The Senate was called to order at 12:53 p.m., Senator Looney of the 11th in the Chair.

CLERK:

The Senate will convene immediately.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will please come to order for today's session, and we will begin with our opening prayer. We have our chaplain, Rabbi Lazowski. Rabbi.

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN RABBI PHILIP LAZOWSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. Our thought for today is from the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 8, Verse 33. "Listen to my instructions and be wise—do not ignore it." O Blessed Creator, help us to understand the lessons of the Miracle of Spring: Spring—a symphony of nature's resplendent beauty, the blossoms of myriads of colorful flowers, green shoots rising from the earth. The springtime of humanity—like the springtime of nature is a time of rebirth. The resurgence of hope, faith and joy in the soul of all humans.
Source of Life, inspire our Senators to use the creative powers, with which you have endowed them, to develop their talents and devote themselves in the service of the good people of our state of Connecticut, that we may all share in the happiness, beauty and hopefulness of spring. May the laws they pass bring prosperity, healing and hope to all the inhabitants of our fair state. Look with kindness upon our nation and its leaders, protect our defenders of freedom and keep them safe. O Lord hear us as we pray, and let us all say, Amen.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Rabbi. Thank you very much, Rabbi, and I would like to call Senator Leone forward, one of the military veterans in our membership, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

[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.

THE CHAIR:

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

CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 1, dated Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Our distinguished Majority Leader, Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. Good to see you up there today. Mr. President, I move all items on Senate Agenda No. 1, dated Wednesday, April 17, 2019, to be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and the Senate Transcripts.

THE CHAIR:

Is there objection? If not, so ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I'd like to mark some bills for referral please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, Senator.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam -- thank you, Mr. President (sorry, habit). Thank you, Mr. President. On Calendar page 1, Calendar 21, Senate Bill 795, I'd like to refer that to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Calendar page 2, Calendar 29, Senate Bill 561, I'd like to place an item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 2, Calendar 32, Senate Bill 564, I'd like to place an item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 2, Calendar 33, Senate Bill 565, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 2, Calendar 37, Senate Bill 566, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 3, Calendar 44, Senate Bill 20, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 6, Calendar 70, Senate Bill 811, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 7, Calendar 72, Senate Bill 837, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 8, Calendar 79, Senate Bill 797, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:
Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 8, Calendar 80, Senate Bill 798, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 9, Calendar 84, Senate Bill 884, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 11, Calendar 97, Senate Bill 817, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 11, Calendar 99, Senate Bill 706, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.
THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 12, Calendar 104, Senate Bill 951, I'd like to refer that item to the Education Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 15, Calendar 122, Senate Bill 54, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 15, Calendar 123, Senate Bill 608, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
On Calendar page 16, Calendar 127, Senate Bill 47, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. On Calendar page 17, Calendar 136, Senate Bill 863, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 20, Calendar 151, Senate Bill 936, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 23, Calendar 168, Senate Bill 904, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 28, Calendar 199, Senate Bill 982, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 28, Calendar 200, Senate Bill 983, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 29, Calendar 203, Senate Bill 988, I'd like to refer that item to the Energy and Technology Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 36, Calendar 248, Senate Bill 1053, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:
Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 37, Calendar 250, Senate Bill 359, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 37, Calendar 256, Senate Bill 990, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 39, Calendar 264, Senate Bill 1016, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 40, Calendar 271, Senate Bill 986, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.
THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 40, Calendar 272, Senate Bill 987, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 43, Calendar 288, Senate Bill 1078, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 43, Calendar 293, Senate Bill 972, I'd like to place that -- I'm sorry, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.
On Calendar page 44, Calendar 296, Senate Bill 1081, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:
Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 44, Calendar 297, Senate Bill 377, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:
Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 44, Calendar 298, Senate Bill 380, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:
Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 44, Calendar 299, Senate Bill 967, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:
Without objection. So ordered.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 47, Calendar 313, Senate Bill 1012, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 47, Calendar 314, Senate Bill 1073, I'd like to place that item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

And, on Calendar page 49, Calendar 15, Senate Resolution 8, I'd like to recommit that item back to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I'd like to now mark a few items on our go list please.

THE CHAIR:
Please proceed, Mr. Majority Leader.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, sir. On Calendar page 1, Calendar 22, Senate Bill 796, go. On Calendar page 4, Calendar 45, Senate Bill 21, go. On Calendar page 6, Calendar 69, Senate Bill 809, go. On Calendar page 7, Calendar 71, Senate Bill 821, go. On Calendar page 7, Calendar 75, Senate Bill 916, go. And if the Clerk can please call in that order please. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 1, Calendar No. 22, Senate Bill 796, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINERS.

THE CHAIR:

Oh, before we proceed, I believe Senator Somers has risen for a -- for a point of personal privilege. Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Yes, thank you, Mr. President, and I rise for a point of personal privilege. I would like to introduce to the Senate floor -- today I have a special guest. (If you'd like to come over here.) This is Sonar Technician Submarine First Class Matthew Ryan Baird, who is stationed at the New London Sub Base. And I had the honor earlier this morning of reenlisting him into the United States Navy. So, I wanted to offer him
and have you join me in a warm Senate welcome for one of our wonderful defenders of our country, Mr. Matthew Ryan Baird [phonetic]. [Applause] Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator, and thank you, Mr. Baird, because all -- we know our military depends so heavily on experienced and seasoned people willing to reenlist and continue their service. Thank you so much. Everyone is grateful to you. Thank you again. Mr. Clerk, if we would return to the Calendar. [Crosstalk] Yes, if you would call that -- call the first bill that we were proceeding to do.

CLERK:

Page 1, Calendar No. 22, substitute for Senate Bill Number 796, AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINERS. There is an amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark?
SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you. This bill reinstates the Voluntary Safe Advisory Committee and expands the type of healthcare providers that can become sexual assault forensic examiners through a training provided by the Office of Victim Services. It would -- it would be enacted on July 1, 2019. It passed unanimously through the Public Health Committee, which I think speaks to an acknowledgement of the importance of the work that the sexual assault forensic examiners do. Thank you.

Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO --

CLERK:

LCO No. 7057, Senate Schedule A.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator, would you move the amendment?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

I move adoption of the amendment and ask that its reading be waived and seek leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Please proceed.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):
The amendment is really just for some technical language corrections and doesn't substantially change the bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the amendment? Is there additional remarks on the amendment? If not, I will try your minds. All in favor of the amendment, please indicate by saying aye. ["Aye" in background] Opposed, please say nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Mr. President, if there are no objections, I would ask that this bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

The distinguished Chair of the Public Health Committee has moved the item to the Consent Calendar. Is there objection to placing the bill as amended on the Consent Calendar? Seeing none. It is so ordered. Thank you, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 4, Calendar No. 45, Senate Bill Number 21, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS IN MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTERS.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Ed. Senator Cohen.
SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. The bill has been moved. Will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. This bill is to extend a task force under Public Act 14-205, which was to study the humane treatment of animals in municipal and regional shelters. This task force was convened in 2014 and has been meeting without statutory authority since that time. This bill would extend the length of time for which the task force has to submit a report to January 1 of 2020.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the bill? Senator Miner.

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. I also rise in support of the bill. This is not the first time, I think, we've attempted to put a final date on the -- when we would like to see a report, and so this does extend it to January 2020, unless we get the report sooner, and would urge passage and support of the bill. Thank you.
The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

[Chamber at ease] Mr. Majority Leader.

Senator Duff (25th):

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, why don't we put this bill and move on to the next one please.

The Chair:
Thank you. Thank you, Senator Duff. Mr. Clerk, if you would call the next previously marked go item.

CLERK:

Page 7, Calendar No. 71, substitute for Senate Bill Number 821, AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITABLE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER PRACTITIONERS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Good afternoon, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. The bill has been moved. Will you remark, Senator Moore?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Yes, I will. Thank you, sir. Senator, this bill is -- proposes that we seek requirement of the Department of Social Services to reimburse federally
qualified health centers under the Medicaid Program for electronic consulting provided by practitioners. E-consults are already in statute. This puts them in statute with federal qualified health centers. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the bill? If not, Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Thank you, Mr. President. If there are no additional objections, I ask that this be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. The bill has been moved to the Consent Calendar. Is there objection? The bill will be added to the Consent Calendar. Thank you, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 7, Calendar No. 75, substitute for Senate Bill Number 916, AN ACT CONCERNING APPLICATIONS FOR PREQUALIFICATION BY CONTRACTORS AND SUBSTANTIAL SUBCONTRACTORS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):
Mr. President. Mr. President, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The bill has been moved for passage. Will you remark, Senator Flexer?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the bill before us makes a small change to the prequalification process for contractors and subcontractors. The Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO No. 7114. I ask that the Clerk please call the amendment.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7114, Senate Schedule A.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Mr. President, I move the amendment --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

-- and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, Senator.
Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the amendment before us is a bipartisan amendment. I thank my Ranking Member, Senator Sampson, for his cooperation on this. It makes a small change to the underlying bill and removes the words "settled or."

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Is there additional comment on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment -- on Senate Amendment Schedule A? If not, I'll try your minds. So, all in favor, please indicate by saying aye. ["Aye" in background] Opposed? Hearing none. The amendment is adopted. Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. With the adoption of the amendment, I hope that many of my colleagues will support this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Senator. Any additional comment on the bill as amended? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I just want to state for the record that I appreciate the cooperation with the Senate Chair on the modification of the language that was in the amendment before us a moment ago. And with the adoption of that amendment, I think that this is a
good bill and it oughta pass. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. If there's no objection, I move that we place this bill on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. The bill has been moved to be placed on the Consent Calendar. Is there objection to placing the bill as amended on our Consent Calendar? Seeing none. The bill will be placed on our Consent Calendar. Thank you, Senator.

[ Crosstalk] Mr. Majority Leader.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, may we stand at ease for a moment?

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease. [Chamber at ease] The Senate will come back to order. Mr. Majority Leader.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, may we go back to the item that was previously marked PT and mark it as go?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 6, Calendar No. 69, Senate Bill Number 809, AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN PERSONS FROM LICENSURE AS A LEAD GENERATOR.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bergstein.

SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. The bill has been moved. Will you remark, Senator Bergstein?

SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill is a technical fix that has been sponsored by the Connecticut Bankers Association, has had unanimous bipartisan support in committee. It is simply a bill that exempts certain persons from licensure as a lead generator. For instance, in a bank, when one
department refers a client to a mortgage lender, that person in the other department should not have to be licensed as a mortgage lender. It's a technical fix.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the bill? If not, Senator Bergstein.

SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. If there is no objection, I would ask that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. The bill has been moved for placement on the Consent Calendar. Is there any objection to placing the bill on the Consent Calendar? Seeing none. The bill will be so placed. Thank you, Senator. Mr. Majority Leader. [Crosstalk]

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Okay, thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, if the Clerk can call the items previously marked for our Consent Calendar for a vote on our Consent Calendar please?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.
CLERK:

Page 1, Calendar No. 22, Senate Bill 796; page 4, Calendar No. 45, Senate Bill 21; page 6, Calendar 69, Senate Bill 809; page 7, Calendar No. 71, Senate Bill 821; page 7, Calendar No. 75, Senate Bill 916.

An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 1. An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 1. Immediate Roll Call vote in the Senate, Consent Calendar No. 1. [Crosstalk]

THE CHAIR:

Have all the senators voted, Senator Sampson? Have all the senators voted? We will close the machine, and would the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 1.

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THE CHAIR:

Measure passes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon to you.
THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you. Madam President, I move for a suspension to take up Calendar page 50, Senate Calendar No. 323, Senate Resolution Number 26.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection. Without seeing any objection, hearing any objection, so ordered. Will you remark?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Clerk please call that item?

CLERK:

Page 50, Calendar No. 323, Senate Resolution Number 26, RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESIDUAL BARGAINING UNIT P-5.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten, good afternoon.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. It's wonderful seeing you up there today. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the resolution.
And will you remark please?

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Yes, Madam President. Madam President, this is an accretion of six members into the P-5 bargaining unit. It's a very small accretion of former members who are not in a collective bargaining environment. The total cost, according to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, of this contract accretion is $88,012 dollars. It allows these tax attorneys to become a member of the P-5 bargaining unit, and I would urge my colleagues to support this resolution, as this is a fair assessment for these employees to get the proper wages for their classifications. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further? Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

I rise for a few questions and comments on the resolution.
THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon, Senator. Would you please explain to us about the -- the wage increases for these -- for these bargaining members. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, through you to the -- to my colleague, these members that are tax attorneys are seeking to become members of the P-5 bargaining unit, and they follow the same pattern as the P-5 bargaining unit in regards to wage increases. And over the last ten years, these -- excuse me -- these members have seen little to no wage increases, and in this current -- in this current agreement, they would see a $2,000 dollar bonus in the current year. They would also see a 3.5 percent general wage increase and a 2 percent annual increment in fiscal year '20, and in '21 they would see the same pattern. And if they were already at maximum, they would get a lump sum payment. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Osten. Senator Formica.
SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator. Would these -- these benefits that they're going to accrue -- these were new bargaining union members, and were they managers before, and what are their average salary please? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

So, I'll try to remember all the questions in the order that they were given. And if I miss one, you'll just have to restate it.

So, these members were not -- they were considered unclassified. They were not in a bargaining unit. They did not meet the statutory definition of manager. While they may have been considered managerial employees by many, they did not meet the statutory definition and were allowed to accrete into this bargaining unit P-5. And I believe one of your other questions was -- (He's whispering to me so I know that it's average salary, so.)

I would just like to clarify. So, in -- in January of 2009, there was no wage increase for this group. In January of -- in 2010, there was no wage increase. In 2011, there was no wage increase. In 2012, there was no wage increase. In 2013, there was no wage increase. In 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, there were no wage increases. So, their average salary -- I don't have their average salary in front
of me, but according to the Economic Policy Institute, lawyers, judges, magistrates, and other judicial workers have, in the private sector, an average salary of $212,463 dollars, and in the public sector they have $108,586 dollars. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Osten. Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator, for the answers. I don't believe I have any more questions, but I appreciate your responses. Madam President, this -- my discussions today have no real merit on the quality of the work as proposed -- as put forth by this -- by these employees. My objection to this -- to this wage package increase is overall for the state of Connecticut. The former secretary of OPM has argued about the state's inability to pay. The discussions ensued about all of the problems Connecticut is having with its deficit, with its budget, and this, I believe, is the fifth now either expansion of a bargaining unit or installation of a new bargaining unit, where we are now adding $2,000 dollar cash bonus, a 3.5 percent raise plus an annual increment -- in this case, it's 2, the others were 3.1 or 3, and I understand there may be more coming with regard to being at 3 for two years.

We have a situation that we need to get under control, and adding more people to the payroll is not really the way to solve the problem with regard to the issues that we have moving forward in
pension. I'd like to specifically mention that the Undersecretary for Labor Relations, in her comments before the committee, made the comment that the ability of the employer to pay this conservative increase pay is minimal when the state's budget is considered as a whole. And I take particular exception to that comment, Madam President, as we move forward with this budget process.

You know, my grandfather came over from Sicily and got himself into business, and one of his best sayings were, "If you watch the pennies, the dollars will follow." And, in this case, we seem to be losing sight of the pennies. And I bring to the circle's attention a memo from the current office of secretary -- the current secretary of OPM with regard to what is -- what is on the horizon for these pay increases, and it looks like we'll be adding another hundred -- I'm sorry, excuse me -- another 1,039 employees that will be coming forward as a list of bargaining contracts anticipated to be submitted to the General Assembly.

So, it's just going to be more conversations about a $2,000 dollar cash bonus, a 3.5 percent plus a 3, a 3.5 percent plus a 3 or a 2 in this case, and I just find it difficult to be able to vote in favor for this when we're having such trouble putting our budgets together and managing our pension capabilities to pay for that moving forward.

So, Madam President, I thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion here this morning, but I urge my colleagues to consider the implication of this vote, not just for these six employees but for the thousand-plus employees that we're going to be considering again. And then what is the -- what is
the compounding benefit and the compounding cost of this as we move forward if we keep adding and adding and adding. So, thank you very much, Madam President. Thank you to the senator for her answers, and I urge rejection.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further, Senator Osten? I see it's Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Madam President, this is, as I understand it, the fifth contract we're gonna have in front of this Chamber here today so far with respect to contracts that our body has to vote on yes or no. I would note that earlier on, the first contract had a wide percentage difference, and as each contract came down the pike, the narrowness of the vote got closer and closer. And while I understand that 2019 there's only a $90,000 dollar increase in the budget, when you add all the contracts together, if you include this contract, we have added to our budget roughly $12 million dollars. So, in a budget that we have a deficit, we have added $12 million dollars that we have to work out over the next two years. People may say, you know what, that's really not a lot of money. Out of a $17 billion dollar
budget, it's nothing. Well, out of a $17 billion
dollar budget, $50 million is not a lot of money,
but what -- what could we do with that $13 million
dollars, that $12 million dollars? What could we
do?

So, I looked and said, what do we have as
deficiencies in the Governor's budget where he had
to make some calls and how we may wanna use that
money differently? Our community -- our Connecticut
Community Colleges have a $9 million dollar hit.
Well, $12 million dollars would pay for that. Our
mental health -- we just had some press conferences
in this building about mental health. That was cut
$4 million dollars. Well, maybe we could use this
money for mental health, Care 4 Kids. Every year we
do something good for Care 4 Kids, which is a
program I believe wholeheartedly in and fought hard
on a bipartisan budget to make sure we do it, so
that people can go to work and their kids can be
taken care of. We wouldn't be able to continue our
pledge of adding money for Care 4 Kids.

We're talking at a time that this contract before us
adds a 3.5 percent COLA increase each and every
year, but yet, in the Governor's budget, we are
removing the cost-of-living increase for the blind.
We're removing the cost-of-living increase for the
disabled. We're removing the cost-of-living increase for TANF in lieu of a new contract that we
could reject.

We talked about -- just the other day, we heard
about the nursing homes, and they're gonna go on
strike. If we did a 1 percent increase in our
nursing home that would cost us under $12 million
dollars -- 11.8. Wouldn't it make more sense to put
money in those programs I just talked about?
Wouldn't it make more sense, rather than adding to folks who are well paid in this building, plus the fringe benefit at 96 cents for every dollar that we pay for salaries -- 96 cents is fringe benefits -- wouldn't it make sense that we say what we said as a bipartisan group for the last two years? We can't afford what we can't afford. We didn't give these folks raises -- I admit to it -- not in the bipartisan budget, not in the partisan budgets because we couldn't afford it. Because we wanna fund TANF. We wanna fund mental health. We wanna give raises to those nursing homes.

Budgets are choices. And be clear, you are making a choice if you vote yes or no today. What is more important? Folks that are making 100 -- $100,000 dollars, $80,000 dollars pure salary, not the benefits, to give them a 7 percent increase plus 3.5 percent increase, or folks that are making $25,000 or $40,000 and saying we wanna help you. You need to help up in today's economy. You need to help up in social services. That's the choice.

Let me add to this. If you vote yes, you have taken on two obligations. First obligation by voting yes, you own this contract. Second obligation, in less than one month, in three weeks, a budget out of Approps and out of Finance has to come out of both committees, and many of you, on both sides of the aisle, sit on that Approps and Finance. You have an obligation when you hit a green button that you're saying not only do I think this right for maybe policy reasons, but I think it's right for money reasons. And when I vote yes, I know in Appropriations or in Finance, both committees are gonna come out with a balanced budget. Both
committees are gonna come out and say we are gonna make this obligation that we're signing onto today by hitting a green button, and we are gonna balance a budget. Because if you vote yes, and you're unable to balance the budget, somebody is gonna get hurt. It's not gonna be these contracts 'cause they're done. You have sent a whole bunch of messages. I'm either gonna make the cuts to do it that I didn't do in committee -- it's you're obligation to do it in committee -- or I'm gonna raise taxes. Then you better do that in Finance, but don't come out of those committees with an unbalanced budget. Don't come out of those committees with an unbalanced budget if you're gonna make a promise when you hit that green button that I'm gonna pay for these contracts. Then you have an obligation to say how are you gonna pay for these contracts and balance the budgets. That is your obligation.

So, when you hit the green, you have to be willing to say I'm gonna make the hard decisions to make sure these budgets balance. We are denying people that we have made promises to every year. Every time we increase a cost, a fixed cost, we deduct our discretionary funding. How many of us have stood in front of IDD, the adult disabled families, and said we'll get you off the waiting list. We promise we're gonna move you off the waiting list. This is $12 million dollars further from moving those people off that waiting list. That's what it's about. It's easy to say yes. It's tough to say no. But, when you say no for the right reasons, people get it. They understand -- 'cause there's people who need more help than others, and I mentioned who those people were. Madam President, I'll be voting no on this contract. Thank you.
THE CHAIR:

Senator, thank you so much. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? With that, if the Clerk would please call this, and the machine will be open.

CLERK:

An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Resolution Number 8. An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. [Crosstalk]

An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Resolution Number 26. Senate Resolution Number 26, an Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the senators voted? Have all the senators voted? With that, we will close the vote. And Mr. Clerk, if you would announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Resolution Number 26

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SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Senate stand at ease please. [Chamber at ease]

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I think we're gonna recess till 2:30, and the Clerk will announce the Republican Caucus as well.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

There will be an immediate Republican Caucus. There will be an immediate Republican Senate Caucus. An immediate Senate Republican Caucus. There will be an immediate Senate Republican Caucus.

THE CHAIR:


On the motion of Senator Duff of the 25th, the Senate at 2:13 p.m. recessed.

The Senate reconvened at 2:28 p.m., the President in the Chair.
CLERK:

The Senate will convene immediately. The Senate will convene immediately. The Senate will reconvene immediately.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff, good afternoon.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Stand at ease for a moment, Madam President. [Chamber at ease]

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, for markings please.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar page 11, Calendar 96, Senate Bill 81 go. On Calendar page 14, Calendar 118, Senate Bill 594 go. On Calendar page 15, Calendar 121 Senate Bill 750 go. On Calendar page 16, Calendar 130, Senate Bill 922 go. On Calendar page 19, Calendar 149, Senate Bill 932

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 11, Calendar No. 96, Senate Bill Number 81, AN ACT MAKING CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS INELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC FUNDS AND LICENSURE. There is an amendment.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you, Madam President. It's good to see you this afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):
I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report on the passage of this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Yes, Madam President. This act makes certain institutions of higher education and private occupational schools ineligible for public funds and licensure. There is a problem nationally, Madam President, of students who enroll in certain for-profit colleges and private occupational schools and in doing so are forced to sacrifice some of their due process rights. This bill would empower OHE to provide a strong consumer protection regulatory standard for those institutions. I would encourage my colleagues to support this bill, as there was bipartisan support, although not unanimous, in our committee.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark? Will you remark further?

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Yes, Madam President. If I may just add, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 7047. I would ask that the Clerk please call the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.
I move adoption of the amendment, Madam President, and ask that its reading be waived and seek leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Yes, Madam President. This bill -- this amendment clarifies language in the file copy. It specifically deletes certain sections in line 20-33. It's largely technical changes.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I, as the Ranking Member in the Higher Education Committee, am aware of this bill and I wanted to make sure for legislative intent a couple questions to the
proponent of this bill. Through you, Miss -- Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

One of the biggest concerns of this bill was to ensure that certain for-profit schools actually require students to sign non-disclosure agreements. Is that one of the major proponents of this bill -- to address that concern? Through you, Madam President.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you, Madam President. To respond to the good senator from Fairfield, the bill specifically empowers OHE to deny licensure or public funding for institutions that do the following thing -- place the following requirements upon students on enrollment: Any institution that limits participation in a class action lawsuit against the organization, any institution that limits any claim students may have against the institution or the damages associated with the claim, or, and very importantly, Madam President, this bill empowers OHE to get involved if said institution requires students to bring claims against the institution in a forum that is less than convenient, more costly, or slower moving than in-state -- than an in-state judicial forum. With regard to the good senator's question, non-disclosure agreements are not covered, but we do want to make sure that there are strong opportunities for consumer protection available to
students, whether that means legal resource in a class action lawsuit or the other scenarios outlined in the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, and through you, Madam President. On sections 5 and 8, it gave investigatory authority to the Office of Higher Education. Did that exist prior to this bill, or is this a new legislative action? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Through you, I thank the good senator from Fairfield for his question. The background here is that any degree-granting institution in Connecticut is actually accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education. Existing law requires OHE to accept regional accreditation unless it finds cause not to rely upon such accreditation. This bill would, in fact, give OHE cause to deny accreditation based on the previously outlined criteria.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Hwang.
SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I wanna thank the good rep -- good senator from Westport for these answers, and I urge support of this bill, although it is important to get a further point of legislative intent in regards to protecting non-disclosure clauses. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much. So, why don't -- Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise in support of the bill and the amendment. I wanna thank the Chairman of the Higher Education Committee for putting this bill forward. This is legislation that I've worked on for a year now, and I think it is an important additional protection that we will providing to students at occupational licensing school and for-profit colleges in the state. And I wanna thank the Chairman of the Higher Education Committee for his leadership on this issue this year and urge all the colleagues to support it.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Lesser. Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I just wanna thank the good senator from Middletown for all of his work on this legislation. I must confess that it came to the Higher Education Committee, and we decided to make it a priority through his leadership
and his vision for protecting the students of Connecticut. So, I'm grateful for all of his work on this issue. Madam President, if there is no objection, I would ask that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Before we place it on the Consent Calendar, let me try your minds on the amendment. All in favor of the amendment, as described by Senator Haskell, please signify by saying aye. ["Aye" in background] Opposed?

Amendment is adopted. Now we can move it to the Consent Calendar, unless there is any opposition to that. Senator Fasano?

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Just to Senator Haskell, a quick question if I may. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Senator, it's my understanding that the Higher Ed Department has the resources to conduct these investigations, and these investigations are done as part of their current protocol for other matters. Is that correct? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Through you to the good senator from North Haven in response to his question, we did not receive any testimony in opposition to this legislation, and in fact, OHE has indicated that there are not many instances in Connecticut, if any at all, of students being denied certain crucial due process rights when they sign up for enrollment. I would categorize this bill as more preventative in nature, but certainly OHE has indicated that they have the resources to support this bill should this become a more widespread problem in Connecticut. Thank you. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Haskell. Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator Haskell, for the response. Madam President, I did have an amendment, which was going to change this to the Consumer Protection Department. The reason why I was doing that was I was unsure that there were the proper facilities in which to conduct investigations and in which to do the requirements that this bill asks for. I have come to find out that my amendment is not in good order because there are the sufficient resources at Higher Ed to do this. So, Madam President, where I had some reservations, I am more likely than not voting in
favor of this bill, and I thank you, Madam President, and thank the senator for his answer.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much to my Senate colleagues. If there are no further comments, Madam President, and if there is no objection, I would ask that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Any objections? Seeing none. It'll go on the Consent Calendar. Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 14, Calendar No. 118, substitute for Senate Bill Number 594, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OR LEASE OF CATS AND DOGS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

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

THE CHAIR:
Thank you. Will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Yes, Madam President. Thank you. This bill prevents the deceptive practice of leasing cats and dogs. It will void any contract entered into on or after October 1 of 2019 that is a lease with an option to buy or transfers ownership provided payments are made. It was unanimously voted out of committee.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cohen. Will you remark?

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you. I rise to support this legislation as well. We had public hearing, didn’t hear any testimony to the contrary on this bill. I think the committee was made aware that there are certain circumstances where maybe people that have service dogs or working dogs may in fact have contracts. This language permits that to continue as long as you have willing participants, but I would urge adoption and -- that's it.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you. Senator Miner. Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'm gonna be voting no on the -- the bill before us, and it's certainly not because I'm not sympathetic to the concerns of those that wanna make sure that animals -- pets, cats, and dogs -- are treated properly in our society. It's just understood in our laws that animals, including pet cats and dogs, are property, and this bill speaks to a private contract among citizens. And I don't believe it is the duty or jurisdiction of this body to interfere with the rights of private citizens who wanna engage in some sort of payment release arrangement for private property, even if that is a pet.

I hope no one finds that offensive. I just think that it's overstepping the bounds where there might be certain situations where it's beneficial to both parties and to the animal involved to allow that transaction to take place, and I don't see any reason for us to interfere and pass a law prohibiting it. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I just rise very briefly to support the legislation. It's a bill that Senator Fasano originally brought to the attention of the legislature -- I think it was two
years ago -- and then many of us got behind the idea when we understood that you could actually lease a pet. And, as a pet owner myself, I could never imagine leasing a pet, and then after six or nine months, or whatever it is, having to give it back in addition to what are a tremendous amount of costs that consumers have to abide by because of the fact that they may actually think that they own the pet rather than leasing the pet. And I could never imagine giving my -- my pet away. That would just seem awful. So, I wanna thank Senator Fasano and Senator Looney, who's been instrumental in this. I know the Animal Welfare Caucus as a body -- as a caucus has supported this bill as well. So, there's been a tremendous amount of support in the building on this issue, and Connecticut always has been a leader in animal welfare, and I think this is just another step. So, thanks to everybody who's been so involved in this. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, this body last year approved this bill as it came through, and I think with the amendments -- what the Ranking Member and the Chair have done -- have made the bill better, taking into account unique circumstances. So, I look forward to its passage, and equally I wanna echo the words of Senator Duff to the many people who have worked on this bill, and I'm glad to see it's gonna make its way out early and hopefully get through the house. Thank you, Madam President.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further? Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if there's no objection, I'd ask for a roll call on this vote at this time.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. We will open the machines.

CLERK:

An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. [Crosstalk/Ringing]

THE CHAIR:

Have all the senators voted? Have all the senators voted?

CLERK:

An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. [Crosstalk/Ringing]
Have all the senators voted? Have all the senators voted? Seeing that they have, we'll close the vote. And Mr. Clerk, would you call the roll please?

CLERK:

Senate Bill 594

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THE CHAIR:

Resolution passes. And now I would like to call upon Senator Berthel for a point of personal privilege and introduction.

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):

Thank you, Madam President. I appreciate the indulgence. Today is actually 4-H Citizenship Day here at the Capitol. If the members have not gone downstairs to the Nathan Hale statue, they should. There's ice cream from the University of Connecticut there. But, Madam President, we are joined in the Chamber today by Madeline -- excuse me -- Margaret Hall, who is the mother of 15-year-old Olivia Hall and 13-year-old Madeline Hall, who are all from the great town of Woodbury. They are all involved with 4-H, and again it is 4-H Citizenship Day, which is -- in large part, the intent of today is to bring honor and respect back to our communities. So, if the Chamber would join me in welcoming these fine ladies to the circle today and extend our normal
greeting, that would be appreciated. Thank you.

[Applause]

THE CHAIR:

Senator, thank you so much, and young ladies, congratulations. Thanks for visiting us today.

Mr. Clerk, would you please return to the call of the Calendar?

CLERK:

Page 15, Calendar 121, Senate Bill Number 750, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Yes, thank you very much, Madam President. First of all, I want to thank my colleagues in the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee on both sides of the aisle for their work in support of
this bill -- this very important bill -- to address what I believe to be an epidemic. As somebody who was recently on a college campus, I think that we, as public policy makers, too often overlook the mental health crisis that exists among young people.

We know that 75 percent of chronic mental illness develops by the age of 24, but we also know that one of every -- only one out of every five college students with a mental health or substance abuse problem seek help in a given year. We have to dramatically increase the number of students who seek the help that they so desperately need, whether it be from stress, anxiety, depression, or a variety of other mental illnesses that plague students on college campuses. So, this bill is not a silver bullet, but I do believe it's a step in the right direction towards a more comprehensive approach, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this bill as well. It is a task force that is going to evaluate the critical importance in understanding mental health supportive services that exists in our academic institutions. As the good senator mentioned earlier, I am a parent of someone in college, and I understand the immense pressure that our young students experience going through the rigors of academic pursuits. That being said, I think this task force is critical with its specific goals that are outlined in this bill that we need to
accomplish. And I hoped and urged that this body as well as the General Assembly convened this task force because unfortunately sometimes in this building task forces are passed through legislation and are never convened. I hope in the case of this, because of the mental health -- health of our students in colleges, that this is convened and that we have solutions to help our students in academic centers. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If I may, just a question or two to the proponent of the bill?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you. Through you, Madam President. As I look to see the makeup of the task force, I have noticed that there's only two appointments that require a representative that has dealings with a mental health care provider. And I'm just curious, through you, Madam President, is it the goal of this committee through this bill to offer a more substantive representation of folks in that community rather than just a political appointment? Through you, Madam President.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President, and through you to respond to my good colleague's comments. The bill, I think, has an interesting and important composition in terms of the task force, as is outlined in -- starting in lines 28. Of course, the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives will have an appointment. It was important to those of us who worked on the committee to make sure that this bill is bipartisan but also, to some extent, nonpartisan, to respond to the good senator's comments. That's why we have the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services or the Commissioner's Designee serving on the committee in addition to the Board of Regents of Higher Education. And I will say that the Board of Regents has been actively involved in supporting this legislation. They are already working incredibly hard to connect their students to the resources they so desperately need.

But, while it's a slightly separate issue, I do believe that academic advising and mental health treatment are intimately connected, as students often can't exactly determine the difference if they're suffering from anxiety or stress on college campus. And on the Board of Regents, the ratio of students to academic advisors is now up to 900 to 1. So, we have to be doing more and involving the Board of Regents as well as those who are working in the field towards finding a solution. And I hope that the leaders -- the legislative leaders in this
Chamber as well as those in the House will consider carefully the qualifications of those who are appointed to this task force. Through you, Madam President. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Haskell. Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I thank Senator Haskell for those -- that answer, and I think the reason why I -- I posed that question was because of the importance of the work that this task force will be doing to address some of the concerns of the ratio of students to counselors on a campus, which is untenable. I do -- the time that some could have, you know, the ability to seek services when you have that kind of ratio is deplorable to me. And we've seen unfortunately in the news, and we hear about it from our own constituents, the negative things that happen on college campuses, and I think it's up to this body to strive to put something like this together. And I think that the Ranking Member addressed some of my concerns that we've often developed task forces here in the state and nothing becomes of them, and I don't want the same fate to happen to this task force. So I urge adoption of the bill, Madam President, and I urge all of those who have an appointment to this committee to fulfill their duties as timely as possible and allow this task force to get to work and report back to this General Assembly. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Senator Witkos. Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Through you, to briefly respond to those remarks, I certainly am sure the good senator knows how this building works far better than I do, but it is certainly my intent, and I believe the intent of everybody else who worked on this legislation, to make sure that the task force does get to work immediately. In fact, you'll note in section G, Madam President, that not later than January 1, 2020, we've asked the task force to submit a report on its findings and recommendations. This issue is present. In fact, it's been overlooked, I think, for years, and I have the enormous honor and privilege of serving as the youngest member of this General Assembly. I think that today we're starting to turn a new page and starting to finally address the very serious mental health problems that too many young people in Connecticut face. It's long overdue that we take this issue on, and I wish the task force not only the best of luck, but I beg for their expediency in addressing this issue.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Haskell. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Madam President, if there's no objection, I would ask that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:
Seeing no objection. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 16, Calendar 130, Senate Bill Number 922, AN ACT ALLOWING STUDENTS TO APPLY SUNSCREEN PRIOR TO ENGAGING IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. There are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Representative Daugherty Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you. This bill allows students age eight or older to possess and self-apply over-the-counter sunscreen in school before outdoor activities if a parent or guardian gave written authorization to the school nurse. This bill passed unanimously out of the Public Health Committee in recognition of the serious health consequences of unprotected sun exposure for our children.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of amendment LCO 6829. I would ask that the Clerk please call the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Mr. Clerk

CLERK:

LCO No. 6829, Senate Schedule A.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams, yes, sorry about that.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

That's okay. I move adoption of this amendment. It asks that we strike eight and insert six to move the age down to age six for students to be able to apply the sunscreen.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):
I would like to --

THE CHAIR:

Further?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

-- adoption of this amendment, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. Will you remark further on the amendment? Okay, and so we will try your minds on the adoption of the amendment as described. All in favor, please signify by saying aye. ["Aye" in background] Opposed? The amendment is adopted. Will you remark further?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If there is no objections, I would ask that this bill be placed on the Consent Calendar. [Crosstalk]

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Great to see you this afternoon. Certainly not to object to this eventually getting to the Consent Calendar, but I wanted to thank Chairman Daugherty Abrams for moving this bill forward as well as Ranking Member Heather Somers and all the members on the Public Health Committee. This is a bill proposal that came to my
attention in the last few years from one of my constituents. Her name is Lori Gates. Lori Gates is well known in Enfield and north central Connecticut for all the hard work she does for Enfield Hooah, which is a veterans advocacy group, but of a more personal nature to Ms. Gates, who is beloved by all the people in Enfield and north central Connecticut, is unfortunately her husband died an untimely death due to skin cancer. And she's got small children, and they have pale skin, and this is one of the things that has always caused her a great concern when her children would go off to school and they would have outdoor activities. And so, there's a personal motivation behind the call for this bill.

I was happy to learn that folks came on board from industry representatives and folks in public health, but I really wanna thank the leadership again -- Madam Chair and the Ranking Member of the Public Health Committee. This is a very important bill, not only for my constituent but for all the young people out there that are out doing outdoor activities. And again, thank you so very much for moving this bill forward. Happy to support it, and again, hope all my colleagues do as well. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Senator Daugherty Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you. Through you, Madam President, I'd like to thank my Senate colleague for sharing that
personal story. I wasn't aware of that, and I really appreciate you bringing that out. And I would ask then that -- if there's no further objections, that we place the bill on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 19, Calendar No. 149, substitute for Senate Bill Number 932, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STAFF QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS. [Crosstalk]

THE CHAIR:

Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I have -- I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Yes, Madam President. This bill delays the timeframe in which certain early childhood education programs must meet staff qualification requirements.
The bill has no fiscal impact, as it does not impact state payments for such programs. I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator McCrory. Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Not at this time.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Are we moving this to the Consent Calendar?

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Oh, oh, I'm sorry. [Laughing] I'm sorry. Seeing no objections, I would like to move this to the Consent Calendar, Madam President. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Seeing no objection, we will move that item to the Consent Calendar. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:
Page 20, Calendar No. 152, substitute for Senate Bill Number 956, AN ACT CONCERNING GUIDELINES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELOR PROGRAM.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, we're gonna PT this item for hopefully a little bit later on today.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 20, Calendar No. 154, Senate Bill Number 26, AN ACT MAKING PERMANENT THE MORATORIUM ON THE APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS AT INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of this bill.

THE CHAIR:
Will you remark?

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Yes, Madam President. First off, I wanna thank the good senators both from New Haven and North Haven for their bipartisan work on behalf of the students and the business community in Connecticut. Madam President, as I've often said in my work on the Higher Education Committee, I do believe that our institutions of higher education are our greatest resource in Connecticut. We, in this state of -- in this wonderful state of Connecticut, offer 23,000 students every single year their bachelor's degree. However, we need to do a better job of making sure that our private institutions are able to rapidly adapt and reflect the needs of the business community.

We know, based on the State of Connecticut Plan -- Strategic Plan on Higher Education, that 70 percent of jobs in Connecticut will require a degree beyond a high school diploma by the year 2025. We wanna make sure that those students who are investing in their own education to go to one of these wonderful private institutions really are absolutely prepared to meet the needs of the business community as soon as they graduate. That's why we are looking to eliminate the program approval process, making permanent the current moratorium and creating greater parity between what exists for public institutions and private institutions.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Senator Haskell. Will you remark further? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. It's been a busy day for higher education. I rise in very strong support of this bill, and it's important for us to acknowledge the leaders in this arena, which is Senator Fasano and Senator Looney in leading this. But I also want to acknowledge the presidents of our private universities that took time from their busy day and shared the values that they hold to the highest, highest level of academic excellence and recognizing that this program review process and elimination of the oversight is consistent with providing the highest and best quality of education. When going through the accreditation process, they were meticulous in sharing with us the rigor and challenges they have to meet those standards. So, passage of this bill, rest assured, will meet the highest academic standards for every single student that attend those private universities.

The second part of this is critical as it relates to jobs. Our private universities along with our public schools provide curriculum and education and talented pools of people to work in this arena, but the marketplace is changing dramatically, and what we're looking at this bill is to be able to provide innovative, time-sensitive, market-reaction type of curriculum. This bill allows to do that -- to create the most demanded and the most innovative curriculums that meet the needs of the marketplace.

And ultimately, number three, it is about helping institutions that are the largest employers in some
of our communities. They are the best neighbors in our community. It is a win-win in a proposition that helps everyone in this state. So, I urge strong passage of the support. I wanna thank the committee leadership for the support of Senate Bill 26. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further? Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I wanna thank the leadership of the Higher Ed Committee for putting this bill out. I wanna thank my good friend, Senator Looney, and the work on this bill. This is something that I think makes a lot of sense for the reasons that have been articulated by Senator Hwang and Senator Haskell. Competition is what's gonna drive the private institutions. We don't need to have state involved. They are gonna put out the best curriculum. What you heard was testimony during that hearing of how long it takes to change a curriculum, what the processes are, and that goes through with all the private institutions we have across this great state. So, Senator Haskell has been very busy today with a bunch of his bills, and I thank him and Senator Hwang for getting this bill out and look forward to its passage. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Fasano. Will you remark further? Senator Haskell.
SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. And, Madam President, I would ask for a roll call vote on this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Mr. Clerk, would you please call the roll, and the machine will be opened?

CLERK:

An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? The machines will be closed, and the Clerk would please call the roll.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 26

| Total number voting         | 36 |
| Total number voting Yea     | 35 |
| Total voting Nay            | 1  |
| Absent and not voting       | 0  |

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. [Gavel] Resolution passes. Mr. Clerk.
SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark, Senator?

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Yes, indeed. Thank you, Madam. The bill before us is essentially a way to continue to support our tourism district in the state of Connecticut. Presently, we have three regional tourism districts, and their task is to promote and market as travel destinations the state of Connecticut.

Actually, in 2015, Madam President, the tourism industry in the state of Connecticut supported about 122,000 jobs in this state. That is 1 out of every 19 jobs rooted in tourism. And in 2015, we brought in 200 -- 900, excuse me, $910 million dollars, which was generated in state and local taxes. The underlining bill will allow for us to leverage
additional tourism money by allowing the districts to administer a matching --

THE CHAIR:

Senator? Senator, thank you so much, but it is getting very loud in the Chamber, and I would just ask for a little bit of quiet so that we can hear your good remarks, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Thank you so much, Madam President. So, essentially, the underlining bill will allow the districts, if they so choose, to establish a matching grant program, once again to leverage private funds and to further promote a very robust industry. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further? Senator Henri Martin. Senator Martin, please.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this bill. I think -- I believe most of us have some type of nonprofit tourism in our communities or perhaps it's a performing arts organization. I, personally, in my districts -- district, I have the Clock Museum in Bristol. I have the Carousel Museum along with the Lock Museum in Terryville, Thomaston Opera House in addition to the Railroad Museum of New England. So, these funds, the way that they're being planned to be distributed as a matching grant, would be huge to each of these organizations should
they apply and raise the money for them. So, I rise in support of this. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Martin. Will you remark further? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If I may, just a question or two to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you. Through you, Madam President. When the grant is matching, is there any type of a competitive grant process, or it's once the dollars are raised then they are automatically matched? And who is the matching entity? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Thank you and through you, Madam President. So, the dollars that are garnered to each of the three districts in the tourism area can, if they so choose, establish this mechanism to provide a match. It so happens that, as you know so well in following
the history of the budget -- that there was a time when we were not providing any money into the tourism districts, and it was through the ingenuity of one of the districts that they went out and actually talked to all of those entities -- those designations in their district -- and asked them if they would be interested in trying to participate in promoting their -- their destination as well as the district. They had a great response, and so as a result of that, they came to us and said this is a model that worked for us, and we were able to raise significant amount of dollars to promote -- to continue to promote our district, and so we wanted to share our experience and offer it as a model that maybe the rest of the state could use. And so, that was the genesis of this proposal, and it simply allows them, if they so choose, by virtue of a district to use some of their tourism money to create a matching grant program to once again leverage private funds so that they have even greater ability to promote their destination and their district. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hartley. Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And through you, as we are embarking on the closure or the completion of our budget for the biennial, has the dollars amount in the tourism's account -- have they increased, are they remaining the same, or have they decreased, if the good senator's aware? Through you, Madam President.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Thank you, Madam President, and through you to the senator. We have flat funded -- I think the word that was used in the budget presentation was "at historical levels." I -- that translates into as it had been in the past. Thank you. Through you.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

I thank the senator for those answers. I wanted -- I was concerned that we may be providing a false hope by passing legislation today that would -- would allow -- I'm glad I was misunderstood -- that the tourism folks could come in, once they matched -- raised that dollars, the state would match that, but it's actually those individual tourism things that would match it within their constituent areas. And I think what a great -- since if they've already tested it, it works. And I know that we're all aware of, and we've heard many times, especially since I actually stopped in for the first time at the Tourism Caucus last week and they changed their name to include the arts -- and it was very well received by the audience members there -- but for every dollar that we invest in tourism, $4 dollars goes back to the state. So, anything we can do to help tourism help themselves and showcase what Connecticut's all about, I certainly support. So, thank you, Madam President. I thank Senator Hartley for those answers.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Senator Witkos. Will you remark further?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

With apologies to Senator Witkos, I'd just like to make a comment on this bill please. Thank you, Madam --

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The history of the tourism districts goes back a long way, and we have good money into the districts now for three -- for three such opportunities. The new contracts that they'll be willing to -- they'll have to sign in order to receive the state allocation, limits the amount of administrative costs for them to spend out of that -- out of their budgets. And so, this is a good opportunity to spread the money around throughout the communities to actually maximize the multiplier. So, I'm in full support of this, and I urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Formica. Will you remark further? Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Thank you, Madam President, and if there is no objection, I would ask that this be put onto the Consent Calendar, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing none. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 30, Calendar No. 209, Senate Bill Number 1039, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the bill before us makes a small change to the statute concerning our -- the statements of financial interest that certain public officials and elected officials have to file. The bill before us would make it clearer that the names of dependent children who are listed on a statement of financial interests could be maintained confidentially. Those names would no longer need to be disclosed if this bill were to move forward. Thank you, Madam President, and I hope that my colleagues will support this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Flexer. Will you remark further? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This bill's a very simple bill, as was just stated by the Chairman. It increases the protection and safety of dependent children. It has bipartisan support. It passed out of the committee unanimously, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If there is no objection, I move that we place this bill on our
Consent Calendar. Seeing none. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 32, Calendar No. 224, substitute for Senate Bill Number 533, AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO DIAPER CHANGING STATIONS IN PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS. There are amendments.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Yes, Madam President. I also ask the Clerk to read LCO No. 7126. Would the Clerk please read the amendment?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.
Madam President, this bill proposes to place a changing station in both what now exists obviously in female restrooms but also in male restrooms. As we know, we live in a world where there's a lot of single fathers who need the ability to change their children. And also, we've moved and progressed as a society where we, as men, also have a responsibility to change the diapers of our children, and I'm sure my female colleagues here appreciate that very much -- the equity that exists in that. So, I think that it obviously highlights where we are as a nation, where we are as a state. I ask that -- that this be accepted, and I encourage my colleagues to enable 'em to do that.

The amendment that was proposed was proposed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, where they suggested that this be exclusively for new construction, and I think that, as a caucus, we think that that's a mighty fine suggestion and we consent to that amendment. So, what we'll move from this point forward is that for new construction, you will see male changing -- you will see in male restrooms, changing stations or there will be unisex bathrooms that will have changing stations in them as well.
Thank you, Senator, and the question is on adoption of the amendment. Will anyone remark further on the amendment? If there's no further remarks on the amendment, let me try your minds. All in favor of the amendment, please signify by saying aye. ["Aye" in background] Opposed? [Background talking] So then, we would order a roll call vote on the amendment. No, sorry -- okay, the amendment is adopted. And, Senator Bradley?

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

If I could call a matter, Mr. Clerk, to please read another amendment. I believe it is amendment file number, oh, LCO No. 7083.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. [Ringing]

CLERK:

LCO No. 7083, Senate Schedule B.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Thank you, Madam President. So, this particular amendment just gives a timeline as to when this will take effect. We're looking at a timeline of January 1, 2020, as -- for new constructions moving to that day forward will have that timeline to make sure
that those changing stations are located in the unisex or male restrooms.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the amendment?

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

No, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the amendment? If not, the question is on adoption of that amendment. All in favor of adoption of the amendment, please signify by saying aye. ["Aye" in background] Opposed? Amendment is adopted. Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

So, moving to the heart of the -- of the bill you're -- Madam President -- I think I've elaborated plenty as to what it entails to do, what it proposes to do, and I'd ask my colleagues to please vote for it. And if there is no objection, I ask for it to be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no -- ah, Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

(I'm not sure why this -- okay, there we go.) Thank you, Madam President. I just have a question for
the proponent of the bill. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, Senator Bradley, prepare yourself. Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes, thank you. In reading the bill, I believe the language -- I don't have it in front of me -- read to the safety and -- to provide a safe, sanitary place to change your child. And I would like to know what standard or what method are you going to use to provide that this particular surface is sanitary and safe? What are -- what is the requirements to provide that?

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

I think that it's gonna be the same level of sanitary safety that we currently have in place. And I don't want to kind of expound upon what those sanitary levels are because I would be lying to my fellow colleague, but I think that those -- those stations already exist in female restrooms, so the same standards that are currently in place are gonna obviously be also transposed to now the unisex and male restrooms.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):
Yes, through you, Madam President. Thank you for that answer. My concern is that if we're putting that in the language of the bill, I am not aware of what those sanitary requirements are currently. And, therefore, if we're putting that in the language of the bill, does that leave the establishment owner subject to lawsuits should that surface not be sanitary -- 'cause I cannot imagine it being sanitary. It would be a huge bioload. So, that's my concern that that's actually written in the bill. Through you, if you could answer that. Thank you.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Sure.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Thank you, Madam President. So, again, I think that there are building codes that give us -- or health codes that give us what those sanitary levels are, and I think that we're not looking to change that. We're just simply saying that whatever is in place now in female changing stations -- diaper stations -- is gonna also be the same standards that are gonna be placed in the unisex and male restrooms as well. So, it's -- it's really uniformity there.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Somers.
SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I will just leave with this, which is -- I am not aware of what the sanitary codes are. I don't know whether the current baby changing stations right now have to adhere to certain criteria to be considered sanitary or safe. I don't know if they're inspected by the Department of Public Health, if they swab the surface. And when we put that language into the bill, I think it leaves an open liability for the establishment if they're not providing a sanitary space the way it's written for someone to change their infant, I think that leaves them open to liability. In an age where we're now seeing something like a measles outbreak, I think it's very, very important that we're clear in the language, and therefore I cannot support this bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Somers, thank you. Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

I just -- I just would like to state that -- and I could move it from the Consent agenda and place it as a roll call vote if it pleases Madam President and my colleague -- but I'd just like to simply state for any other concerns with my fellow colleagues is that obviously when it comes to sanitary levels or criteria, I think that we have that in place. I think it would be simply the law of negligence and looking at what a reasonable standard would be when you -- where you were to change somebody. If a facility were to have, you
know, fecal matter or what have you at this place or something that made it unsafe for the consumer, obviously they open themselves to liability. They open themselves up to lawsuits. So, I think the law clearly defines what reasonable standards would be and what a negligent action could be. So, I don't think that this law proposes to change -- to change what has kind of been common law and what's kind of clearly been established as law in the state of Connecticut. So, if any other senators have that, I have no -- I have no problem addressing it further. But seeing obviously there's an objection, then I'd ask Madam President if we could have a roll call vote?

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further ["No" in background] prior to the roll call vote? Senator Haskell and then Senator Hwang.

SENIOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And first and foremost, I wanna thank my colleague from Bridgeport for his leadership on this bill. I also wanna thank the good representative from Mansfield for his many years of work in passing this legislation. I believe it's an absolute necessity, not just for heterosexual couples, as we know the studies indicate and thanks to social justice initiatives moving forward, parenting is becoming more equal and equitable in the 21st century, but it's also a dire necessity for same-sex couples -- for children who have two dads. And Madam President, if I may briefly share that I have a niece, who's almost a year old. Her name is Mimi Haskell, and she is --
she has two fathers, my brother and his husband Dave. When they are out in public, it is very difficult to find a changing station, and it is absolutely a matter of public safety and public concern because too often they have to resort to a floor or a counter by the -- in a sink of a public restroom. It isn't fair to the child, and it also isn't fair to other customers in a particular public building who might be using that -- that restroom.

So, I believe it's absolutely crucial for couples, both heterosexual and same-sex couples in making sure the parenting of the 21st century is fair and equitable. Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Haskell. Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you again, Madam President. As the Ranking Member in Public Safety, I wanna acknowledge the leadership of the Public Safety Committee in the collaboration and the working relationship we have on that. It truly is an effective way in how we do things. And when this bill was initially raised, my concern was it is an important bill for anyone who has gone through the parenting process and understanding the challenges that you have going out to public places to be able to be ensuring the safety and health of your child. There's nothing more important. But then rest against that, my initial impression was what is the fiscal note on this mandate in our community. And I wanna compliment Senator Winfield for being such an advocate in the Public Safety Committee in
articulating some of the nuances of the bill and sharing that there were some considerations to building owners. And this amendment that was just approved on a bipartisan basis reflects again the committee's working relationship in recognizing that this will have no additional fiscal note in our businesses that we will impose this mandate on.

It is a positive direction to ensure that when we, as parents, bring our small children in environments -- can we absolutely guarantee the safety -- no -- but can we ensure a setting and a proper arrangement to ensure that we are at least making an effort. And through this bill, without additional cost burden because it will be on new buildings, it is a step forward to say this is the right thing to do without adding additional costs to our businesses and our landlords. So, this is a direction that I applaud, and I will support moving forward. But this is a way that I wanna thank the leadership of the Public Safety Committee and the membership that articulated that there are solutions that can be reached in this Chamber, and it is good for moving forward. So, thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Bradley -- ah, Senator Cassano, will you remark?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Brief comment. I live over in Manchester. It's the other side of the river. Most people don't cross that unless they're going to Boston, but in a -- I was pullin' into my grocery store a couple of days ago and went into the men's room, and there was a
changer there, and there was a date on it that it was inspected by the town. So, it is something that we all should be doing. It was in the men's room, so would have access, and I was pleased to see that. I would not have seen it. I would not have been aware of it had it not been raised in Public Safety. It's a good bill, needs to pass.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cassano. Will you remark further? Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Madam President, if there is no other further objection, I ask for a roll call vote please.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate. [Crosstalk]

THE CHAIR:

Have all the senators voted? Have all the senators voted? With that, Mr. Clerk, could you please announce the tally?

CLERK:
Senate Bill 533

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THE CHAIR:

Measure passes. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 34, Calendar No. 232, Senate Bill Number 265, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION OF MODERATORS AND ALTERNATE MODERATORS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Yes, Madam President. Madam President, the bill before us changes the length of time that a moderator or alternate moderators in our election their certification lasts. The current law is two
years. The bill before us would change that certification to lasting for a four-year period of time. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Flexer. Will you remark further? Senator Sampson. Senator Sampson?

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Sorry, the microphone's in and out, I guess. This is a good bill before us. It simply, as was stated by the Chair -- Chairman of the committee -- it extends the certification of a moderator from two to four years. It's a good bill because it's gonna save our municipalities some amount of money and make sure that there is adequate coverage for election day when it occurs. I encourage my colleagues to support it. And thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Flexer. SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if there's no objection, I move that we place this bill on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.
SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Yes, Madam President. Madam President, the bill before us comes from our auditors of public accounts. It makes several changes to our statutes to improve the ability of the auditors to do their work with auditing public money and public accounts. It limits the conditions under which waivers can be used for competitive bidding. It strengthens the ability of the auditors to look at certain records of state agencies. It requires that certain private contractors that are conducting state business provide records and any information related to those contracts to the auditors. It makes a few technical changes and makes it clear that this applies to any contracts that are entered into after October 1 of
2019. We appreciate the good work of our auditors, their bipartisan efforts to make sure that state monies are being used efficiently and appropriately, and I hope that my colleagues will support this bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Flexer. Will you remark further? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This is a good bill before us. This provides some additional tools to the state auditors of accounts. They use that ability to help save the state taxpayer money, and I encourage adoption of the bill before us. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the bill? Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Madam President, if there's no objection, I move that we place this bill on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:
Page 35, Calendar No. 240, substitute for Senate Bill Number 857, AN ACT CONCERNING EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLANS SUBMITTED BY CONTRACTORS TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, good afternoon, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. This is a bill that comes to us through the Judiciary Committee. It was a unanimous vote. What the bill does, it mandates that the approval of the plans that are -- that come to the CHRO from contractors be approved within 120 days or conditionally approved or disapproved. If that does not happen, then it will be deemed to either be approved or to -- approved right out or approved -- or deficient without consequence. Within 15 days, contractors will be provided with a written notification of what is to happen with the plan after that point. This is part of a conversation that's been going on for a long time to expedite the process that we have of contracts in the state of Connecticut, and I would
ask all of my colleagues to join me in voting favorably for it.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Will you remark further? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you again, Madam President. If there's no objection, I'd ask that this be moved to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 35, Calendar No. 242, Senate Bill Number 965, AN ACT CONFIRMING AND ADOPTING VOLUMES 1 TO 13 INCLUSIVE OF THE GENERAL STATUTES REVISED TO JANUARY 1, 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you again, Madam President. This bill literally does what the title suggests. It confirms and adopts the statutes suggested in the title. It's a good bill. It came to us unanimously, and I
would ask that all of my colleagues join me in voting affirmatively.

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. If there is no objection, I'd ask that this also be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 45, Calendar No. 300, substitute for the Senate Bill Number 921, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further?
SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Yes, this bill gives advanced practice registered nurses, or APRNs, it adds them to various statutes that currently only reference physician or other healthcare providers. It gives APRNs the specific authority to perform certain actions that under current law are generally reserved for physicians, such as entering into collaborative drug therapy management agreements with pharmacists, and other topics such as matters related to insurance, workmen compensation, and behavioral health. And the behavioral health area APRNs, that relates to APRNs who are certified in psychiatric -- as psychiatric mental health providers. The bill also makes some technical and conforming changes. It was unanimously approved by the public health committee and -- thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Abrams. Will you remark further? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I just have a quick question for the proponent of the bill, through you, if I could?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed. Senator Abrams.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):
I just wanted to clarify for the record. It was stated that this bill adds APRNs to a number of state statutes. I just wanna confirm that those are conforming changes, and that there's no additional scope of practice that's being provided or given to APRNs. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

It is my understanding, through you, Madam President, that this -- that any of these changes are within the scope and practice of the APRNs.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Abrams. Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President, and thank -- thank you for the kind lady for that -- that answer. With that said, I will support the bill. I just wanted to make sure that it was more technical in nature and it's not making any substantive policy change. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further? Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):
Madam President, if there's no further objections or questions, I would ask that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing none. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 19, Calendar No. 147, substitute for Senate Bill Number 812, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRARY (2ND):

Thank you, Madam President, once again. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark?

SENATOR MCCRARY (2ND):

Absolutely. Madam President, this bill makes technical and conforming changes to the education and early education statutes, including replacing the obsolete reference to the Connecticut Law
Journal with the E-regulation systems regarding the place where the Early Childhood Commission must post notice of intent to adopt regulation. Also, Madam President, this bill also makes conforming changes to the statute about executive branch agencies and the agency's heads related to the outdated doors and the Office of Health Strategy and the now obsolete Department of Aging. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to support this measure.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator McCrory. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further? Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Thank you, Madam President, once again. Madam President, since this bill came out of committee with complete support from everyone, I asked that it be placed on the Consent Calendar. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Seeing none. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 3, Calendar No. 41, Senate Bill Number 829, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW VOLUNTARY NEEDS OF THE STATE OMBUDSMAN NURSING HOME PROGRAM.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Maroney.
SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Yes, Madam President. This bill will create a task force to study the volunteer needs of the long -- long-term care ombudsman's program. We have volunteer patient advocates who serve in the nursing homes. In 2003, there were 156 volunteers. We are down to currently only 12 volunteers serving, and so we wanna study ways of increasing those number of volunteers. There are an estimated 26,000 patients in the nursing home; 21,300 of them are estimated to not receive any visits, and these volunteers would serve the needs of visiting them and making sure they're being served.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Thank you, Madam President. I also rise in support of this bill. As Senator Maroney indicated, we have an increasing aging population. There are greater needs in that population, and therefore we need
greater protection. In this current fiscal situation, wherever we can find assistance to meet those needs we should be looking, and this bill actually goes toward that to see if there are any volunteer initiatives to fulfill that role. So, I support the bill and would urge its adoption. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kelly. Will you remark further? Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Madam President, if there is no objection, I would ask that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing none. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 20, Calendar No. 152, substitute for Senate Bill Number 956, AN ACT CONCERNING --

THE CHAIR:

The Chamber will stand at ease. [Chamber at ease]

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'd like to go back to a bill that we'd previously marked PT.

THE CHAIR:

Yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

That would be Calendar page 20, Calendar 152, Senate Bill 956. If we can mark that item go and be the next item of business please?

THE CHAIR:

Yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Is the Clerk in possession of the amendment?

CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of that amendment.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 20, Calendar No. 152, substitute for Senate Bill Number 956, AN ACT CONCERNING GUIDELINES FOR A
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELOR PROGRAM. There's one amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Thank you, Madam Clerk. Madam Clerk, we have an amendment for this bill. The Clerk has in his possession Amendment No. 7133, AN ACT CONCERNING GUIDELINES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELOR PROGRAM.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption of the amendment.

CLERK:

I gotta call it. LCO No. 7133, Senate Schedule A.

THE CHAIR:

Excuse me, Senator McCrory. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I guess we do have an amendment. I believe that we need to bring the bill out first before we bring out the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McCrory.
SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further?

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Yes, Madam President, thank you. Madam President, the Clerk has in his possession Amendment 7133, AN ACT CONCERNING GUIDELINES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM. The amendment asks that in line 1 we strike January and insert the -- the month of July in lieu of therefore.

THE CHAIR:

So, the -- Mr. Clerk will call the amendment again so that everyone is clear.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7133, Senate Schedule A.

THE CHAIR:

So, the question is on adoption of the amendment. Senator McCrory, will you remark?

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Yes, I move adoption.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you. So, the question is on adoption. Will anyone remark further on the amendment? Seeing no one wanting to do that, we will try your minds. All in favor of the amendment, please signify by saying aye. ["Aye" in background] Opposed? Amendment is adopted. Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President -- Madam President, this bill as submitted will have the State Department of Education and the Connecticut School Counseling Association set guidelines and recommendations for the best practices in school counseling. As we know, Madam President, in today's society our guidance counselors are asked to do a lot more things than just guide and counsel students on to higher education. There's much more involvement. So, we're asking our State Department to develop some guidelines for best practice, as amended. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further? Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Seeing there's no more questions or concerns about the amend -- the bill as amended, I ask that this bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.
THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection. So ordered. Mr. Clerk. Ah, excuse me, Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, that concludes the items on our go list. If the Clerk can now please call the items that have been marked on Consent for a vote on the Consent Calendar please?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 3, Calendar No. 41, Senate Bill 829; page 11, Calendar No. 96, Senate Bill 81; page 15, Calendar No. 121, Senate Bill 750; page 16, Calendar No. 130, Senate Bill 922; page 19, Calendar 149, Senate Bill 932; page 19, Calendar No. 147, Senate Bill 812; page 20, Calendar 152, Senate Bill 956; page 25, Calendar No. 181, Senate Bill 1024; page 30, Calendar No. 209, Senate Bill 1039; page 34, Calendar No. 232, Senate Bill 265; page 34, Calendar No. 235, Senate Bill 1041; page 35, Calendar No. 240, Senate Bill 857; page 35, Calendar No. 242, Senate Bill 965; and page 45, Calendar No. 300, Senate Bill 921, Consent Calendar No. 2.

THE CHAIR:

The machine will be opened for a vote on the Consent Calendar.
An Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 2. Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 2. Immediate Roll Call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 2. [Crosstalk]

Have all the senators voted? Have all the senators voted? The machine will be closed, and if the Clerk would announce the tally.

Consent Calendar No. 2

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Bill passes. Thank you so much. Senator Duff.

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, that concludes our business for today. And a good note, there will be no session tomorrow, and so I just wanna wish everybody a Happy Passover and a Happy Easter. And I would just like to mention that there will be a 5 minute Democratic Caucus immediately
following the end of session. And again, I will wish everybody a good weekend, but I before that will yield to any points of personal privilege or announcements. Oh, and then next Wednesday and Thursday, hold for session at 12 and 12:30, respectively.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. Seeing -- ah, Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Just as a friendly reminder to our side of the aisle, we will be caucusing tomorrow morning at 11 a.m., on time. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Again, there will be an immediate Democratic Caucus for 5 minutes right after the end of session, and again wish everybody a very good and happy and safe weekend. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Happy Easter and Passover to everyone. [Gavel]
On motion of Senator Duff of the 25th, the Senate at 4:43 p.m. adjourned subject to the call of the chair.