The Senate was called to order at 1:45 o'clock p.m., the President in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

(Gavel) Good afternoon, everybody. We'd like to call the Senate to order. And it is my pleasure to bring forward Monsignor Schmitz of New Haven for our opening prayer. Monsignor.

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN MONSIGNOR GERARD G. SCHMITZ:

Thank you, Your Honor. Let us pray.

O God, in whom we move and live and have our being, we thought, be with us this day as our State Senate convenes.

In this time of world turmoil and violence, we stand with solidarity with our brothers and sisters of various faith traditions who have lost their lives or been injured while at worship or in hotels in Sri Lanka. We commend them to you in a moment of silence.

Guide our senators this day as they deliberate on issues that are critical for our State of Connecticut and its citizens.
We give thanks for the many blessings that we have in the State of Connecticut and for our beautiful natural resources which are so evident this Spring. With our observance of Earth Day earlier this week, may we continue to be mindful of our responsibility to care for the earth which you created.

Gracious God, protect all who are dedicated to public service, especially our first responders and those in the United States Military. We are grateful for their service and their sacrifice.

Bless and protect us this day. Watch over our coming and our going. Give us the grace to fulfill our tasks to the honor and glory of your name, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much, Monsignor Schmitz. I'd now like to call forward Senator Champagne to lead us in the Pledge. Senator.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

[All] I pledge of 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.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you so much. And it's great to be here. And Senator -- Senator Duff -- Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Madam President, I rise for a point of personal privilege today.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you, very much. I want to introduce to the Chamber, a -- a good friend of mine and somebody who serves the community that I represent so dutifully and tirelessly, and that's our esteemed Probate Judge, Judge Lisa Wexler, who's here with us today. As I'm sure the members of this chamber are well aware, the probate court system serves folks who are in absolute dire need in very tricky situations. And the work that probate court judges do every single day, including Judge Wexler in Westport Town Hall is so crucial to protecting children, crucial to protecting senior citizens at times in their lives when they are most vulnerable. So, I want -- I hope that the chamber will join me today, not only in welcoming Judge Wexler but also her clerk,
Jackie, who's here with us today, as well. Thank you both so much for being here and I -- as I've learned is the tradition here, I hope that the chamber will join me in giving them a warm welcome. [applause]

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Judge. [applause] Senator Needleman.

SENATOR NEEDLEMAN (33RD):

Am I on? Oh, thank you --

THE CHAIR:

There you are.

SENATOR NEEDLEMAN (33RD):

-- Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

You're always on, Senator --

SENATOR NEEDLEMAN (33RD):

Oh, geez.

THE CHAIR:

-- Needleman.

SENATOR NEEDLEMAN (33RD):
It's so nice of you to say that. Point of personal privilege --

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR NEEDLEMAN (33RD):

I'd like to acknowledge our Judge of Probate for the towns -- she -- she'll have to remind me, a lot of towns in the southeastern Connecticut area and one of her clerks, Val Shickel,[phonetic] Jeanine Witkowski [phonetic] Judge Jeanine was elected in a special election and then reelected six months later. She's a fabulous judge. And I knew she was going to be great when she told me that on her law school application she told people that her highest goal was to be a Judge of Probate. So, I want to thank her and honor her for her service, along with her clerk, Val. So, thank you all for coming.
[applause]

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Needleman. Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I also rise to recognize my Probate Judge, Lisa Wexler. But as you have just seen, she does very well for herself in articulating her viewpoints. [Laughter] She's charismatic. She's even-handed. She's an absolute delight, and we're very lucky in the communities that I represent to have her.
But I also want to take a moment to acknowledge all the Probate Judges that are in the -- the -- the capital today, but also back at home and doing the work that they do. It is important to recognize that they are, in most cases, the first point of contact for family members going through the emotional loss of family and loved ones. And they are the -- the pillar of patience that guide people through these difficult times. So, they don't always get the credit, but I know for many of the families that they have supported and -- and handled, they are an important part of the healing process. So, I want to acknowledge them and thank them for being part of our system.

THE CHAIR:

Senator, thank you so much. Point well taken. Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I also rise to introduce my Probate Judge, Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas from Milford and Orange. And I'd like to echo the sentiments of Senator Hwang. But Beverly and I are -- Judge -- Judge Kefalas and I are both Rotarians. I know her family, Nick, her daughters Dee and Barbara, and she is one of the most compassionate and sincere people you will ever meet. And I've heard from friends who've unfortunately been going through the probate process of how wonderful she has been with them. So, she's there for people in their times of need and we know that often the -- the probate judges are at a family's worst time. It's when the death of a -- a loved one or children, unfortunately, there are
issues there, and I couldn't imagine someone better to be servicing -- serving our -- our fellow residents in Milford and Orange. So, I rise to thank her and recognize her.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. Judge Kefalas, so nice [applause] to see you. And if you ever have the occasion to go to the St. Barbara's Greek Festival, she will show you around. You'd want her as your guide. Any other points of personal privilege? Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Nice to see you this afternoon. I rise for a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you. I have had the great pleasure of serving in this wonderful position, but would not have been able to do it without the wonderful help of people like our aide, but this year, particularly, we have a wonderful set of interns that help and support us. And I notice one of 'em tried to sneak in on me up here in the galley today. And I'd like to just take a moment to recognize the hard work of Lauren Riley, as she has really made a great impact, not only on the people that she works with but on the process that she's learned and moved forward. She goes to
Eastern, lives in Colchester, and has just been a wonderful addition to -- to our staff. And I'd ask if the Senate would help in joining me and thanking her for that and giving her a warm welcome to the chamber today. [applause]

THE CHAIR:

Any other points of personal privilege? If not, Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, does the Clerk have Senate Agendas No. 1 and 2 on his desk?

CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 1 and No. 2, dated Thursday, April 25th, 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator --

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move all items on Senate Agendas No. 1 and 2, dated Thursday, April 25th, 2019, be acted upon as indicated, and that the agendas be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and Senate transcripts.

THE CHAIR:
So, ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Also for a journal notation, I just wanted to mention that Senator Hartley is not in the chamber, and has not been the last couple of days, yesterday and today, due to the fact her daughter is getting married. And she wanted to make sure that we're aware of that and that she's not in the chamber because she's celebrating something very important and a major milestone in her life.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you and it will be so noted in the journal.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, now for our goal list, I will mark the items in our goal list.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar page 47, Calendar 324, Senate Resolution 27, go. On Calendar page 46, Calendar 376, House Bill 7402, go. On Calendar page 2, Calendar 48, Senate Bill 233, go. On Calendar page 18, Calendar 185, Senate Bill 1020, go. On Calendar page 26, Calendar 247, Senate Bill 1052, go. On Calendar page 27, Calendar 260, Senate
Bill 709, Madam President I would like to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar page 30, Calendar 285, Senate Bill 1067, I'd like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar page 32, Calendar 304, Senate Bill 585, go. On Calendar page 34, Calendar 321, Senate Bill 1104, go. On Calendar page 37, Senate Bill 343, Senate Bill 1105, go. On Calendar page 37, Calendar 345, Senate Bill 1108, go. On Calendar page 41, Calendar 373, Senate Bill 1058, go. And on Calendar page 10, Calendar 120, Senate Bill 893, go. And if the Clerk can please call them in that order. And if the Senate will stand at ease for a moment, please.

CLERK:

Page --

THE CHAIR:

We're at ease, Mr. Clerk. Senator Duff.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I also wanted to mark one more item, Calendar 42 -- Calendar page 42, Calendar 382, House Joint Resolution 162, as a go.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. We were wondering about that one.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

[Laughter] In the order that is on the sheet here please. Thank you, Madam President. And while we -- we'll stand at ease for another moment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if the Clerk can now call Calendar page 47, Calendar 324, Senate Resolution Number 27.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk?

CLERK:

Page 47, Calendar Number 324, Senate Resolution Number 27, RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF AN INTEREST ARBITRATION AWARD BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION, SEIU LOCAL 2001, CORRECTION SUPERVISORS COUNCIL, NP-8 UNIT.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. It's a pleasure, as always, to see you up there. I move acceptance of this resolution and passage of it.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark?

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. This is an arbitration award. It's been adjudicated, already gone through the collective bargaining process, been sent out to an independent arbitrator, and approved through that arbitrator, and is waiting approval through this -- through this body here.

I would like to talk a little bit about the deputy wardens and -- who make up this bargaining group that are creating into an already standard bargaining group. There are 34 deputy wardens who work in Connecticut's prisons. In 2018, the deputy wardens organized and voted to join CSEA, SCIU, local 2001. This is their first contract.

There was some issues that were not resolved during the normal course of negotiations. The deputy wardens in the State entered into binding
arbitration. What is now before the Senate is the arbitrated award as decided by an independent arbitrator. Since State employees do not have the right to strike, binding arbitration is a tool that is -- that ensures positive labor relations within the State. Deputy wardens were not successful in negotiations and they were not successful in some of the issues put forth in arbitration. For example, they did not receive any retroactive pay, on-call pay, or an increase in the wage at the top step.

Deputy wardens are the second in command at Connecticut's prisons, and like many of our local police departments who are organized up to the level of right below the chief, this is a similar sort of set up. Deputy wardens are in, what I would pause it as being some of the most difficult and dangerous jobs. They are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The average life expectancy for a front-line correctional officer who becomes deputy warden is 66 years of age. This is information that was received from the Office of Comptroller in 2005 to 2015. This is 15 years earlier than the average Connecticut resident.

Many deputy wardens currently earn less than the people they directly supervise. This first contract ensures a fair level of compensation. This agreement fixes the problem that will allow qualified people to apply to be a deputy warden. Deputy wardens shared an all previous SEBAC concessions including pension contribution increases, pension changes, health insurance premium share increases, benefit changes, and many more. However, because they were not members of a
collective bargaining environment, they had no voice in the concessions agreements.

By joining a union these working men and women now have a real voice on the job. This contract provides no compensatory pay and deputy wardens receive no over-time pay. This agreement cuts sick time accruals from -- for deputy wardens from 60 days to 30 days. Deputy wardens will receive no general wage increase. They received no general wage increase in FY-16, FY-17, FY-18, or -- and FY-19.

Wage increases that are in the agreement are reasonable but necessary to ensure that we fill the ranks of deputy wardens with the most qualified individuals. The arbitration award sets the salaries for 34 deputy wardens. This agreement adds no new State employees to the State's workforce as deputy wardens are already current employees. Included in the award, is an agreement to pay wage increases averaging 1.08 percent each year over 12 years.

The public safety workers are also eligible for an additional increase for the performance assessment and recognition system. The maximum system average PARS increase equals 1 percent annually over the same 12-year period. Taken together, deputy wardens could possibly receive -- realize a maximum of 2.08 percent annual pay increase over the 12-year period. Between fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2019, deputy wardens received no wage increases in eight out of those ten years.
Deputy wardens also had shared in and continue to share in the SEBAC 2017 concessions. In effect, deputy wardens received pay cuts during this timeframe. Meanwhile, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly private sector wage in Connecticut increased 11.4 percent from 2010 to 2017.

Over the past year according to the most recent State Department of Labor Report, private sector weekly pay in Connecticut has increased 3.4 percent. I also have a breakdown of - of wage and benefits for deputy wardens. 2010 there were no changes, zero percent increase. 2011, zero percent increase, no changes. 2012, zero percent increase, no changes. 2013, zero percent increase, no changes. 2014, it was a 3 percent increase through PARS if they received it. It was done on an individual basis, so not everyone received a 3 percent increase. That was exactly the same thing that happened in 2015. In 2016, there was a zero percent increase, no changes. In 2017, there was a zero percent increase with no changes. In 2018, there was a zero percent increase, 2 percent additional pension contribution increases. In 2019, three sick days lost, zero percent increase. They have a $2000 dollar lump sum payment to workers.

Wage only increase over the past 12 years, 1.08 percent. I don't think that can be stated -- said enough, 1.08 percent. Maximum potential increase through PARS, 1 percent. If you combine the two, a possible increase of 2.08 percent dependent on the individual evaluations of the individual deputy wardens.
Again, deputy wardens do some of the toughest jobs that are available here in the State of Connecticut. They lead statewide correctional programs, something that we count on. Many currently earn less than correctional captains or correctional counselor supervisors who directly report to deputy wardens. I think these people are well deserved of a wage increase.

I think we need to pay our State employees a wage that allows them to be what they are, that is good, taxpaying residents of the State of Connecticut -- good, taxpaying residents of the State of Connecticut.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and I stand ready to answer questions. And I think it will be very easy to see 100 percent of the senators around this circle vote in favor of this arbitration award, an award that's already been adjudicated and gone through the process. Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Osten. Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Good afternoon, once again, Madam President. Thank you. I rise for a question or two and some comments and discussion on this item, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.
SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you. Good afternoon, Senator. And thank you for your passion on this issue. And I couldn't agree more that deputy wardens are so deserving of our respect here throughout State government, throughout the General Assembly. And I know that it's particular importance to you as one of your many careers has been spent supporting our great correctional institution.

I rise from a different perspective than you do on this particular issue. This is the fifth expansion of our Union's roles this particular session. And I want to go back, as the State has to defend against these wage increases, to the information that was provided to us on a submission by Secretary Brown, yeah, Brown -- Ruten, misspelled the name, I'm sorry, with regard to the defense that the State made, particularly the comments by the OPM Secretary which are found on page 4 of that particular submission. Then Secretary Barnes focused his testimony where he highlighted the overall Connecticut credit rating and heavy tax and debt burden, was not sufficient to support this particular raises. He also testified that Connecticut has the third worst credit rating of the 50 states and the impacts on their ability to borrow and obtain funding.

Other issues raised by then Secretary Barnes included the declining population, the out-migration of millionaires, the aging population, and appreciable budget gaps, and he testified in opposition to this. With regard to the fiscal note, my question to you Senator Osten, through you, Madam President, would be the 1.8 percent that you
quoted, I didn't understand if that was for the past 12 years or for the future 12 years. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Formica. Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. It's since 2010 through the ten year of this particular contract. And I would also like to comment on the fact that my colleague stated in his opening statement that they deserve our respect. Respect is empty and hollow if it is not followed up with compensation. Respect is empty and hollow if it does not mean anything. We can't just talk the talk, we have to walk the walk.

Quite frankly, these people deserve a pay raise as commiserate with the other people in the State of Connecticut. And as you also talked on the State of Connecticut's financial standing, as has been said, the many changes that this body has made over the last four years has increased our financial standing in the -- in the eyes of Moodie's and other rating agencies. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Osten. Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you very much. Thank you, Senator. I appreciate that. And I -- I do acknowledge that the
rating agencies outlook has improved for Connecticut, but our rating standards have declined numerous times over the last few years, and have not shown improvement. But with regard to the -- the past 12 years that you spoke from 2010 moving forward, raises were not given to this group because they were considered management. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Formica. Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Through you. These -- these groups were not in a bargaining unit. They were not classified as managers. They've never been classified as managers. Managers have a specific statutory classification -- specific statutory classification. They did not meet that standard. If they had met that standard, they would not have been allowed to join a bargaining unit. The -- the statutory definition of manager requires you to have the ability to hire and fire. To develop policy for the agency. There are four specific standards in statute. They don't meet those standards. And therefore, they are not considered managers by State statute. Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Osten. Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):
Thank you, Madam President. So, thank you, Senator. So, in response to that, the reason that they got no raises were because they were not part of a bargaining unit. And they were just deemed unworthy of raises through the -- those ten years or why did they not get raises through that time? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Formica. Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. And -- and through you. The raises through four managerial employees were decided, not by the -- not by a bargaining contract. So, the executive branch or the Office of Policy Management, and in some cases, the General Assembly made decisions revolving around employees that did not have the ability to talk in concert as a whole voice for particular job classifications. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Osten. Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you Senator for that. Listen again, we -- we know that this particular group and many groups, all of the groups that work for the State of Connecticut work very, very hard. And as I said, this is the fifth such expansion of the Union roles coming. We have ten more to follow. And if I may ask, what is the
budget deficit that is projected for this coming cycle? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Formica. Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. And if we're going to go into the whole budget, which I look forward to talking to you and with you about, quite frankly we -- Connecticut has had its difficult times. It doesn't mean that we pay our people so that we can't have people here. What we have done in order to develop the State budget is, as you well know, we have decreased the number of State employees there are across the Board. I think we're about down 20 percent of State employees now today. That helps our bottom line.

We have developed what is called the volatility cap. I know you know about the volatility cap. We have increased our money that's in our -- our fund balance. We're margining on 10 percent in the fund balances. As a matter of fact, the other day, based on the amount of revenue that's coming into the State, we will see a surplus this year. So, we are working on things on a day-by-day basis. That does not mean that we should not appropriately reward people who will protect us each and every day.

This is a public safety job -- a public safety job where workers should have an ability to be respected and part of that respect is appropriate compensation for the people that put their lives on the line and have for their whole career. And that's what this
is about. That's what this is about. And we need to remember that.

Again, we need to do more than talk about respecting people. We need to respect them with all the tenants that -- that -- that has to do with. And part of that, is an appropriate compensation so that these people are not making less than they were five years ago, ten years ago. We need to pay people an appropriate wage so that they can be successful and stay here.

These people are Connecticut taxpayers. They are part of the group of us that pay taxes here. And they put their lives on the line for us to protect us, to make sure that the most dangerous people in the State of Connecticut who have been incarcerated are kept incarcerated. And they do so without weapons. They do so through interpersonal communication skills. They do so by helping us each and every day.

I'm very proud to have worn the uniform of a correctional person in the Department of Corrections. And I'm proud of these people who do so today, who know that they're on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I think they deserve a pay increase after many years in the last decade without a pay increase. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Osten. Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Thank you, Senator. I might not that the answer to my question was $3.7 billion dollars in projected deficit over the next two years.

I don't know that I'll have further questions for the Senator but I appreciate her time. I will just simply say that the SEBAC Agreement calls for a $2000 dollar cash infusion, than a 3.5 percent raise, followed by -- with a 3 percent increment, annual increment which is otherwise known as a step or a merit increase, followed by a 3.55 percent raise the following year with an additional step or merit increase or annual increment after that. They are, in this particular contract, awarded premium payments for different levels of educational degrees. And also for members who have a -- a skilled premium payment with regard to whether they are certified as emergency medical technicians. So, these -- this -- this bargaining unit is being rewarded as it's moved into the -- the roles that are governed by or negotiated through the parameters that were the SEBAC Agreement as passed by this Assembly in 2017.

My objection is, again, not to the good work that the people do, but to the fact that the State of Connecticut is just having a difficult time right now. And to add more dollars, both in terms of salary, and in terms of benefits, in terms of fringe, and the multiplier that's going to happen on our pension, I think is a difficult time for us to do that. As I said, we're five of these in, we have ten to go. And so, we're just kept adding and adding to the roles.
With regard to the affordability, I would point to the deficiency appropriations that we're going to be discussing I believe tomorrow in the Appropriations Committee, where the Department of Correction, who note by the way in the Arbiter's Award did not budget for this particular increase, is projecting a $36 million dollar shortfall deficiency. Some of which are -- is a $20 million dollar personal services shortfall that we're just adding to in this particular situation.

With regard to the -- to the other shortfalls in the Department of Correction, overall other expenses, show a deficiency and inmate medical shows a significant deficiency, all within this one department. And again, it's not that these workers, these Deputy Wardens, these 34 folks are not worthy of being paid. It's just, we're in an environment where, if this were our homes, or if this were our business, or if this, you know, were our municipalities we would not be able to -- to afford this, and we would find ways to offset and cut this.

So -- so, Madam President, I stand here with the respect of all the state workers in mind, but also the respect of all of the taxpayers, not just those who will receive State wages, but all of the taxpayers in the State of Connecticut. As we try to maneuver our way through a budget deficit, as we try to maneuver our way into the -- into fiscal stability, which by the way, I -- I might add, I thank the good Senator for reminding me of the volatility cap because -- because it reminds me of the good work of the historic bipartisan budget that we are operating under today, that has a spending cap. And the spending cap calls for us to spend a little bit less next year. And yet, the -- the
personal service line items due to the increases in the SEBAC Agreement wage increases are showing a $300 million dollar added expense for next year. So, I ask the circle to be mindful of this. And I urge rejection of this resolution today. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Formica. Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

So, seeing as I have one senator that's opposed to this Arbitration Award that's gone through the collected bargaining process, I would ask for a Roll Call Vote. [laughter] And I would remind people that the total on this contract is, total dollars, $579,206 dollars. That's for people who haven't had a raise in a decade, and I urge my colleagues to support this Arbitration Award that has gone through the process duly have, I believe, proven themselves to be employees and, as taxpayers themselves, should be awarded this contract.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Senator Osten, did you say toll, only kidding, on this. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, this is the fifth or sixth contract that we have had of increasing wages. It's not that these people don't deserve to
be paid fairly. That is something we all can agree upon. And as Senator Osten, certainly knows, this is a hard line of work. The question is, what we're giving is a contract that I would argue is not keeping pace with what the real world is getting out there, 3.5 percent increase and all the other increases in there multiplied to 7 percent increase is something that is continually burdening the State of Connecticut. And when you look at what we're doing, everyone here talks about, once again, the fringe benefit is crushing this state.

Let me just give you an idea from 2006 to 2018, the fringe benefits have gone up 5.1 percent to our budget. On the same token, human services, all those social services that we want to support and need to support only went up 1.4 percent. So, these fringe benefits are outpacing the core services we want to fund for the State of Connecticut. And the reason why the raises weren't given, right or wrong, was because this body said, we can't afford these raises at this time. All these contracts so far, are the direct result of this chamber and the one downstairs, and a Governor who has said, we're tapped out. We just can't afford to do it. And now, we're putting into a contract that is going to go on to at least 2021, if not further, and say that these increases continue.

And I don't know how many of you read the Arbitration decision that was given in this matter, I have. And what is really telling of approving this contract is the following. In virtually every single decision, where they couldn't agree, and the Arbiter came and waited, it said, that based upon the statutory criteria, number one, I find the State LBO to be more reasonable and is so awarded.
So, the question is, what is criteria number one. Criteria number one is, the history of negotiations between the party, including those leading to the instant proceedings. It's a merry-go-round. How do we get off of this? If you're not going to take a stand, particularly as a legislature, that means if we're always going to look at the negotiations that have been going on and the history of the negotiations, past as well as current, we're never getting off this merry-go-round. We're never going to have a case that's an arbitration that says it's less than 3.5 percent, because that's what this legislature proved each and every contract.

We need to take a stand and say, we just can't do it. They're good people, they're hard workers. But we can't afford to do this anymore. And if we don't put our foot down and slow that puppy up, we are setting the state for a stage of no return. That's why, just the other day, Finance is talking about more taxes, because we can't afford where we're going and the obligations that we have to our social services.

Madam President, I show -- the last time I show again, all the waiting lists divided by districts of those people who are waiting for funds for disabled adults that are waiting for money. We are now over $12 million dollars more to this budget; not just this year, but for future years. And as Senator Formica said, we still have ten more contracts to go. I just don't understand where we're going. I don't understand how we stop this, other than the legislature say, we've got to stop. Arbiters understand what we're saying. We can't continue down this path. We'd love to, but we can't. And until we decide to stand up as a legislature, as one
group and say, enough is enough, we need to redo where we're going.

And I might add, that's what Governor Lamont said. He said, we can't continue down. I'm going to be a tougher negotiator when it comes up in 2021. Well, if the Arbiter in his decisions time and time again refer to criteria number one, past negotiations, then I would argue, he's going to have a tough time negotiating contracts when the Arbiter says, well, gee, those came up in front of the House and the Senate, they approved 'em. What's the problem? That's past negotiations. That's approval of what you're doing is right, and they're going to use that against the State.

So, Madam President, I was going to say, I don't beat a dead horse and I've already done that, so, I'll end by saying that we need to think long and hard what we're doing with the state economically. And I would suggest that voting for this is not a vote to say that these workers don't deserve praise for what they do and consideration for the hard work, because it is hard work for what they do. But there's a whole set of other folks who also have a story to tell on social services and high property taxes that are also a part of this when you make this decision. So, I urge rejection. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, I rise up in -- in strong support for the approval of this Arbitration Award. And it was determined by a neutral third-party Arbitrator as we know after hearing from both sides and balancing the -- the equities, these 34 Deputy Wardens are -- and again, this is not adding new -- any new employees to the state workforce, and what it amounts to is a pay increase averaging 1.08 percent for each year, over 12 years. This is a -- a very modest increase in the aggregate when you look at the -- at the length of the time period covered and factors in for how long a period of time and how many years they went without raises at all; almost as bad as the legislature.

The -- the public safety workers here are also eligible for an additional increase through the performance assessment and recognition system in some year. So, the average increase in -- in that -- that category equals also about 1 percent annually over that same 12-year period. So, it would be a maximum of 2.08 percent annual pay increase over that 12-year period, going back to -- to 2000 -- to fiscal 2010. And during this period, they received no wage increase at all in eight of the ten years. That really is untenable situation under which they've been -- been working. And they also shared in all of the SEBAC 27 -- 2017 concessions including the -- the 2 percent pension contribution increases that began in July of 2017. In fact, that resulted in -- in pay cuts for them in fiscals eight -- fiscal years '18 and '19, with no raises during that period and an extra contribution to make. Meanwhile, the average yearly private sector wage in Connecticut had increased about 11.4 percent in the
aggregate between 2010 and 2017, moving from about $60 thousand to over $67 thousand dollars a year. So, there is -- is just a plain equity on the side of -- of recognizing the hard work and service of these employees who, in many cases now, earn less than people whom they are supervising. And that -- that SEBAC Agreement in 2017 provided over $24 billion in savings over -- over 20 years through the wage freezes, the furlough days, the pension healthcare changes that were made at the time. Employees saw increased healthcare co-payments and premiums, new restrictions on health insurance, increased pension contributions, increased contributions toward retirement healthcare benefits; all of which the -- the Deputy Wardens participated in.

It is really a matter of fairness and a recognition of the quality of the work that they do and the fact that their compensation really has fallen behind equitable levels in the -- the year since fiscal 2010. I think it -- it's -- it's important to recognize that -- that state workers should be fairly compensated for the work that they do, especially those who are in demanding and stressful positions as -- as these workers often are.

I think it's -- it's unfortunate, to often, Madam President, that we have, you know, arguments about state employee contracts or Arbitration Awards, damaging polarization set up arguing against the provision of benefits for state workers even when those are quite modest. Because they -- it's pointed out that in some cases they're not now, necessarily, available under private sector contracts. My answer to that would be, is that there should be a whole lot more strong union
organization in the private sector rather than that union employees in the public sector should not see their awards -- not see their efforts rewarded. So, I would -- would strongly support this award. I think it's fair. I think it's equitable. I think it's something that will, I think, at least restore some equity for this category of employees, very small group, 34, and recognizing the quality of the work they do and the responsibility they bear in supervising others. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Looney. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, we will open the machine. And Mr. Clerk, would you please announce a Roll Call Vote?

CLERK:

An Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. An Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Senate Resolution 27. An Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Senate Resolution 27.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the senators voted? Have all the senators voted? We will close the machine. And the Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Resolution 27.

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Those voting Nay 14
Absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

(gavel) Motion adopted. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, we had an item on our Consent Calendar, Calendar Page 27, Calendar 260, Senate Bill 709. I'd like to remove that from the Consent Calendar and PT that item.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Thank you, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 46, Calendar Number 376, House Bill Number 7402, AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS DISPLACED BY HURRICANE MARIA.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

I'd like -- again, thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:
Will you remark further?

SENIOR Osten (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, this is not -- this is a Bill that fixes some technical problems which did not allow the money appropriated in fiscal year '19 of about $500 thousand dollars in the DSS budget to assist Puerto Rican, United States citizens who had been displaced by the awful hurricane, Hurricane Maria. In the language, there is an adjustment listing the correct location of the Caribbean youth leaders as being in Bridgeport. Similarly, the budget incorrectly labeled $90 thousand to the Family Resource Center in Hartford, when the money was meant to be directed to the Welcome Center in Hartford.

This Bill does not allocate any new money. All of these funds were previously appropriated in the fiscal year '19 budget. These are merely technical questions. I would urge my colleagues to support this e-certification as already passed in the House of Representatives. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENIOR Osten (19TH):

I believe that this is needs a Roll Call Vote, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you. Senator Bradley. We will do a Roll call, Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Thank you, Madam President. I just -- I just want to highlight for my colleagues here and to Madam President that this is much needed aid. We've received thousands of American citizens who are in need in places like Bridgeport and Hartford, and obviously it creates a huge burden in our school system. It creates a huge burden in our general municipality. And this really goes to satisfy a lot of the basic needs that a US citizen has. And I think, often times, we neglect the fact that the -- the good people of Puerto Rico are United States citizens. So, I just encourage my colleagues here to make sure they have the appropriate outlook and -- and allow this funding to go forward. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Bradley. Will you remark further? If not, Mr. Clerk, would you please call a Roll Call Vote 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 senators voted? Have all the senators voted? Mr. Clerk, if you would please announce the tally and the machine will be closed.

CLERK:

House Bill 7402.

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THE CHAIR:

(gavel) Motion is adopted. Legislation is adopted. Mr. -- Senator Duff, good afternoon.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, for some change of markings, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 18, Calendar 185, Senate Bill 1020, if we can mark that item as PT?

THE CHAIR:

So noted.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

And if -- on Calendar Page 26, Calendar 247, Senate Bill 1052, if we can mark that as PT?

THE CHAIR:

So noted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

And on Calendar Page 32, Calendar 304, Senate Bill 585, if we can mark that item also as PT?

THE CHAIR:

So noted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

And if the Senate can stand at ease for a moment.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, would the Clerk now please call Calendar Page 42, Calendar 382, House Joint Resolution Number 162.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:
Page 42, Calendar Number 382, House Joint Resolution Number 162, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MATT FLEURY OF HARTFORD TO BE REAPPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. The position is a six-year volunteer position. Mr. Fleury was unanimously voted on favorably after his April 9th nomination hearing. He came from -- he -- his schooling is the Yukon School of Business, has an MBA there. Also the Charter Oak State College, he has a BS in business communications, and Yorkshire Community College with an Associate's Degree. He is being reappointed as a member of the Board of Regents. He has also served as the President and CEO of the Connecticut Science Center since 2009 and as the center's Executive Vice President from 2003 to 2009. Madam President, again, Mr. Fleury was voted on unanimously in the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. And I certainly
urge adoption of the resolution. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. Will you remark further on the resolution? Will you remark further on the resolution?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. We need a vote on this resolution, please.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. So noted. Mr. Clerk, would you please announce a vote on the resolution, and we will open the machines.

CLERK:

An Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. An Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, House Joint Resolution 162. An Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the senators voted? Have all the senators voted? The machine will be locked. And would the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 162.
Total number voting 32
Those voting Yea 31
Those voting Nay 1
Absent and not voting 4

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, would the Clerk call an item that I had previously just marked as PT, Calendar Page 32, Calendar 304, Senate Bill 585.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. And Mr. Clerk, would you please announce the tally on the resolution, please.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 162.

Total number voting 32
Those voting Yea 31
Those voting Nay 1
Absent and not voting 4

THE CHAIR:

(Gavel) Resolution is adopted. Mr. Clerk, would you please return to the Call of the Calendar?

CLERK:
Page 32, Calendar Number 304, Senate Bill Number 585, AN ACT CONCERNING AIR QUALITY MONITORING IN TOWNS NEAR THE CRICKET VALLEY ENERGY CENTER.

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:

Please proceed. Will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I ask to yield the floor to my good colleague, Senator Kushner.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to remark on Senate Bill 585, and it's, AN ACT CONCERNING AIR QUALITY MONITORING IN TOWNS NEAR THE CRICKET VALLEY ENERGY CENTER. And this is a Bill that would provide for a baseline air quality study of the area prior to this plant going online. And it would ask -- it would require that Deep Wood provide technical assistance and support and a municipality
that purchases, leases, or is provided with the use of air monitoring equipment for the purpose of a baseline study.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kushner. Will you remark further on the Bill? Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

So, in having had this yielded to me, I neglected to bring out the Bill, so I would like to move the acceptance of the Joint Committee favorable report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. The question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

I'll go back to my previous comments. This is a great Bill that will provide for a baseline study of air quality in areas affected by a new power plant.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kushner. Will you remark further on the Bill? We will stand at ease. I understand that Senator Miner would like to speak. So, we'll stand at ease for a moment while we wait for Senator Miner to remark. Never mind. [laughter] So, will anyone remark further on the Bill? Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):
Present -- Madam President, if there's no objection, I move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, if you could return to the Call of the Calendar?

CLERK:

Page 34, Calendar Number 321, substitute for Senate Bill Number 1104, AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER NEUTRALITY IN THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Noon -- good afternoon, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon.

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

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage. Will you remark further?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Bill before us would establish a commission to review the texts of our State Constitution and to recommend the removal of any gendered language within our Constitution. This commission would be made up a variety of people who have expertise on constitutions. And I think it's an important conversation to be had in our state, so that our State's Constitution is up-to-date and inclusive of all of Connecticut's citizens. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Flexer. Will you remark further on the Bill? Will you remark further? Senator Flexer. So, are we going to do a roll call on this?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Yes.

THE CHAIR:
Okay. So, with that, Mr. Clerk, would you please ask for -- call the roll and the machines 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 Bill 1104. 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, Senate Bill 1104. An Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the senators voted? Have all the senators voted? Mr. Clerk, the machine will be closed. Will you please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Bill 1104.

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THE CHAIR:

(Gavel) Legislation passes. Mr. Clerk, would you continue with the Call of the Calendar.
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the Bill.

The question is on passage. Will you remark further?

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Bill before us extends nondisclosure protections to certain victims of family violence, crimes in our state to ensure that the safety of family and domestic violence victims can be protected, and that we have laws that encourage victims of family and domestic violence to come forward and don't do -- don't chose to not come forward out of fear that their personal identifying information may be disclosed. The Bill enjoyed strong bipartisan support in our Committee, and I'm hopeful that my colleagues here in the circle will choose to do the same. Thank you, Madam President.
Thank you, Senator Flexer. Will you remark further? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you and good afternoon, Madam President. So, this Bill came before the GAE Committee and we passed it out of the Committee unanimously, and we did so with my support, because I believe very strongly in the concept that was just put forth by the very talented chairwoman of the Committee. And I want to just acknowledge that I am struggling a little bit with this vote, because I just spent the last 15 minutes or so kind of reviewing the testimony, and we did have some folks speak in opposition, mostly from the press and also from the Freedom of Information Commission.

And this Bill is really a balance between protecting individuals who may not have any culpability in a domestic or family violence situation because of another provision in our law dealing with dual arrests, and the right of the people, the public, and the press to know about that arrest. It's a -- it's a difficult situation. And I don't know how really we could develop a policy to balance it fully in a way that respects both positions.

I'm going to support the Bill today. I just hope that we are not back here because it's gone too far in the future, and we have too much gone down the road of restricting the press's ability to inform the public about records, which many would argue they have the right to have access to. I hope that
the public benefit of protecting the victims in these cases outweighs that. And thank you for the opportunity to speak, Madam President. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. It is great to see you up there this afternoon. I appreciate the concerns raised by my friend and colleague, Senator Sampson, the ranking member of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. But I also want to acknowledge that it's been a tremendous pleasure working over the years with Senator Flexer and battling domestic violence in our great state of Connecticut. And actually, just over the last two years coming to grips with the dual arrest problem.

And in so many ways the state of Connecticut has been a leader when it comes to reforms, to drive down the incidents of domestic violence. We have reform, police response to domestic violence matters. And finally, we got grips on how to respond so that we don't have this outlier of having too many dual arrests as compared to other states in the United States of America.

So, I think that on balance, as much as I respect freedom of the press and the fourth estate and people's right to know, I think that I'd rather err on the side of protecting individuals that are involved in these pernicious incidents that can
really ruin lives if they're not addressed in a holistic and proper manner.

And I am so proud that our law enforcement officers have embarked on the training to allow them to work with the reforms that we worked through the Judiciary Committee over the last two years. And again, I stand in strong support of this Bill this afternoon and urge my colleagues to support it, as well. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I want to thank Senator Kissel and Senator Sampson for their remarks on this Bill and their -- their -- their work on this issue in -- in general. And if there's no objection, I would move that we place this Bill on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 37, Calendar Number 345, substitute for Senate Bill Number 1108, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE CONCERNING CONSUMER PRIVACY. There is an Amendment.
Thank you. Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage. Will you remark further?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Bill before us would create a task force to look at our state's laws concerning the protection of consumer information, people's personal information, and their data. It would -- the task force would look at these issues and also look at an existing law in the State of California and see if there are measures that the State of Connecticut could adopt to ensure that our laws are the best at protecting the personal information of consumers in our state here in Connecticut. The Clerk is in possession of an Amendment, LCO Number 7538. I would ask that the Clerk please call the Amendment and I be given leave of the chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO Number 7538, Senate Schedule A.
THE CHAIR:

Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption of the Amendment. Will you remark further?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Amendment before us a Bipartisan Amendment and I thank Senator Miner for his recommendation here. It makes a small change to the language of the Bill regarding the timeliness of the work of this task force. And I would encourage my colleagues to support this Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Will you remark further on the Amendment? All those in favor of the adoption of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:
Opposed. Amendment is adopted. Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, 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. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Before we place on our Consent Calendar, did one of our senators want to speak on the Bill? I'd like to yield to Senator Sampson.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson, we got our signals crossed, so please proceed.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Not a big deal. This is a -- a -- a noncontroversial Bill. It's simply a task force. I just wanted to get up and speak briefly in favor of it. When this Bill originally came to the GAE Committee earlier this year, it was a much larger, 30-page document, on a -- on a controversial, but very important topic, which is consumer privacy as it relates to how citizens interact with corporations; something we're all concerned about. It's something we all know definitely needs attention. The problem is that I
think that the -- the Bill got a little ahead of itself, and was not ready for primetime. This task force, I think is the proper step in the right direction. Let's take a look at this issue, make sure that we have the facts necessary to right good policy in the future. And I wholeheartedly support it. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. And we'll ask one more time, is there any objection to placing this on the Consent Calendar? Seeing none, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 41, Calendar Number 373, substitute for the Senate Bill Number 1058, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSURE OF TATTOO TECHNICIANS. There is an Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daughtery-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 further?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):
This Bill is for the licensure of tattoo technicians. It just clarifies that adding the requirement that they would have to have some compliance with the DPH's infection prevention and control plan guidelines, as well as, some criteria for supervision, including that the supervising technician have up to two years -- or I'm sorry, up to five years of experience and be limited to supervising only two students. There is an Amendment, and I would ask that the Amendment be read by the Clerk, and please [laughter] --

THE CHAIR:

That's good -- Mr. Clerk, would you please call the Amendment. Apparently --

CLERK:

LCO Number 7383, Senate Schedule A.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you. The Amendment just reinstates a previous requirement for two thousand practical training and experience hours before licensure that was inadvertently left off of the original Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. The question is on adoption of the Amendment. Will you remark further on the
Amendment? If not, we will have a voice vote on adoption of the Amendment. All in favor please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed. The Amendment is adopted.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Madam --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Could we stand at ease for a moment?

THE CHAIR:
The Senate will stand at ease. Mr. Clerk. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, would the Clerk now please call Calendar Page 21, Calendar 208, Senate Bill 683.

THE CHAIR:

Senator, would you like to mark the Calendar first --

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Oh, I'm sorry.

THE CHAIR:

-- for the court policy.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

I have to mark that go, and if the Clerk can please call that next. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Great.

CLERK:

Page 21, Calendar Number 208, Senate Bill Number 683, AN ACT CONCERNING A PENALTY FOR LATE PAYMENTS
OF STATE CONTRACTORS BY THIRD-PARTY ENTITIES. There is an Amendment.

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. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Bill before us would create a monetary penalty when dealing with state contracts for third-party entities that do not receive their payments in a timely manner after the primary state contractor has been paid. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment, LCO Number 7537. I'd ask, leave of the chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

And why don't we have the Clerk, before you do that, please call the Amendment, and then you can remark after that. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO Number 7537, Senate Schedule A.
THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams. I mean, Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Amendment before us, again, comes from my good colleague, Senators Miner and Sampson. And it just clarifies under the Bill that the -- the penalties would kick in once the initial -- the primary contractor had been paid by the agency with which they held the contract. I encourage my colleagues to support this good Bipartisan Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Flexer. The question is on adoption of the Amendment. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Will you remark further on the Amendment? If not, all in favor of adoption of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed. The Amendment is adopted. The question is on passage of the Bill as amended. Will you remark? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):
Thank you, Madam President. I just want to speak in favor of the Bill now that it's been amended. This is a good Bill to begin with. It basically essentially protects contractors who are doing business with the State of Connecticut by making sure that they are paid in a timely manner.

The Amendment that just passed fixed an omission in the Bill that made sure that we were not forcing folks to -- to make payments before they, in fact, received the payment from the State. And I'm -- I'm pleased the Amendment passed. It makes a good Bill even better and I encourage adoption. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further on the Bill? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, I rise in support of the Bill. I want to thank the chairs of GAE for introducing this Bill. I had received many complaints from different parts of the state from nonprofits who are not being paid on time and slow to pay. And I think this incentive will move them to pay these providers on a more timely basis. So, I thank both of them for this bipartisan support.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Moore. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Senator Cassano.
SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I was not intending to speak but this is a -- this is not just a Bill. This is a significant Bill. I can remember years ago when -- when I was a Mayor, I think Ella Grasso might have been the Governor at the time, and we were like three years behind in the payments to drug stores for medical supplies, and so on. And we have had a long history of that in the State of Connecticut. If this Bill does what I think it says, in that it says, the State will pay its bills on time, and then the contractors will get paid on time, that is, in fact, a major step forward for this state. And I'm pleased to see it. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cassano. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Senator Flexer, would you like a roll call or would you like to place this on the Consent Calendar?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Madam President, if there is no objection, I move that we place this Bill on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing none, so ordered. Mr. Clerk. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Senate stand at ease for a moment, please?
The Senate will stand at ease.

The Senate will come to order. Senator Duff.

Senator Duff, if we can call a Bill that I previously marked PT -- Madam President, yes if we could still stand at ease, please.

We'll be back at ease.

There will be an immediate Senate Republican Caucus. An Immediate Senate Republican Caucus. There'll be an Immediate Senate Republican Caucus.

The Senate will come back to order. Senator Duff.

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if the Clerk can now call on item that I previously marked PT at Calendar page 27, Calendar 260, Senate Bill 709.

THE CHAIR:
Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 27, Calendar Number 260 substitute for Senate Bill Number 709, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY CYBERSECURITY.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

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

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. The question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Madam President, I'd like the Clerk to add Amendment LCO Number 7536. Will the Clerk please call the Amendment?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO Number 7536, Senate Schedule A.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Bradley.
SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Thank you, Madam President. In regard to the Amendment, Madam President, we're looking to strike line number 49 and 48 or 48 and 49, and add language allowing the Adjutant General to have himself or his designee present on this task force, and also allow for the Chief Court Administrator, himself or his designated -- I'm sorry, Madam President, designee on the task force, as well.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will -- will you remark further on the Amendment?

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

No, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. The question is on adoption of the Amendment. Will anyone remark further on adoption of the Amendment? If not, all in favor of the adoption of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:
Opposed. The Amendment is adopted. Now, the question is on passage of Amendment. Will you remark?

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Just briefly, Madam President. This is an outstanding piece of legislation that was really brought forth by Senator Hwang and I want to commend him for the hard work that he's done on -- on -- on working on this. We've had some really compelling testimony during our public hearing from high-level officials from the Obama administration who came forward and talked about the danger that we face not, only as a state, but as a nation when we don't protect some of our very most important assets like our utility and our government, and so forth.

I think we've all had seen the news of -- of Russia interference, of possible hacking, both domestic and foreign, and these are things that we really have to take a look at and see how we can go about protecting things that are -- are really of the utmost importance to use as a nation and as a state.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in strong support of this. I want to take a moment to thank the leadership of the Public Safety Committee for their vision in citing this Bill. But I also want to acknowledge the administration through its
Department of Administrative Services and of Public Protection to -- to offer their expert input on this. I want to particularly thank Arthur House, the Chief Cybersecurity Officer for the State to offer his input. This is a task force that will get the best of the country to -- that resides in Connecticut to offer their input and give us a roadmap to address this important issue of cybersecurity. I urge passage. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further on the Bill? Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

If there's no objection here, Madam President, I ask that this be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, would the Clerk now be please call the items on the Consent Calendar followed by a vote, please?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

The Chair: Yes. Would you please, Mr. Clerk, call the vote? And the machines will be open.

Clerk: An Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar Number 1. An Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar Number 1. An Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar Number 1.

The Chair: Senator Duff. Mr. Clerk, the machines will be closed. And would you please announce the tally?

Clerk:

Consent Calendar Number 1.

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The Chair:
(Gavel) The Consent Calendar is adopted.
Mr. Clerk, if you would continue with the Call of the Calendar.

CLERK:

Page 2, Calendar Number 48, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 233, AN ACT CONCERNING COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTS AND THE PRODUCTION OF HONEY AND MAPLE SYRUP. There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If we can PT this Bill and go on to the next Bill, I think this Bill will be ready once that Bill is done.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 10, Calendar Number 120, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 893, AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR HEMP PRODUCTION. There is an Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. 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:

The question is on passage, will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of a Strike All Amendment. I would ask the Clerk to please call the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Which Amendment?

THE CHAIR:

If you would specify the number --

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

LCO 7541, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

CLERK:

LCO Number 7541, Senate Schedule A.
THE CHAIR:

Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

I move adoption of the Amendment, Madam President, waive its reading and seek the -- leave of the chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption of the Amendment. Will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I -- we have an exciting opportunity here today, over 40 states in the state -- in the United States, have passed industrial hemp laws. I am looking forward to Connecticut doing the same. It prevent -- presents a really incredibly exciting opportunity for not only struggling farmers in the state of Connecticut, new farmers in the state of Connecticut, but also an entire manufacturing industry. So, I, again am very excited about this Bill and hope to move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cohen. So, the question is on adoption of the Amendment. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Senator Anwar.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):
Thank you, Madam President. I would like to stand in support of this Bill. Like the senator has mentioned, Senator Cohen, that are a number of farmers that are very excited. There are a number of manufacturing groups that are very excited. This will be an excellent opportunity. This is potentially a billion dollar to begin with and a multi-billion dollar opportunity for the State of Connecticut if we move forward with this. And I, also, would urge the -- the entire senate to support this. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I too, rise in support of the Amendment. We heard quite a bit of testimony during the public hearing process. And I would argue that we've heard even more since we had the public hearing on the possibility of providing an opportunity to grow hemp as an industrial product here in Connecticut.

The items that can be produced from this plant include CBD oil which is becoming more notable for its health effects, it's also becoming more notable for use as lubricant, and a number of things: food, supplements in a healthy way. I think we all probably remember that hemp rope or hemp string or -- but in fact clothing is becoming very common place to be made out of hemp, replacements for petroleum based plastic bags, plastic is an adjective rather than a noun, made out of this product, we think has a very viable opportunity here
in Connecticut in that it is a biodegradable as a plant matter. And so, again I -- I stand in support of the Bill. And I would urge my colleagues to support the Amendment. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this Amendment and Bill. And I would just like to say that this provides a huge opportunity, I'm sure for other people that represent rural towns. The rural towns that I represent border the state forest, there's many farms that are non-functioning right now. It gives farmers a new opportunity, seeing as many of our dairy farms have been forced out of business here, to be able to maintain their farms and provide for their families.

Also, CBD oil, just from a public health standpoint, although there's varying concentrations and different forms, the US Food and Drug Administration has just approved a drug based on CBD oil to treat very rare childhood epilepsy. And there's trials right now going on for anxiety, for depression, and anti-inflammatory aspects.

So, I think we have an opportunity, here in Connecticut, because we have the right climate and temperature and soil conditions to be the CBD oil capital, the pioneers, the -- the standard that others will have to live up to. And I think it's a great opportunity for us. And I hope that we have full senate support. Thank you.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Somers. Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):
Thank you very much, Madam President. I would like to congratulate Senator Cohen for her leadership regarding this, as well Senator Miner and all the folks involved in the Environment Committee.

I represent seven communities in north central Connecticut, and for well over 100 years the tobacco valley, which I represent those towns, has been noted for its world class shade grown tobacco. And, unfortunately, in the last few years, some of those seeds have been taken down to the Caribbean and our leadership in the world's production of shade grown tobacco has taken a hit. And so, some of these beautiful hundreds of acres, whether it's Enfield, Somers, Suffield, Windsor, Windsor Locks, East -- East Granby or Granby, they've turned into either areas where there's large warehouses or some of the farmers have turned to fields of solar panels, and while I am certainly not against solar panels, they do not necessarily reflect the pastoral bucolic nature of the area that I grew up in.

And I did grow up in Windsor, first English settlement in the state of Connecticut, no matter what former Senator Doyle said about Wethersfield. Actually, my first job at 14 was picking tobacco. And so, on a very personal level, it's unfortunate, that I see the passage of these farms. Now, they haven't all flipped as of this point in time, but I'm seeing more and more land that is fallow.
And this is a golden opportunity for these farmers to plant a crop that will put us at the forefront in this area. The land of the tobacco valley is some of the most fertile, productive land in all of New England, and I would suggest in much of the country, that's why we led for decades and decades with the shade grown tobacco. To flip it over to hemp will give us a leg up and protect the nature of our communities. They will be beautiful with this crop, and hopefully, for decades to come.

I'd like to thank one of our staff members, Avery Gaddis, because he just informed that the biggest consumer of industrial hemp is the American military. We know that it's used for ropes but it's used for military uniforms. It's used for speed boats. It's used for so much equipment because the fibrous nature of this plant is as strong as the fibers in a tree and it can be harvested and used at a much less expensive cost. And when you marry this crop with the genius of Connecticut, our entrepreneurial spirit, and our ability to do things with what we have, our industrial nature, when you combine them I think there's no limit. So, I'm excited about this. The cost to get into this pilot program is, to my mind, minimal. And it's not dangerous, I would tell my constituents. There's nothing requiring fencing. You're not going to get high on hemp. If this legislature wants to go down that direction, there's another crop where the licensing fees and the ability to get into that is extraordinarily high.

And I heard from my farmers. They said, you're sort of locking us out if the state of Connecticut goes down the recreational marijuana path. Well, here's another path right before us. And it's got tons of
promise. And I got to be honest, I don't know what a spring field of hemp looks like, but I'd rather have this kind of crop out there in my hundreds and hundreds of acres in my district than warehouses or giant fields of solar panels because that's just not the nature of where I grew up.

And I think my constituents will really appreciate the economic benefit of this at the same time it -- it protects the -- the -- the livability and nature of our communities. This is a whole brand-new horizon. I -- I'm really excited about this. And to my knowledge, we jump in here, we're -- we can immediately leverage this and become one of the leaders in the nation. We already have so many industries that work with the military. Here's one fits in perfectly.

So, again, congratulations to the leadership of the Environment Committee. I know that the clock is ticking on this, so that we can get the seeds for this program in the ground at the right time for appropriate germination. But again, I see this as a boon to my neck of the woods and other parts of the state. And this is how we have to start thinking.

You know, shade grown tobacco was fantastic, but I don't think that it has the bright future that it might've once had. Here's a brand-new area that we can lead the nation. You know, 150 years ago, whaling we couldn't survive on whale oil. So, we had to start doing new things. And so, here we are turning the corner in other area. And I urge my colleagues to support this and I will tell my constituents I am strongly supporting this because I think this is a bright future for our state and for
north central Connecticut, in particular. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. And it's a pleasure to stand here today. And I really want to thank Senator Cohen and Senator Miner for all their work on the -- this piece of legislation. I think it's extremely important. It's something that the General Assembly has recognized over the last five years to -- we knew that it was a burgeoning business that we -- that we absolutely needed.

And I can just tell you that a field of hemp is going to just like exactly like a field of marijuana but it is going to be hemp. It's going to be that distance cousin, so don't be shocked. Facts are that are some 6,000 farms in the state of Connecticut with over 406 acres -- 406,000 acres of farmland. Many of the operations are around 73 acres of land, and quite frankly, it's a -- it's a billion-dollar business in the United States.

Fifty-two thousand products are made of industrial hemp. And while CBD happens to be the product that many people are talking about today, I think the rest of the plant is going to provide bulk of the real dollars because there are so many other products that you will see made out of industrial hemp, from construction to motor vehicle parts. It is amazing what you can make out of industrial hemp,
not to include the clothing that is made out of the fibers. This is a product that could be used from the roots all the way up to the flowers at the top. It's extremely important. This will stabilize -- I believe this will help stabilize our dairy farmers who have the predominance of the land.

I -- I think this is a great thing for us to great through. I'm hoping that we can see the Governor sign this Bill within the next weeks, maybe we can get it right over there, so that we can get seeds in the ground for this growing season. It's extremely important to do that, so that we can get out foot into this business and make sure that Connecticut has a thriving business that helps out its agricultural communities, many of which I represent.

I was so thrilled that this was coming out. And I know that Senator Cohen and Senator Miner have spent literally hundreds of hours working to get it through. And I can't tell you the number of businesses that have come forward to say that they're very interested in working with industrial hemp. As a matter of fact, many people in the town that I lived in, have called me and said, hey, listen do you think this can get through this year. We're looking to try to grow hemp on our farm and our land. I think that's wonderful. Again, billion-dollar industry currently in the United States. Fifty-two thousand products made out of industrial hemp currently. I'm extremely excited to see this happen. I ask my colleagues to support this piece of legislation so that we can have another thriving industry in the state of Connecticut. Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Senator Osten. Senator Needleman.

SENATOR NEEDLEMAN (33RD):

Thank you, Madam President. And thank you, Senator Cohen and the rest of the Environment Committee. I think this is an excellent Bill. I want to point out a couple of things. It is a completely renewable crop and -- and there are so many products on the market today made out of -- with CBD, none of which are regulated, none of which are tested. I think this will afford us the opportunity to regulate and control the market that may or may not provide you with products that meet the label claim. So, I think for all the reasons that my colleagues have mentioned, the need to preserve the use of our farmland and give them an additional crop, this is a great opportunity for the state of Connecticut. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Needleman, thank you. Will you remark further on the Amendment? And the question is now on adoption -- Senator Miner.

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

I apologize, Madam President --

THE CHAIR:

For the second time.

SENATOR MINER (30TH):
For the second time. I -- I remember that when we were caucusing the Bill, there was just a -- a clarifying question on Section H, line 191 to 202. And if I could, through you to the general lady, the chairman of the Environment Committee, it's been my understanding that the renewal process, while it requires a fee, is almost an automatic renewal. And the reason the question is being asked is that whether it's the harvesting or the processing of this product, there is certainly going to be a fair amount of money spent, capital, for both of those circumstances. And I just wanted to make clear that it's my understanding that that would be absence some misstep on the part of the farmer or the processor, that means violating the rules of law, the permit would be renewed once that fee has been paid. Is that correct, through you, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Miner. Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you. Through you, Madam President, to my good colleague, that is my understanding as well. There is a biannual $50 dollar licensure fee for these growers. And they would be able to reapply and receive their license subsequent to that $50 dollar fee.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cohen. Senator Miner.

SENATOR MINER (30TH):
Thank you, Madam President. I thank you -- thank the chamber for its indulgence for the second time.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. So, the question is on adoption of the Amendment. Will you remark further on the adoption of the Amendment? If not, all in favor of adopting the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed. The Amendment is adopted. Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And I just want to take the opportunity to thank my good colleagues for their hard work on this Bill as well and for those in support of this Bill today. I just want to reiterate that, you know, per acre, we're talking about $37,000 to $150,000 dollars. This is real jobs we're talking about. This is real money we are talking about for farmers, for manufacturers, and hallelujah, for the state of Connecticut. So, without further ado, Madam President, if there is no objection I would ask that the Bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Thank you, Madam President. Not -- and I'm not objecting per se to be -- this being placed on the Consent Calendar. And I am going to be voting for the Resolution, but I just want to note a lot of urban cities, Bridgeport specifically, that I represent with a great deal of zeal and passion, are often asked by the state of Connecticut to take on its burdens. We have 55 percent of our property that's non-taxable property. We have 55 percent of our property that's a lot of things that a lot of the people in this chamber and the state would not want. Housing projects, state owned property, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. And very -- and very often times, when we ask for things like hey, Bridgeport would like to see a casino, they say no, Bridgeport can't have a casino. Very often times, when we say things like hey, Bridgeport would like to see a rail station so that our people could to go the city or other areas to find gainful employment, they say no, they can't have that.

And I've heard people remark about why they want these hemp farms and talked about things like solar panels which are blithe for some people, talked about things like possibly housing projects being built in the eastern part of Connecticut or other sections of Connecticut where they have beautiful farm lands now. And there's always reservations of wanting to do those things. And I understand this is profitable, and I will be doing that because for the greater good I understand it's that, but we also cannot ask for places like Bridgeport to always
carry the brunt of the burden of the state of Connecticut.

So, I also ask and I encourage my colleagues that when those opportunities come, that they consider the good people of Bridgeport, as well. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Bradley. So, we are back to the placing on the Consent Calendar. I see no objection to placing that item on the Consent Calendar as requested by Senator Cohen. So, that will be so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 2, Calendar Number 48, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 233, AN ACT CONCERNING COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTS AND THE PRODUCTION OF HONEY AND MAPLE SYRUP. There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Clerk is possession of a Strike All Amendment, LCO Number 7546. I would ask the Clerk to please call the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:
Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:
LCO Number 7546, Senate Schedule A.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):
Thank you. I move adoption of the Amendment, waive its reading, and seek leave of the chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:
The question is on adoption. Will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):
Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This Bill is AN ACT CONCERNING COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTS AND THE PRODUCTION OF HONEY AND MAPLE SYRUP. It seeks to remove honey and maple syrup from the cottage food product list and shift regulatory authority from the Department of Consumer Protection over to the Department of Agriculture. This is in agreement
with both of our Connecticut state agencies and
places the authority where it truly belongs.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I, too, rise in support
of the Amendment. The Amendment is more streamlined
than the Bill I think we heard in Committee. It
does establish the Department of Agriculture as
the -- the authority over both the production of
honey and maple syrup. And while I'm pretty dog
gone sure, there haven't been any real issues with
the consumption of maple -- pure maple syrup or pure
honey, it does permit the Commissioner of
Agriculture to adopt regulations and I wouldn't be
surprised that we would see some of those in the
future.

Our hope here is to allow an industry, you know we
just spoke about hemp, I think there are only about
10 percent of the eligible trees in Connecticut that
are actually tapped for the production of maple
syrup, and many of the people that are in this
industry believe that we could rival other New
England states, and this might be very helpful to
get us there. So, I would urge the chamber's
support. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Miner. Will you remark further
on the Bill -- on the Amendment? Will you remark
further on the Amendment? We will now have a voice vote on the adoption of the Amendment. All in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed. The Amendment is adopted. Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If there is no objection, I move that the Bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, that concludes our business. So, if we the -- the Clerk would please call the Consent Calendar and followed by a vote on Consent Calendar Number 2, please.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:
Consent Calendar Number 2.  Page 2, Calendar 48, Senate Bill 233.  Page 10, Calendar 120, Senate Bill 893.

THE CHAIR:

Yes.  Mr. Clerk, if you'd please call for a Roll Call Vote.  And the machines will be open.

CLERK:
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 on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.  An Immediate Roll Call Vote on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the senators voted?  Have all the senators voted?  The machine will be closed.  And Mr. Clerk, if you would, please announce the tally?

CLERK:

On Consent Calendar Number 2.

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THE CHAIR:

(Gavel) Legislation.  Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, as I mentioned earlier, this concludes our business for today. At this point, I yield for any points of personal privilege or announcements.

THE CHAIR:

Any points of personal privilege or announcements? Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'm going to yield to Senator Slap, please.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slap.

SENATOR SLAP (5TH):

Thank you. I just wanted the chamber to know that I was out of the chamber very briefly on personal business.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Senator Slap. That will be so noted. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, does the Clerk have Agenda Number 3 on his desk?

THE CHAIR:
Yes, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 3 dated Thursday, April 25th, 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move all items on Senate Agenda Number 3, dated Thursday, April 25th, 2019, be acted upon as indicated, and that the agenda be incorporated by reference into Senate Journal and into Senate transcript.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move that we adjourn subject to call of the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. The Senate is adjourned. Go forth and govern. (Gavel)
On motion of Senator Duff of the 25th, the Senate at 4:55 p.m. adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.