The Senate was called to order at 12:30 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of Senate Rule 9(d), and under the authority of the President Pro Tempore and the Senate Republican Leader.

The prayer was offered by Acting Chaplain, Kathy Zabel of Burlington, Connecticut

The following is the prayer:

Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9(d) the Senate is called into Session, by the Office of the Senate Clerk’s under the authority of the President Pro Tempore and the Senate Republican Leader.

It is hereby moved that Senate Agenda Number 1, dated Monday, March 18, 2019, is adopted, the items on said Agenda shall be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda shall be incorporated into the Senate Journal and Senate Transcript.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

The following communications were received from His Excellency, the Governor, read by the Clerk and referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

March 18, 2019

To the Honorable General Assembly:

Pursuant to Section 4-1a and 54-124a, of the Connecticut General Statutes, I have the honor and privilege to nominate and, with your advice and consent, reappoint Carleton J. Giles of Middletown, as the Chairperson of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, to serve a term coterminous with my term or until a successor is appointed and has qualified, whichever is longer.

Ned Lamont
Governor

REPORTS

The following reports were received, read by the Clerk and referred to the Committees indicated:
Report - Office of Policy and Management - State Facility Plan for 2019-2024. (Pursuant to Section 4-b-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes) Date received: March 15, 2019
Referred to Committees on Appropriations, Finance, Revenue and Bonding and Government Administration and Election.

Report - Connecticut Housing Finance Authority - Summary Report, Year-end Revenue and Expense Information of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's activities for Calendar Year 2018. (Pursuant to Section 8-260 of the Connecticut General Statutes) Date received: March 15, 2019
Referred to Committee on Housing, Appropriations and Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

FAVORABLE REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE
SENATE RESOLUTION

The following favorable report was received from the Senate Committee indicated, read the second time and tabled for the calendar and printing.

EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS. S.R. No. 25 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ANDREW MAIS OF WILTON TO BE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER.

FAVORABLE REPORT OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
CHANGE OF REFERENCE
SENATE BILL

The following favorable report on a Senate Bill recommending a change of reference was received from the Joint Standing Committee indicated, the report of the Committee accepted, and the bill referred as recommended:

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT. S.B. No. 865 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING NO OR LOW INTEREST STUDENT LOANS FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

BUSINESS FROM THE HOUSE
FAVORABLE REPORT OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
CHANGE OF REFERENCE
HOUSE BILL

The following favorable report on House Bill recommending a change of reference was received from the Joint Standing Committee indicated, the report of the Committee accepted, and the bill referred as recommended:

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT. H.B. No. 7118 (RAISED) AN ACT FUNDING THE UNFUNDED PENSION LIABILITY PORTION OF THE FRINGE BENEFIT COST FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CONSTITUENT UNITS OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
SENATE AND HOUSE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with the provisions of Senate Rule 9(d), the first reading of the following bills and resolutions was waived, the list of bills and resolutions as prepared by the Clerks was accepted, and the bills and resolutions referred to the Committees as indicated thereon in concurrence:

COMMERCE

S.B. No. 192 (COMM) COMMERCE. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE REOPENING OF CONNECTICUT'S VISITOR WELCOME CENTERS USING VOLUNTEER STAFFING', to require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to submit a plan regarding the reopening of the state's visitor welcome centers using volunteer staffing.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

S.B. No. 402 (COMM) PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF CIVILIAN JUSTICE', to establish a Department of Civilian Justice to receive and investigate complaints from a police officer alleging misconduct by another police officer in the performance of the officer's duties.

TRANSPORTATION

S.B. No. 407 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE NEW BRITAIN TO HARTFORD BUSWAY', to increase transparency regarding the utilization, revenue and costs of the New Britain to Hartford busway by requiring legislative approval prior to any expansion of such busway and the submission of biannual reports.

S.B. No. 419 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT PROHIBITING GASOLINE ZONE PRICING', to prohibit the market manipulation of gasoline zone pricing based on a service station's geographic location.

S.B. No. 423 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR CONNECTICUT'S TRANSPORTATION FUTURE', to authorize the Commissioner of Transportation to construct, maintain and operate electronic tolling systems on Interstate 84, Interstate 91, Interstate 95 and portions of Connecticut Route 15 to fund transportation projects.

S.B. No. 424 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY REGARDING CAMERA VIDEO SYSTEMS INSIDE SCHOOL BUSES AND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES USED TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS', to study issues related to the installation of camera video systems inside school buses and student transportation vehicles used to transport students with special needs.

COMMERCE

S.B. No. 570 (COMM) COMMERCE. 'AN ACT CONCERNING OPPORTUNITY ZONES', to (1) require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to host a series of regional events advertising the state's opportunity zones; (2) require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to study how the state may incentivize investment in the state's opportunity zones; and (3) expand the role of the Department of Economic and Community Development's Permit Ombudsman to include expediting review of permit applications for projects that would develop any of the state's opportunity zones.

TRANSPORTATION
S.B. No. 717 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. ‘AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION PROJECT PRIORITIZATION’, to require the Commissioner of Transportation to submit an annual report that prioritizes transportation projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

S.B. No. 789 (COMM) PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. ‘AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS FOR TRAINING COSTS’, to prohibit a law enforcement unit from requiring a police officer to pay any portion of the costs of the officer's certification that the law enforcement unit must pay to another unit.

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

H.B. No. 5002 (COMM) ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY. ‘AN ACT CONCERNING A GREEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’, to authorize the procurement of energy derived from anaerobic digestion and to require the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to study the return on investment from fully implementing certain provisions of the general statutes.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

H.B. No. 5041 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. ‘AN ACT CONCERNING MAJOR PARTY CONVENTIONS’, to provide that major parties are not required to hold endorsing conventions and instead may only conduct primaries to nominate candidates for certain elective offices.

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

H.B. No. 5181 (COMM) ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY. ‘AN ACT REQUIRING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO STUDY THE CREATION OF A NEW RATE CLASS FOR GAS COMPANIES’, to require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to study a new rate class for gas companies.

TRANSPORTATION

H.B. No. 5460 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. ‘AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INCREASES RAILROAD FARES’, to provide greater transparency when increasing railroad fare.

H.B. No. 5559 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. ‘AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PERSONS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS’, to require the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to make available, upon request by a person with autism spectrum disorder, a blue envelope to contain such person's operator's license, registration and insurance card.

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

H.B. No. 5687 (COMM) ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY. ‘AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC SUPPLIER ELECTRIC GENERATION SERVICE RATES AND CUSTOMER BILLS’, to prohibit a requirement that a decreased generation service rate appear on a customer's bill where the electric supplier and a customer have agreed to decrease the electric generation service rate from the rate that appears on the customer's bill.

TRANSPORTATION
H.B. No. 5762 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CONTRACTORS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES', to promote efficiencies by privatizing services currently provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

H.B. No. 5945 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY REGARDING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS', to study best practices of established public-private partnerships and make recommendations to create a framework for public-private partnerships to thrive in this state.

H.B. No. 6161 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF HELMETS BY MOTORCYCLE OPERATORS AND PASSENGERS UNDER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE', to require the use of helmets by motorcycle operators and passengers under twenty-one years of age.

COMMERCE

H.B. No. 6185 (COMM) COMMERCE. 'AN ACT EXPANDING THE REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE PROPOSALS FOR REGIONAL MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT', to expand the regional performance incentive program to include proposals for regional marketing and economic development.

TRANSPORTATION

H.B. No. 6392 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHWAY WORK ZONE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT', to allow the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices within highway work zones.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

H.B. No. 7055 (COMM) PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. 'AN ACT CREATING A COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS FOR A RESORT-CASINO FACILITY', to create a competitive bidding process for a resort-casino facility.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate at 12:35 p.m. adjourned under provisions of Senate Rule 9(d) subject to the call of the chair.