcasters Association:** Transitioning to Atlantic Standard Time would be disruptive to broadcasters and viewers. The 11pm local news would not begin until 12:00am midnight. Viewers in Fairfield County, for example, who work in New York, would have to go back and forth between two time zones. Sports broadcasts would not be delayed to accommodate Atlantic Standard Time in Connecticut; the Super Bowl and other games would start at their regular time – meaning that they would end late in Connecticut. Other programming, like the Oscars, would similarly affect Connecticut. With viewership in decline, broadcasters would lose revenue, which is what broadcasters rely on to keep their business going. While other states in New England have proposals to transition to Atlantic Standard Time, broadcasters’ associations in those states are strongly opposed.

**Jane Stephens, resident, Bolton, CT:** Placing Connecticut in a new time zone would put the state out of sync with other states that operate on Eastern Standard Time. Lawmakers should instead focus on more pressing issues.

Reported by: Nicholas Rogers  
Committee Clerk  
Date: 4/3/19