(The House of Representatives was called to order at 1:45 o'clock p.m., Representative Aresimowicz of the 30th District in the Chair.)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) Will the House please come to order. Will member staff and guests please rise, direct your attention to the dais where Representative Patricia Billie Miller will lead us in prayer.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us in the midst of our struggles for consensus to work together. We ask for a vision that is not consumed in the details and process, but builds for tomorrow upon the progress of yesterday and the possibility of tomorrow. Amen.
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

You're welcome.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you. Would Representative Tammy Exum Rush please come to the dais and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REP. EXUM (19th):

(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 (30TH):

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

CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. There are communications from the Speaker of the House of Representatives updated Committee assignments.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
I order they be printed in the journal.

CLERK:


House Resolution No. 29 THE RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH AND THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES, AFT/AFT-CT, CONCERNING THE COUNSEL, LEGAL SERVICES JOB CLASSIFICATION.

House Resolution No. 30 THE RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH AND THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES, AFT/AFT-CT, CONCERNING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER EMPLOYEES.

House Resolution No. 32 RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESIDUAL BARGAINING UNIT.

House Resolution No. 33 RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF AN INTEREST ARBITRATION AWARD BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

We refer those to the House Committee on Appropriations.

CLERK:

Last item is the daily calendar.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. To the Chamber, I apologize. The Appropriations Committee
meeting went long so I realize we are almost an hour
and 45 minutes late, I apologize. Hopefully, other
Committees will move a little bit quicker as we get
through this process. With that being said, are
there any announcements or introductions?
Representative McGee of the 5th District, sir you
have the floor.
REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I promise I'll be
brief. But I stand for purpose of an announcement.
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.
REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Well, actually not an announcement, maybe yeah
you get it, introduction. (laughter) Had too much
coffee. I stand here with my colleagues, of Windsor
delegation. I'm standing with our Chair of the
Windsor Democratic Town Committee. I believe his
last meeting would be soon, if not yesterday or next
week. But I wanted to applaud him for all of his
work that he's committee to this great state of
Connecticut, even the town of Windsor. We've not always agreed on issues but we've always agreed on this one thing, that we represent our people in the town of Windsor. So, I stand with my colleague, Jane Garibay and Bobbie Gibson and Tammy and we wish to salute Al Simon as he transitioned to Massachusetts actually to do some great work there. So, if this chamber would indulge and just give him a round of applause.

(applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Gilchrest of the 18th District. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. GILCHREST (18TH):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. GILCHREST (18TH):
I am joined here today by my intern, Ashley Davila-Marquez who has been with me actually before I even got elected. She was my intern at the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and now has moved over with me here to the Connecticut General Assembly. Ashley will graduate in two weeks with her Bachelor's in Social Work but she to me is far beyond any Bachelor's student I've ever met. And she is going to be attending my alma mater, the UConn School of Social Work as an advanced standing student starting this summer. So, we would love to give her this citation on behalf of the Connecticut General Assembly in recognition of your work as an intern during the 2019 Legislative Session. Your assistance and hard work is greatly appreciated, you are indeed a rock star. Thank you, Ashely.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much for all your work.

(applause) Representative Jay Case of the 63rd District, sir you have the floor.

REP. CASE (63RD):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A point of personal privilege please.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Mr. Speaker, this past week on May 1st, we lost a very dear friend. Bruce Gresczyk who was previously Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture then became Commissioner of Agriculture. He served not only our state but a bunch of municipalities, became a good friend of mine as he was an intern town manager. He served as the first selectman for the town of New Hartford, a police officer in Southington. He passed away at the age of 63, way too young. But as he served the State of Connecticut, I'd appreciate a moment of silence for our good friend, previous Commissioner Gresczyk.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Ladies and gentlemen if we could please rise for a moment of silence. (Gavel) Thank you,
Representatives. Representative Gucker of the 138th, sir you have the floor.

REP. GUCKER (138TH):

    Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise for a personal moment, I forget the exact words.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

    Point of personal privilege, sir, and you have it, please proceed.

REP. GUCKER (138TH):

    Thank you. I rise to recognize a long-time member of my home town of New Fairfield, Mr. Raymond Williams. He had passed away this week. He's a Korean War Veteran. He was a very -- he was very active in our community and I would ask for a moment of silence in his memory.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

    Ladies and gentlemen, can we please rise for a moment of silence. (Gavel) Thank you very much, Representative. Representative Travis Simms of the 140th District. Sir, you now have the floor.

REP. SIMMS (140TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SIMMS (140TH):

I am proud to let my colleagues know that we are joined today by three members of the UConn boxing team. The UConn boxing team is a club made up of non-scholarship student athletes who enjoy competing and aspire to excellence. These three student athletes with us today earned their way to the National Collegiate Boxing Association championship in Reno, Nevada last month. We have with us Gina Rosseti. Although she lost a close bout in the finals, Gina became UConn's third boxing All-American. She was also selected by her peers at the national tournament for the sportsmanship award. Gina is a sophomore from Glastonbury and majors in Molecular and Cell Biology. (applause)

Next is Richard Brito. Richard is a two-time national finalist and UConn's first New England
Golden Gloves champion. He is a senior from Naugatuck and a Psychology major. Also, with us is Corona Zhang. (applause) Also with us is Corona Zhang. Corona is a national qualifier. She is from West Hartford, a junior at UConn and majors in Anthropology.

Our student athletes are also joined by their coach and mentor, Mike Campisano. Mike is a police officer in Bristol. He started the UConn boxing program in 2015 and previously coached at the US Coast Guard Academy. (applause) UConn hosted the Eastern Regional competition in March and is hoping to make a bid to host the national tournament in 2021. I ask that we all give these student athletes and their coach a rousing Husky welcome to our House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Representative Simms. For the entire team, I don’t know whether you knew it or not but Representative Simms is a champion in his own right and for him to recognize you on the House
floor is a special event. Congratulations on your achievements and I wish you the best success in the future, thank you. (applause) Representative O'Dea of the 125th. For what purpose do you rise, sir?

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Personal privilege, if I may.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

I just got a really good idea on just settling our disputes on the floor of the House. If we cut it in half with all of the current boxers being honored on the Republican side, I think we might have idea going forward on how we would be able to solve our disputes on the floor of the House.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

It's an idea. So, you're saying you would give Representative Simms?

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

No, no, no, no. He's going to be the honorary captain of the Republicans for over here because
he's on this side of the aisle right now. In any event, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

    Congratulations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

    Thank you very much, sir. Any other announcements or introductions? My very good friend in the back of the room, Representative Bolinsky of the 106th District, sir you have the floor.

REP. BOLINSKY (106TH):

    Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, Newtown and the State of Connecticut --

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

    (Gavel) I apologize, Representative Bolinsky, it was getting a little loud. Please proceed, sir.

REP. BOLINSKY (106TH):

    Thank you, sir. Last week Newtown and the State of Connecticut lost an individual that's made a big impact on all of this. Newtown's lady in red, also a five term State Representative here in House of Representatives in the 106th District, Mae Schmittal, she passed away at the age of 92, lived
an incredibly wonderful and productive life. Never had an unkind word to say about a single human being in the 20 years that I knew her and personally, my world feels emptier without her there. But Mae had a pretty celebrated legislative career. Among other things, she saved Newtown's flag pole for prosperity. She also was a community servant in Newtown for over 40 years in positions including town clerk, head of the VNA. She discovered the Children's Discovery Center and put that community based child care facility on the map. So, if my colleagues would join all of us in a brief moment of silence in memory of Mae Schmittal, I would be most appreciative.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Yes, sir we will. Ladies and gentlemen, can we please rise for a moment of silence. (Gavel) Thank you very much, sir.

REP. BOLINSKY (106TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 535.


SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Luxenberg of the 12th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. LUXENBERG (12TH):

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

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the chamber is on accepting the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Luxenberg, please proceed.

REP. LUXENBERG (12TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pride and privilege that I rise to support this nomination of Michael Pohl to the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Mr. Pohl made a very impressive presentation in front of the Judiciary Committee. He received bipartisan support from members of the Committee. Mr. Pohl most recently has worked as an outstanding history teacher at Illing Middle School but he's also served our country honorably as a member of the U.S. Air Force. He's worked in the private sector and has been involved in a number of very impressive community service activities and leadership positions, including the Cheney Hall Foundation, serving on the Board of Education and was appointed to the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission many years ago by Governor O'Neill. So, it is with great privilege that I ask my colleagues to support this nomination. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Thank you. Will you remark? Representative Rebimbas of the 70th District, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution before us. Certainly, as the good Representative had indicated, this is an individual that came before our Committee and I believe after hearing testimony and personally meeting with the individual that he comes with great knowledge, experience. And what he's done to the community as whole, I think, is an asset to the Board in the sense of again, the assistance that he provides to those individuals who are challenged and his experience in his dedication of time and education regarding assisting those individuals will be a wonderful addition to the Board. So, it's one that I certainly strongly support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Thank you, ma'am. Will you remark further?

Representative Palm of the 36th District, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. PALM (36TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this nomination. I had the pleasure of speaking with Michael privately and he told me he was an alcoholic. And I am not violating any privacy concerns here. He told me to make sure people knew that. Because of the great degree of substance abuse within our judicial system, it takes somebody with that knowledge, that very personal road to recovery to understand what incarcerated people go through. And it is with great pleasure that I congratulate him on decades of sobriety and honor him for his ability to give insight to this very common but still stigmatized disease. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Thank you, ma'am. Will you remark further? Representative Doucette of the 13th District, you have the floor.

REP. DOUCETTE (13TH):

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I rise in strong support of the resolution. I've known Mr. Pohl for about 20 years. He's a great asset to his community of Manchester. The passion and dedication to the community at large but particularly his passion and dedication to assisting individuals with recovery, I think his experience and this dedication will make him an asset to the Board of Pardons and Paroles. I support him.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? If not, would you care to -- if not, will the staff and guests please come to the wall of the House. Will the Members please take their 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 HENNESSY (127TH):

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

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 164

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DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

(Gavel) The Resolution is adopted. Will the Clerk please call calendar number 246.
CLERK:

On page 27 House Calendar 246 Substitute House Bill No. 5552 AN ACT CONCERNING THE VOLUNTEER POLICE AUXILIARY FORCE. Favor report Joint Standing Committee on Public Safety and Security.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Verrengia of the 20th District, you have the floor.

REP. VERRENGI (20TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Verrengia you have the floor.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes a task force to study issues related to the police auxiliary force. This task force shall submit its findings to DSP by January of 2020 and
the Commissioner of DSP shall submit its plans by February of 2020 to the Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 8031. I would ask that the Clerk please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO 8031 which will be designated to House Amendment Schedule A.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule A LCO 8031 offered by Representative Verrengia.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

The Representative 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 summarization.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Mr. Speaker, in lines 24 through 27 it essentially eliminates the Governor's two appointments. Mr. Speaker, I move for adoption.
DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

The question before the chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule A. Will you remark on the amendment? Representative Sredzinski, sorry, of the 112th, you have the floor.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and don't worry, the first one is always the toughest. It will get better as we close to June 5th. I just wanted to thank the proponent for introducing the bill and bring out the amendment. The amendment only eliminates two appointees by the Governor's staff which are also represented by DSP. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

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

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. I just had a few questions for the proponent, if I may.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Please proceed.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, sir. This amendment being new to me, currently does the Governor have the power to appoint to this Commission through you, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

In the amendment, the Governor's going to relinquish those two appointments. The thought is that the Governor's Office will be well represented by having an appointee from DSP.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Fishbein, you have the floor.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I couldn’t hear half of what --

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

(Gavel) We're having difficulty hearing the debate. If you could take your discussions outside
the chamber it would be appreciated. Representative Verrengia, if you could repeat your statement.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Yes, sir. The amendment eliminates the Governor's two appointees and the thought is that the Governor's Office will be represented by the appointees from DSP.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Fishbein, you have the floor.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, am I to understand that the underlying bill adds these representatives from DSP through you, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

No, it goes from an 11-member task force to a 9 member task force.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, am I to understand that we are taking a power away from the Governor that the Governor previously had? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Verrengia, you have the floor.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

That's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And may I ask why that's a good thing which would be next question. Why would I be in support of taking these appointees away from the Governor's office? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

I'm not sure. I don't want to speak for you why you would do that but the thought is that the
Governor's Office will be indirectly represented through this task force and have a voice through DSP. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Governor's Office opined on their position with regard to taking these appointees away from the Governor's Office? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

This request has come through the Governor's Office. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, am I to understand that this amendment is at the Governor's request?
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):


REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

That's correct. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Okay thank you, Mr. Speaker. In hearing that, I'm a little bit -- I'm better with this amendment. So, I just didn't want to take away something without a sense so thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the amendment before us? If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):
All those against? The aye's have it. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you remark on the amendment as adopted? The bill as amended. If not, Representative Sredzinski, you have the floor.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I told you it gets easier. Just a few questions to the proponent of the bill through you if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

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

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First question, is there a fiscal note attached to this task force?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

No, there is not.
Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the proponent and the good chairman of the Public Safety Committee, is he aware if a volunteer police auxiliary current exists?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Yes, it does. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the proponent of the bill for answering my questions. It's my understanding that this task force, I'm sorry, this police auxiliary force, this volunteer police auxiliary force is utilized to supplement the State Police on at the Commissioners designation. And there haven't been any new members since, at
least the early nineties. The idea behind this task force, which was introduced by a member of the Public Safety Committee, was to explore the idea of using them more and seeing what can be done to make that more efficient. So, I urge my colleagues to support the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, Representative Sredzinski. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Will the 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 HENNESSY (127TH):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 5552 is amended by House A.

Total number Voting 147
Necessary for Passage 74
Those voting Yea 146
Those voting Nay 1
Those absent and not voting 3

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

(Gavel) The bill is amended as passed. Will the Clerk please call Calendar 189.

CLERK:

On page 20, House Calendar 189 Substitute House Bill No. 6887. AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH-GROWTH, HIGH-DEMAND JOBS. Favorable report of Joint Standing Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):
Representative Turco of the 27th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. TURCO (27TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

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

REP. TURCO (27TH):

Mr. Speaker, this bill creates a task force to study the feasibility of developing public private partnerships that provide work-based learning opportunities for high school and college students in industries that have a hiring need in the state. Mr. Speaker, we've heard from employers that there is a skills gap in certain industries. We would like to close that skills gap, create a workforce pipeline that will help make Connecticut more competitive with a top-notch workforce. And in
order to do that, we need to help our youth have long term career success by providing them more hands on training at an early age, starting in high school, starting in college, with these work-based opportunities. Things like co-ops, things like internships, and we want to do that in collaboration with the private sector. So, this task force will look at things like different industries, demographics, labor force skills and under that consideration on how we can enhance our skilled job opportunities with collaboration of the private industry.

I want to thank Representative Pat Miller who has been a strong advocate for helping close our skills gap, increase our work-based opportunities and I also want to say that this was a bipartisan and unanimous bill that came out of Committee. And we are proud to try to move it forward today. But Mr. Speaker, a couple of things that we need to fix in the bill. So, the Clerk has amendment LCO 7510. I would ask the Clerk to please call the
amendment and that I be granted leave of the chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO 7510 which will be designated House Amendment Schedule A.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule A LCO 7510 offered by Representative Haddad, Senator Haskell, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection? Hearing none, Representative Turco, you may proceed with the summarization.

REP. TURCO (27TH):

Mr. Speaker, this amendment just makes a few minor changes to the underlying bill. One is the change of the word apprenticeship to work-based learning opportunities. This is just to be in line with the Department of Labor's definition of apprenticeships which is more for people that are
already working. For adults, work-based opportunities we changed it too because this is focusing more on students so that they can have that hands-on training.

Second change is changing high growth, high demand industries to hiring needs of the state. That change was made to be more inclusive of the different industries that exist throughout our state and the different opportunities there may be for our youth to get that work-based training. And the third and the last change in the amendment is adding the executive director for the community association for community action or their designee to the task force.

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

The question before the chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule A. Will you remark on the amendment? Representative Hall of the 59th District, you have the floor.

REP. HALL (59TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it is the 59th District so thank you for the recognition. It is a good amendment. We were approached and we did include some of the changes that we heard in our Committee through the hearing process. They are good changes and myself and Senator Wong did sign on to the amendment. So, good amendment and should pass. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

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

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Those against, Nay. The aye's have it and the amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Cheeseman of the 37th District you have the floor, ma'am.
REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of questions for the proponent of the bill as amended.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Please proceed, ma'am.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

I'm looking at the list of participants in this proposed board. I know the good gentleman is aware of the wonderful work done by our Workforce Investment Boards. And I wondered if any thought was given to include someone from the Workforce Investment Boards in the makeup of this task force?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Turco.

REP. TURCO (27TH):

I thank the Representative for her question. We did take a look and different people that should be on that board had conversations within Committee bipartisanly. Heard testimony from several
different organizations on the makeup of the board. We believe that there could be many additional members of the task force that could bring a lot to the work that we're trying to do here but there did have to be some limitation. We believe that the current makeup of the task force membership does, you know, provide a lot of expertise in different areas. But will be -- the task force will be happy to listen from testimony and take input from other members of the community and other people that could provide more insight.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

I thank the good gentleman for his answers and obviously you have to set a limit somewhere. But I would urge him and the task force as they go forward to make sure they do get input from those Workforce Investment Boards. My Eastern Workforce Investment Board, I believe, sets the gold standard in the state and not only do they have an excellent
manufacturing pipeline initiative, they're looking at creating those pipelines for the insurance and banking industries and also for the healthcare sector where I know we desperately need people to work. So, I thank the good gentleman for his elucidation of this and I would urge everyone in the chamber to support this excellent bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, ma'am. Representative Vail of the 52nd District, you have the floor.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

Did Connecticut Business and Industries Association support this bill? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Turco.
REP. TURCO (27TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Representative for his question. Yes, I believe that CBIA did testify and say that they supported the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Vail.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

Is it my understanding, through you, Mr. Speaker, is it my understanding that they were originally part of this task force and after this amendment they're now not part of this task force?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Turco.

REP. TURCO (27TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that is the case. They were not included in the original underlying bill. As I mentioned in the amendment now, we just added a new member to the task force, nobody was removed.
DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Vail.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

Thank you, no further questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you. Representative Hall of the 59th District, you have the floor.

REP. HALL (59TH):

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a quick side note to the amendment. There is no fiscal note on the bill or the additional amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, ma'am. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the amendment before us? If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):
Those nay? The aye's have it and the amendment is adopted. 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 wall of the House. Will the members please take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Lemar, for what purpose do you rise?

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to have my vote cast in the affirmative.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

So be noted. The Clerk will please announce the tally.
House Bill 6887 as amended by House A

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DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

(Gavel) The bill as amended is passed. Will the Clerk please call Calendar number 436.

CLERK:

On page 51 House Calendar 436 House Bill No. 7325. AN ACT CONCERNING STATE MARSHAL'S STATEMENTS OF INCOME. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report on passage of the bill. Representative Fox, you have the floor.

REP. FOX (148TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

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

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of amendment LCO 8032. I asked the amendment be called and I be granted a leave of the chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO 8032 which will be designated House Amendment Schedule A.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule A LCO 8032 offered by Representative Fox.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to
summarization? Is there objection? Hearing none, Representative Fox, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the underlying bill addresses the state marshal's statements of income. Currently, the statements of income are to be filed with the Office of State Ethics. The underlying bill will remove that requirement. The statement of income is different than what we file as determined of statement of financial interest. Interest statement of income is more of a one-page document which outlines the marshal's income. OSE, the Office of State Ethics currently has no jurisdiction over the state marshals. There is a separate Commission entirely which is under DAS which has jurisdiction under the marshals. That Commission is the State Marshal's Commission.

As to what it will continue to require of state marshals under this bill if it passes, state
marshal's will still be required to file yearly registration documents with the State Marshal's Commission, the yearly -- show yearly proof of liability coverage, yearly report of the client accounts and be subject to random audits. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

The question before the chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule A. Will you remark on the amendment? Representative France of the 42nd District, you have the floor.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the amendment. I believe it clarifies the language that came out of Committee and I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the amendment before us? If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:
Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

All those nay. The ayes have it and the amendment is adopted. 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 wall of the House. Will the members please take your seats. The machine will be opened. (ringing)

CLERK:

The House of Representatives if voting by roll, members to the chamber. The House of Representatives is voting roll, members to the chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

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

House Bill 7325 as amended by by House A

Total number Voting 147
Necessary for Passage 74
Those voting Yea 147
Those voting Nay 0
Absent and not voting 3

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

(Gavel) The bill passes. Are there announcements or introductions? Representative Ritter, you have the floor.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be an immediate Democratic Caucus right over there. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Representative Klarides, you have the floor.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be an immediate Republican Caucus right down there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):
Representative Ritter. Representative Ritter, you have the floor.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Yeah. I move that we recess, thank you. Subject to the call of Chair, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HENNESSY (127TH):

Without objection, so ordered. (Gavel)

(On motion of Representative Ritter of the 1st District, the House recessed at 2:55 o’clock p.m., to reconvene at the Call of the Chair).

(The House reconvened at 6:05 o’clock p.m., Speaker Aresimowicz in the Chair).

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) The House will come back to order.

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 67?

CLERK:
On page 5, House Calendar 67, House Bill 7182 -
AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
MACHINES, favorable report of the Joint Standing
Committee on General Law.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The fine Representative of the Danbury -- City of Danbury, Representative Arconti, you have the floor, sir.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

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

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 7292. I ask that the Clerk be called -- call the amendment and
granted leave of the Chamber to summarize?

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 7292, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A"?

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 7292, offered by Representative Arconti, Representative D'Agostino, Representative Cheeseman.

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 Arconti, please proceed, sir.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this amendment requires the Department of Consumer Protection to adopt regulations regarding alcoholic beverage machines and results in no fiscal impact and I move adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
The question before the Chamber is on adoption of the amendment. 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.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you remark on the bill as amended?

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Yes. So, Mr. Speaker, this bill in front of us, for members who may have been in the Chamber, has come before us. This would put us on another level playing field with 43 other states who allow for this technology to happen. Upon payment from a permittee, you can self-pour up to 32 ounces per chip, per card, per pour, through -- let me try this again. You can pour up to 32 ounces at one time and you are ID'd by an employee of the permittee and you are issued a RFD card or a bracelet to access the
machines. And once the 32 ounces is reached, the machine shuts off and that's the point in time, where if you want to renew, you can renew the card for more ounces on the payment. So, Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Cheeseman of the 37th District, madam, you have the floor.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, a couple of questions for the proponent of the bill.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Arconti, please prepare yourself. Representative Cheeseman, please proceed, madam.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you. So, if I understand the bill correctly, the person who presented ID was presented
with a payment card, would be allowed to dispense no more than 32 ounces of beer or cider and ten ounces of wine. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

That is correct. The industry standard for craft beer is 16 ounces a can, so essentially it's two craft beers. So, that was the policy reason going with 32 ounces, and you are correct in that understanding.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

So, through you, Mr. Speaker. So, obviously, this would not apply to spirits or any other form of alcoholic beverage apart from the beer, the wine and the cider?
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

That is correct.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

And through you, Mr. Speaker. So, once that initial serving had been dispensed, the customer would be required to go back, obviously present ID again if so required, before he or she was issued with a further payment card.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

That is correct. Once the limit has been reached on the card or the bracelet, the bracelet shuts off and they must then go to a bartender or
server.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

So, there seem to be very strong controls against overconsumption in this and the Department of Consumer Protection is satisfied that the amendment, as proposed, will give them sufficient ability to control this.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you. Thank you to the good proponent of the bill for his explanation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I think with the changes that have
been made that this is a good and I would urge my members to support. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

    Thank you very much, Representative. Will you remark further? If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 COOK (65TH):

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

CLERK:
House Bill 8172, as amended by House “A”,

Total number Voting 141
Necessary for Passage 71
Those voting Yea 113
Those voting Nay 28
Those absent and not Voting 9

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill passes. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 172?

CLERK:

On page 18, Calendar 172, Substitute House Bill, No. 7308 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS STEERING COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE STATE'S ELECTRONIC BUSINESS PORTAL, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Good evening, Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Simmons, you have the floor, madam.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO 8042. I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO 8042, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A"?

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 8042, offered by Representative Simmons, Representative Cummings.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to
summarization? Is there objection? Hearing none. Representative Simmons, you may proceed, madam.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This amendment is a friendly amendment and it is a strike-all amendment that essentially becomes the bill. So, I will speak about the overall goal of the bill, which is to make it easier for businesses to start up in Connecticut by streamlining and simplifying the permitting and licensing process. Right now, if you're a business in Connecticut you have to go to, in some cases, up to 23 different state agencies in order to access the permits and licenses you need and each of those agencies has a different process, at a different login, making it very cumbersome with a lot of paperwork for businesses to start up in our state.

So, this bill aims to streamline by making it easy and creating a one-stop shop portal where a business could go to access all the permits necessary. This is the direction a number of states are taking. In fact, six other states have taken
this step and have seen enormous success. They've seen an increase in the number of business filings. They've seen a decrease in fraud. They've seen an increase in revenue and compliance. And we've seen the timeframe shortened from ten days to one day in terms of how long it actually takes to start a business, which is exactly what we need in Connecticut, more businesses starting, encouraging entrepreneurship and making it easier to start and create jobs in Connecticut. So, with that, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question before the Chamber is adoption on House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on the amendment? Representative Cummings.

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker, a question to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

A question on the amendment, madam?

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):
Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Please proceed.

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Can you please tell me if there is the opportunity for any of our local businesses to participate in the process to identify some of the issues that they are having in creating ability to streamline business creation?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for that question and I also want to thank the good Ranking Member for her support for this bill and all the Commerce Committee. It passed on a bipartisan basis. An excellent question. Yes, in lines 17-23, this amendment requires that there be specific outreach to businesses in our communities to hear their feedback directly on how we can make this
process easier for them. And so, that can include everything from surveys to roundtables to direct outreach to businesses one-on-one. Thank you.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Cummings.

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Would you be so kind as to tell me if there is a fiscal note on this bill?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. There is no fiscal note on the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Cummings.

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I view this bill as a friendly amendment and a good
bill and ought to pass. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the amendment before us? If not, I'd try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

(Gavel) Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Cummings.

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this is a very good bill. Right now, the process in Connecticut is a little too onerous for businesses to start off, especially for small businesses. Someone who is looking to start something here in Connecticut, it should be an easy, one-stop shopping location so that people are not scrambling around,
trying to do something good for our community, trying to hire new employees. And I support this and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this if you are a supporter of small businesses in Connecticut.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to echo the sentiments of our Ranking Member Cummings and again thank the Commerce Committee for their support for this bill. It's a great bill that makes it easier to start a business in Connecticut, reduces the paperwork and burdensome process that we have right now and encourages businesses to come to our state and start a business here, and make sure we stay open to business and open to jobs. So, I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. 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 opened.

(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 COOK (65TH):

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

CLERK:
House Bill 7308, as amended by House “A”,

  Total number Voting   142
  Necessary for Passage  72
  Those voting Yea       140
  Those voting Nay       2
  Those absent and not Voting  8

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

  The bill as amended is passed. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar, No. 166?

CLERK:

  Page 17, Calendar 166, House Bill, No. 7008, - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO RECRUIT BUSINESSES TO CONNECTICUT, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):
The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Simmons, you have the floor, madam.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO 7482. I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO 7482, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A"?

CLERK:

LCO, No. 7482, designated House Amendment Schedule "A" and offered by Representatives Simmons and Cummings.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection? Hearing none. Representative Simmons, you have the floor, madam.
REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This amendment makes some slight technical changes to the bill. One of them that I want to highlight is just making sure that DECD is using existing positive testimonials about our state and proactively marketing those instead of spending more money when we already those. And a couple of other technical changes. It is a friendly amendment and I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment? If not, I'd try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

All opposed nay. The amendment passes. (Gavel) Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Simmons.
REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill aims to better market the State of Connecticut as a positive place to do business and to recruit businesses people and jobs to our state. We launched a public-private marketing working group last session that made a number of recommendations, which this bill seeks to implement. And the main thing we're trying to do here is better sell Connecticut as a positive place to do business.

So often we get negative press about our state when there's so many positive things happening in Connecticut and so many positive attributes of our state that we should be proud of. For example, we rank second in quality of life. We have the second longest lifespan in Connecticut. We rank fourth in innovation. We have an incredibly talented, well educated workforce, a strategic location, and we need to be doing a much better job of marketing all of these positives in our state.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):
Wait a minute. (Gavel) Members on the floor are having difficulty hearing the debate. If you could please take your conversations outside that would be greatly appreciated. I'm sorry, madam. Please proceed.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, this bill seeks to better highlight the positives of our state in order to better market Connecticut as a positive place to do business and recruit businesses to our state. And I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Representative Cummings.

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker, a question for the proponent of the bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Please proceed, madam.
REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would you please identify where the recommendation that we are now putting into statute came from?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for that question, Representative Cummings. And these recommendations from legislation that was passed last session, in the Commerce Committee, launching a public-private marketing working group and it was made up of chief marketing officers from a number of private companies in our state as well as state officials involved in marketing. And they came together and we met several times and assessed our current state marketing efforts and how we could be doing a better job of getting a return on investment and do a better job of strategic marketing to recruit businesses to our state. Because other
states are doing this much better than we are, and it's something we really need to improve on. And that's how we came up with these recommendations.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Cummings.

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, Madam Speaker. Is there any participation of our school children in implementing some of these recommendations?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. And thank you for that question, Representative Cummings. And, yes, actually there is. In line 30 to 32, there is mention of updating our *Still Revolutionary* logo, which I know, I've heard from a number of you and a number of businesses in our state that's something
that feels a bit antiquated, something we need to look at upgrading. And so, we have directed DECD to look at upgrading that logo by engaging middle school students. And so I want to thank the Ranking Member for that question and also Representative Fishbein, for the excellent idea on that, and also thank all the Commerce Committee members for their bipartisan and unanimous support for this bill.

Thank you.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Cummings.

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

And through you, Madam Speaker. The question that we also ask, is there a fiscal impact with this bill?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. There is no fiscal
impact.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Cummings.

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this is a good bill that looks to better market our state using available appropriations, and we should all be encouraged to see our Connecticut thrive. And I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I stand to rise in opposition of this piece of legislation, similar to what I did to the bill before. While I appreciate the intention and the motives of this bill, I think it falls very short in what we need to do as the State of Connecticut. This bill scratches the surface, I think, in what we
want to be doing to attract businesses here. Logos and buttons and stickers and pamphlets in airports might sound good, but when we're proposing legislation, like we're hearing on the minimum wage, family medical leave, every tax that you could possibly think of, those are the things that end up marketing the State of Connecticut, unfortunately.

And I appreciate the good work that the Commerce Committee does; I wish our other committees operated with a consciousness toward our businesses in the State of Connecticut. But I don't believe that this piece of legislation goes far enough and I would hope -- I'm sure this is gonna pass through the Chamber unanimously, but I hope other bills coming down the pike in the future, when we're thinking about to attract businesses to the State of Connecticut, we think about the bill proposals and the other items that we will be voting on and how that would impact our marketing, as opposed to asking the Department of Economic and Community Development to try to market Connecticut in a better
light. When frankly, I think this Chamber puts forth bills that put us in a terrible light.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Madam Speaker, thank you. I'd like to align my comments with our good Rep. Candelora. I was going to ask a question. I guess my questions, through you, Madam, is whether this bill actually lowers any types of tax here in the State of Connecticut?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. No, it does not.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

And maybe that's what we should really start
thinking about to attract businesses to Connecticut. If we want to promote Connecticut, let's promote Connecticut as a place to do business in, and lower the taxes. That'd be the first step.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you. 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 take your seats? The machine will be opened.

(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 COOK (65TH):

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

CLERK:

House Bill 7008, as amended by House “A”,

Total number Voting 141
Necessary for Passage 71
Those voting Yea 113
Those voting Nay 28
Those absent and not Voting 9

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The bill as amended is passed. (Gavel) Are
there any announcements or introductions? Any
announcements or introductions? Will the Chamber
please at ease.

Will the Chamber please come back to order.

(Gavel) Representative Kerry Wood from the 29th.
Your button is pressed, madam. Thank you. Will the
chamber come back to -- go back to ease, please.

Will the Chamber please come back to order.
Will the Clerk please call Calendar, No. 281?
Page 32, Calendar 281, Substitute House Bill, No. 7218 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME AND FIREARM SAFETY PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

The distinguished Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Representative Stafstrom. You have the floor, sir.

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

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

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good evening. Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Stafstrom, you have the floor, sir.

Yes, Madam Speaker.
Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the bill before us is one that would increase safety of the storage of firearms in homes in our state. As folks certainly know, this is a bill that has been heavily advocated for this past session and one that ultimately, unfortunately, arises out of a situation, a tragic situation that occurred in Guilford late last year, in which, unfortunately, we realized that our safe storage law in the home is not as robust as it should be. Right now, in current law in the State of Connecticut, is that someone can leave an unloaded gun lying around in their house with children under the age of 18 present, with ammunition nearby, and that is not a criminal offense in our state.

This bill would fix that. It would rectify the safe storage requirements in our state. It would require that an unloaded gun be stored in the same manner as a loaded gun, kept in a locked safe, and would also increase the age under which someone must secure their gun if there are minors present, from a
minor under the age of 16 to a minor under the age of 18.

The bill also, in sections four and five, makes some changes with respect to our education statutes, and mandates that the State Board of Education develop a guide to aid local and regional boards of education in developing firearm safety programs for students in grades kindergarten through twelve. We are fixing what is an old statute that has never been implemented and, in fact, probably was not particularly artfully drafted back when it was originally passed.

The bill fixes that, mandates the curriculum guides be made available to local boards of ed. But I will emphasize, the bill does not mandate that any regional board of education or local board of education actually use those guides in their schools. Madam Speaker, with that, I would certainly ask the Chamber's support for this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Will you remark further on the bill?
Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the proposed bill before us and I just want to take a quick opportunity to certainly not only thank the Chairmans of the Judiciary Committee, but Senate Ranking, colleague member, Senator Kissel, but also, most importantly, the Song Family, the advocates, certainly, for Second Amendment rights, as well as those advocating for stricter gun legislation, and also, particularly, Representative Scanlon and Candelora, who I know have dedicated a lot of time and effort in the proposal that's before us.

With that, Madam Speaker, just a few questions to the good Chairman in order for us to be able to clarify a few points regarding the legislation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom, please prepare yourself. Representative Rebimbas, Please proceed, madam.
REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker, to the good Chairman, just to clarify. So, currently, we have legislation laws regarding firearms that are loaded. This would expand that to those that are also not loaded. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. That is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And also, through the proposal before us, it strictly identifies the circumstances by which an individual needs to secure a loaded and/or unloaded weapon in their home. So, if it's an individual who happens to own a weapon, they live alone, would this apply to them?

Through you, Madam Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. No, it would not.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And again, it does highlight the individual circumstances in the proposal as to when the storage laws have to be complied with. We are also, in this new proposal, changing what the minor definition is, from the age of 16 up to the age of 18. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. That is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):
Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, Madam Speaker, just to clarify. The proposal before us talks about a manner, a manner which a reasonable person would believe that the item would then be secured. Does that require a safe to be utilized or, again, what a reasonable person would believe to be secure, securing the firearm?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. The latter.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, Madam Speaker. If the owner of the weapon is in close proximity; I believe that's the exact language that used in the legislation. In other words that they can still carry it on themselves. Even if there are minor individuals in the home with them,
they can carry it on theirselves or have it near them. So, for example, a scenario if someone who decides that they would like to keep their firearm loaded, close to their bedside while they're sleeping at night. Is that still allowed through this proposal?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Yes. Through you, Madam Speaker. That is existing law and would remain unchanged under the bill.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, Madam Speaker. Would this proposal apply to someone who actually breaks into someone's home and then finds the weapon and decides to load it at that time
or finds the weapon loaded? Is there a difference between someone who actually breaks into the home versus someone who is residing in the home or is actually invited to utilize the weapon?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Yes, Madam Speaker, there is a differentiation and it's noted in lines 39 through 41 of the bill.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And again, just to clarify, through you, Madam Speaker. Currently, we do have legislation that suggests that there should be a curriculum in the public schools regarding gun safety. I believe it was through our public hearing that we have learned that many school systems have not done that because it was permissible. We do
have language in this proposal that says that they shall provide some type of curriculum. And I believe I heard the good Chairman indicated that, again, it's not a mandate on the school system, but there are materials that are being offered and it certainly would be the ability of the school system to utilize those. Is there any fiscal impact associated with that?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

No, Madam Speaker, there is no fiscal impact. I would just -- for the record, I believe the good Ranking Member may have misspoke just at the beginning of her question. So, I just want to be clear. The mandate in this bill is on the State Department of Education to develop the guides, not on any school district to actually utilize those guides.

Through you.
DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And for the school board of education, would they be able to utilize guides that are already in existence?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Could the good Ranking Member clarify whether when she says school board, she means the State Board of Education or local boards of ed?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I thank the good Chairman for the clarification of that question.

The school board of education which is listed here
in the proposal before us, would they be able to
utilize any guides that are already in existence or
are we expecting them to create their own?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. The State Board of
Education could use whatever guide it deems
appropriate, so it can either develop its own guide
or utilize one. The only guidance that's given in
the bill is that the State Board of Education can
consult with the State Police Chiefs Association in
developing that guide.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you,
Madam Speaker. One of the questions that have come
up regarding this proposal is what kind of an impact
it may have on someone who is a collector of antique fire weapons that may have them displayed in their home as decorations or commemorative of something that they, obviously, inherited from a family member, things of that nature. What impact, if any, is there on the individual owner that may have those types of weapons displayed?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Madam Speaker, if those weapons are not defined as firearm under section 38 -- sorry, 53a-3 of the General Statutes, then there is no impact.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I just want to again take the opportunity to thank the good Chairman for his responses regarding this proposal.
I think, certainly, it was said best by Kristin Song during our public hearings, that this is certainly a bittersweet time, where, unfortunately, one of the most tragic, horrific experiences that any individual can have, of a loss of a child, that we are turning around and advocating, and again, making sure that we are keeping weapons away from those individuals who otherwise should not have access to these weapons and hopefully just re-reminding all of the gun owners out there that they need to keep these things in mind and continue to be responsible gun owners.

And if at any time we can encourage the education to our young children regarding the dangers of mishandling these types of weapons, I think we're certainly doing a step in the right direction. And if we can prevent the loss of a life, that's certainly the intent with this legislation. So, again, Madam Speaker, I do rise in support of the proposal that's before us and I want to thank all of the individuals who have dedicated a
lot of time to making the proposal that we have before us.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill? Representative Scanlon.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And I rise today in strong support of this bill. On January 31st of last year, my community, my hometown, where I live today, of Guilford, suffered an unspeakable tragedy. And it's a tragedy that all of you have heard about. It's a tragedy that everyone in Connecticut heard about. And it's a tragedy that could've been prevented. What happened that day was that a young man, 15 years old, named Ethan Song went to a friend's house. And at that house there was a gun that by any definition of common standards would be seen as unsafely secured. A tragedy arose because of that and Ethan lost his life at the age of 15.
Ethan's parents, Mike and Kristin, who are here tonight, did everything right. They raised Ethan and two other kids as best as they could. And yet, there was nothing that they could do in this situation that could have prevented that, because somebody else, a different person, improperly stored a firearm. And again, I go back to the fact that everyone agreed with that. The only thing that didn't agree with that was our state law. Because I our current state law, there is a gigantic loophole which says that only -- you can only be considered to improperly store a firearm if it's loaded. Not, in the case of Ethan, if a gun is in a cardboard box, unloaded, but next to the bullets for that gun.

What happened that day on January 31st, 2018, struck everybody in our community in a terrible way. I remember that I was in Hartford when our first selectman called me and told me about it, and as I was driving back to our community, he told me who his parents were. And I knew his parents, and it hit home a little harder. But even if you didn't
know Ethan, because I didn't personally know Ethan, you got to know him based on what came out about him in the days and weeks and years after he passed away. And he was a special kid.

But the hard part about this, Madam Speaker, is that we lose far too many special kids in this state and in this country. And not all of them are kids. Some of them are husbands and wives and daughters and sons. They are our neighbors. They're our friends. They're our family members. They're our loved ones. And it doesn't have to be this way. And so, out of an unspeakable tragedy has come something that I would describe as beautiful and it's twofold.

Number one, two parents have shown more courage than I frankly thought was possible in two people and who have done something that a lot of us in this room probably wouldn't have the courage to do, which is to bury a child and then go out in public and try to change something and try to change the law and try to change our state. And they've done that.
They've done that from the beginning. They did that when they came to me and said this is what we want to do. This is what we want to do for Ethan. This is what we want to do for the people of Connecticut.

And the second thing is what we can do right now. The second thing is something that -- when this first became something that they wanted to do, I sat down with them and told them that gun bills are really hard to pass in the legislature. It's a partisan issue usually. And I sat down with some folks on both sides of this issue and I sat down with my good friend, Representative Candelora, who also represents part of Guilford. And we came up with what I think is a commonsense solution to a terrible problem. Representative Stafstrom and Ranking Member Rebimbas, they have been incredible leaders on this and I can't thank them enough for what they did to take the bill that we introduced and go through the committee process. And at the committee process, it passed with bipartisan support.
And tonight, we can do the same thing. We can send a message to the parents that are up there, not just Mike and Kristin, but every parent in this state, in this building, anywhere, that this won't happen to their child, that this won't happen to their loved one, that we can right the wrong that happened to Ethan, in his name, and in the names of everyone we lose to gun violence. Not just in Guilford, but in Bridgeport and in Hartford, and anywhere else in the State of Connecticut on a daily basis.

So, I want to thank the Songs for everything that they did to get here. It would not have happened without your courage and it would not have happened if you didn’t have the love in your heart that will never go away for Ethan. Our community mourns him every day. But today, we are going to do something very special in his honor and in your honor.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):
Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also rise in support of this legislation, and certainly want to associate my remarks with Representative Scanlon. As he pointed out, I mean, this piece of legislation arose out of a terrible tragedy in Guilford that really sent waves through the community. And one of the beautiful things that the Song family, I think, has done with this legislation is -- the way it started out was through a conversation. And as Representative Scanlon mentioned, when he spoke with them for quite a while, for a number of months, he had called me, and the conversation began with how can we address this issue and make safe storage in Connecticut better so it doesn’t happen again.

And the dialog didn't start with picketing or pressure, but it started with conversation. And I thank the Song family because that's the way we should do things in this Chamber. And
Representative Scanlon picked up the phone and called everybody on this issue. Not just people that want more gun restrictions, but also people that find the Second Amendment very important to them and certainly gun ownership very important to them. And how do we navigate this and try to accomplish all the goals that we are setting out to do.

And I think this bill does that. I think it comes pretty close to doing that. And I think one of the things that I do love about this bill, in the conversation, is the second piece, addressing having the State Department of Ed finally develop a program to allow for schools to provide for education on gun laws. You know, having been in the Boy Scout program for a number of years now, probably almost 20, you know, it's something that scouting does teach children, is how to handle guns. But one thing I do notice is you don't necessarily know where other children go or what other children may be exposed to. They may not appreciate the
significance.

And what this legislation does is not only, I think, solidifies safe storage, but it also starts the conversation to educate our communities, to provide more gun safety and to avoid the tragedy that saw in Guilford. And so, I want to thank the Song family for the love they've shown, for the courage they've shown to help preserve through this legislation. And I know this journey is not gonna end for them. They will continue to work in the community, fostering so many good programs, and I hope that this bill will start a beginning of the healing process for them and they will continue to find love given back to them in their community.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And it's hard to follow those two colleagues there with their
comment. But I do want to rise in support of this legislation. I testified that I think one of the things that we need to also incorporate is an educational component of that -- of this legislation, and I want to thank the good Chair of the committee and Representative Scanlon and Representative Candelora for their collaborative efforts on this.

You know, when I think about when I raised my son, who's now a grand -- now a dad, and I never really spoke about guns in the house because I didn’t have any guns in the house, so I didn't think about that. But then as this arose, this tragic issue arose, and now I have a grandson in my son, and now I do have a firearm in my home, and I sat there and sat him down and talked to him, just six years old, but it's never too early to talk about gun safety. My family, though, when I look at my son, I said I should've been chatting to him about this issue, because it's important.

And I think that this legislation will help
with that. And I encourage the school systems to start to reach out and hopefully implement it. But I want to thank all those that are here, that are in our gallery that are here in support of this legislation. And hopefully, that we don't have to talk about another tragic issue anywhere in this state. And I just want to leave my remarks and thank the committee for this -- for the educational component and the work they did on this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Representative Godfrey.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thirty years ago, in the summer of 1989, I was a freshman here, and there were six kids that summer who died because an adult left a loaded, mostly pistols, available to kids left home, latchkey, after school. And they died. Six kids died that summer. One of them was a young man, 11 years old, named D.J. Kenney, in Naugatuck.
And he was across the street after school, no adults around, playing with a friend. The friends' father had left a loaded pistol on top of the refrigerator. And the kids got a hold of it and the next thing anybody knew, D.J. was dead at 11 years old. A totally preventable death, as were the other five that summer.

And legislators, then, in a bipartisan way, came together to pass the Kids and Gun Act, which we're amending today. That was the first gun responsibility bill that had been considered in the State of Connecticut since just after World War II. It had been that long. Which is why, reacting as legislators and legislatures do, we concentrated on loaded firearms. It was irresponsible to adults then and as we're seeing, unfortunately, is still irresponsible today in a different way.

I think of D.J. often. I have his picture in my office. I dreamed of him being in his forties, having a family, having a career, things that don't happen and haven't happened. And indeed, his
picture has as a caption - *this is not a missing child, his mother visits his grave daily.* And we needed to stop that. And I'm please to say, in the last 30 years, and I've kind of tracked this, we've only had three incidents of that nature, compared to the six in one summer. And most of those, as I read the details, were just stupid, just dumb, on the part of the adults who failed to be responsible about children's access to loaded firearms.

And then comes Ethan, which the circumstances we had never contemplated. Could anybody be dumb enough, especially knowing that, you know, we require loaded firearms to be locked up, to leave an unloaded firearm with ammunition next to it, lying around. When I first read the first newspaper article, I was just stunned on how could this have happened. How could anybody have allowed it?

And when Representative Scanlon and his friends, as we had done with bipartisan work then, on the Kids and Guns Act, came forward with these propositions on behalf of the Song family, I
understood, having been through it before, having had the experience of dealing with grieving parents over an event and an incident that could have been prevented, that didn't need to happen, that wasn't an accident, and I was then, and as I am now, I was very infuriated, angry about the set of circumstances, and readily pledged my help to the people who worked on this bill, this year.

Then, as now, it was totally bipartisan. It passed overwhelmingly in this House and that was particularly remarkable because it was the first-time gun responsibility had been addressed since World War II. But we succeeded with a lot of emotion, a lot of help. D.J's mother, Susan, Susan Kenney, did quite the lobbying effort, the advocacy effort on behalf of her deceased son. This is a mother who loved her son. This is a father who loved his son. And they came to us and said you've got to do something about this. And, of course, we responded.

I'm seeing the parallels again this year with
family who are channeling their grief into action, to ask us to make these changes, to ask us to join them and step up, to be able to do this advocacy, make this change in the law, get the job done. And I think we're doing it.

The board of education piece. We tried shall. We had to cut it down to may. And then the board of education complained, saying that there wasn't money in the budget to do this and it was too controversial for them. Sadly, never did the kind of education that we so desperately need. So, I'm glad we're making that change now. Then, and now, the Chiefs of Police Association was very strongly in favor of this. Parents groups, school groups, parents, were all strongly in favor of it then, as now.

I'm asking you all to join me in supporting this with the hope, with the hope, and the sincerest hope that we're not gonna have to come back to fix something else in the future. It's time we held the perpetrator responsible. That is to say the person
who was irresponsible in loading the gun. At the
time we were considering this 30 years ago, there
was no criminal penalty and there was no way to go
after at the time, the father who had left the
loaded pistol on the top of the refrigerator. We
changed that. I think it had a lot to do with why
we haven't had a lot of these incidents since.

But every child deserves to know, every child
needs to know what the dangers are. Every child
needs to be educated and I'm very happy with this
piece of the bill also. It's just time. So, again,
I urge you all to vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark
further? Representative Kokoruda.

REP. KOKORUDA (101ST):

Thank you, Madam Chairman. I stand in support
of this legislation. Just like Representative
Scanlon, I'll never forget that day. Ironically,
Representative Candelora, myself and Representative
Scanlon were right around the corner at the railroad station that morning and I remember leaving and taking the wrong way, and actually being on the street, where hours later, this tragedy happened. I know that Connecticut gun owners want to be responsible gun owners, but we need to be reminded about safety. I have to admit, I raised two sons. I never talked to them about gun safety. We're not gun people. It never entered my mind.

The normal things a mother would talk about, bicycles safety helmets, motorcycles, getting into cars, talking to strangers, this was not on my list. So, it's a shame, as Representative Godfrey said that years ago we changed that shall to may. So, I'm glad to see that piece in the budget. But I want to stand here today, thankful to the strength and courage of the Song -- Mr. and Mrs. Song. I want to thank Representative Scanlon, Representative Candelora.

It was beautiful to watch them from day one work together, to come up with something we -- so
many of us could support. But more importantly, that would make a difference. And I thank them for that. And for the Judicial Committee, for all the other people that stepped up on both sides of the issue. We're doing something good here today. It's a shame we're having this conversation after a tragedy, but we're here. So, again, thank you to everybody, especially the Song family, and I hope you'll join me in supporting this legislation. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

    Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Representative Dathan.

REP. DATHAN (142ND):

    Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And thank you to Representative Scanlon and thank you to Representative Candelora for your work on this. And thank you to the Song family, the CAGV, and Moms Demand Action. It's so sad that we are here today talking about this bill, but it is necessary; 1.7 million children in our country live in a home where
there is a gun. So, it is essential that we lock them up and store them properly.

This does not infringe on anybody's Second Amendment rights. In fact, one of my best friends is an NRA member. He has a large gun collection and he has made it his ethos when dealing with guns that you need to lock them up. He has a large safe and it has a code on it and it is -- only he and his wife know this. And I feel safe having my kids go over to their home, unsupervised by me, because they have this safe. I know that none of the children in that home could possibly get into it. I've inspected the safe myself and I feel very comfortable.

Things like this save lives and they prevent unnecessary tragedies. So, I'm in strong support of this. I urge of all my colleagues and I'm so proud that we have a bipartisan support here. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Will you remark further? Representative
REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, I don't think I could say it any better than my colleagues that have spoken before me. And for those who it is part of their district and who lived this with the family, I want to thank you both, all three of you, actually, for taking the lead on this and bringing it to the attention of this legislature. And not only that, but educating people as to why it's important.

I think you've heard from some people today, talking about how when they raised their children it wasn't something they talked about because it wasn't something they were familiar with. And I think, unfortunately, that's how we teach people. We teach them about things we know and we teach them about things that we're familiar with. But what we need to do is rely on government, on legislatures, on people who have had tragedies, to educate us on the things we're not familiar with.
And I would like to thank the Song family for doing the right thing. It could have been easy for you to just say this horrible, horrible tragedy happened to us and we just can't bear it. We can't bear reliving it every day in the public. But you did what I think a lot of people couldn't do. Because it takes courage, it takes strength. And I think in the end, not to speak for them, but after all of the tragedy that occurred in their lives, something good is coming from it, and hopefully, this will save other lives going forward.

And if that means that we come back and have these conversations year after to see what we can do to make people safer, then we have those conversations. But it is the conversations that get things done. It's not the yelling. It's not the screaming. It's not the protests. It's not the rallies. It is the conversations with people, with people that may have different views from you, because that's how we learn, from people who have different views. And it's not labeling people as
pro this or anti that. It's about talking about what the problem is and how we fix it.

So, I want to thank all my colleagues that worked on this, thank the Judiciary Committee for pushing this forward, and thank the Song family for their strength and their courage, and, please, God bless you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you to the Minority Leader and everybody for their comments here tonight. Again, let me offer my sincerest condolences to the Song family who is up there tonight. None of us, whether you're a parent or not -- we all have loved ones and we all have people that we love in our lives that are full of promise and much younger, and so, for everybody here, it's gotta be -- it's one of the worst things that can happen. And we - what I admire so much is the strength and the courage you had from that incident
to push for change. And that brings us here today.

And people give up on government a lot. It's really easy to just not like government, federally or at the state level. And government is not perfect. We can't solve every problem. Sometimes we try to solve it and we make it worse. But moments like tonight, when folks advocate and go out and speak to communities about how we can make laws better, make us all safer, those technicalities in law that many of us didn't even know existed, this is the good government can do. And so, when Representative Scanlon calls Representative Candelora and Representative Kokoruda, and the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee reaches out to Representative Rebimbas, and so many people who had their hand in this, these are the things that we can do to make changes to people's lives and prevent future tragedies from happening.

So, we can be tough on one another and disagree on always what the right outcomes are, but these are the votes that are a reminder of the positive force
that government can be, the changes that we can make when we work together. But what's to important to note and what's probably most special about this, is from a tragedy came such bravery and courage and passion for a subject from people that we all pray for and think about, and we will continue to try to make the state better and these issues better and life safer in the future, and we thank you for your advocacy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

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

(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.

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 and the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 7218,

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SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The bill passes as amended. (Gavel) Ladies and gentlemen, no clapping, please. Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 312?

CLERK:

On page 37, House Calendar 312, Substitute
House Bill, No. 7219, - AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

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

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO, No. 8074. I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO 8074, which will
be designated House Amendment Schedule "A"?

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO, No. 8074, offered by Representative Stafstrom, Senator Winfield, Representative Blumenthal.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection? Hearing none. Representative Blumenthal, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a strike-all amendment which will become the bill. Section one has conforming changes to the existing law prohibiting the removal, defacement, alteration or obliteration of a make or a model or serial number. Section two prohibits the manufacture of a firearm without subsequently obtaining a unique serial number or other mark of identification from the Department of Emergency Services and Public
Protection, pursuant to a process that is laid out in section two. Section three -- in addition, in section two, certain other criminal penalties are applied to transferring or aiding and abetting or facilitating the manufacture of such a firearm in violation of this section. And there are several exceptions and exemptions from the scope of that section as well contained.

Section three provides a process for DESPP to -- provides for DESPP setting out a process to take up and award a serial number as applicable under the process laid out by section two. Section four prohibits the manufacture of a firearm from a polymer plastic that, without grip stocks or magazines, is not detectable as a security exemplar through metal detectors, as calibrated and operated by federal regulations and is amended from time to time.

Lastly, section five states that no person shall transfer a -- or receive or sell or deliver or otherwise transfer an unfinished frame or lower
receiver, except as under the provisions of that section, including that the transfer shall be governed by the existing regulations applying to a pistol or revolver in the state, and that no such unfinished frame or lower receiver shall be transferred, except if it maintains a unique serial number. And it also provides for the provision of a unique serial number to a person in possession of such an unfinished frame or lower receiver under certain conditions.

The criminal penalty for all of these sections is a C felony, subject to potential suspension in all sections, except section one, according to a procedure that is set out in each of sections two through five, which allows for a suspended prosecution in a first, non-serious offense, in the discretion of the judge. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

The question before the Chamber is adoption on House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark further on the amendment? Representative Dubitsky.
On the amendment? No? Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment before us? If not, I'd try your minds. All those in favor of the amendment please hear by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Those opposed? The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ghost guns, the term covers two categories of firearms currently in existence. One is an unserialized firearm. Another is the availability with new upcoming technology for a firearm to be sold or transferred in parts, and therefore, evade some of our existing gun restrictions. This is an issue that we have seen as close as Torrington and Ridgefield and Willimantic,
and it is an issue that we believe should be addressed. I urge adoption of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Dubitsky.

REP. DUBITSKY (47TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was under the impression that my Ranking Member would be speaking before me. But seeing her note here, I will be glad to make some remarks. For generations, Connecticut has had a long and proud history of firearms manufacture. We had companies Colt, Ruger, Connecticut Shotgun, Stag, Mossberg. People in this state should be encouraged to manufacture and to innovate, as they have for generations.

We have a huge pool of engineers, machinists in this state, hobbyists, veterans, garage tinkerers, that we should be encouraging to turn their hobbies into profitable businesses and to manufacture legal products that they've been -- that people in this state have been manufacturing for generations. We
all know that the state could use a little business. And what this bill and bills like this are is another little chip in the rights of legal gun owners.

People that are looking to take away your rights to defend yourselves, they love these code words. Remember Saturday Night Specials? We all have heard about Saturday Night Specials. Well, what were they? They were -- Saturday Night Special is a racist term used to describe inexpensive firearms that African Americans used to defend themselves.

Then we heard sniper rifles. Remember that one? That was a good one. That was used to try to demonize hunting rifles, because that code word was essentially every decent-quality, bolt-action hunting rifle of a caliber large enough to harvest a deer. Sniper rifles. If it had a scope on it, it was a sniper rifle. Then of course, assault weapon. You can't forget that one. Assault weapons. That's a great code word. And what does it mean? It's the
entire range of the most popular and best-selling sporting rifle in the country, used for everything from hunting squirrels, deer, elk, competition, backyard target practice, and defending one's self and family. But is sounds great, assault weapons.

Now, we've got ghost guns. It sounds evil doesn't it? Ghost guns. It's a great code word. But it's not even a gun. It's a hunk of metal. It's a hunk of plastic. It's a paperweight. It's a think that sits on your table and does nothing to anybody until somebody picks it up, puts it in a milling machine, and turns it into the part of a firearm. And we know when code words, like ghost guns, assault weapons, Saturday Night Specials, when those code words lose their sheen, people who want to take your guns away are just gonna come up with new ones. They'll come up with some new code word. They'll sound evil and they won't mean anything.

But they'll use it to slice off another little piece of your freedom. When will this effort to demonize the tools of self-protection and the good
people to -- who use them, stop? Gun owners are good people. They're your neighbors. They're your friends. They're your coworkers. They are legislators who are sitting in this room on both sides of the aisle right now. Bad guys don't typically build guns. They buy them. They borrow them. They steal them. Bad guys that make and sell guns are already committing multiple felonies.

Two weeks ago, there was a guy arrested in Willimantic. He was making guns and selling them. He was arrested by the feds. He is going to jail for a long time if he's prosecuted and if they don't drop the case, they don't dismiss the claims against him, if they don't nullify the charges, like the state does in virtually every gun possession crime in this state. You want to stop gun crime? When you catch somebody who's committing a crime, prosecute them. Don't let them go.

This bill won't prevent any crimes. This bill won't save any lives. I'm gonna tell you a little secret. You probably don't know this. Guns can be
dangerous when not properly used. It's true. It really is. So can chainsaws, kitchen knives, baseball bats, cars, lawnmowers, drain cleaner, lighter fluid. But like firearms, each of these things can be used for good as well. Like firearms, each can be used to kill people. Well, I trust the people of this state to safety buy, sell, possess and use those things. Each can be used to offensively attack somebody. But unlike each of those other things, only firearms can effectively be used defensively.

What is effective for defensive use that is practical to carry, when you might actually need it? Surely not a chainsaw. If you were being followed down a dark street by a group of very large men with bad intent, what would you want to be carrying? The Department of Justice reports that tens of thousands of people effectively use firearms to protect themselves from attack, from rape and from murder every year - tens of thousands in this country. That means in this state, thousands of people are
saved every year by the defensive use of firearms. Those are your friends. Those are your neighbors. Those are your constituents.

I trust the people of this state to safely buy, sell, possess, carry and use firearms. The difference between a free society and a totalitarian state is freedom. In a free society, people control the government. The government takes orders and fears the people. In a totalitarian state, the government controls the people and the people take orders and fear the government.

This bill does not take a large step towards gun confiscation, admittedly. It doesn't ban entire categories of guns commonly used by people for lawful purposes. It doesn't do that. By itself, this bill does not disarm the populace in favor of the government. But make no mistake; this bill takes us another inch towards the ultimate goal of some, the abolition of privately-owned firearms.

With each little piece, we carve out of the people's right to protect themselves with the most
effective tools we have. We seize a little bit more and a little bit more of people's freedoms. We move closer, step by well-intentioned step, to a state of the government, by the government and for the government. I hope none of us want to live in that kind of state.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you. Will you remark further on the bill? Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just a few questions, if I may, to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal, please prepare yourself. Representative Smith, please proceed.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Thank you. So, listening to Representative Dubitsky, the question in my mind popped up. If this is nothing more than a hunk of metal or a piece of plastic that we're voting on tonight, I'm wondering when does it really -- under this bill,
when does that hunk of metal and that piece of plastic or that material become a ghost gun or a gun under this bill?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, thorough you. So, it can -- it becomes a ghost gun in one of two ways under this bill. One is through section two, upon the completion of a firearm, which is a functional firearm, under section two. And the other is an unfinished frame or lower receiver, which we've defined as a blank casting or machine body intended to be turned into a frame or lower receiver of a firearm that requires additional machining, but most major machining operations have been completed, even though the fire control cavity of that blank casting or machine body is still completely solid or unmachined. So, essentially, once major machining operations have ended, even though that fire control
cavity is still blank and unmachined, and an intent for that casting or blank is developed in to be turning into a frame or lower receiver of a firearm, that is when section five would go into effect.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

I thank the Representative for the answer. And just to dig down a little bit deeper then. So, if I buy a -- and forgive me if I misspeak here, because I'm not a gun owner. But if I buy a lower receiver that's already been machined so that it's -- but still needs more work, but I have no intent to do anything further with it. I just bought it. I like how it looks. I'm gonna keep it in my room or I'll display it in my living room, but I have no intent to make a gun out of it. Based on what I heard this evening, under that scenario, and correct me if I'm wrong, that would not be a violation of this bill.

Through you, Madam Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. That is correct. If you have such an item that would require more machine to become a frame or a lower receiver of a firearm, but you do not have the intent to convert it into such a frame or lower receiver, it is not yet an unfinished frame or lower receiver, under section five.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, how is one to prove, then, intent? So, if someone buys it and it's machined already and it could certainly, if machined further, converted into a weapon or a firearm, how does one go about proving that I or you or somebody else have the intent to actually convert it to the firearm?

Through you, Madam Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. A prosecutor would prove it the exact same way a prosecutor proves intent under any other offense listed in our criminal code.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Well, I would think -- thank you, Madam Speaker. I would think it would be a tall order, because without any type of other evidence of prior intent or knowledge or capability or whatever, I think it's a tall order for police to actually make an arrest because somebody purchased a product that had the capability to becoming a gun. So, that's where I'm a little concerned. And I don't know if these statistics that Representative Dubitsky mentioned are accurate in terms of the prosecutions of our -- of those persons arrested with possession
of a weapon, but under this particular bill, I don't know how the police would actually prosecute someone for just purchasing this product over the internet or -- I don't even know if you can go into a store and actually buy these, maybe you can. That's how little knowledge I have of this area.

But it seems to me we're setting up a bill for failure. Now, I commend the committee and I commend the gentleman who put the bill together and I know it's been worked on by a number of folks to make this bill a lot better than, certainly, it was last year, and it is better. But I still think it has a ways to go in the sense of just being able to prove intent.

And I'm also looking, Madam Speaker, in section two, subsection b, and it talks about a 30-day period or a 90-day period after the department actually publishes its regulations, I guess, that it's ready to receive the information it needs to give a serial code to the weapon. I'm thinking, logically, how does one actually know when that
clock starts ticking? The person who really knows when the clock starts ticking is the one who actually developed the gun or manufactured the gun. So, how does one start the clock? If the gentleman understands my question.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. The clock would start at the point at which the person completes the manufacture or the firearm and it would last for 30 days. However, if the department -- it has not yet been 90 days after the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection has provided notice, in accordance with section three of the act, which is the process for actually obtaining a serial number, then whichever is the later of those two dates, 30 days after the person completely the manufacture or 90 days after the department has provided notice. Those would be the time limits for
the person to contact the department and seek to
provide them the requested and required information
and seek to provide the mentioned serial number.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Again, I thank the gentleman for his answer.
And it's, again, just a concern I have about the
ability for anybody to actually start that clock
ticking. Just two more questions, if I may, through
you, Madam. I know we just got this strike-all
language tonight, so just skimming through it. But
is there any language in here that provides for any
funding for any mental health issues? I know when
we did the Sandy Hook, the comprehensive Sandy Hook
gun bill; one of the integral components of that
particular bill was to make sure that we fund the
issues that we have in this state dealing with
mental health in those having access to weapons.
And I think, honestly, we have done a poor job in
We passed a law and did some grandstanding at the time about passing that law, but the mental health aspect was kind of let go, in my opinion. And I'm wondering if there's anything in here that deals with that.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. This bill contains no funding of any kind and does not deal with mental health.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

And I thank the gentleman for his answer and once again would encourage this Chamber going forward that any time we bring gun bills before the Chamber and before the legislature, that we consider
that aspect, because it's been shown over and over again that the issues that we have, or many of the issues that we have with gun possession and gun violence goes back to mental health issues. So, let's not ignore one of the major components and one of the major issues that we have here in Connecticut.

And lastly, through you, Madam Speaker. I notice in subsection g, it talks about a suspension of prosecution. Are we talking about the eligibility of applying for the AR program?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. That is subsection g of which section?

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Well, I have to put my glasses on, Madam
Speaker. I still think it's under -- well, it's throughout the bill, but under section two, subsection g. It talks about suspension of prosecution. It seems to me that would be an AR application, but it doesn't really specify AR. I just wanted to see if it is.

Through you, Madam.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. It is not officially an AR program. It has specific requirements, including that the judge find the violation of this relevant section is not a serious nature and that the person charged with the violation will probably not offend in the future, has not previously been convicted of a violation of this particular section and has not previously had a prosecution under this section, suspended pursuant to this subsection. So, it is a specified suspension of prosecution provision particular to
each section of this bill that it's relevant to, although it echoes other parts of our firearms laws, especially with regard to the transfer of pistols and revolvers.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And so, just to one more question as a follow up then, just to get into the actual, real world. So, if somebody's been arrested -- if this bill becomes law and somebody's arrested and they're appearing before the judge, they would then have to file a motion for suspension of prosecution under this particular section to ultimately, if compliant, have the charges dismissed. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):
Thank you, Madam Speaker. They could either make such a motion or they could plead to the offense. There are a variety of ways to exercise it. The key element is the element of discretion with regard to the judge, the underlying requirements. And the idea that this provision is meant to address the situation where somebody makes an accidental or it's a violation that's not of a serious nature, and they don't have an intent to do it or they don't -- aren't likely to attempt to do it in the future and that they understand the meaning of what they're doing under the suspension provision.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

I keep saying lastly, but I hope this is the last question, Madam Speaker. Would somebody be eligible under our current AR legislation or statutes -- would they be eligible to apply for AR
if this bill were to become law?

       Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

    Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

    Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. I see no reason why they would not be able to.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

REP. SMITH (108TH):

    I thank the Chamber for its time and thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

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

REP. WILSON (66TH):

    Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good to see you up there this evening.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

    Nice to be seen, sir. Please proceed.

REP. WILSON (66TH):
I have maybe just a couple of things to say and share, and then maybe a couple of questions, through you, to the proponent of the bill. So, I've had a number of constituents in my district who have communicated with me. As a matter of fact, I have a couple of personal friends who are firearm enthusiasts and hobbyists and in fact they do build their own pistols, which is, I think, where this is most often used, sometimes long rifles as well. And they're quite concerned about this bill. And I believe that there are laws already in place that ban the type of firearm that one can make and who can possess them and so forth.

And I'd just like to mention on the 3D printer, you know, we -- I think the ghost gun concept is an emotional concept. People are afraid that these things are being made all over the place. But it's my understanding that a 3D printer that's capable of making the lower portion of one of these pistols run something in the neighborhood of $1,000 dollars. So, that means a bad guy who wants to make a bad gun
is gonna have to lay out $1,000 dollars to buy a printer. Then they're going to have to have the skill and the knowledge on how to complete the manufacture of that. And then in order to make that actually fire a bullet, they're gonna have to put a metal firing pin in it and, of course, as we all know, ammunition is metal. So, it seems to me it would be rather difficult to get through a metal detector once it's completed.

And so, through you, Madam Speaker, to the proponent of the bill, if I could, just a couple of questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Please proceed, sir. I believe he is prepared.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, are ghost guns currently a problem in the State of Connecticut?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):
Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. Yes, I would say so. I mentioned in my introduction to the bill that several have already been -- several ghost gun prosecutions have already been done where people were attempting to build them, based on kits that they'd ordered online. There was a man from Willimantic who just pleaded guilty earlier last month in the district of Connecticut. There have been incidents in Southington, Torrington and Ridgefield and these gentlemen, they've all been men, have been caught in the act of producing these weapons.

But the idea of this bill is not to wait until someone tries to sell a weapon that they've built based on a kit that they received from out of state, online, through a website like ghostguns.com, but to prevent the vendor, like ghostguns.com or a similar company, from shipping those weapons into Connecticut in a way that evades our background checks systems and our other protections to ensure the serialization of firearms. So, through you,
Madam Speaker, I would say that, yes, this is an issue and it's one that we would like to cutoff at the pass before those criminals obtain the unserialized, untraceable firearms that these kits and other methods can produce.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Wilson.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

And through you, Madam Speaker. I thank the good proponent for those answers. And through you, Madam Speaker. Could the proponent tell me how many arrests there have been so far?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. This has not gone into law yet, but I know of about four or five incidents in this state, some of which I listed, in which these ghost guns have been -- or the attempt
to distribute them within the state has been prosecuted. We've also had reports from chiefs of police throughout the state, including the City of Bridgeport, that they've recovered them off of the street in the prosecution of other crimes. So, while we don't have data, we have strong anecdotal evidence that these so-called ghost guns present a very real issue around our country and in this state.

And I would just add that we've seen that they've been used in crimes elsewhere, particularly mass shootings that took place in 2014 and 2017 in California and also Lieutenant Christopher Hasson, the Coast Guard lieutenant who was arrested recently for allegedly seeking and conspiring to kill a number of federal officials, was also arrested in possession of materials from which he would have been able to create an unserialized firearm, in the manner that we are seeking to prevent here.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):
Representative Wilson.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

And through you, Madam Speaker. Again, thank the proponent for his answer. I have just one more question, through you, Madam Speaker. In the last session, we learned that DESPP had a backlog of over 20,000 firearm transfer forms because of the lack of staffing. I understand now that that number may actually even be approach 30,000 of a backlog. So, will DESPP need to hire additional staff to process these serial number requests?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. The answer is no. DESPP has been consulted with and the fiscal note is less than $10,000 dollars for DESPP with minimal fiscal impacts to any other department.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Representative Wilson.
REP. WILSON (66TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. And again, thank you. And I'll just say a couple more words, if I may. I understand the effort here, but a the good Representative Dubitsky spoke earlier, I would have to agree that this is an attempt at continue to chip away at the Second Amendment rights of our law-abiding residents in the State of Connecticut and I'm going to listen to the rest of the conversation here today. But as I'm feeling right now, I'm not sure that I can support this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER COOK (65TH):

Thank you, Representative. 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? Take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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.

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. Ladies and gentlemen, before the Clerk announces the tally, I will remind everybody that decorum of the House does not allow for any reaction on the votes. A reminder, please. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 7219, as amended by House “A”,

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SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
The bill as amended passes. (Gavel) The Chamber will stand at ease.

The House will come back to order. (Gavel)

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 127?

CLERK:

On page 13, House Calendar 127, and House Bill, No. 5844, - AN ACT REQUIRING HOUSING AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS TO PERSPECTIVE TENANTS, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

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 McGhee,
please proceed.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 7863. I would ask that the Clerk please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will the Clerk please LCO, No. 7863, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A"?

CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO, No. 7863, offered by Representative McGee.

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 McGee, please proceed.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill, or amendment, rather, is extremely simple. It'll strike a few lines, 63 to 66, inclusive in their
entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof, essentially providing at the time of household applies for or has been accepted for admission to a housing authority residential unit and at the annual recertification of household, an application for admission as an elector to. It will also, in line 67, strike family and insert household. And lastly, in 67, it would also strike be admitted and insert apply for admission in lieu thereof. And just to summarize the overall bill, and I'll be extremely brief, this bill would require the housing authority to provide a voter registration application to accompany any housing application. And again, these are for perspective tenants, not just individuals walking into a housing authority. I move acceptance.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much. Will you remark further on the amendment before us? Further on the amendment before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.
Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Davis of the 57th District. Oh, Representative Dauphinais of the 44th. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

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

Through you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee looks prepared. Representative Dauphinais, please proceed, madam.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

My question is what does the housing authority do? What is the role of the housing authority?

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):
Through you, Mr. Speaker. The housing authority would simply just provide the voter registration application accompanied to the actual housing application.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Dauphinais.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I would just need to clear up my question, through you. I was asking what the role of the housing authority is.

Through you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, just to provide the application should it be asked by a perspective tenant. However, if a perspective tenant is asking whether or not they need assistance on a particular application, that is a voter registration application, they could answer a
question, but not mandatory.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative, in an attempt to help Representative Dauphinais, I think she's saying what is the overall role of a housing authority, not, per se, just with this bill, but more as a role of reference for her. Is that correct, Representative Dauphinais?

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

In general, through you, Mr. Speaker, the role of the housing authority is to serve as an entity that provides housing opportunities to individuals interested in housing.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Dauphinais.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you. How does this role fall into -- or how does this fall into the role of the housing authority?

Through you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Similar to libraries, the Department of Motor Vehicle, just to name a couple, they're agencies that provide access to voter registration cards. So, in that fashion, we're doing the same here, providing access to voter registration applications.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Dauphinais.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you. The role of the housing authority is to help provide housing for lower income individuals. Providing voter registrations is not the role of the housing
employees. And for that reason, I will not be supporting this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Davis of the 57th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, may I have a few questions to the proponent?

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee looks prepared.

Representative Davis, please proceed.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the purpose of this bill was to provide another way for people who apply for housing authorities to access voter registration forms. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.
REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Correct.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And what if the individual who is applying to join the housing authority or to have housing through the housing authority is already an elector? Would they still have to provide this individual with a voter registration form?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee, would you like -- Representative Davis, Representative McGee is indicating he didn't hear the question completely. Would you remind repeating yourself, sir?

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Most certainly, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker. If an individual who's applying for the housing authority's housing options, if they are
already an elector in the town, already admitted to vote, through you, Mr. Speaker, would they have to provide them with the form?

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. If I'm hearing the good gentleman correctly, if they're already an electorate of a particular town, that's all well and good. But if they're applying to a new unit or a new housing unit, if you would, I'm certain that that -- if in fact that potential or perspective tenant is applying to that new unit and asks for an application, that housing representative should then provide them with a housing application to update their address.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, would they be
required to provide the voter registration form with
the application or only upon request from the
applicant?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. They would be
required. They, meaning the housing representative
or the housing authority, would be required to have
voter registration applications available. And
should that perspective tenant ask, they should be
provided with it.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the impetus of this
bill, was there a situation where someone was
applying for housing within the housing authority
and then found that they wanted to change their
voter registration, yet there was no forms available to them and they had absolutely no other way to access the voter registration form?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Do you mind repeating your question? Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I guess I'll rephrase it as well. If someone is applying for this -- for housing in the housing authority and they want to request this, under this bill, they would have to at least have those forms available to them to give to them. And through you, Mr. Speaker. Was this bill borne out of a situation where an individual applied for housing at a housing
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you so much for repeating your question. There was, in fact, two housing authorities and there is testimony to back it up that requested or had a tenant to request voter application cards and they were not available. And again, this particular bill is not to cause any more work for housing authorities, but again, providing access for those folks utilizing section eight housing units.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And currently, now, is there anything prohibiting a housing authority from printing off a few copies of the voter registration form, someone at the housing authority going down to the local library, the town hall, the city hall, somewhere, getting a few copies of this registration form and then having it available at their facility currently?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, this would be something that would be mandated on every housing authority across the State of Connecticut or only with certain housing authorities?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It'll be all of the housing authorities that the State of Connecticut has jurisdiction over.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And if an individual has other access to a form, like through the internet or on a mobile device or through a computer that might accessible at the housing authority, would that count or do they actually have to have physical paper copies of the voter registration form available at the housing authority?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):
Correct. And again, this bill, it simply -- it's requiring the housing authorities to provide materials. And so, if materials are available via computer or a link that could be shared with a perspective tenant, that would suffice.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, in this case, if someone who is moving into one of these facilities that's operated by a housing authority and they wanted to change their address with, say the Department of Motor Vehicles, it's my understanding that we now have the Motor Voter Law in a place that they would be able to just check a box on their form for that change of address and they would be able to register to vote. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.
REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Those options are available to every single one of us. And again, if we kind of remain focused on sort of the concept and the intent of this bill is to, again, provide access to those utilizing section eight vouchers and may not have access to computers and anything alike. So, not limited to, but again, we're asking housing authorities to utilize the Secretary of State to provide hard copies of the voter applications.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's my understanding that the housing authorities have a few different activities under their belts, not solely the review and processing of section eight housing applications. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Would the fine gentleman just clarify the question for me, please? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis, could you repeat the question, please?

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Most certainly, Mr. Speaker, through you. There was a couple of answers that were given to previous questions that indicated that this was so that individuals with section eight housing vouchers would have access to voter registration forms. And through you, Mr. Speaker, is that the only purpose of a housing authority? Does someone applying for housing through a housing authority, do they have to be a section eight voucher applicant or can -- or are there other examples of a housing authority providing housing here in the State of Connecticut?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

(Gavel) Ladies and gentlemen, the two gentlemen who are engaging in the debate here tonight are having trouble hearing each other. It's been a little loud here. So, if we could quiet down or move our conversations outside, I think we'd all appreciate that. Representative McGee, did you correctly hear the question?

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

I think I did.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

So, if I hear the fine gentleman correctly, many of our housing authorities, they have other responsibilities. Some housing authorities are developers. Within housing authorities, they have caseworkers who help tenants navigate throughout many different situations. So, there are many responsibilities of a particular housing authority. I know for a fact in Hartford they provide ample
services to tenants. This would just be another resource for tenants that occupy section eight housing.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, I believe that under current law the Department of Social Services has to provide voter registration forms upon request for any applicant that uses their services. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there instances
where an individual is using housing authority housing or through their programs and not accessing Department of Social Service programs as well?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And is this only required for individuals that are applying for housing within that housing authority or a housing authority facility or somebody who's applying for housing, for instance, through the section eight voucher program that is in a private home or commercial apartment building?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.
REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm really glad that the fine gentleman asked that question. This is housing authorities, again, that are managed or at least through the Department of Housing, if you would. So, we're not necessarily talking about commercial or private. So, if -- I'll just use myself as an example. If I'm applying for a particular unit through the housing authority, using my voucher, I then would be provided with that voter registration application. And if you take it a step further, usually within a year or two, you have to recertify, and so I could apply for a different unit and I would then be provided with another voter registration application. And the really, I think, cool piece to this bill, it really empowers the electorate to take their voter application, whereas DMV would take and process that voter application for you. In this case, the individual would then go down to the registrar's office and submit their voter registration card. So, again, it's just an
opportunity to provide access to individuals who live in public housing.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And currently, are there situations where registrars of voters or town or city clerks hold voter registration drives within housing authority facilities?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, in those circumstances, an individual could then apply through that voter registration drive, that the
registrar of voters would be bringing the forms. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Correct. That could be another opportunity for a resident to have access. But again, we're talking about perspective tenants to a particular housing unit.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And is there an example of an individual who went to go vote, found out that they didn’t fill out a change in address after moving into one of these housing authorities?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.
REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have anything concrete in front of me to give you a concrete answer. But if I had to assume, I'm sure there have been instances where one would go vote only to arrive with their ID and they're saying, hey, you no longer live at this address. You can't vote at this particular precinct.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And an example like that, that may or may not have happened, it probably did, given the change in address can be difficult for some individuals to think of, hey, filling out the voter registration form may not be at the top of their making that move. Would they be able to fill out a provisional ballot and still cast the vote at that polling place upon providing evidence that they live there?
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have an answer on that. Again, the intent of this bill is just to, or amendment, is to provide voter application on a housing application to perspective tenants.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the -- based on that last answer, would the voter registration application be part of the application for the housing authority housing or would it be a separate form that they would have to request?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.
REP. MCGEE (5TH):

It would be a part of the package, and again, provided to that perspective tenant.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, would it be the actual Secretary of State's voter registration form as just an attachment to the application or would it be integrated within the application and then submitted to either -- I assume the Secretary of State's Office after then.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Madam Speaker?

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.
Yes, it would be the standard voter registration form that's provided by the Secretary of State or the registrar of voters in your particular municipality and it is, again, the responsibility of that perspective tenant to then take that completed form down to the registrars of voter.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you. Currently, if the individual were to fill out their housing application, fill out this form, turn in both forms to the person at the housing authority, what would the person with the housing authority be obligated to do? Can they submit that voter registration form or are they obligated to return it to them and make the individual do it themselves? Is there any restriction on who can actually submit a voter registration form?
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Sticking with the intent of this bill, again, we're not asking for the housing representatives to do anything more than to provide assistance should assistance be, you know, required or asked, if you would. So, again, it's the responsibility of the perspective tenant to then take that voter registration card, bring it to the registrars of voters and take it from there.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

(Gavel) Much better. Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my reading of the bill, and I believe it's in lines, like, 12 and 13. It explicitly says that the voter registration application forms have to be made available. In a previous answer to one of my questions, the kind
gentleman from Hartford described it as they could provide a link. They could provide access to a computer to do it. And through you, Mr. Speaker, do these lines actually require that the physical forms be provided or would those electronic forms suffice under the language here?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And the fine gentleman is correct in that. I did say that a link could be provided. But at bare minimum, this bill says and it states that hard copies of the voter registration application should be made available upon completing an application. And again, it's the responsibility of the resident or the voter to return its card back to the registrar of voters or place it in the mailbox.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And under current -- I know this debate has come up before in some other bills. Under current, I think, it's federal law, there are prohibitions upon any kind of political activity or things to be taken by housing authority officials.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

I'm sorry. Maybe it's 9 o'clock and I'm usually down by 8:45, with a new baby. If the fine gentleman could just repeat himself for me, repeat his question, please? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a father of a toddler, I certainly understand his situation.
Through you, Mr. Speaker. Under current federal law, is there any prohibitions on housing authority employees participating in political activities within the housing authority?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

I believe that there is. Housing authorities are nonprofits, the majority of them nonpartisan. And I don't believe that providing a voter registration application to perspective tenants would be anything beyond nonpartisan, so.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, they would be able to provide the voter registration form, but they would be prohibited from providing any information about the actual elections that might be taking
place in the near future?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the answers from the kind gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few questions to the proponent of the bill, through you, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the proponent know what percentage of housing authority residents
are currently registered to vote?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Why don't we rephrase that to just be a straight-out question of fact as opposed to what Representative McGee does or doesn't know?

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Yes.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

How many housing authority residents are registered to vote?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

That's much better. Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have that statistic on hand. But what I do know is that we, in the State of Connecticut and even in this country, we encourage people to be a part of the political process and that is through using their
voice by voting.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the gentleman for his answer and I could not agree more. I think it's very important that we fully support and profess the idea and concept of voting. In fact, the Town of Monroe, which is one of the towns I serve today, had their annual budget referendum and due to the anticipated schedule of today, I made sure that I voted ahead of time to make sure that my vote was cast. And I, you know, always try to reach out to everyone through social media, through personal texts to encourage them to vote whenever there is an election. So, I wholeheartedly agree.

But the reason I asked the question was simply just to get at the fact that if we knew what the percentages were. So, if there's a population of housing authority residents and let's say 99 percent
were registered. Now, that's probably not the case, but not having the data. I think having that data would be helpful in the decision of supporting or not supporting this bill. Another question, through you, Mr. Speaker, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

The voter application would be provided to the resident is my understanding of this. Would the application to register to vote be contingent upon the application of housing?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That's a great question. The goal is to provide applications to individuals who have received a bona fide, if you would, maybe that's too strong of a word, an offer from that particular housing unit so that you don't
have people just walking in to any particular housing authority or housing development, if you would, asking for applications. So, through you, Mr. Speaker, it would be to perspective tenants that have seriously considered moving into a particular unit.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the Chairman for his answer. But just so that I'm clear, as a hypothetical, if I were to be applying to a housing authority, I would need to be accepted before I was given a voter registration application. Is that correct?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Correct. And in addition to that, those individuals who accepted the
offer to live in a particular housing unit and have been there for a few years and they go through a recertification, they too would be offered a voter application as well to update their address or any information.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the reason I was asking was I wanted to be clear whether or not the voter registration was actually part of the application. If I'm hearing correctly, once the application is processed and approved and the person is accepted into the housing authority, only then would they be offered the voter registration as part of the acceptance. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):
Through you, Mr. Speaker. Correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One more -- actually, a few more questions through the Chairman -- to the Chairman, through you. As of right now, I know the Town of Monroe does have at least one housing authority. And I guess my question is are all housing authorities operated the same way and are there housing authorities that are operated by different levels of government?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The fine gentleman did a great job explaining the different types of housing options or authorities. There are some that are managed by municipalities. There are also some managed by the State of Connecticut through the
Department of Housing.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, to follow up on the answer to that question, there would be municipal employees as well as state employees administering some of these programs.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Just to clarify, I'm not certain, through you, Mr. Speaker, that employees of these housing authorities are necessarily state employees. Many of the housing authorities receive funding through portfolios that are managed by the Department of Housing. So, many of these employees are municipal employees or just nonprofit employees running housing authorities.
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And do we know in those nonprofits who is in charge of the hiring and firing of the staff? Is it the director or CEO of the organization or is it somehow the Department of Housing?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. CEO, president, executive director and its board.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And how many housing authorities are there in the State of Connecticut?
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

That's a great question and so I'm gonna charge it to be a new chair of Housing and that's something that I'll do my homework on. I'm not sure.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not trying to put the good Chairman on the spot. I just was going through some of the public testimony and I noticed that there was one housing authority that testified in favor of this bill; however, I would assume that there are probably dozens, if not hundreds, of housing authorities throughout the State of Connecticut, therefore, showing that one out of that many that supported it.

While certainly there was no housing
authorities that opposed it with public testimony, I just didn't see a strong showing of support from the housing authority agencies and those are ultimately the ones that are going to be administrating this. So, that was one of the concerns I had.

One more -- another question, through you, Mr. Speaker. In lines three through four, it includes the language concerning the Department of Social Services, Labor Department, and the Department of Motor Vehicles in the way that they distribute voter registration information. I know that many of us in the Chamber are familiar with the Motor Voter law that was passed recently. If the good Chairman could relay any thoughts on the success of those programs and if we think that this would be, again, a benefit to those in housing authorities.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It's definitely a
great question and just taking a look at the bill, lines three through five, where it explains the Department of Social Services, Labor and DMV, and it adds housing authorities as defined in section 8-39. I think there are some best practices that housing authorities could adopt. But I think the fine gentleman would agree with me that there are some, I think, processes and systems that we ought to improve.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I agree. I've heard stories, not all bad, about the Motor Voter program, when people have either renewed their license or registered a motor vehicle. One, in particular, that really stuck with me, was a good friend of mine who I work with went to go vote in the primaries this past -- in 2018, the governor -- gubernatorial primary.
And when he arrived to vote, and as we know in the State of Connecticut, you need to be registered with a party, and he always believed he was registered as a Republican, and that's how he registered when he was first 18 years old. Showed up to the polls and come to find out he was registered unaffiliated. He does not have any idea why that would've happened. And the only thing that we could surmise was that it was possible that when he registered his vehicle that there was a change in the voter registration in party. And as we know, on the day of the primary it's too late to change your party from unaffiliated or from one party to the next. So, in theory, he was disenfranchised from the system, which, obviously, is not a good thing.

I'm sure it's something that has happened to others if it's happened to this gentleman. But it's a story that stuck with me and it's a part of those processes that you talked about. And I would hope that if this bill were to move forward and be successful that there would be some standards, some
scope of practice put in by either the Secretary of State or the Department of Housing to make sure that these type of errors don't occur, that the validity and the accuracy of voter records are kept as sacred as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I have two more questions, through you. The first one would be -- the fiscal note attached to this says that there's no cost to municipalities and no cost to the State of Connecticut, saying that the Secretary of State is certainly capable of providing this information. Was there any discussion during the public hearing or during other conversations with the committee that had to do with any cost to towns, cities or the housing authorities?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in line 68, it states a housing authority shall assist an individual in completing the application form if such assistance is requested. Through you, Mr. Speaker. The intent of this language is what exactly and what kind of assistance would be provided?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

A great question. It could be -- in many of our housing authorities, and I'll just use Hartford Housing Authority as an example. We have a huge population of Spanish-speaking-only tenants and it could just be help completing a particular application or being provided with direction on, you know, where to sign or where to drop off this particular voter application, and it could be as
simple as that.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I know that we have certain rules and regulations about who can assist in absentee ballots, who can assist in absentee ballot applications, having gone through that in the past election with a neighbor of mine who is confined to his house and not able to leave. Just a question, through you, Mr. Speaker. Will there be some procedures put in place to guarantee that there wouldn't be any sort of policy discrepancy or issue in having assistance provided to someone registering to vote?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. There are current
policies and standards in place for supervised absentee ballots. Registrar of voters, they already have sort of guidelines on how, as you've mentioned, how many of these applications should be completed. I would imagine that the Secretary of State would provide those same instructions on how to handle voter registration cards, absentee ballots, supervised voting, etcetera.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What would happen -- what would be the penalty if a housing authority did not give that voter registration card to a applicant who has received housing?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. We don't necessarily
have any penalties in this bill. It was more or less, you know, providing, again, that perspective tenant with a voter registration application, with hopes that, on the honor system, that many of these housing authorities would do just that. So, to the fine gentleman, we don't necessarily have any fines or penalties, but I would imagine that that particular tenant or perspective tenant, having heard of successful passage of this bill, would then file a complaint with, you know, its registrar of voters.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And so just to clarify, there would be -- would there be any disciplinary action that could be taken on the employee as a result of this law?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

That does not cover -- I don't -- we don't cover that in this particular bill, Mr. Speaker.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And so just to clarify, there's no provision in here that would prevent a housing authority from disciplining an employee that failed to provide that registration form.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no further questions. Thank you to the Chairman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

You shut off your microphone, Representative.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

How's that? There we go.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Okay. It took us a minute to find it. You're okay now.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just, if I may, had some questions for the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed, sir.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you. So, looking at the bill as amended, I notice that we now have this requirement not
having to do with just family, but household. So, why is that part of this now? Why have we expanded it to household from family?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

That tells me I have to do something. Thank you. Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. We wanted to clarify. We know that in households there are young people who are at the age of voting and we wanted to be sure that any of those families that are applying through housing units or public housing that they too and their children have an opportunity to register to vote as well, obviously, 18 and older. But we wanted to be sure that we clarified that the family that is applying to a particular unit is provided with voter registration applications.
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But I'm to understand that these families have access to these documents already without this new mandate. Is -- am I -- please correct me if I'm wrong.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

If I hear the fine gentleman correctly again, applications are available at one's town or city halls, at the library, Department of Social Services, DMV. But this would be an additional touch point or access to voting and this particular bill, again, would provide perspective tenants, household families the opportunity to have those voter registration cards.

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Or voter
Representative Fishbein.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I can't tell from the language that's before us. So, like, in the town that I live in, in Wallingford, we have a very robust housing authority. I think we have seven different locations where this happens in our town, where this is available. Who, under this language, would be charged with making sure this happens? Is it the -- you know, there's many times a leader or some sort of office at these places. Is it the executive director? I'm just trying to figure out who is charged with this responsibility.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative McGee.

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'll just continue using Hartford as an example. I could use
New Haven or Wallingford. There's a main entrance and a front desk with staff ready to serve whoever's walking through the door. I suspect many of these applications could be right there at the front lobby or they could be made available at the time of acceptance of an offer. So, in an office with a case manager or a worker, and that worker could be designated by the CEO. It could be then turned over to a manager. It really is up to that particular CEO or executive director of the housing authority.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And how is one to -- when they are at this office that we now know is charged with doing this, how are they to ascertain whether or not a particular member of a household is eligible to be a voter? Perhaps they're precluded by their criminal record, perhaps their age, perhaps -- I don't see that in here. How -- what is the
screening process that we are now mandating upon these individuals to ascertain whether or not they would be given it? Because certainly we would not give it to a five-year-old or someone who looks five-year-old. What is that screening process?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm just -- I'd like to direct the fine gentleman's attention and on page two of the actual bill it kind of breaks down --- lines, maybe, 26 all the way on down to maybe line 34, if you would, it talks about the eligibility requirement. It even goes on to say, you know, the individual needs to have identification, etcetera, and it goes on and on. But again, one of the unique opportunities here is for the housing authority or any said designee to offer that voter registration card to that individual. It is then their responsibility to complete it and then drop it off
to the registrar of voters. And it is at that point where, I believe, they have their -- they, as in the registrar of voters, would have their process to really decide whether or not that potential voter meets the requirement.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just trying to, you know -- and I thank the good Representative for his answer. But I don't see it in here where, you know, since we're dealing with the household of the applicant, what the screening process is to ascertain that all of those people that are to live in the household of the applicant are potentially able to be registered as voters, therefore, opening the gate to this mandate.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.
REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, you would have a mom or dad or aunt or uncle, whomever, and their family unit, that person responsible for that particular housing application. In my mind, and I could be all the way wrong, or all the way correct, it would be up to that adult to, you know, request these voter applications, if you would, while they're sitting with their case manager or whoever that person is that's walking them through that application. I hear what you're saying, but it is not the responsibility of the housing authority to investigate or to determine whether or not someone is qualified to be a voter. It is that person's responsibility to complete that form and to then drop that form off to the appropriate location, where they can determine whether or not that individual, that voter, meets the requirements.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.
REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. But I'm trying to ascertain how does that housing authority individual who's already been identified as charged with the responsibility of making sure that this happens, how do they ascertain how many of those forms to put in the packet to be filled out? I don't see that anywhere in here.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps a driver's license or a birth certificate, and that's usually required in some of these housing applications and then there is where they can ascertain whether or not one is ready or qualified or meets the requirements, if you would, to vote.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.
REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, am I to understand that while we don't require identification to vote in this state, we would now require identification to receive a voter registration card? Is that what I'm hearing?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my response was to the fine gentleman's question as to how would one determine whether or not an individual is of age to receive a voter registration card. So, I would just say, in my previous question, it still remains the same.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I guess I can
assume, please correct me if I'm wrong, that the reason why we would be doing this is the -- to preserve that constitutionally protected right to vote and to perhaps allow as many people as possible to exercise that constitutionally protected right. Is that true?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, then I must ask, under the language that's before us, what is the penalty for not affording this individual that constitutionally protected right in advancing that constitutionally protected right through giving them the form? What is the penalty?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there is no penalty outlined in this particular bill. Again, we're working on an honor system in that we want all people, as the fine gentleman has already shared with us, to exercise their right, and that is by voting. And by passing such bill, this bill, it increases access and opportunity for individuals to take advantage of their right.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, if one does not get the package and they don't get that opportunity to vote, I believe there would potentially be civil liability for that individual that did not proceed in preserving that person's constitutional right, if that is the intention of this language.
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if that was a question or a comment. If the fine gentleman could just clarify, I'd be glad to answer.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, if the intent of this language is to preserve and to advance a constitutionally protected right and one does not abide by this directive from this body to advance and protect that constitutional right, I would think that there would be civil liability on a constitutional basis. And I don't see any language in here that exempts the housing authority from such liability, unless the good Representative can point me to a portion of this language.
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this bill is -- and I hear the gentleman. My approach, or at least my perspective, is to be extremely positive in a sense we would hope that housing authorities or any institution -- we could name the Department of Social Services, the Labor Department, DMV, that they would all act in good faith in supporting and upholding the rights that many of our residents and people in the State of Connecticut, they have. And so, that said, this is, again, another opportunity to provide access to the right to vote by allowing or providing these applications on the housing application packet, as we've described throughout the evening.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.
REP. FISHBEEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, I know that a housing authority is an autonomous group. You know, in my town and I think by state statute we don't have control other than to appoint the housing authority commissioners. And certainly here, we are mandating that some happens. It doesn't say. It says shall. That we are requiring them to include in the packet a voter registration card for each member of that household and that that would potentially open up a housing authority to some level of civil liability. And while I see this as a overreach -- it's a significant overreach if we're doing that on directive language and not just permissive. So, for that reason, I would be opposed to the bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Good evening.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a difficult bill better. The Clerk is in possession of LCO 8041, and I ask that it be called and that I be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The Clerk is in possession of amendment, LCO, No. 8041, which will be designated as House Amendment Schedule "B". Mr. Clerk, if you'd please call it.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "B," LCO, No. 8041, offered by Representative Candelora and Representative Perillo.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Would you like to summarize? Without objection, please proceed, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the
underlying bill which is addressing the housing authority's distribution of voter registration applications. This particular amendment would allow for individuals to contest their elections for a state rep or a state senator by seeking relief in the judicial branch, as opposed to our current process, where candidates are only permitted to seek redress through this General Assembly. And as everybody knows, we had the issue this session, dealing with an election that was contested. This Chamber failed to act on that and therefore this amendment would seek to make it as a matter of statute that someone could seek recourse in the court system. And with that, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The question is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "B". Will you remark, sir?

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, as I stated and as members of this Chamber understand, we had a contested election committee formed back on
opening day. That committee consisted of four members, two Democrats, two Republicans, who were charged with coming up with a report in reviewing an election in our Stratford race in the 120th District. That report, according to the rules, were submitted on February 4th to the Speaker's Office. And on that time, they had an opportunity to incorporate those recommendations and make a -- provide a resolution for this Chamber to determine whether or not that election should be overturned or if -- should determine whether or not that state representative was properly seated.

The candidate who was aggrieved went to court to challenge this election. The courts determined that they did not have jurisdiction on the case and they specifically noted that absent our Chamber conferring statutory authority on them to review a case, like they do for all the other state offices, including governor all the way down through state controller and all of our municipal offices, that absent that authority, they didn’t have jurisdiction
to act. And so, therefore, it became our exclusive jurisdiction.

Based on how I've seen that progress, that I don't think we've properly afforded the candidates a remedy and certainty. We didn't afford those individuals that, the ten thousand-plus that went out and voted, to finally determine whether or not they know that they elected a state official and that state official is properly seated. I think it's a travesty to the election process. And before we keep putting forth election laws in these Chambers, the first thing we should be doing is making sure that the integrity of a particular election is upheld.

Given the fact that this Chamber has lacked the courage and fortitude to be able to act on that resolution, I think it's imperative that we transfer the jurisdiction to this General Assembly. And I ask that when this vote be taken, it be taken by roll.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
The vote will be taken by roll. A procedural thing, ladies and gentlemen. I have a whole bunch of people on the board who were going to speak on the bill. If you want to speak on this amendment, please keep your light on. But if you do not, please turn your microphone off so I can just call on people in the right order. Representative Smith. The gentleman declines. Representative Buckbee, on House "B". Again, if you're -- if you don't desire to speak on the amendment, please turn your light off so I can move things along. Thank you.

Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

I might as well. I wasn't gonna speak on it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Well, you are now.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

I actually do support this strongly, mainly because we want to -- we don't want to disenfranchise voters. And in the 120th or in any district, this should never happen. We advocate for
people to vote and we should advocate for that. And every vote does count. So, I do stand in strong support of this amendment because it's the right thing to do for the voters of Connecticut. So, I'll say that. But I'd still like to get my light back on later. But I do support this strongly. Remember, we take an oath, and our oath is to uphold the Constitution and I think this is very important. So, I stand in strong support of this.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Representative Yaccarino. Representative Kupchick. No? Where is she? She's absent. Take Representative Kupchick's name off the list, please. Representative Lavielle. Ah, there you are.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

I wanted to make you happy, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

I haven't learned where everybody's sitting yet, believe it or not, and here is it May.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):
Well, I hope this makes you feel better.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

I'm sure.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

I rise in very strong support of the amendment. I think the bill is about, you know, whether you support it or not, it's about making sure that people get to vote. And we had a number of people in the election in the 120th who did not get to vote for the people running for state representative. And I think that since the Chamber is not taking action, we need to find another recourse. So, I think it's an excellent amendment. It gives us that possibility and I support it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, ma'am. The distinguished Republican Leader, Representative Klarides.

REP. KLRIDES (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment. You know, I have to say
that I am very disenchanted at times and I have been
very disenchanted during this session with the fact
that we hear about bill after bill, about
disenfranchised voters, about everybody having the
opportunity to vote, about getting people as many
days to vote as possible, and the list goes on and
on. In fact, this underlying bill specifically
allows for voter registration cards to be passed
out.

We hear about this day in and day out. And yet
it is now May and we have not done a thing in
regards to something that was set up to be a
bipartisan meeting and meeting of the minds. I
think that this amendment is very well placed. I
think it's something we need to do. And if people
really care about disenfranchised voters and if
people really care about everybody having the
opportunity to vote, it shouldn't matter if they're
Republican or Democrat. It shouldn't matter who's
in control of the Governor's Office, the House or
the Senate. We are setting a precedent for the
future of this state. And that should be beyond politics. I urge adoption, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, madam. The distinguished Majority Leader, Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I can't talk about the underlying bill. I'll stay in the amendment. I will just say this. I understand the good Representative's point across the aisle, Representative Candelora. The problem is we can't do this statutorily. The State Constitution from the 1800s has been very clear that we are the judicial authority for the House and the seating of members of the House. And the Senate is the same for their Chamber. This was actually litigated all the way to the Connecticut Supreme Court. So, you can't make a statutory change of this kind.

So, I'll give it the benefit of the doubt on germaneness, but it's an amendment that would be in violation of the State Constitution. We cannot
delegate our judicial authority. Now, if someone wants to have that debate, are we the right forum for these debates and these conflicts? Well, that's an interesting question. But you'd have to amend the State Constitution and we're all familiar with how that process would work. You know, to get on the ballot immediately in November of 2020, we'd have to hit a certain threshold versus having to vote for it in two years. But this is not the right mechanism. You cannot do it statutorily. So, I urge rejection of the amendment and we get back to the underlying bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Questions on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "B". Staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 GODFREY (110TH):

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

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule “B”,

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The amendment is not passed. (Gavel) Returning to the bill as amended by House "A". Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost thought I
wasn't going to get an opportunity to speak on the underlying bill. But I'm happy that I have the opportunity.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Yay!

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, a few questions to the good Chairman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed, ma'am.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'm trying to understand who we are actually trying to -- or actually, let me rephrase that. Why is this bill before us?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the good lady's question. There's a housing authority,
actually, down in New Haven who actually follows this particular procedure. And there were residents to testify before the committee that talked about having these voter applications and access to voter applications at their particular housing authorities. We talked a little further and it was explained to me that if these housing applications, or rather voting applications were provided at the time, or rather completion of a particular application, one would have greater access to utilize their votes.

Some folks also shared their inability to actually get to town hall, city hall, to fill out voter applications. So, again, this was just an opportunity to extend that access to utilizing their votes or voice, rather, through voting.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Just a moment, ma'am. (Gavel) Much better.

Thank you very much. Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the good Chairman for his response and I guess I'll have to clarify his response a little bit further, if he wouldn't mind. I believe in his response he indicated there's a housing authority in New Haven that does this procedure. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

So, is there anything that would prevent other housing authorities to do this procedure?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Sure.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

   Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

   Then what is that?
   
   Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

   Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

   Through you, Mr. Speaker. Could the fine lady please clarify her question?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

   Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

   I'd be happy to clarify my question, because I believe the response needs further clarification. My original question was what prevents other housing authorities from doing this currently? Through you, Mr. Speaker. And I believe the response was sure. So, maybe I need to clarify the response. And I hope my question was clear and certainly I'd be more than happy to rephrase if necessary.
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Your question was very clear and I appreciate it. Thank you. Like many other departments, the Department of Social Services, the Labor Department, Department of Motor Vehicles, and now housing authorities, if this bill were to pass, there's nothing that prevents any institution from providing voter application cards.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

If there's nothing in our laws that prevents any institution, including, specifically, housing authorities, from providing voter registrations, why are we hear mandating, by law, that housing authorities in the State of Connecticut provide voter registrations?
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. We've had a long history of disenfranchisement and I'd like to really talk a little bit about housing authorities in particular, public housing to be exact. If we know our history, and I'm not insinuating that the fine lady does not know her history. I believe she does. There are many places, especially in the City of Hartford, for example, where there are individuals who may not have access to voter application cards. And so, it is in good faith and good spirit that we put forth this particular proposed legislation, not only to provide access, but to encourage this type of opportunities that exist down in New Haven, Connecticut, at the housing authority, through all housing authorities in the State of Connecticut.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. But again, if we're really trying to get to only disenfranchised individuals, I don't believe that they only exist in cities. I don't believe that they only exist as applicants of housing authorities. And if there's nothing that prevents any institution, including housing authorities, from having these applications, I don't believe we need to be here, debating a bill, making a mandate on housing authorities to provide applications. And maybe -- I'll reserve some of my questions. But I'm so happy that during this debate we've highlighted the housing authority in Hartford.

So, I looked into the housing authority in Hartford and I was impressed to see that one of their mission statements is to be a fiscally-sound agency that provides safe, decent and affordable, high-quality housing and home ownership choices. But I was also very saddened to learn that the NBC
Connecticut Troubleshooters did a very lengthy investigation of the Hartford Housing Authority in 2018, and found hundreds, hundreds of code violations, severe health violations, to the point of units actually being uninhabitable. But guess what folks? There were people forced to live in those units. Do you know what forced means? They had no other option but to live in those units with their families.

There were families that shared their stories — mold, water, ceilings falling, no heat, no water. You want to talk about disenfranchised? And now we want to mandate the same housing authority, the same institutions that allow individuals to have to live that way? But we want to mandate something they could do anyways. If they cared, if they want, they can do this. Anyone can do this. But we're gonna stand here at this hour and mandate this? This is shocking to me. I shouldn't be shocked, but I am. Those violations still exist, unfortunately.

And unfortunately, it's not only in the
Hartford Housing Authority, but many other housing authorities throughout the State of Connecticut. I have grave concerns regarding what we're doing here. Moreover, and I think I'll spare the good Chairman the questions and maybe make some statements. And then, certainly, I'd be more than happy if there's anything that I misspeak on. We're providing these with applications. It's not that the individual is being accepted, simply that they've asked for an application. That person could be rejected, could be not qualified. So, they're filling an application without even knowing where exactly they're going to be a resident of.

There's no one designated in this legislation that's going to be actually trained with the information to provide any individual as to the documents they're being provided. I would hope they would actually have the courtesy and go through the application process. But now there's a voter registration that someone's gonna be handed and/or requests it, because it's there, and ask questions.
And you're gonna have individuals that are not properly trained attempting to answer questions. They may actually give misinformation. That's the last thing we want.

So, now we're putting a burden on the housing authority to do their due diligence, maybe even inquire, I mean, it was -- actually, it was offered earlier that they're gonna ask for a driver's license. We know we have the variety of different types of driver's license in the State of Connecticut and it doesn't mean you're a U.S. citizen to vote in our elections. But now we're gonna put the burden on a housing authority. And with all due respect, someone that is completely irresponsible enough to have all of these code violations and think that it's completely acceptable for their residents to live in these deplorable environments, to be able to explain what their rights are.

I would expect that with that application would be an application about where to file the complaints
if the unit that you get is not up to code. Now, we're empowering people. And then I certainly encourage and want every single individual that has the right to vote in the State of Connecticut to do so. Because it's through our vote, our voice, that change comes about. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, I'm lending my voice to this, opposition of this proposal, for a variety of different reasons, but for -- the most important is they can do this already. It's been said any institution in the State of Connecticut can do this already. If we want people to vote, let's do it. Let's provide it. But let's not debate things we don't need to. Let's not pass legislation on things we don't need to.

And if we want to help the disenfranchised, if we want to help those individuals who qualify for housing authority's assistance, and mind you, everyone, there's also programs that are extended to private housing, private owners, section eight and a variety of other programs. So, we're not really getting to everyone that we need to if that's the
And I'll also point out that allegedly it says no fiscal note. But as I read here, the Secretary of State shall also provide to each housing authority any furniture needed to display such literature, materials and forms. The last time I checked, we don't know how many housing authorities exist in the State of Connecticut. That question was asked. But if they each ask for a piece of furniture or two pieces of furniture put in a variety of different areas, that's a fiscal note. I don't know why it says no fiscal note.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition of this proposal, not because it's not well intended, it's because it not needed. And again, there are other issues, I believe, that these same individuals that we should be assisting them with and I have not heard anyone say that they haven't had the ability to get a voter registration and need it at all housing authorities. And I believe that only the one housing authority came up to speak in favor of
this. And I think that speaks volumes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, madam. Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's difficult to follow such an impassioned speech that we've just received from our good Representative from Naugatuck. But everything she says is true. I had the good fortune this year to serve on the Housing Committee. I had the good fortune to sit through the public hearing of the Housing Committee when they discussed this particular bill. And you know what actually struck me the most about that hearing? And I again looked tonight, just to make sure I wasn't mistaken, that maybe I forgot. But what struck me the most about that particular hearing is that the Secretary of State, of our state, did not even come to testify about this particular bill. She offered no testimony, written or verbal.

Now, I served on GAE as well and she, our good
Secretary of State, has been impassioned in her efforts to make sure that everybody has an opportunity to vote. If this was such an important issue with her office, wouldn't you think she would've showed up to lend some support one way or the other, verbal, send somebody from her office? No. That did not happen. And the good Chairman from the Housing Committee has mentioned about the public hearing that people were complaining that they did not have the opportunity to vote and this would be a good opportunity for them if this was provided at the public housing facilities.

Now, I sat through that hearing. I don't recall anybody coming from the public to testify that this was an issue with them. And the reason why we did not hear that testimony is because it's not an issue, ladies and gentlemen. It is not an issue. I asked the Chairman while we were in committee, why not have it every particular institution? Why just housing? I know it's another -- a couple other facilities, but if you think about
it, why not McDonald's? Why not Burger King? Why not Starbucks? Why not Duncan Donuts? Where do you stop? I mean, we have this information available.

And the thing I was concerned with in the committee and the thing I'm concerned with now, is that there's no training component whatsoever. Why is that an issue? Well, think about it. We have all kinds of regulations, all kinds of restrictions on our statutes right now for absentee ballots, for people walking in, trying to vote on the same day of registration, the same day as the election. We have detailed requirements to prove who you are, to prove you're eligible to vote. And we have a housing authority personnel who has no idea whatsoever about what he or she should be doing in training this person and filling out this application. I don't know. Does that seem right to you? It doesn't seem right to me.

If we're looking for fairness in our elections, then we should strive for that. This bill doesn't strive for that. I think the question was asked and
answered, whether the housing authority personnel would be able to hand out pamphlets or any other literature about how that particular person should register. And I believe the answer was no. And I just want to make sure that's correct.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Please repeat your question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

So, the question is would the housing personnel be able to hand out a pamphlet or any other material to the applicant about how to register one way or the other in terms of whether he or she registers a Democrat or a Republican?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this bill outlines providing a voting application. It doesn't talk about which party one should be a part of. And if I am reminded of our public hearing, I believe the good gentleman was very clear on his comments with respect to involving housing representatives in partisan politics and that we wanted just for the housing representative to provide voting applications to perspective tenants.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

So, my question, through you, Mr. Speaker, is, is there any prohibition for the housing personnel to hand out other literature to the applicant at the time they're helping them with this particular registration?

Through you.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

And there lies the concern I had at the public hearing level, at the committee level, and it remains with me today. Because why should a housing personnel's particular stance one way or the other, whether it's Republican or whether its' Democrat, where it's Liberal, whether it's Conservative, whatever it may be, why should that particular person be given the opportunity to persuade somebody who's just registering to vote for the first time? I think the person registering to vote for the first time should make that choice by himself or herself without the influence of somebody else.

This bill just opens up the opportunity for abuse, as I see it. And I think that's what's going
to happen here. There's no training. There's no restrictions on what they can do. There's no impetus from the Secretary of State's Office to have this done. There's no prohibition from the housing authority to do this already. That was clearly indicated by our good Representative from Naugatuck. So, I'm not sure why we're doing it, honestly. I really don't know. I'm all in favor of everybody in the State of Connecticut to vote, to be registered to vote and vote. They should. It's a privilege we're given and you talk to those folks that live in other countries and they have not been given the right to vote and you feel for them. And unfortunately here, many of our citizens don't take advantage. But this is not the way to do it. If you're talking about disenfranchising folks, we just had an amendment that we got voted down that actually disenfranchised voters.

I don't know, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes I stand up here and I speak into this microphone and hoping somebody's listening because it doesn't seem to me
that we're actually doing things that will help our citizens actually -- in a fair and honest manner, and I wish that we would. So, I ask my colleagues not to support this bill because we don't need it. If we needed it, I'd be all behind it. But since they can do it already without any prohibitions, let them do it. Let not us be the ones to dictate to them what they have to do, at a cost to them, without any guidance, without any training, without any recommendation from our own Secretary of State.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative de la Cruz.

REP. DE LA CRUZ (41ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No questions for the proponent. You can sit down and relax. I was actually on the Housing Committee and I remember debating this bill. I don't remember it being as passionate as it was, but I do remember why I supported this bill. And a lot of times I don't blame people for not knowing what they don't know.
We say that all the time in this Chamber. You don't know what you don't know. and, you know, we call came from different walks of life and one thing I can tell you about growing up in public housing and where I represent now, Groton in New London, we have public housing in both towns that I represent. I grew up in two of the three that are in New London.

We talked about this earlier. I had a friend that was 13 years old. I was fortunate. My parents were divorced. I knew my father. We vacationed. We took trips and places, like; he'd bring us to Lake George. I had friends that were 13 years old that never physically left New London, at 13 years old. They played in that area. Mom and dad shopped at the grocery store right down the street. They walked. They walked back home. These are folks -- and I think it's hard for people to even imagine that could even happen to a kid, not just in American, but in Connecticut, that some kid would just be stuck in this one little spot. We used to joke about it. So, you don't know what you don't
know.

And sometimes that first contact that someone's -- you move to a new place. Some folks that move into the projects in New London came from other parts of Connecticut. Maybe they were in Torrington and they moved down to New London, but they were in housing. Maybe they don't even know where to vote. And I'm not saying the person has to be trained. All we're talking about doing was giving a voter registration card. It doesn't -- it sounds so evil after this conversation. To me, it's an innocent thing. You get an apartment or you're applying for an apartment and someone says have you registered to vote and then give you a card.

Will that person -- typically, in the projects, I will also tell you another fact. Most of us don't vote. It's a sad fact and we've stated that. But to hand someone a card, to assume that, you know, again, that someone's gonna be able to persuade them to vote in a certain way. We'll be lucky if they get registered. And I will say one thing about --
should they vote? Absolutely. We talked about the horrible conditions that they lived in. That's exactly why you should vote. That's exactly why you should register to vote. And that's what we're encouraging here. And this, although it seems like a bill that's not necessary, if you grew up the way I grew up, maybe, maybe somebody will register that day. Maybe somebody will vote.

And that's all we're trying to do here. There is no hidden agenda here. I know Representative McGee well and I know the bill came to the floor because he talks to the same people I talk to. And did they come up to us and say, hey, I want to get registered? I wish someone had gave it me at my rental application. I haven't heard that a lot. But those guys don't vote anyway, right? All we're doing is encouraging the next generation to vote and I don't see any harm in that and I'm not sure why we did talk about this for the last two and a half hours, because there are a lot of pressing issues. And I would agree with a lot of the comments that
you folks said. Why are we debating this for this long? So, with that, I certainly support this bill and hopefully everyone else does here too. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Wilson.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good to see you enduring up there all this time this evening.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Good to be seen.

REP. WILSON (66TH): And I have a couple of concerns as I listen to the debate here this evening and I want to make sure that I understand. I think I do. And I have been a landlord and I have had section eight tenants in my properties. So, I think I understand a little bit. But through you, sir, to the proponent of the bill, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Do you remind repeating your question, please,
sir? Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

I was waiting until I knew you were ready there, Representative. I want to understand. Is a lot of this housing or all of this housing either section eight or title 19?

Through you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Correct.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

Thank you. And I'm looking here at lines 35 down to, I think, well, let's go to line 39, and I have some concerns here because it talks about the applicant is a United States citizen. It talks about no Social Security number on any such application form for the admission of an elector filed prior to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or any governmental agency. So, if I understand this correctly, in the application process that, when we go down to line 62 and line
68, it says the housing authority shall assist an individual in completing the application form. So, there's a couple of questions in here that I want to get clear on. Are non-U.S. citizens allowed to qualify for title 19 or section eight public housing?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

That is a great question that I'd love to get an answer for you, and I don't have that answer for you at this moment.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Wilson.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

And through you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer. And now let me, if I can, go back to lines 35 and line -- through line 38. Especially, I think I'm looking at the no Social Security number may be disclosed to the public or anything
governmental agency. So, I'm presuming that people who work for the housing authority would fall under one of those two categories, either they are a member of the public or governmental agency, and yet the application is asking for the disclosure of the applicant's Social Security number to fill out the voter registration form. Am I correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I heard everything you said as I was summoning someone from DOH. The answer is yes.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Wilson.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

Okay. So, when I look at this it does give me some concern. I'm interested in finding out the answer of non-U.S. citizens either applying for or
qualifying for section eight benefits in public housing. And then would that create an issue in that the staff is -- shall deliver this application to, for example, a non-citizen? So, those are questions that I'd like to get the answer to if I could, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The House will stand at ease.

The House will come back to order.

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask the gentleman to please re-ask his question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Wilson.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

I guess I'm not quite sure how I can re-ask the question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Just repeat it.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):
Just repeat the question. I was speaking with another person.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

So, what I would like to know, through you, Mr. Speaker, is how do we know -- in other words, we're setting this up to say that we shall give an application and we don't know -- we don't have the answer to the question of is it a U.S. citizen who is applying for the housing and qualified for the housing. So, are we giving an application to a non-citizen?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The perspective tenant would go through the regular process of completing a housing application. I'm certain that if many of those perspective tenants do not meet the requirements of said housing authority, they will then not receive a voter registration application.
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Wilson.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the Representative for his answer. The last question I have, then, has to do and is related to all of this. Because if I am correct, the applicant for housing does not find out right away whether they're approved for housing, in fact, many times there is a waiting list. Am I correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Wilson.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

And through you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. And so, why are we giving an
application to someone who doesn't even know if they're gonna be approved for housing?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the underlying amendment would provide at the time of a household applies for or has been accepted for admission to a housing authority residential unit. In addition to that, also during their annual recertification of that particular household, an application for admission is available to the elector.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Wilson.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the proponent of the bill. Just one final thought that I have. And that is, in essence,
we are becoming a authority to have the responsibility to induce people to fill out voter registration cards whether or not they are an actual accepted tenant in the housing or whether they're just simply applying for housing. So, we're taking advantage of that opportunity to get this registration application filled out. And with all the other things that have been said here this evening, Mr. Speaker, I will not be able to support this bill. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Yaccarino, now, on the bill.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Good evening, sir.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

I know there's been a lot of questions and the good Chair of Housing has answered quite a few. But I have concerns for many reasons, mainly the
Secretary of State, who's such an advocate for voting rights, has not weighed in on this. And I don't know if the good Chair has answered the question of why she hasn't or if he's reached or the committee's reached out to her why she has not reached out -- why she has not responded one way or another to -- for this bill.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think there was an assumption made that the Secretary of State was not in favor of this proposed legislation. She and I conversed. I've had many conversations with the office and they are in fact in support of it. I know that there are a lot of pieces of legislation that may not have had written testimony and I believe my good colleague mentioned that. But there's definitely support from her office.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Thank you for that answer. I would hope -- I wish she had put it in writing, but I have to accept that answer. So, right now, if this was to pass next year of 2020, and a town does not abide by this -- I'll wait until he's done. So, if this was to pass next year in 2020, if a town doesn't abide by this and doesn't hand out the application, is there a penalty and what will that penalty be?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the kind gentleman for his question and I believe several other colleagues of ours asked that same question.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

I didn't hear.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):
There's no penalty outlined in this proposed bill and/or -- and amendment. Excuse me.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Yaccarino.

REP. Y ACCARINO (87TH):

Thank you for that answer. As much as we all want to keep people vote -- to have people vote, not disenfranchise voting. We just voted against a good amendment to have people's vote count. I really can't support this, mainly because it's not addressing -- it's not needed. People do it now. We have -- in North Haven and Wallingford, we have a joint administrative housing authority. How would that work? How would -- who would decide from North Haven and Wallingford -- it's not in the bill if it's just permissible. Who will decide who gives out the ballots? And will those ballots have absentee ballots contained within or political literature?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. This particular amendment, this bill, does not cover any absentee ballots of sorts. It really speaks to providing voting applications to perspective tenants.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Thank you for that answer. So, my mom lives in a -- there's a number of senior living facilities in North Haven. They're not included in this bill. So, is there a reason you just went to housing authorities, not, like everybody said earlier, like, senior living facilities, senior homes?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):
Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we focused on housing authorities and there are some housing authorities that manage senior housing.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

One last question. So, is there a timeframe? If this was to pass, are you gonna hand out the -- excuse me. When people move in? Is it like every three months? I mean, there's got to be some sort of schedule when you would hand out these applications, voter applications.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. As, you know, previously mentioned, starting in January 1 of 2020, this process would start. But to answer your question directly, the applications would be made
available to the tenant, the prospect -- perspective, excuse me, tenant that has completed an application. And the goal is not to just, again, haphazardly just share these applications with anyone who walks in the doors. You want someone who has an address that they can actually put down on that voter application.

So, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Thank you for that answer. So, you would get the application. You would show your ID. It would be sent to the town clerk and they would verify that address when the person moves there. Is that how I'd envision that's how it would work?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The tenant would be
responsible for dropping off their voter application to the registrar of voters and that regular process that's already in place would then begin, if you would, at the registrar's office level.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Just a comment. I appreciate your efforts here. We want everybody to vote. That's why, again, we voted for the amendment for the 120th. I just don't see this being needed. It's incumbent on us to spread the word, but this can be done already and I'm just fearful that it's just gonna cause more problems than good and more mandates. And with that, you did a great job tonight, but I can't support this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Gucker.

REP. GUCKER (138TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a general comment on this. The one thing I think we're missing on all this is, one, we all talk about how we want to have -- include more people in the voting process and make sure that everybody has a voice. As somebody who has door-knocked many times, I cannot tell you how many neighborhoods or doors I've gone to, to find out that maybe one member of the family is registered, but maybe the son hasn't or another member has not. So many times when I would go around I would carry voter registration cards with me.

But what we're also not looking at here is no matter who fills out these forms, it is the registrar of voters that have to confirm that, a, they can vote, and b, that they live there. So, there is that balance already there. There is that check that's there. So, I think anything that would come forward that would help people get registered to vote, give them the opportunity, remind them to come out and vote, but then also let's have a little
bit of faith in our registrar of voters to actually follow up and make sure that these people, a, are citizens, b, are able to vote, and c, are living in those residences.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I've been listening to the debate intently. It's been very informative and interesting in the responses. I have a few questions for the proponent of the bill.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed, sir.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you. First, I looked in the statutes for voter registration, and under section 923n, it states that the eligible agencies for -- to apply for voter registration must be designated as a voter registration agency. I see nothing in this statute
that designates the Department of Housing as a voter registration agency.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. If we look in lines three down to lines five, we're including housing authorities as defined in section 8-39, similar to Department of Social Services and the Labor Departments as well as DMV.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you for that clarification. An oversight there. I did not see the term voter registration agency, but clearly the intent of the language is there. Secondly, the good Representative from Wallingford asked the question concerning eligibility requirements. And if I understood the
proponent correctly, I believe he cited the section lines -- beginning on line 18 for the requirements. I think specifically it was in lines 24 through 29. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It's actually lines 29 through 36 and it outlines the requirement process.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

And I thank you for that answer. But I would note that that section is entirely under the commissioner of Motor Vehicles. There is no mention of the Department of Housing in there or any housing official in there. So, I'm curious where the requirements come from for the housing authority to
know what the requirements are.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we're simply applying the same process that, one, would go through the Department of Social Services, Labor Department, DMV, minus the actual filing of the voter application itself. In this particular amendment, this bill that I'm proposing today, hopefully today, would allow for the tenant to actually deliver his or her voting application to the registrar of voters in said municipality.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

And I thank you for that answer. And I guess I'm going back to that that section is dealing with specifically the Motor Voter application, Motor
Voter Act, in [inaudible - 04:14:59] and direction of the commissioner of Motor Vehicles. It does not apply to the Department of Housing, Social Services, anything else. That section purely applies to things like -- I then go down to -- I believe that in line 68, it's actually section 9-12 of the general statutes, that defines that requirement. It says you're eligible to be admitted pursuant to section 9-12. When you go look at that, that is the requirements for voter registration. I believe that's what the Department of Housing would be charged with, the housing authority would be charged with for verifying. And I believe the good Representative Wilson already went through that point, so I won't rehash that.

The second question I had is related to, you know, applied versus accepted, you know, provide at the time a household applies. And then also it's in line two of the amendment. And then you go to line 68 to 70 of the underlying bill, which says that the housing authority shall assist an individual in
completing the form if requested. I'm paraphrasing. If they're applying, how would the housing authority assist the individual in filling it out since they don't have an address yet? And so, what is the intent of handing an application out to an applicant as opposed to somebody who's been accepted and is actually moving in?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

I just want to pull up the amendment. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, these applications, voting applications, would be provided at the time the household applies for or has been accepted for admission. So, the goal of it is to, again, for that perspective tenant, once accepted, will then submit that voter registration to the municipality.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative France.
REP. FRANCE (42ND):

And I appreciate that that would be the appropriate time to submit it. But I'm curious why it's when they apply that we would provide that information, and once again, how would the housing authority be able to assist in completing out the form if the applicant requested that assistance at the time of application? So, I'm unclear as to the intent of why at the time of application. I can clearly see it at acceptance. They now have an address. So, what is the intent of providing that information at the time of application?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Again, it's a perspective tenant. Usually, nine times out of ten, individuals are using their vouchers to live at a particular facility, housing facility, and usually these tenants accept whatever they're offered. And so, at this time, it would be
a great opportunity, while they're applying, for that voting application to be provided.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

And I thank you for that. And I still have concerns over that issue. And I've listened intently to the debate and a lot of the questions that have arisen here. And, you know, I have great concern that this bill did not come before the GAE Committee, which has the cognizance over this particular matter on voter registration.

I also note that the Secretary of State did not provide testimony. I do accept the attestation of the proponent that she -- her office is supportive of this. But given the substantial expansion of the role of registering to vote, I'm greatly concerned that the GAE Committee did not have an opportunity to weigh out a lot of the questions that were asked here that should've been fleshed out and done with.
And with that, I offer a motion to refer this committee -- this to the GAE Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

    The question before the Chamber is referral of the bill to the Committee on Government Administration and Elections. Will you remark? Representative Ferraro, do you wish to speak on the motion, on the motion to refer?

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

    No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

    Thank you, Representative. Will you remark on the motion to refer? Representative Betts. Representative Zawistowski on the motion to refer? Representative Ferraro, you're on the board again. No? Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

    Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not a mandatory referral and therefore are we gonna do a roll call vote or are we gonna do a voice vote? I don't know if I got a motion on that.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

It's at your pleasure, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Well, you know what? Let's do a roll call vote.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

A roll call will be ordered.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

I would ask that we take a roll call vote. It's not a mandatory referral. I would urge my colleagues to vote no.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH): Any further remarks on the motion to refer? If not -- oh, Representative Klarides. I'm sorry.

REP. KLAIRIDES (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the question of mandatory referral versus not mandatory referral may be a topic of conversation, I think we're all very clear that this bill should've gone to the GAE Committee. And I think that also in the Housing
Committee, on the record, there was conversation that this bill would be referred. So, I think we all understand that whether you love the bill or hate the bill, it should be going to GAE.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, madam. The question is to refer the bill to the Government Administration and Election Committee. Staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 GODFREY (110TH):

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

CLERK:

On the motion to refer House Bill 5844 to GAE,

Total number Voting 144
Necessary for Passage 73
Those voting Yea 58
Those voting Nay 86
Those absent and not Voting 6

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The motion to refer fails. (Gavel) The question is on passage of House Bill 5844 as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A". Representative France, you still have the floor.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I --

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Just a moment, sir. (Gavel) Thank you.

Representative France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just a point, I believe that we are looking at a significant change
to how we register voters and I believe that the
Government Administration and Elections Committee
has the cognizance over this process. Not to take
anything away from the great work that the Housing
Committee does, but this is not their purview. It
is not their area of expertise of how the voter
registration happens. This is with under the
cognizance of the Government Administration and
Elections Committee.

And I'm also disappointed that from my
colleagues who shared with me that there was
discussion in committee and a commitment made that
it would be referred to GAE, that it was not done.
And so, I have concerns. And I also listened to the
debate and a lot of the questions that were asked
should've been asked and answered during the
committee process and, you know, brought forward
probably a better bill, I would've [inaudible - 04:25:42]. I also don't accept that the intent of
section 923n, for voter registration agency, has
been met merely by adding and housing authority to
an existing level of statute within this bill.

And while I accept proponent's assertion that the Secretary of State's Office supports that, once again, I don't believe -- I don't know that the Secretary of State's Office knew about this bill, because why would they look at the housing authority -- Housing Committee’s agenda for bills of cognizance? They would look at GAE because that is the committee that has cognizance over the Secretary of the State. And so, for all those reasons, I have great concern that what we've got here was not well thought out in the sense of enacting. While well intended, I have concerns that we have holes in this process that have been outlined in the debate that has happened tonight. And for those reasons, I recommend that my colleagues vote against.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Ferraro, on the bill as amended.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for a few questions to the proponent and some comments on the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Just a moment, sir. Representative McGee, you're about to be asked some questions. Representative Ferraro, please proceed.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the proponent of the bill. May I ask what the genesis of this bill was originally? What motivated the folks to come together and actually craft the bill?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Like any other bill, proposed bills that we bring forth, there were tenants from various housing units. Those tenant who were fighting for their voices to be heard. There were tenants who, for the most part, were very
concerned about the conditions of their housing units. And I know it was mentioned previously by several other speakers with respect to the quality of housing. There were previous bills that we've passed in this House. As a matter of fact, 7225, that addressed the loopholes LCs had created in many of these housing authorities.

Having said that, and I'm going all the way around to remind people the reason why this particular bill is important, when you can vote people who represent you in and out of office, this is a great opportunity to engage with those individuals that live in public housing that would not normally have the opportunity to vote. So, it is with that in mind that this bill, this proposed bill, this idea, was brought forth. And we also took a look at New Haven Housing Authority to craft and draft this proposed language as well as amendment.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the kind gentleman for his answer. But going forward on that vein, I would like to ask the proponent of the bill, since these folks came forward and complained that they did not have access to voting, how many of these folks did come forward and are they on the -- is there a record of them and the number of them that filed a complaint?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Everyone was invited to public -- to our public hearing. There were constituents in my district and other districts. Unfortunately, I don't have a count as to how many people shared with me their concern on this particular issue. I do know that it is a very important issue.
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I certainly do not question the proponent of the bill's understanding on how important it is for folks to have access to voter registration cards and to be able to vote. I don't think there's anyone in this assembly who doesn't believe that everybody should have an opportunity to vote and access to voter registration cards. My concern is, is what I'm gathering from the comment of the proponent of the bill, is that he's asserting that these folks came forward and said that they did not have access to being able to get a voter registration card.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, is this true?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe what I
said was there have been -- history, okay, will explain that many individuals in certain areas, whether it be a suburban housing authority or an urban housing authority, many individuals just don't have access to the right to vote. And then, again, the intent of this particular measure is to provide a voter -- voting application to perspective tenants.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, I do thank the gentleman for his answer. And I'm sure there is history with regards to voting and public housing. But I would like to ask the proponent if he has any statistics with regards to the percentage of public housing residents in a particular housing unit that would end up voting by absentee ballot?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee, do you care to respond?

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

I do not. It's not germane to this particular measure here.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it is exactly germane to this because, in my experience with public housing in my town, in my district, some of the highest levels of absentee ballot voting come from our public housing units. Therefore, there are people going to these units, they are presenting them with absentee ballot applications. I, myself, have knocked on every single door in a public housing unit and I carry registration cards with me. And whenever someone says they're not registered to vote, I make sure they get a registration card. I'm pretty sure my opposition does the same thing.
And in fact, if I'm not mistaken, I do believe the registrar of voters have a mandate that if there is a certain number or percentage of people in a public housing unit that require an absentee ballot or register to vote, that they themselves have to go to the public housing and conduct a voter registration drive. So, if I'm -- I believe I'm reporting correct information and I would like to ask the proponent of the bill if those are his understandings as well.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that's correct, first off. And secondly, again, this particular bill does nothing to involve absentee ballots. There are processes in place that manage absentee ballots and that process. Again, this particular bill, it requires that housing authorities make registration materials available.
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the reason why I brought up the absentee ballots is because there's absolutely a large amount of election activity surrounding public housing units and if they're in there getting absentee ballots, I'm pretty sure they're in there getting voter drives as well. But that being said, I'd like to ask the proponent of the bill if he could list for me the methods in which a person, living in a public housing unit or otherwise, would be able to register to vote? How would they get access to a voter card or a registration?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if I understand the
gentleman's question.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Okay. I'll break the question down into parts.

Would a person in a public housing be able to vote online?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Be able to get a registration card online.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this bill does -- requires that housing authorities provide registration -- voter registration applications. Those applications could be delivered or provided by the Secretary of State.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, I will ask the question again. Could the person in a public housing unit access a voter registration card by way of the internet?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Anyone could access a voter registration card via worldwide web.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

And that internet can be reached on their cell phone as well as a laptop of a computer that may be found in the information center of the public housing unit?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative Ferraro, I didn't hear the question mark. What was the question again, sir?

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

The question was that internet access can be gained through a cell phone, a laptop or a computer that would be found in the public housing unit.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

If I heard the good gentleman correctly, he's assuming or suggesting that phones, computers and any other electronic devices are made available to a perspective tenant in the housing authority?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Yes, sir. And thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, I do thank the gentleman for his comment. But we've already established that a person in a
public housing unit can access a voter card through the internet. And I'm merely just suggesting the devices in which a person can access the internet in order to get the card, whether or not that person does have access to that electronic device is not the question, but rather, these are the items or devices which they can get access through.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A person living in a public housing office, should they get a voter registration card from the housing official, fill the card out. If I understood what the proponent of the bill said earlier, then it would be the responsibility of the person who received the card
to take the card to the registrar of voters in person. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

So, my question to the proponent of the bill is, if the person has the responsibility or the -- is mandated to bring the card to the registrar of voters in order to get their vote -- their ability to vote registered, then why wouldn't that same person be able to go to the registrar of voters to get the card in the first place?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this bill --
just to put things into context, we're talking about perspective tenants that are applying to public housing. So, that simply suggests that the individual who accepts an offer, that lives, or rather will live in a particular housing unit will then take that completed voter registration card, after they have met all of the requirements, all that good stuff, they can then bring that card down to the registrar of voters.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

   Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

   Thank you, Mr. Speak -- thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I gathered that from the speaker's earlier comments that he would be able to take that card down to the voter's registrations office once he had filled it all out. My question is, since he has or she has the ability to do that, why not just go to the registrar of voters' office to begin with to get the card and register directly there at the
registrar's office?

    Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

    Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

    Through you, Mr. Speaker. That could be that one's decision.

    Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

    Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

    So, the point is, the institution has the ability right now to be able to pick up registration cards, put them on a table, and anybody who lives in that housing unit would be able to pick up a card, fill the card out, and take it to the registrar of voters' office.

    Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

    Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):
Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we're talking about a person grabbing a card, as you mentioned. And again, I want to just kind of go through the process again. We're talking about individuals that are -- or rather have completed an application, that application, housing application. They are also provided with a voter registration card upon acceptance of that offer. We're not talking about anyone coming in off the street. We're not talking about random people. We're talking about individuals that have completed an application.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But that person who has filled out the application has the ability to already get a card that would be provided by the housing authority. They don't need to be mandated by a bill such as this that would require them to then get the card through the housing authority upon
filling out the application. They can already get it upon request, so why is the bill needed?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think we're making the assumption that every single housing authority in the State of Connecticut offers voter registration cards. Again, this is an opportunity, folks, for individuals that are applying to a particular housing unit the opportunity to vote.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you. From listening to the proponent of the bill, I'm getting the feeling that there are members of public housing institutions who have been disenfranchised and not given the opportunity to vote. I've yet, in all the
travels that I've done and all the doors that I've knocked on, and I've knocked on every single one of them in every single public housing unit in my district, I have never heard somebody tell me they do not have access to being able to vote.

And if they didn't -- weren't registered to vote, I take the time to give them a registration card and to tell them to register. I don't care if they're Republican or Democrat. I register them to vote and take the card down to the registrar's office myself. So, I'm just wondering what incidents or what percentage of people has the proponent of the bill heard of that people do not have access and are being disenfranchised to vote, who live in public housing units.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there were quite a few. I don't have an exact percentage.
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Has the proponent of the bill himself heard people tell him that they have not had access to voter registration cards?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Okay. And through you, Mr. Speaker. What was -- if I might ask the proponent of the bill? What was preventing them from getting a voter registration card?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Lack of transportation, perhaps not even understanding that they do have the right to vote, perhaps even individuals returning home from the community or rather from prison, coming home.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do thank the gentleman for his answer. But again, with the number one reason he's cited, lack of transportation, how then would the person take the filled out registration card down to the registrar of voters' office to turn the card in in person?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I had the
answers to all of the fine gentleman's questions. I believe that this particular bill, again, it's to provide the opportunity. And, perhaps, maybe some of the case managers at these particular housing authorities could provide that assistant if possible. But we can't legislate everything, but this is a great opportunity to provide access to the right to vote.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Ferraro.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the gentleman for his answer. However, this is America. Connecticut is a free state. Everybody has a right to vote in this state. Everybody has access to voter registration cards. They can get them in a number of ways. Institutions themselves could ask the question on an application, are you -- do you want to register to vote. Sure, they could do that now. They don't need to be mandated. And should
the person check the box and say, yes, I would like a voter -- to register to vote. Then that housing authority can then get them a registration card by simply calling the registrar of voters or going down to the registrar of voters.

It's not a difficult process and I really don't see the difficulty and I do not see, in the State of Connecticut, how people who live in housing projects, such as the ones we're talking about, don't have access to people who are trying to get their votes. I think that those housing units are visited on a regular basis for municipal elections, state elections, federal elections. And absentee ballots, register -- our voter registration drives are all conducted in these facilities on a pretty regular basis.

So, I see -- since this is something that is not needed, it's something they already have the ability to do, I think we're creating a bill for a problem that really doesn't exist. We're looking for -- to solve a problem that we don't need to
solve. And for that reason, I can't support this bill. I think the bill has good intentions; however, I think that the underlying result that the bill would get to is something that already is in place. And for that reason, I would ask my colleagues to not support this bill and I myself cannot support the bill.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Good evening. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A couple of questions, through you, if I may to the proponent?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

To the good Representative, I heard Representative Davis ask earlier on about the Hatch Act and whether there was a potential for federal abuse in housing. And the housing authority,
obviously, receives federal fund. Is that not correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you. Correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you. And I thought I heard earlier on in the debate that there is no language in this bill that specifically prohibits additional information beside the application that could be made available to residents or perspective tenants. Am I not correct that I heard that earlier on in the debate tonight?

Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):
Through you, Mr. Speaker. If you'd be so kind, just repeat your question so that I could hear you.
I'm sorry.
REP. BETTS (78TH):

Certainly.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Just a second, Representative Betts. (Gavel) Having a little difficulty hearing the proponent and the speaker. Please, be quiet. Thank you. Representative Betts.
REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you very much. I'll repeat the question. Earlier on tonight, I believe I heard during the debate that it is possible for -- because there's no language prohibiting it, it is possible for something other than the application to register to vote to be passed on or given to perspective tenants. Is that not correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.
REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Sure, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Okay. Thank you. So, the question I have is if somebody received something in addition to the registration form, would that not be -- and it was campaign literature. Would that not be a violation of the Federal Hatch Act and jeopardize the federal funding to that housing authority?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That currently exists. And all housing authorities are not allowed to participate in any election. As a matter of fact, there's no literature ever allowed in housing authorities.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Well, that's my -- thank you very much. That's my understanding. But as I'd asked earlier, I thought I heard the good Representative state that there is no prohibition, boy, it's getting late, prohibition in the bill that precludes something other than the application to register to vote to occur under this bill. And that's the reason why I framed the question, is it would be my understanding, like it is yours, that that would be a violation of the Federal Hatch Act and it would also jeopardize federal funding that's going to the housing authority. Am I not correct with that?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Betts.
Okay. And what happens with the housing authority under this bill -- given that they're supposed to provide or make available the applications for registration here, what happens should they not be able to meet that requirement?

Through you, Mr. Speaker, is there a penalty or what exactly happens under this bill?

Representative McGee.

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that question has already been answered on this evening.

Representative Betts.

I'm sorry. Could you repeat the answer? I didn't hear him.

Representative McGee.
Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I addressed that concern this evening.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Okay. Well, I may not have been here. If the good gentleman would be able to repeat the answer? I did not hear it. So, if you'd be good enough to do that I'd appreciate it.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this bill, it's very clear in its intent. I appreciate the good gentleman and his question around penalties. This particular bill does not highlight any penalties.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Okay. Thank you for that answer. The reason
why I asked it is, I don't know what the number of applications would be that would be required to be made available, but should the housing authority, for whatever reason, run out and need time to be able to order more, I was wondering is there a penalty or a problem for a housing authority for not being able to fulfill its statutory responsibility as outlined in this bill for not having that available to perspective tenants for whatever period of time through no fault of their own.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Okay. Thank you. And I'm not comfortable with putting the position of the housing authority to do something which, frankly, is not only not
necessary, as we've debated earlier on, but if we want them to do it, surely we have to make sure they're held accountable if they do not do it. And let me just ask the gentleman. If I understand you correctly, if they do not or are not able to fulfill this responsibility, there will be no accountability or no penalty associated for not doing the duty as outlined in this bill?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Okay. Thank you very much for that. And I, along with my colleagues, am certainly gonna be opposing this bill, not because we don't want people to vote. I just fail to understand how they are not able to do it right now and that's the reason why I
will be opposing it. And I thank the good gentleman for his answers. And I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Zawistowski.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good evening, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Good evening.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

A couple of brief questions for the proponent of the bill, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that -- we covered in the last question that there's no penalties for not providing this information to the perspective tenants. There's also nothing preventing the housing authorities from actually providing this as well. Is that correct?
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure what your question is.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Try again, Representative.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Yes, I will. I understand that the good Representative's been up there for quite a while. The question is -- I would like to get verification. I think this was covered as well before. Is whether or not there's anything preventing the housing authority from actually any -- for providing this information without this legislation?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe there's anything preventing any housing authority to do the right thing. However, we don't want to make
the assumption that every housing authority is providing applications to perspective tenants. So, I want to be very clear. This bill, its intent is to provide voter registration applications to perspective tenants.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Zawistowski.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as another question. If there is nothing preventing this from occurring and no penalties, I just don't see where it rises to the level where it needs to be legislated. I do appreciate my good colleague from the Windsor delegation for being concerned about voter registration. But I'm wondering if possibly he might've considered a working group at some point, rather than putting through a bill that has to go through the legislature at this point?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Proposed Bill Title:

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. You know, often times we go through this process. We hear from our constituents. We hear from groups. I've been so lucky to be the Chair of such a distinguished Committee on Housing. And I've heard from constituents on this very issue. And again, I've shared already, about maybe 20 times already, and I appreciate your question, just for clarity. But this was important. And I'm honored that we've spent a very good while speaking on this matter and folks have indulged. And I think it's extremely important that we continue to talk about the importance of voting.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Zawistowski.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in addition to the importance of being registered to vote, I think
voter engagement has turned into an issue as well. I just -- the town that I live in today had a referendum for a budget. We had 17 percent voter turnout, which is totally pathetic for a fairly large increase in a budget. So, while voter registration is important, voter engagement is the other flipside of that coin.

Again, I do appreciate my colleague from Windsor for bringing this up. I'm not sure that this bill actually solves any problems because this is something that can be done now without the legislation. I won't be supporting the bill, but I certainly appreciate the intent.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, ma'am. Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with a couple of questions for the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed.
REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you. Who I think just recently said you can't legislate everything, but this certainly feels like we're trying to. I too am pretty amazed that this bill did not go before GAE, considering the discussion within the committee. But apparently, that's beside the facts and upon party lines we decided that wasn't important. But a couple of questions for the proponent, through you. First of all, could he please just describe for me, or define for me, what is a perspective tenant? Does that mean you're approved and you have moved in? Does that mean that you have the option to say yes or no? Provide, please, for me, the definition of a perspective tenant.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. All of the above.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Devlin.
REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

So, in fact, then, through you, Mr. Speaker, this could be somebody who isn't really gonna live in this place, yet we're gonna provide them voter registration information for the place that they potentially could live. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Wow. So, perhaps the proponent of the bill, who I believe represents an urban area that many times has been referenced through this debate as being an example of a housing authority, is it common for candidates to campaign in public housing?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Representative McGee, do you care to respond?

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that is germane to the topic at hand. We're talking about voter registration applications provided to perspective tenants who will accept or deny. Again, it is their responsibility to bring a voter registration card to the town, to the municipality, on their own right. In addition to that, I'm not certain that -- throughout this entire evening we're talking about deplorable housing, this, that and the other. We are talking about voter registration and the application being provided so that that tenant, perspective tenant, can then exercise their right to vote.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Actually, Mr. Speaker, through you. I would call it quite germane, because I don't know a
candidate that probably doesn't include voter registration applications with them when they are campaigning. So, through you, Mr. Speaker. Do candidates campaign in these housing authorities?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee, do you care to respond?

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

I do not.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

So, therefore, candidates do not campaign in housing authorities?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

I believe Representative McGee answered the question, Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Okay. Thank you very much. So, could he please describe the role that the housing authority will play in terms of providing these voter registration applications and what their role is in
that process, how that will work?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. If you take a look at 62 -- line 62 through 70, it explains the role of a housing authority and that is to provide the application to a perspective tenant. A housing authority shall assist an individual in completing the application form if such assistance is requested. We talked about mandates. We talked about, you know, what does the housing representative have to do, who's in charge. It is very, very simple. The Secretary of State will provide housing applications. Those applications will be made available to the perspective tenant. That tenant, if they accept an offer, will deliver their own voting application to said town or municipality.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate that description, because I too am looking at line 68 through line 70, where a housing authority shall assist an individual in completing the application form if such assistance is requested. And when you look at the OLR bill analysis, it does say that under this bill a housing authority must assist an individual. So, who in this housing authority is to do that and what training are they being provided to do that, and with what objectivity and support are they being able to provide this support?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee, do you care to respond?

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, a housing authority shall assist an individual in completing the application form, if such assistance is
requested. If they do not understand how to complete a form, which I'm sure they would know how, they could call the Secretary of State.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The House will stand at ease.

The House will come back to order. I believe Representative Devlin had asked a question. Representative McGee, do you care to respond? Representative Devlin, perhaps if you repeat it.

Thank you.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we were discussing is line 68 through 70 in the bill. Of which the proponent, from what I heard, interpreted that as being somewhat arbitrary, in that well, the individual, who's getting this application, could always call the Secretary of State's Office. Yet, the OLR analysis of this bill, if you look at the last line of the first paragraph, clearly states that under the bill, a housing authority must -
must. Not may, must assist an individual in completing the voter registration application upon request. So, my question is, what training, what support, what resources does the housing authority have to be able to even implement this somewhat questionable legislation?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as already mentioned, the housing representative could easily call the Secretary of State.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Mr. Speaker, through you. Is it possible to request a better answer than that? They must provide that support. So, how are the housing authorities either staffed, organized, prepared?
They're already apparently going to get furniture, if necessary, from the Secretary of State's Office. So, what is this whole process and the resources behind it to make something happen that -- I think somebody earlier said why aren't we doing this in McDonalds or Starbucks or why aren't realtors doing this or any other apartment leasing. I don't understand it.

So, through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd really like an answer to my question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative McGee, do you care to respond?

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Devlin, you still have the floor.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

(Laughs) How can you sit -- Mr. Speaker, so is that -- really, I could just say, no, I'm not gonna answer a question?
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Yes.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Honestly, I didn't know that was a rule.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Yes.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Oh! Fabulous. All right. Well, thank you. I think that reinforces, at least to me, and I hope to my colleagues, that -- you know, I also support, and we have voted earlier in this session already, you know, providing as much access for people to vote as possible. And this seems to be a solution in search of a problem and I won't be supporting this. And I appreciate your time tonight. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, ma'am. Representative O'Dea. And where did he go? Oh. Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions have been answered. So, what I do want to just
point out is I think we're all looking to get more voting registrations done. I think we all agree this is not the way to do it. And I will urge my colleagues to vote against this proposal.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. The House will stand at ease.

Representative Fishbein, for the second time.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do thank the good Chairman for his indulgence with our questions this evening. Mr. Speaker, I understand the underlying intent of the bill through the answers to the questions. And, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is the Clerk is in the possession of an amendment, and that would be LCO 8113. And I ask that the Clerk call the amendment and that I be given leave to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The Clerk is in possession of LCO, No. 8113, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule
"C". Mr. Clerk, kindly call it.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "C," LCO, No. 8113, offered by Representative Fishbein.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The gentleman has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Would you -- Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Without -- I'm sorry. Without objection, Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, sir. We've heard a lot tonight about how it's good to have people register to vote and getting that to their -- into their hands. And what this amendment would do is it would add language to the underlying bill, which would require that anyone who applies for a hunting, trapping, sport, fishing license as well as a long-gun eligibility certificate as well as for membership in
the VFW or the American Legion, or to be a member of a local rod and gun club, to similarly, get a voter registration card. That is the summary of the amendment and I ask, Mr. Speaker, that when the vote be taken, that it be taken by roll.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

First, how about moving adoption?

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

And I urge adoption of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

And now, ask the other question.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

And that should it be voted upon, that it be voted by roll.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The question is on a roll call vote. All in favor signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

A sufficient number has been for a roll call
vote. Representative Ritter, for what purpose?

REP. RITTER (1ST):

A Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Please state your Point of Order.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

There is no fiscal note in the system, but I will waive the objection. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

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

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we have heard tonight that the right to vote is a constitutional right. That the intent of the underlying bill is to preserve that right and to, perhaps, advance that right. And that right is tied to every American citizen, not just those that are, perhaps, unfortunate to live in a housing authority or attempt to live in a housing authority. And while everyone does have the ability to get a voter
registration card, certainly, if this body is to feel that certain governmental as well as nongovernmental entities are mandated to give those cards, that we should expand that to other individuals.

And, you know, under the time limits that I've had this evening, in speaking with my fellow colleagues, this is a short list, but an important list of people that should also be afforded these forms when they apply for admission and/or to be part of a club, or to get a license. So, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative McGee, on House "C"?

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I was being interrupted by a fellow colleague.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Oh no. (Laughter) The House will stand at ease
for a moment to let Representative McGee catch up.

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

    Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would --
unfortunately, I would -- unfortunately is the wrong word. But I don't think this is an amendment that -- if this is a separate bill or a standalone bill that somebody wants to call in their own right, they're certainly welcome to do that. But I would urge rejection of this particular amendment on this particular bill.

    Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

    Thank you, sir. Representative Dubitsky.

REP. DUBITSKY (47TH):

    Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there aren't a lot of public housing units in my district. So, the underlying bill likely would not benefit the people of my district very much. However, there's an awful lot of gun clubs, and there's an awful lot of people that apply for hunting, trapping and
fishing licenses. There's a bunch of VFW halls and American Legion halls. And those are the people that I want to make sure vote. Those are the people in my district.

And voting participation in my district is pretty pathetically low. There are times when, for municipal elections, we'll get five percent, 10 percent maybe. A couple hundred people might show up on a really good municipal election for the budget. Our town hall meetings will very often get 15 people. So, I want to make sure that the people in my district can vote. And this amendment would help them just as much as they will help the voters or the potential voters in Representative McGee's district and some of the other districts.

So, if the idea is to make sure that everybody has an opportunity to vote, if the idea is to make sure that those who are not currently participating are able to and that we can reach out to the people who are not currently participating, well, in my district, and in some of the other districts around
the state, this amendment is how we do it. And it's just as important to the people of this state that these people are reached, as the perspective tenants in public housing units. So, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and I will certainly be supporting it and as will, I'm sure, the people who will be benefitting from it.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, through you, a question or two to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed.

REP. TERCYAK (26TH):

Thank you. I -- it's wrong for us to ask a question when we know the answer, so I'll start with I believe that you can apply for a sport fishing license online. If I'm wrong, I'm happy to be corrected on that. Does the proponent of the bill
know if hunting, trapping licenses are also available online?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they are available online.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26TH):

I ask that because it makes me wonder about how we would fulfill the requirement that people applying for those licenses be offered voter registration cards. My understanding was that a housing authority has some kind of government -- quasi government standing, something like that. That it's not just a private business like a lodge or a local rod or gun club.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, would that be correct that they are in fact different kinds of businesses?
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have knowledge in this area because I do have a housing authority, a very robust one in my town. And I would not say that they are a quasi-governmental. They are separate and apart. Myself, being a member of my local town council, I have the power to appoint the commissioner to the housing authority or perhaps to remove the commissioner. But that's the only tie that the government has to those really autonomous bodies.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26TH):

Thank you very much. And we -- and the government has similar ties to the VFW, the American Legion or local rod and gun clubs?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thankfully, not.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26TH):

Then, Mr. Speaker, I don't understand how we can equate local rod and gun clubs, the VFW and the American Legion with housing authorities. I think it's clear that when we talk about being offered voter registration forms when hunting, trapping or sport fishing, that that would be difficult when those things can be done online. So, for those reasons and others, I would hope that folks would join me in rejecting this proposed amendment.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Yaccarino.
REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support of this amendment for many reasons, and especially for the men and women that serve our country that belong to American Legions and belong to VFWs. Many times they move to districts from other districts, so they don't have the access to. They could be living in a housing authority, but they belong to these clubs. So, I think it's very important we protect their rights.

When I joined the Navy, I couldn't -- I was so excited to get my ballot in boot camp. And it's no different for men and women that serve us now. So, I think this is a relevant amendment and I stand in strong support of it, to give our men and women the right to note and get this access. So, if we want it for everybody else, we should have it for our veterans also. So, thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you. Will you remark further on House
Amendment "C"? Will you remark further? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of -- Representative -- staff and guests; please come to the well the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 GODFREY (110TH):

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, Mr. Clerk, if you'd announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule “C”,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number Voting</th>
<th>143</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Necessary for Adoption</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Those voting Yea</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Those voting Nay 86
Those absent and not Voting 7

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

House Amendment "C" is not adopted. (Gavel)

Would you remark further on the House Bill 5844 as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A"? Would you remark further? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

(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 GODFREY (110TH):

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

CLERK:
House Bill 5844, as amended by House “A”,

Total number Voting 143
Necessary for Passage 72
Those voting Yea 85
Those voting Nay 58
Those absent and not Voting 7

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The bill as amended is passed. (Gavel) Are there any announcements? Representative Hampton.

REP. HAMPTON (16TH):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker. For Journal notations?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed.

REP. HAMPTON (16TH):

Out of the Chamber for a funeral is Representative Candelaria. At a medical appointment, Representative Orange. Business outside the Chamber, Representative Gonzalez and Representative Perone. Business in the district, Representative Currey, Representative Lemar,
Representative Phipps, Representative Baker, Representative Rosario, and Representative Genga.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Purpose of a Journal notation?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Proceed.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you. Representative Perillo was in district on business and Representative Lanoue missed votes due to illness.

Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

To the extent that anybody's still listening to me at this point and time on this side of the aisle, we're gonna have -- House Republicans are caucusing
tomorrow at 11 o'clock.

    Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

    Thank you, sir. Representative McGee, an announcement?

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

    Yes, sir. Not that anybody would want to hear my voice anymore here. This week --

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

    It's their loss.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

    This week, we'll be celebrating our annual spring fling event, this Thursday, at -- what's the time again? Okay, 5:30 o'clock. We'll be at Red Tavern. Should you need any tickets, just see any of the members of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus. Again, the spring fling is to raise funds for scholarships for students through the State of Connecticut.

    Thank you so much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):
Thank you, sir. Mr. Clerk, you have no further business? Okay. Representative Currey.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we adjourn, I just will note that tomorrow's session will begin at noontime and there be no subject -- no further business on the Clerk's desk, I move that we adjourn, subject to the Call of the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY (110TH):

The motion is to adjourn, subject to the Call of the Chair. Is there any objection? Hearing none. The House stands adjourned, subject to the Call of the Chair. (Gavel)

(On motion of Representative Currey of the 11th District, the House adjourned at 11:35 o'clock p.m., subject to the Call of the Chair.)
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 346 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

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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