The Senate was called to order at 12:58 o'clock p.m., the President in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Would the Senate please come to order? And would our members and guests please rise and direct your attention to our wonderful Acting Champlain, the very energetic, Benita Toussaint of Hartford.

ACTING CHAMPLAIN BENITA TOUSSAINT:

Thank you, Ms. Senate Governor. Good afternoon to the Honorable Senators and staff and our honored guests today. May we bow our heads in reverence to God's blessing. Please grant our hearts grace as we come together for our deliberations. As we face many needs to address, give us prudence to be judicious. And the people will say, amen.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much. And I'd like to invite Senator Winfield to lead us in the Pledge.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

[All] I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United
States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Good afternoon, Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, for the purposes of marking please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):


THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:
Page 20, Calendar No. 372, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 920, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES. There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon. Senator 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:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The Clerk is in possession of LCO Amendment No. 10959.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

I move Amendment and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Abrams. Mr. Clerk. The Senate
will stand at ease briefly.

CLERK:

LCO No. 10959, Senate Amendment "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senate will come back to order and Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This Bill makes -- with the Amendment makes various substantive minor and technical changes to the Department of Public Health's related statutes and programs covering some 27 areas. The Bill specifies that certain faculty and students of accredited veterinarian schools are exempt when doing research or studies from a veterinarian medicine licensure requirement. It extends for one year to January 2020, the date by which the DPH must implement the FDA's model food code and makes minor and technical changes related to these laws.

It requires DDS to conduct fingerprint and state and national background checks on job applicants who have been made a conditional employment offer instead of only applicants who will provide direct care to individuals with intellectual disability, makes various changes to EMS statutes such as requiring EMS personnel to meet national training and examination requirements starting in 2020. And it allows DPH to authorize, within available appropriation, an EMS organization to establish a mobile integrated health program under the organization's existing license or certification.
This allows the provider to transport patients by ambulance to alternative destinations, which are medically appropriate facilities other than emergency departments in consultation with the Medical Director of the sponsored hospital. Mobile integrated health exemplifies the kind of changes we should be striving for, because it improves patient care, it's the best use of resources, and it's fiscally responsible. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Abrams. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber, and I'll just amend that and say on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Good afternoon, Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes. Good afternoon, Madam President. This is the Public Health, what people call the aircraft carrier Bill and there's a lot in here. So, I thought it was important to touch on some of the other areas that my good colleague had not touched on. I know there's a lot in here, but I think it's important because Public Health is an important Bill.

So, one of the things that I, you know, in looking at this that is, it -- we've heard about this before, but it does make some technical revisions to the food code to ensure that we comply with the US food code. It works on definition. We've had some issues in healthcare concerning what is a -- a multicare institution, what's a behavioral health intuition, and what are walk-in centers or other healthcare centers? So, it clarifies what each one of those means.
It also looks at the statutes related to the Aids Drug Assistance Program to reflect DPH's assumption of the program responsibility from the Department of Social Services. The transition was implemented in 2018. And CADAP is a pharmaceutical assistance program that pays for medication that is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to treat HIV and HIV related conditions. We thought this is best to be housed in the Department of Public Health.

We also looked at the removal of requirements for budget and state agencies to provide preventative services for children to report the following on at least two prevention services. There's a statement on the number of children and families served and the description of the preventative purpose of the service. We go through any performance-based accountability protocols. These were created when the Child Poverty and Prevention Counsel was still in existence and it is no longer in -- in existence. So, therefore, we don't see a need to continue with reports on a council that is not in existence.

We also looked at updating the list of mandated reporters for child abuse cases and neglect, and the Department of Public Health formally administers the licensure for child daycare and youth camp providers. Previously the mandated reporter statutes spoke specifically to those employed by DPH, but oversaw that oversaw these licensing programs. But that was subsequently revised to reflect the transfer of this responsibility to the Office of Early Childhood. So, we are just updating the statute to make sure that those all are in compliance.

Again, the Department of Developmental Services, we
learned that in the current language, it limits the ability to provide a national criminal history record check on all DDS employees and that they may have access to individuals with intellectual disabilities. So, a modification is needed in the statute to require that the state and national criminal -- criminal history record checks for all DDS applicants who have direct access to persons with intellectual disabilities and -- and that has to be made a condition of employment.

In addition to that, the Healthcare Access Commission is established to develop and design administrative and actually -- and financing details of program initiatives necessary to ensure the availability of appropriate healthcare of all Connecticut residents regardless of their ability to pay. And this program has been monitored by the Healthcare Cabinet and there's a committee of healthcare experts who advise on the office of Healthcare Strategy.

In addition to that, we have information here on the water supply, on wells, as far as what is necessarily to be reviewed when approving for a proposed water system, we need to make sure that it confirms to the Public Health Code. And we have to change -- a change in the definition would ensure that all water supply wells are subject to the requirements of the Public Health Code. This is necessary to ensure that we have adequate and safe drinking water here.

There were some similar revisions to the nursing homes last year. I noticed that the nursing homes language was stripped out of this Bill. Just to be clear on that, I think that's something that
could've stayed in -- in this proposal. There were nursing homes that had not -- that had exempt status from paying property tax. In the last -- in the last revision, there was language that was listed such that, even if you had exempt status, if you read the language in legal terms, a municipality could have applied property tax. So, I believe we're going to hear another Amendment on that.

So, all we're going to do is change the language. So, if you have non-exempt status, a municipality can't turn around and try to charge you property tax because of your non-exempt status. And the language that we will be adding will fix that. So, nothing's changing. If you were -- if you did not have -- if did not have exempt status previously, you're not getting it now; you had to have it before. So, I'm excited that that will be put back in. And there should not be a fiscal note on that.

This also makes some technical changes from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. It will help lift the burden of duplicative visits by non-profit to the statewide lien task -- this is a recommendation out of Statewide Lien Task Force, which has been a wonderful testament to what we can do when we put people on a lien task force. We're starting to actually implement some of their work, which is great.

And we looked through, and it also has some definitions on the consolidation of the examination process from a mix of national level testing and state level testing standards so that they are all in compliance.

We looked at the National Registry for emergency
medical technicians because there are different standards for them. We want to make sure that, if you have the letters EMT, that you are complying with all of them, so, everyone will have the same standards.

It incorporates language from the physical therapist which makes a change to their board. It also is a technical Amendment that has to do with access to epinephrine pens. And there's a request from Leading Age Connecticut which makes -- they handle most of our nursing home, that makes technical changes in the statute that has to do with separating nursing homes and rest homes and residential cares from -- removing that -- this has to do with the Amendment, so I'll skip that for now.

And we wanted to also make sure that the Office of Healthcare Strategy, there's language in here that changes to ensure that they can fulfill their statutory requirements. And that is about it. It's pretty dry. But I thought it's important that most people have a -- a good detailed knowledge of exactly what's in this Bill.

And I fully support this Bill. I hope that all others in the Chamber will do so. I want to thank the Department of Public Health and the fill-in liaison that we have, Jill Kennedy has done an amazing job while someone's out on maternity leave. And thank -- thank her for all this work, because it's very detailed and laborious and, she's done a great job. So, thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Thank you Senator Somers. And I would
like to ask if anyone would -- any other Senator would like to remark on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment? Will you remark further on the Amendment?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Madam -- Madam President, I would like to withdraw that Amendment and have the Clerk call LCO 10597.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 10597, Senate Schedule "B".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to move adoption of this Amendment. And I would like to thank the -- the Ranking Member of Public Health for her -- I think she underestimates how interesting she made [laughter] a somewhat dry Bill. So, thank you very much for that. And I would like to move adoption of this Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on adoption. Will you remark further on the new Amendment that is before the
Chamber? Will you remark further? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment before the Chamber, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

SENATORS:

Opposed.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The Amendment is adopted. Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I think that this Bill and the -- and -- this amended Bill has been thoroughly explained. And I'd like to ask for it to be placed on the Consent Calendar, if there's no objection.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 7, Calendar No. 169, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 906, AN ACTING CONCERNING THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE INSURANCE STATUTES AND INSURANCE PLANS PROCURED BY THE COMPTROLLER. There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:
Good afternoon, Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, Madam President. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment, LCO 10924. I ask that the Clerk please call the Amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 10924 Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This Bill makes a variety of relatively minor changes to the Insurance
Department's statutes as well as to plans procured by the Comptroller, as well as -- and it -- I can detail a few of them and would be to answer questions about others.

It allows the hiring of consultants for rate filings that opts the state into the Interstate Insurance Products Regulation Compact for disability income. It changes the process by which neutral insurers may reorganize into domestic stock companies. It allows for electronic notices. It allows for additional information to be submitted across license types and removes other information requests.

It removes a -- a section of the statutes regarding HMO insolvency. It confirms a -- a portion of the current partnership plan to the Affordable Care Act. Then, it exempts certain accident-only in policies from certain health insurance requirements. And then, it also centralized reporting of 403(b) plan information. I urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of adopting the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

SENATOR:

Opposed.
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THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the Bill before the Chamber? Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. If there's no objection, I'd like to place this on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 5, Calendar No. 128, Senate Bill No. 394, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL ON PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH. There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator 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:

Thank you. And will you remark further?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):
Thank you, Madam President. This Bill establishes a 20-member council on protecting women's health for the specific purpose and focus to be vigilant on federal laws and legislation that might impact women's health in Connecticut. They will be serving a two-year term and they will report immediately to the Public Health and Insurance Committees on Strategies including initiating legislation to protect women's health. The council will meet at least quarterly. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Abrams. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I rise to support the Bill. Although, I know that there is a Governor's Commission on Women and Girls, this will really focus on a specific area. And I think that having a task force that monitors, you know, any changes that may occur is something that we all can look to. I know that we do that now but this would be specifically designed for that purpose.

I would like to say that I think Connecticut does a really good job at making sure that laws are codified in our statutes so that we are not subject to the whims of any changes that may happen on a higher level than the state. But I do think that it has an -- an interesting purpose. And, you know, if done properly could shed some light on maybe some health issues that women suffer from or can be
exposed to, that we haven't even thought of yet.

So, I fully support this legislation. And I hope that the Circle will look at possibly even adding it to the Consent Calendar. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? There has been a request that this be on the Consent Calendar. Seeing no objection, we will add that to the Consent Calendar. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 28, Calendar No. 442, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 996, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO VARIOUS STATUTES CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):
Yes, Madam President. This is a Bill that comes to us through Judiciary. It is the Department of Criminal Justice's Bill. It makes various changes, including, it extends an exemption that allows for law enforcement officials to record private telephone conversations, it conforms the maximum penalty for second-degree assault with a firearm to the maximum penalties that underlie second-degree assault, it extends protections against criminal lockout, and it repeals laws that involve the State's Attorney in a town. Madam President, there is a -- an Amendment in the system and it's LCO 10697, I'd ask it be called and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 10697, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This Amendment strikes Section 4 in its entirety, and replaces Section 4 with some clarifying language on the part that conforms the -- the assault with a firearm in second-degree. It also makes changes to a Bill we did the other night, which was a jailhouse informant Bill. It is largely clarifying and I urge adoption.
THE CHAIR:


SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Great to see you there on our final day of the regular session. Through you, Madam President, regarding the changes to the jailhouse witness Bill, that this Amendment would effectuate, I'm just wondering if from a 30,000 foot level, if the good Senator could just sort of articulate what those are? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I would be happy to so. So, in the current Bill what we do is we strike language that describes the jailhouse witness. What it says is, the person is incarcerated at the time that he or she offers or provides testimony. The new language will say, that the person offers or provides testimony concerning statements made to such person by another person with whom he or she was incarcerated or incarcerated persons who offer or provide testimony concerning statements made to such person by another person who is suspected of or charged with committing a -- a criminal offense. That clarifies exactly who we're talking about. When talking about what we consider hearsay, we
actually spell it out in the Bill to say, that the court shall conduct the hearing at which hearsay or secondary evidence shall be admissible, that language wasn't spelled out in the Bill. And then it makes -- in the original Bill, we refer to the act, here we refer to substitute Senate Bill 1098 further clarify. And then, if the -- later on, one of the final things that we do is, in the original Bill that we had, it said, if the prosecutorial official fails to show by preponderance of the evidence, we strike that and make a prima facie showing, that is what the Amendment does. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much and through you, Madam President, is this language regarding the jailhouse witness provision, was that something that was worked with the State's Attorney's office and while they may not be, let's put it, keen about that new initiative, this may be some -- these are revisions that make it more palatable for the Division of Criminal Justice. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Yes, this language was worked out, the State's Attorneys were involved.
They know what the language is and have signed off on it. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I stand in strong support of the Amendment. It made some changes that are helpful to the Division of Criminal Justice regarding the other Bill, regarding jailhouse witnesses. And also, I believe that the totality of the Bill with the Amendment, would be essentially the criminal justice package or their major Bill for this session. And -- and I'd like to see it move forward. So, at this point I would strongly support the Amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Good afternoon, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I have a question. I'm not -- I don't know if this germane to this Amendment because I know there's a lot of moving parts here on the last day, but I wondered whether or not this was dealing with or has a component to the -- I'm going to sale -- say the jailhouse witness, is that part of this Amendment? Through you, Madam President.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kelly. Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Part of this Amendment does deal with jailhouse witness. It was further conversation what the State's Attorney's Office said, and this language is a result of that. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Thank you, Madam President. And thank you, Senator Winfield. So, this is the -- the Amendment with regards to the -- the -- the part I referenced, I think is at lines 40 through 45 and talks about the change which allows the court to conduct the hearing, at which both hearsay or secondary evidence is admissible, to determine whether a jailhouse witness's testimony is reliable, and that the court is gonna make a prima facie determination considering the reliability of such testimony. Is that correct? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):
Through you, Madam President. The Senator would be
rb
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correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Thank you, Madam President. In this area, and I have no further questions of Senator Winfield. And I do recognize that this is a Bill that has been worked on by many parties, and while it may be a consensus to some, the concern that I have is, looking at the types of evidence that court is going to avail itself of, one of the beauties of the American judicial system is that, when we talk about evidence, the reliability and credibility of evidence is tantamount. And it's critical that you have evidence that is reliable.

Evidence that is subject to hearsay is not necessarily reliable. A founding tenant, a -- a -- a foundation in the American judicial process is a trial by jury, by your peers, by your equals. People who walk in your shoes are gonna look at your case. And courts have very strict and rigid rules as to what type of evidence comes in, just nothing everything. Circumstantial evidence does not come in, hearsay does not come in, secondary evidence does not always come in, because it's not reliable. And the people that determine whether or not that evidence is reliable, is credible, are our peers.

Madam President, this -- this Amendment still has the flaw that was in the original Bill and reason why I did not support it, because it's going to allow a judge to evaluate evidence that is not
normally admissible in a court hearing and to determine, that's what it says make a prima facie, determination the court, a judge, is gonna decide whether or not that evidence is reliable; not our peers, nor our neighbors. That's what our -- our whole system is based upon, to get a fair trial, you need to be evaluated by peers that walk in your shoes. A judge is not that entity. It is not the person in the judicial system that evaluates evidence for its reliability. That is left to the province of the jury.

Because this Amendment blurs that, I think there's an inherent flaw that a judge is going to determine the credibility and -- well, it -- it says here, the reliability of the testimony, so that when that testimony comes forth to the jury, it's already going to have the endorsement of the court as being credible. That's a problem. That's a problem because it doesn't lay a -- a fair and equal -- a -- a fair and equal playing field for the defendant to compete on.

I can see why certain -- I'm going to say advocates want this in the system. But what we have to keep tantamount in this discussion, is the rights and privileges of citizens that we serve, and make sure that, when they have their day in court, that day is fair. I don't believe that this Amendment gets us there.

This Amendment while it's a step in the direction to help that Bill, doesn't quite reform it sufficient enough to give me a high degree of confidence that we're not going to let inadmissible evidence and testimony come before a jury. For that reason, Madam President, I cannot support the Amendment.
THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

And Madam President --

THE CHAIR:

-- for the second time.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Madam President, I would just like a Roll Call Vote on the Amendment. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

And a Roll Call will be requested. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further? If not, as requested Mr. Clerk, please call the votes. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 996, Senate Amendment "A", LCO No. 10697. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 996, Senate Amendment "A", LCO No. 10697. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the
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THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 996, Senate Amendment "A", LCO No. 10697.

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<td>8</td>
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<td>Absent and not voting</td>
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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the legislation as amended that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the legislation as amended that is before the Chamber? Senator Winfield. Senator Winfield.
SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

I'd ask this be voted by roll.

THE CHAIR:

And that is the request. The machine vote will be taken. Will you remark further on the legislation? Will you remark further? If not, Mr. Clerk, please call the vote. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 996, as amended by Senate "A".

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 996, as amended by Senate "A".
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<td>Absent and not voting</td>
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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Legislation is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 39, Calendar No. 547, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1018, AN ACT CONERNING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP. There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Good -- good afternoon, Madam President. What a beautiful day. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Yes. Absolutely, Madam President. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Amendment LCO No. 10663.

THE CHAIR:
Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 10663, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRARY (2ND):

Yes, Madam -- Madam President. Madam President, this Bill aims to identify and address underperforming districts by establishing a new method awarding private school grants by tying grant amounts to -- to performance and -- and including stipulations on what underperforming districts spend their grant amounts on. The hopes to correct the lower achieving program. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. And -- and, sir, do you move adoption of --

SENATOR MCCRARY (2ND):

I move --

THE CHAIR:

-- the Amendment?

SENATOR MCCRARY (2ND):
Absolutely.

THE CHAIR:

I thought so. Excellent. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before us? Good afternoon, Senator Berthel.

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I stand in -- I rise in support of the Amendment and it does exactly what the good Chair explained. And I think it's a -- an appropriate change. It helps us to more efficiently and effectively apply those grants and make sure that we are measuring performance against the -- the money that is being applied to those grants. So, I urge adoption and full support. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed?

SENATORS:
Opposed.

THE CHAIR:

The Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Madam President, just lastly, also the Bill by March 1, 2022, the Education Commissioner shall determine the accountability index has improved over a three-year period. Again, I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Being that there's no opposition, Madam President. Madam President, I ask that this be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 28, Calendar No. 443, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1055, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE JUROR SELECTION PROCESS, PROVIDING ACCESS
TO CERTAIN RECORDS POSSESSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES, CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL AND THE PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD AND CONCERNING SENTENCING OF PERSISTENT LARCENY OFFENDERS, NONFINANCIAL CONDITIONS FOR PRETRIAL RELEASE AND CONFIDENTIALITY UPON APPLICATION TO A DIVERSIONARY PROGRAM. There is an Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Winfield, good afternoon.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is -- is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This is the Public Defenders Bill that incorporates a couple of things. It incorporates a jury selection task force which we'll be looking at, whether or not we have a fair cross section on juries. It also has in the second section that [inaudible - 00:04:28 R06] of the psychiatric -- that are in a -- who's cases are in Psychiatric Security Review Board, anything that they have in their possession, images, recordings prior to a hearing before the Psychiatric Security
Review Board or the Superior Court, those images would be made available to that individual's attorney.

I'm going to skip section 4 of the Bill, because there's an Amendment which will strike it. But section 3 deals with persistent offenders.

Currently, if you have a fourth, fifth or sixth degree larceny, we can enhance your penalty. This limits that to whether you have those crimes in your background but they've happened in the last ten years and you have two of them.

And then, the last sections deal with when the courts conceal the records of a defendant to the public for the Alcohol Education Program, Pretrial Drug Education and Community Services Program. There's an Amendment, that is LCO 8822, I'd ask it be called and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 8822, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This Amendment does the
striking from the Bill that I was talking about in the section that I did not describe. And so, on line 283, it strikes the word, this, and continues on to the next two lines 284 through 286, and it strikes the entirety of section 4, which dealt with conditions of [inaudible - 00:06:07 R06], I urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I stand in support of the Amendment. I want to say that I appreciate the efforts of -- of the Public Defender's Office of reaching out to one of the members of our Committee that had concerns with section 4, in particular. The good Senator -- good Representative David Labriola. I appreciate people get -- coming to the table, working out their differences. This Amendment makes the underlaying Bill that much better and urge my colleagues to support it. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Will you remark further on the Amendment? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:
Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If there's no further comment or question, I'd ask this be placed on Consent. No? Okay. Never mind.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. With that, Mr. Clerk. Please call the vote. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 1055, as amended by Senate Amendment "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 1055, as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 1055, as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 1055, as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 1055, as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:
Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please call the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 1055, as amended by Senate Amendment "A".

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THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'd like to -- to mark -- to -- first of all I'd like to mark Page 15, Calendar 286, Senate Bill 998 as a PT.

THE CHAIR:

So noted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And then, after the next Bill, would like to mark Calendar Page 21, Calendar 383, House Bill 7178. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
And how would you like that marked for?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Marked to let that go. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Very good. Thank you. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 12, Calendar 245, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 945, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INNOVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR NONPROFIT PROVIDERS OF HUMAN SERVICES.

THE CHAIR:

Good --

CLERK:

There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Good afternoon, Madam President, on this last day. It's good to see. There is an Amendment. I move -- Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:
And the question is on passage. Will you remark further, Senator?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Yes, Madam President. The Clerk has possession of LCO 8233. I would ask that the Clerk please call the Amendment and I seek leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 8233, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed to summarize, Senator.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Thank you. I move adoption of the Amendment. Madam President, this makes some minor changes to the document, striking some language out and the putting -- striking out line 3, which talks about the percentage of -- to give back to the nonprofits. And that's the only changes that it makes. I would ask that a motion for adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. And the will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber?
If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment, signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the legislation as amended? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Yes, Madam President. This Bill has been long awaited for many nonprofits throughout the state and many of the legislator legislatures. What it does is it provides a financial incentive to nonprofit providers who are cost efficient and the money that they receive from the state and allows them to keep a portion of it. And it designates eight nonprofits that will be identified through the Office of Policy and Management on who they are, and a percentage of those funds will -- they will be able to retain to use in their nonprofit. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Moore. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):
If there's no questions or comments, I would ask that it be put on the Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to prefer a roll call vote on this.

THE CHAIR:

A roll call will be ordered. With that, Mr. Clerk, kindly count -- call the vote. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 945, as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 945, as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 945, as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

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THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 945, as amended by Senate "A".

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Legislation is adopted. Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

A -- I'm sorry.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. No problem.

CLERK:

Page 21, Calendar No. 383, House Bill No. 7178, AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURES BY REAL ESTATE BROKERS AND SALESPERSONS.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Lesser.
SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, currently there are two different standards that apply to real estate brokers and salespersons acting as agents, about when they have to disclose whom they, he or she, represents. This simply conforms the requirements for residential salespersons to the current standards for commercial agents or salesperson, in fact, delaying the notice requirement, it's designed to allow realtors to provide informal guidance to would-be purchasers. I urge adoption -- passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Lesser. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? If not -- Senator Kelly, good -- good afternoon.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Through you, to the proponent of the Bill, and I was wondering
whether you recall any testimony at the public hearing that talked about why this was an important component that we'd want to embed into state law. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Through you, to the Honorable Ranking Member of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, we did receive testimony in support from the Connecticut Association of Realtors, and I believe it was their contention that this Bill would help protect a realtor's ability to provide informal guidance. And they are looking at the internet as a potential competitor and this would allow actual real-life humans to provide guidance regarding potential properties that are available. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Lesser. Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Thank you, Madam President. And I'm just looking over the -- the actual hearing testimony and basically what I believe we're -- we're looking at and it was the Connecticut realtors that had come before the Committee on, is that we did this with regards to legislation and disclosure in the residential real estate market that would require the disclosure when a party is going to answer into
a transaction -- a real estate transaction with a perspective purchaser that we know who the realtor is representing, and that the individual or entity that you're dealing with is disclosed so that you can see exactly who -- who the real parties are, not just the corporate entity, but the actual parties that are going to be the -- the parties to the agreement. We did this in the real estate arena and I believe that was 2017.

And after we had done in the real estate side, we believed it was important to bring this over to the commercial real estate market, and by virtue of the fact that the Connecticut realtors support this, then it demonstrates that this is something that I think is good for the market, it's good for the real estate market and the stakeholders are in -- in -- believe to this be important.

For those reasons, Madam President, I do rise in support of this initiative and do believe it is a enhancement and would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kelly. Will you remark further on the legislation? Will you remark further on the legislation? Senator Lesser.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Madam President, if there is no objection, I'd
like to place this on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk. Oh. So, we have an objection to this -- putting this item on the Consent Calendar. So, with that, Mr. Clerk kindly call the roll. The machine will be opened. So, we will now move to Senator Fasano, who would like to ask some questions of Senator Lesser. And please proceed, Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Madam President, I do apologize to you. I was held up in another meeting and I was trying to rush out. To you, to Senator Lessen -- Lesser, the impetus of this Bill was created by -- what -- what is the ill that this is trying to fix? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President, to the distinguished Minority Leader, as I understand it, this Bill would allow informal guidance being offered to perspective purchasers of property and I think that the view of the proponents was that the required -- the requirement -- the existing requirement for initial disclosure prevented informal guidance.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Senator Lesser. Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam President. So, essentially it is an attempt to put more of a light on a transaction so people more fully understand where people stand in a transaction, whose interest they represent in a transaction. And therefore, the consumer could understand when certain statements are made, perhaps they can find out what is the objective of those conversations in light of the whole transaction. Is that a -- a fair understanding of this Bill?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

I think that the intent of the existing -- I think the -- the intent of this Bill is to remove some of the restrictions and allow more informal investigation of a potential property. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like -- I'd like to thank Senator Lesser for those answers. Madam President, I am in support of this Bill. And the reason is -- is what the Bill does, it delays when a licensed broker or salesperson acting in --
as an agent must disclose whom he or she represents. Madam President, under current law, a broker or a salesperson acting as an agent in a real estate transaction must, under current law, disclose in writing, whom or she -- whom, he or she represents at the beginning of the meeting about matters related to the purchase and sale or lease, in fact, of property.

Madam President, what this does is -- is not require the transaction until a little bit later on. And therefore, it requires at least that disclosure to made at the appropriate time. Madam President, I think the Bill also allows rather than, as opposed to, requires that the Consumer Protection Agency adopt and implement regulations with respect to disclosure. That's going to allow people to come to a meeting, discuss the pros and cons, how this should be written, what are the things that have to be disclosed, shouldn't be disclosed but all of which is done in the confines of those who probably know this area more than others.

So, Madam President, I think overall, it's -- it seems like it's not a consumer Bill, but in fact it is a consumer Bill. And it can be done with the right parties to the transaction and in the -- in the -- and the information heard at the hearing. So, Madam President, I heard there was a motion for consent, which my intent was not to object to that motion, but just to talk about this Bill for a little bit. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Fasano. Will you remark further on the Bill that is before us? Will you remark
further on the Bill that is before us? And we'll give one more opportunity for anyone to object to -- Senator Flexer -- to be clear. Okay. So please, Mr. Clerk call the vote. The machine will be opened.

MR. CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, House Bill 7178. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7178. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, House Bill 7178. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

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THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 7178.

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THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, would the Clerk -- for a marking please on Calendar Page 25, Calendar 417, House Bill 7126, would the Clerk please call that as the next item, please? And mark that go and then --

THE CHAIR:

Yeah.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

-- mark it as the next item of business. Okay. We did? Okay.

THE CHAIR:

Can you -- can you please repeat yourself, Senator Duff, please?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you. I'm not good at reading notes. Thank you. On Calendar Page 25, Calendar 417, House Bill 7126.

THE CHAIR:

And that is a go, sir?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
That is a go and the next order of business, please.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

MR. CLERK:

Page 25, Calendar No. 417, Substitute for House Bill No. 7126, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARD OF DOUBLE OR TREBLE DAMAGES TO AN INJURED PARTY IN A CIVIL ACTION RESULTING FROM CERTAIN TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. What this Bill does is it permits an injured party to recover double or treble damages in a civil action when a person is operating, driving a motor vehicle and using a handheld mobile device. I urge passage.

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

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I stand in strong support of the Bill and urge my colleagues to support it, as well. I remember that there was ample testimony from a variety of individuals at the public hearing of the Judiciary Committee regarding this particular Bill. We had representatives, I believe, Lincoln Woodard, President of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association testify in its favor. But also, there were several panels of young people, and I apologized to them because they all sort of hailed from one particular shoreline town, but they wanted to come up and talk to us about the problems that they observed regarding distracted driving, in particular. And they first wanted to acknowledge that it wasn't just young people, because the advent of the technology that it's young people that know so -- that are perceived to be more likely to use a cell phone while driving a motor vehicle. But pretty much both panels came up and said, that, in particular, they noticed that what we would call middle aged individuals really weren't taking the issue seriously, and were -- as a matter of course, using their cell phones while driving.

And there was one humorous part of the public hearing where one of the young ladies when asked, had she observed this occur, she said, yes, I see it all the time. It's my mom. And everybody started [laughter] cracking up at the public hearing because she basically threw her mom under the bus. And I think it was her mom that drove her to the public hearing, so she was out in the audience.
But what that really told me was that young people are astute and observing what we're doing here in the legislature and they care. And this one particular school system in this town had somewhere between six to eight students coming to testify. We have seen this mediocre rise in the use of technology. A lot of folks find it hard to believe that when I was first elected in a special election in 1993, that when I entered the legislative office building, nobody had a -- a laptop computer whatsoever. The -- that's was the last two years of the Weicker Administration, and it wasn't until the following Rowland Administration that laptops were incorporated into the building. It was a big deal when Governor Rowland had a laptop in the Governor's Office and was having someone teach him all the different possibilities that were there.

How did we do things? Well, in those first years, of me being here in the legislature, there was a -- a methodology where you could call -- I don't even know if it's still available, my guess is probably not, but you could call a certain number, and there was someone on either the fourth or fifth floor of the legislature office building, and essentially you could use the phone system to dictate a letter. So, if you had a letter from a constituent, you could just call up this number, read what you want it to have, and one or two days later that letter would be right on your desk, and you could sign it, and off it -- off it went. Former Senator Tony Guglielmo who just retired from the legislature a year ago, used to do it all the time. I'm not that comfortable doing dictation, so I think I did it one or two times, but found it a little cumbersome. It's hard to imagine what the legislature was like back then but, you know, if constituents had a
concern, they would give us a call or they would write us a letter and that was about it.

It -- it was not until several -- several years after I was first sworn in, that, based upon what was being done in the city of West Hartford, that at that time State Senator Kevin Sullivan, who had previously been Mayor of West Hartford said, there's this new burgeoning technology where the public gets to actually see what's going on in their townhalls and that might be a good idea to bring into the legislature.

So, I remember those days, as well because, again, when I started serving there were -- there was no such thing as CTN, and they brought in cameras and they were on tripods in each corner of this room. And they hadn't gotten to the point of the mounting and stuff like that, this was just the very beginning of the technology. I'll always remember one night we were going along and, I -- I don't believe the images were being broadcast out of the building, they were merely in the building, but we could actually observe, so you could be in your caucus room on a closed circuit television and see what was going on in the Circle. But the late, beloved State Senator George Doc Gunther, and again, it was late, it was probably after midnight, got it in his head that he would get behind one of the cameras and start zooming in on people's faces as they were debating Bills and if you were in one of the caucus rooms and you started to see this, it was pretty -- pretty funny. A little early history of the CTN network. And look at how far we've come since that period of time.

It is not unusual for me to -- uh -- actually, I
will get texts from my wife who is watching me either in the Circle or in a committee meeting saying, how come you guys are at ease or what is going on? Or who is that person testifying? Because quite often, we're being broadcast in real time, depending on what's going on in the House and the Senate.

And so, depending on the committee that you serve on, or have served on, we've been always in this race to play catchup with technology. And likewise, this would be the case with the Bill that's before us right now, as well. There is probably few better ways to try to minimize the abuse of using a cell phone in an automobile that's not handsfree than affording and -- we -- we don't want victims of injury -- of -- of car accidents or the like, but affording them an opportunity to go into civil court and seek compensatory damages and also double or treble damages because, we, as a legislature, find this behavior too pervasive and extraordinarily dangerous.

In talking about this Bill with some of my colleagues over the last several months, there's an area one, that hasn't stated that as they're coming either to the legislature, usually it's to the legislature in the morning, but it can happen as you're going home, as well, they will see drivers that are just on their cell phones, and they're erratically driving, they're drifting in and out of the lane.

And so, this Bill will afford not only a methodology to pursue damages and again up to double and treble damages in civil court, but also as a response to that really heartfelt outreach by those students
that came and testified that day that said, this is a serious problem. We really want you to try to help us with this. And we want you to take this Bill very seriously. And please pass this Bill. I'm sure some of those here in the Circle understand that I could probably bring us from 1993 to 2019 and -- and take much longer amount of time, but I'm not trying to filibuster this particular Bill because I support the Bill. But I just wanted to put it in context. And so, for those reasons, Madam President, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this measure. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber?
Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of the legislation before us also. I had a constituent, his name was Henry Flynn [phonetic], and he's a gentleman I met knocking on doors when I ran the very first time. And he used to contact me periodically about issues. And I think he was a strong supporter of my efforts here at the Capitol but we always had a great time conversing and talking about the issues of the day. And unfortunately, I was just looking online to try and get the exact details of when all this happened and I believe it was sometime in 2017.

Henry was in Bristol, Connecticut outside of his parked truck on the side of the road where he had been working doing some lawnmowing services for a
client. And the young woman was changing the song she was listening to on her cell phone and looking down and struck one of the lawnmowers that he used in his business and that lawnmower ricocheted and pinned Henry against his truck, nearly cutting his legs off. Sadly, he died because of his injuries later.

And his wife, Kelly, who didn't know until she contacted me afterwards, has been very active in trying to pass increased penalties for distracted driving because we are all aware of the potential for this type of terrible tragedy to occur again. And it seems like similar issues pop up in the news now and again.

And I'm just very pleased to be here, Madam President, today to -- to support this legislation and to do something really to support Kelly and to remember Henry, he was a good guy. And hopefully, this will gain some attention and prevent another tragedy, if people are more concerned about the -- the potential for a greater penalty, but also just the increased awareness of the tragedies that do occur. I would urge anyone listening to really think hard about that story and others like it the next time they're driving in their car and tempted to use their phone. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before us? Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):
Thank you, Madam President. I also rise in support of this -- the passage of this Bill but I do have questions for the proponent of the Bill. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you. Senator Winfield, under 14-296aa, the -- for the handheld devices, are we including all the subsections under the statute?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Through you -- through you, Madam President. It's all of 14-296aa. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And through you again, what I mean by that, is I know when -- when we write tickets under the statute, a lot of times we like to cite the subsections such as -- standby for a second, like subsection (2) or -- or subsection aa, subsection (b)(1) or (2) or (3). And I know one of 'em deals with texting. I just want to make sure
that the texting is part of the overall inclusion in this.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Through you, Madam President. If it's a subsection of that section itself, then it's included. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And -- and thank you for answering that. I have no more questions. The important thing I -- I want to make sure is that -- that texting is included. You know, driving home twice now just from the -- the session at night, I have almost been taken out by somebody on a cell phone. In fact, at one point, the person went from the left lane all the way to the right lane and almost off the highway, simply because they were on their telephone. And to me, it appeared like they were texting. And it is important that we, not only look at making these penalties more, but we should look the actual penalties for the ticket itself. Because a lot of times, when these infractions hit the court, they're dropped. So, the initial penalty, which could possibly change the behavior isn't taken. So, maybe in -- in the future we -- we take a look at that, and maybe we -- we can find
a -- a way of doing it.

I know that my daughter was involved in -- somebody hit her from behind. And there's no doubt in my mind that that person was on a cell phone. And thankfully, she wasn't injured in that accident, but it makes me nervous when I see things like this. We've all been driving down the road. We've all seen people crossing the -- crossing all over or driving in between the different lanes and the danger that it presents.

Hopefully, if the word gets out about this, we -- we can, indeed, tell 'em that, you know, it is treble damages -- double or treble damages. You know, I read through this statute and I see they also have speeding, reckless, driving under the influence, and several other statutes. This really moves that mobile device up a notch. It moves it up to a point where, you know, once the word gets out that this is going to truly affect your insurance rates, hopefully the young people will -- will look at that as well, especially if they have to pay for it themselves.

I could go through and I could talk about the many accidents that I've investigated because of somebody with a mobile device, but I don't need to do that. I think everybody kind of gets that idea. But I think mobile devices are starting to become such a problem, that they're -- they're starting to take over for the main -- one of the main causes of traffic crashes. And to the lawyers in this room, I'm sure that this statute will work quite well for ya. But to the people listening, I hope they -- they -- they do take that into account when they're picking that phone up to answer the -- to
see who it is, because it -- it's just not worth it. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Champagne. Will you remark further on the Bill before the Chamber? Good afternoon, Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. If I may just a question or two to the proponent of the --

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you. Through you, Madam President. I know that when there are exceptions for issuing an infraction if you're utilizing a -- a handsfree device or making a call in a motor vehicle, are these same exceptions applicable in this statute or is this anytime that you're using a telephone? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

And Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Through you, Madam President. I'm not sure I caught the whole question, but I'm going to make an attempt to answer that I think answers the question. The
way this statute is written, it simply adds in this additional section to what already exists. So, it doesn't make any changes to what already exists under the law. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you. So, I just want to understand so this is on a civil action, it says that, only if you're charged for using a cellular device as a cause of the accident, then you can seek double or treble damages? Through you, Madam President. Did I understand that correctly?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Through you, Madam President. Yes, this speaks about on a civil action, if you're charged with using a handsfree device that causes the accident, then you are allowed to have -- have double or treble -- treble damages if you have an individual affected by it. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):
Thank you, Madam President. That -- so that -- I'm all set with -- with the questions with Senator Winfield. That clarified in my mind, 'cause I know that there are certain instances where a -- your -- the ability to make a telephone call is permitted, i.e. you can -- a handsfree device, you can contact local law enforcement, make an emergency phone call. And I think there's one or two other ones exemptions. And those exemptions would still remain in place or are they would prevent law enforcement from ticketing that if this wouldn't trigger this. So, I stand in support of the Bill before us. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon. I think this Bill is quite appropriate given that during the month of April we had designated it as distracted driving month. And what we did in the local communities, through a federal and state grant, was to allow our law enforcement officials with additional grant money to have a much more active enforcement in raising awareness of the dangers of distracted driving, but also the high -- it's one of the highest and most penal laws that we have in this country as it relates to distracted driving, in which the fine is $150 dollars for the first infraction, $300 dollars for the second infraction. And now, recently I think the last number of years, $500 dollars for the third infraction.
Through you, to the proponent of the Bill, I have some additional questions as it relates to the distracted driving law, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you. Through you, Madam President. We have talked about the financial fines of infractions, but through you to the proponent of the Bill, what would be the point penalty for each infraction, because in the State of New York, if you are caught in your first offense of distracted driving, it is five points on your driver's license, which is quite heavy and has proven to be a significant deterrent to re-violation. Through you, Madam President. What is the current point violation for first infraction, second and third in the state of Connecticut?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Thank you -- through you -- thank -- through you, Madam President. So, I was told that while it's not directly in the Bill, I was told that if the ticket is paid, that there weren't points on the individual's license. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Through you, Madam President. Thank you for -- for this information, because that is something I think we should consider. I think when we looked at this Bill in regards of civil penalties of -- of damages, it is a further emphasis on how distracted driving is a huge, huge danger risk to our roads and to our individuals that are driving and to other cars that may be impacted. We've also seen the dangers posed by distracted driving to pedestrians that are walking down the street unwitting to the surprise of having a car that is not paying attention potentially hurting and -- and in some cases killing people, this Bill adds the damages.

But I think, from what I have learned, in the April enforcement -- active enforcement through our law enforcement officials, is the fact distracted driving, texting, and being on the phone happens way too much. We're all very much guilty of it. In fact, I would dare say as the AAA, public trust, as well as research, have pointed out that nearly 90 percent of people say that distracted driving is a bad thing. But nonetheless, that same overwhelming number of respondents readily admit that they do it.

I think this is an important lesson as we discuss this Bill to raise the awareness that no one is immune to the danger and the risk of distracted driving, not the driver, not the passenger, not the pedestrians, not the individuals that may be unwittingly part of this tragedy.

That being said, I -- I think it's important for us
to understand this Bill raises the deterrenacy. If you're looking at increasing risks -- decreasing the risk of people engaging in that dangerous practice, I think this penalty of trebling or doubling the damages is absolutely critical. Through you, Madam President. Again to the proponent, please share with me the idea of that penalty and was deterrenacy a component of it? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Through you, Madam President. If I understand the question, the question asks would the idea behind adding that penalty into this Bill that allows for double and treble damages, I do think that deterrence was a part of it. Although, I will say at this point, I don't remember the original conversations around the Bill. But I do recollect that being a part of the conversation. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this Bill for those reasons and I encourage that if there are other issues and -- and Bills and legislative initiatives that we can undertake to raise the awareness of this danger and to prevent any further tragedies related to distracted driving,
I fully support it and I support this Bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further on the Bill? Will you remark further on the Bill before us? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Madam President, if there's no further question or comment, I'd ask this be placed on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'd like to yield to Senator Leone for a point of personal privilege, please.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And I want to thank Senator Duff for the point of personal privilege. Today, we have a special guest here -- actually two special guests here and I wanted to bring up Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Liput from the Civil Air Patrol and his daughter, Chelsea. They are visiting here today. He also comes bearing gifts. We have
some IDs for our newest legislative members to the Civil Air Patrol and I think a special one for you, Madam President. So, he will come up shortly to present to you your certificate.

And again for the Chamber and for those listening, the Civil Air Patrol is a -- is an auxiliary branch of the United States Air Force. They started back in 1930s in the runup to World War II and while our brave men and women were fighting abroad, they were protecting -- they started by protecting our borders with their small little planes while our military was away. And that quickly grew into a fully blown auxiliary branch, where now you have young men and women learning about the Air Force as part of the Civil Air Patrol, establishing careers, giving them opportunities, shaping the young minds for the leaders of tomorrow. And it's almost like an ROTC program and it's just a wonderful program. It's a -- it's a best kept secret here in the state. We don't want it to be a secret any longer. And that's why keep having them back, so that they can share their story.

So, I would ask the Chamber to give them a warm applause and -- and I appreciate all the efforts that they do for us. [Applause] And just for a moment, the Lieutenant Colonel will come on up and give you your award -- or your membership, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

And I want to just welcome them both to our Chamber. My father and several of my uncles and my aunts all served in World War II, so we just want to say thank so much for your wonderful service to our state, and
welcome your daughter as well, a future leader. And with that Mr. Clerk -- Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President would the Clerk now please call Calendar Page 60 -- I'm sorry, mark it go. Calendar Page 60, Calendar 681, House Bill 7159, if the Clerk would mark that as go and the next order of business, please.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 60, Calendar No. 618, Substitute for House Bill No. 7159, AN ACT ADDRESSING OPIOID USE, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 10686.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on acceptance. Will you remark?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Over the past six years, from 2012 to 2018, we've had a steady increase of opioid deaths among Connecticut residents. In 2016, Connecticut ranked 11th among states in the highest rates of overdoses. However, these statistics are extremely frightening, but we must always remember that each of these numbers represent someone special, a loved one, a friend, a family member, a neighbor. Therefore, we owe it to everyone in Connecticut to fight this surge of opioids because every life is worth saving.

It is with that intention that this Bill comes out as a culmination of the tremendous efforts of many people, from the Governor, to our leadership in both the House and the Senate, to elected officials on the state level and the municipal level, from agencies, particularly the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Social Services.

We've spoken to constituents to business communities, both private and public, and they've all come together. And I think that -- that is reflected in the Bill before us. In this Bill, it requires that pharmacists and pharmacy employees, with certain exceptions, offer counseling to patients about drugs and its uses. And it requires pharmacists to keep records for three years on this counseling, and the patient's refusal or inability to accept the counseling. It allows pharmacists to designate trained pharmacy technicians in consultation with the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring Reporting system to keep track of the drugs that are -- the controlled substances prescriptions that are dispensed.
It requires drug manufacturers and wholesalers to report to the Department of Consumer Protections any decisions to terminate or refuse an order from a pharmacy or prescription practitioner for a Schedule II to V controlled substance. This applies when the manufactural wholesale -- wholesaler has concerns of potential diversion. And it allows the Department of Consumer Protection to designation an electronic system for reporting.

It prohibits life insurance and annuity policies from excluding coverage solely on the basis of an individual having received a prescription for Narcan or -- or bio simulator or generic of the same kind. It's prescribing -- it asks prescribing practitioners who prescribe opioid drugs for more a 12-week supply, to establish a treatment agreement with the patient and discuss the clear -- a care plan for chronic opioid drug use which includes non-opioid treatment options. It also requires higher education institutes, by January 1st, 2020, to provide and maintain a supply of opioid antagonists that are accessible to students and employees, and to adopt policies generally requiring institutions to notify EMS providers after an opioid antagonist has been used.

It requires the Department of Mental Health and Addictive Services in collaborations with the Department of Social Services and the Department of Public Health to review literature on the efficacy of life and substance use disorder treatment service providers, providing homebased treatment and recovery services to individuals with opioid use disorder. And the report is to -- to be -- the outcome of the report is to be sent to the Public

It also requires treatment programs that provide treatment and detox services to individuals with opioid use disorder to educate them on opioid antagonist and their use and to offer education to patient's relatives and significant others. And -- and issue a prescription for and delivery to the patient at least one dose of an opioid antagonist if a program affiliated prescribing practitioner thinks he or she will benefit from this access.

It requires EMS personnel to complete mental health and first aid training. It requires hospitals starting January 1st, 2020 to administer mental health screening or assessment on a patient it treats for a non-fatal opioid drug overdose and it must provide the results of the screening or assessment as medically appropriate to the patient or the patient's parent, guardian or legal representative as applicable.

It clarifies -- it makes a clarifying change to the laws on supervision, certification for alcohol and drug counselors, specifying that behavioral health may supervise -- behavioral health providers may supervise them.

It requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and other relevant entities, to study a protocol for police detaining people whom they suspect having experiences of an opioid overdose and the implications that involuntary transporting people who overdose to ERs and referring them to recovery coaches. It requires
that DMHAS report to the Public Health Committee with this information by January 1st, 2020. 
As you can see, this Bill is quite comprehensive, and I think it needs to be, because this is a serious epidemic in our state and in our country and it needs to be dealt with on many levels. And I thank all of the people, including the members of the Public Health Committee who came together to work with the stakeholders and find the best ways to intervene. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. And I rise in support of this Bill. This is a Bill that is a culmination of work out of the Governor's Office and the Public Health Committee combined into one Bill. And as many of you know, we have passed some significant and very powerful opiate legislation in the past. I think that you will end up seeing each year, a new attempt to create legislation to help us curtail the opiate epidemic that we're experiencing in Connecticut and across the country.

Some of our cities and towns are experiencing a very acute, I'll say symptoms of opiate disorder problems. And as, you know, just yesterday in Hartford, we had a situation where we had 15 people overdose, and five fatalities. But that was fentanyl. And that is something that the Public Health Committee will be looking at going forward. It was interesting, when the Public Health Committee
got together a subcommittee on opiates. We had law enforcement. We had mental health workers. We had clinicians. And one of the things that came to our attention was, not only how dangerous the opiate epidemic is, but it is dangerous for those who care for those who have this addiction. And just the police officer obtaining or touching someone who has had a -- a mixture of perhaps opiates laced with fentanyl can get sick from the fentanyl from just touching some of the remnants of the drugs that may be left behind.

So, I think that each year you will be seeing a new version. This Bill is comprehensive. It touches on many different areas, one of the most -- I think, really out of the box areas that I wanted to highlight was an idea that we are going to be studying what it's like to have a homecare based opiate disorder treatment plan and that's based on a visiting nurse model where you would have a behavioral health nurse, who is trained in mental health and addiction, actually go into the addict's home to check on them, to make sure that their nutrition is proper and that their home is in order, that they are complying with the life skills that they would need to be able not only help with their addiction but to move on to bigger and better things. And it has had success in other states.

This is something that I think the Public Health Committee would love to explore, of course we'd have to figure out how we're going to pay for it. But if we can measure the outcomes in a quantitative effort that show positive outcomes, I think we would be really be ahead of the curb in that respect, because we do know that treatment is difficult, it's long, it's expensive, and it's not always successful. So,
I would like to highlight that in this Bill.

And also, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this. There was a lot of great input from folks on the Public Health Committee, also outside of the Public Health Committee, obviously the Hospital Association, the Medical Society, those trained in mental health. We had EMS providers. We had police chiefs. And everybody is all onboard -- excuse me -- to do whatever we can here in the state of Connecticut to try to curb this epidemic.

And I'm hoping, at some point, we won't have to have an opiate Bill and we would be able to focus on other areas. But until that time, I ask the Circle to join us in supporting this Bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this Bill, strong support. This is personal to essentially everyone around the Circle because we may know within one or two people that within our -- your community, you will know people who have died. This is very real. Just about yesterday, there were about five people who died literally minutes away from where we are right now. And this was all opioid-related. This is preventable and this is going to require literally all hands-on deck.

This Bill is a starting point to try and address the
various weak links, if you will, which are in the system which would allow us to strengthen our capacity to fix this. I could speak on this for hours because I have lost people in the Intensive Care Unit literally one every month from opioid-related deaths. But in the interest of time and to cover more Bills today, I'm just going to say that, I would urge each and every one of us to please vote for this and -- and move forward so we can start to save some lives. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. This Bill was certainly a topic of -- of a lot of discussion and the recipient of a lot of Bill titles by a lot of members of a General Assembly. In fact, there was a Bill in the General Law Committee that basically almost did the exact same thing and it's a mirror of this Bill, except this Bill has a few more extra pieces into it. It was well received at -- at the public hearing, was passionate for the folks that came in and testified. And I think this Bill encompasses all the things that we'd like to do to move the state forward to addressing some of the opioid crisis. So, I urge adoption of the Bill. Thank you, Madam President. Thanks to all those on the other committees that worked on such things -- similar legislation.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Senator Witkos. Will you remark further on the Bill before the Chamber? Good afternoon, Senator Martin, to be followed by Senator Champagne.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise for a few questions to the proponent of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir. Senator Abrams, prepare yourself.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam President. Through you, Madam President. Has the -- since we've -- the public in particular, has been made aware of the opioid epidemic, how has -- has there been significant gains in dealing with the -- with the opioid epidemic itself? Through you, Madam --

THE CHAIR:

Senator --

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

-- President.

THE CHAIR:

-- Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):
Yes, there have been.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

What -- what is there still to do, in your opinion? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

I'm sorry could you repeat that?

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

In your opinion, what do you feel we still need to do? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Martin, thank you. Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

I think this Bill carefully spells out all of the things that would be the next step.

THE CHAIR:

And Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):
Thank you, Madam President. And do you think that this -- this Bill, in itself, and maybe you could elaborate a little bit regarding how it will impact what we need to deal with. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Through you, Madam President. This Bill, I think is very comprehensive and it's understanding of the problem of opioid uses disorder, bringing together a lot of different agencies and trying to look at it from everywhere from higher education and what they can be doing, to EMS workers, to hospitals, to pharmacists, to the agencies themselves, looking at what literature is out there and what programs are out there to report back to Public Health for the next session, so that we can continue to move forward. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam President. And I have no further questions for the good Senator from the 13th. And I'd like to ask a few questions from the Senator from the 18th, please.

THE CHAIR:
That's fine. Senator Somers, prepare yourself. Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Thank you. Through you, Madam President. I believe you mentioned something regarding in-house or in-home behavioral health program. Can you describe a little bit about that program and how it would work to address the opioid disorder? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes. Thank you. Through you, Madam President. The -- this is an idea that came to the Public Health Committee during our subcommittee that we had focused just on this particular Bill. And it is a new idea. It is done in some other states. I believe Colorado is a state, if I'm remembering correctly. And what it does -- probably the easiest way to describe it is, it takes the idea of a visiting nurse model where they go into the home to change a wound or to make sure that somebody is looked after surgery, or if they're elderly. And it brings that model to the idea of someone who is already through detox. But instead of having somebody go into a facility or having to go someplace every day to get treatment, both for, you know, their mental health but also their addiction, the -- the nurse who is an advanced practice nurse who has a specialty in mental health and addiction,
would go into the person's home or where they're living.

And the value to it is, just like a visiting nurse, if the behavioral home nurse -- we haven't really come up with a title yet what it would be called, would go into the person's living condition, they could check on them, maybe three times a week. They could make sure that they are complying with their medication routine. They could also -- being in someone's home or the place that they live, gives a really intimate view as to what's going on, rather than having that person come to you, you're able to look at the living conditions, making sure there's the appropriate food in the refrigerator. You also have an opportunity to see, you know, if there's anything sitting around on the table that shouldn't be, you know, the whole picture is much more clear when you're in somebody's personal space, so to speak.

I know that when I used to take of wounds, when I would into somebody's house, I would always make sure that they -- look in their fridge, make sure they're eating properly.

And it just gives you another level of an assessment. It has been very successful, because these individuals are trained in that specialty, they form a -- a relationship with the patient who is going through the -- the process of becoming some who will always be an addict, but is coming through the process of coming off opiates. And it has shown to be -- as I said before, successful.

We would love to be able to pilot that. We talked about that. We just -- we're not able to locate a
grant that would fund it. But I think, if we could find pilot money or find grant money to be able to establish this type of system, it's new, it's cutting edge, we could really measure the outcomes as far as when somebody's gone through the process, is it a 30-day program where the -- the nurse goes in. What are the outcomes? Does someone move on from there? Are they able to, you know, be all out more independent without this type of medical supervision? Because sometimes the outcomes are not great for somebody going through rehab so to speak, for 30 days, is just not enough. So, we have to look at that. That -- that person also could be the key to help that individual hook up with the services they may need going forward. And I think it's definitely a value to look at something different than what we are doing, because what we're doing does not necessarily work for every individual.

So, thank you for that question. I'm hoping that maybe next year we'll come back with a defined model. But this at least gives us an opportunity to study it. Thank you. Does that answer your question?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam President. Somewhat. It sounds like it's not in the Bill what you're describing. But it's sort of an idea for something that we could address in the future, the program that you just described. Through you, Madam President.
THE CHAIR:

Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes, that's correct. It is just a study right now to look at it. But it is something that we would like to advance in the future.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam President. It seems like the industry itself is -- is going towards homecare. And it sounds like the model would be in-line with what we are trying to achieve, particularly in cost savings in going to -- to homes rather than having the individual go to an -- to a facility itself. And I would think, in that program, and I'll just ask this, for something that you may want to consider when you start talking about such a program is, if that individual, I don't know if it's a nurse -- I'm assuming it will be an nurse or a --

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Uh-huh.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

-- qualified nurse or regardless if it's in behavioral health, specifically, but should that
individual go to a home and there is some type of abuse, child abuse, having sat on the Children's Committee for a few years and having dealt with someone who -- who died -- a child who died in one -- in my district, there was a reporting that was done and, unfortunately, because of the systems that we had in place, the flags that -- myself being a layman now, I haven't read the report, I realize that geez, here's a flag. Here's a flag. Here's a flag. But yet, that child was allowed to drop through the cracks. So, my question is -- my question is would that be part of the program that the whoever that person is visiting, noticing something within the household would be required -- and -- and if some type of child abuse, as an example, would it be mandatory reporting that would be required? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Martin. Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes. Thank you. Through you, Madam President. All clinical workers, whether a nurse, a doctor, you are a mandated reporter. So, if they saw something that you've described in the house that they were visiting, if this -- something like this were to come to fruition, then absolutely, they would have to report it.

And just to go over the -- what's written in the Bill, just so we can be clear, is that this is the review concerns providing medical assisted treatment -- and these are Medicaid recipients who visit an emergency room due to a -- a suspected
overdose and they -- with a primary or secondary opiate use disorder diagnosis, they'd have to be obviously diagnosed with a disorder and an emergency room doctor or other physician determines that this patient has a moderate to severe risk of relapse, that would sort of be the criteria for this type of program to go forward.

So, the idea is to provide consistency and support and -- and medical background to be able to help that individual not relapse, not go back to using opiates. And I think it's something that we should definitely explore.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam President. I was informed that I should -- should've asked the good Senator from the 13th to yield to -- to the -- Senator Somers. But I am at the end of my question -- questions. So, thank you so much. I appreciate the answer from both of you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I have a question for the proponent of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Abrams, prepare yourself. Proceed, sir.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Through you, Madam President. I have a question about line 35 in the Bill. It talks about the pharmacist -- the pharmacist having to counsel the patient or somebody coming in to -- for the drugs that are on their prescription. Is this -- what -- what kind of drugs are we talking here?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Through you, Madam President. They would be -- it's for any drug that would be an opioid-based drug.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Okay.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And -- and I looked under Section -- through you, Madam President. I looked under Section B of -- of this and -- and I didn't see it said opioid. I may have missed it, though. I guess my question is, is how -- how long does this counselling have to last? Through you,
Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

First of all, I just want to make a clarification that they are to offer the counselling, it's not required. A -- a person can refuse to participate in that. And the counselling is -- is just to discuss with them the -- the -- the drug itself and the use of it.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you for that answer. And I -- and I can see that they can refuse it. I -- I guess, it also says that if I refuse, they're going to keep a log of this along with the prescription. So, I -- I -- I didn't know if this was -- how long you're going to keep this or -- or -- or what the purpose of keeping that log is for? Through you --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

-- Madam President.
SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Through you, Madam President. It would be three years.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And through you again, and -- and the purpose of having to keep it?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

I believe the purpose is to maintain a record so that we can see if people were being appropriately informed about the drug and it's use and the consequences of it. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And I guess that leads to my next question, even though we -- we keep track of this, how do we know what they're asking? What they're counselling? Are we giving out a form to tell them what to say? Through you,
Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

There -- through you, Madam President. There is a recording that's made, I believe it is, through a form of some kind. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Okay. Thank you very much. And -- and -- and I guess that was -- that was one of my concerns. And -- and I guess, the other concern is, have we talked to the pharmacists or -- or the small businesses that -- owners of the pharmacies about what kind of time limits this is going to take up and if it will hurt their businesses? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Not to my knowledge, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.
SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I am for anything that will stop the opioid problem that we have. Again, we lost five here. This -- this year, we've lost several -- several people in my area in -- in -- in the 35th district, in fact, Stafford has been hit quite hard. And in fact, the -- the good Senator that sat in my seat for 26 years lost his grandson this year and a very sad situation.

I just want to make sure when we do this, that we do want to make sure that the pharmacists are onboard, that they're going to have enough time to -- to -- to counsel and -- and -- and it's not going to hurt the businesses. You know, it'd be great if we had a -- a -- the -- the form typed out, so if somebody refuses, we could just either put it on the paperwork that they take with them or provide 'em with the form. But I'm -- I'm going to support this Bill anything, like I said, to help with this problem. But I -- I -- I wish we did reach out to those small businesses. Thank you, Madam -- Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Champagne. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before us? Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. First of all, I want to commend Senator Abrams for her hard work in putting together quite a large Bill, Public
Health Committee, as well Ranking Member Senator Somers. I clearly want to touch bases on a lot of different areas. But I have a couple specific questions, through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

I was going to accompany Representative Carol Hall and two other folks from the town of Enfield to the public hearing, but had General Law at the exact same time and we're voting on marijuana legislation, so I haven't figured out how to clone myself in this building or the LOB yet.

But it was a -- she was going up there with our current Enfield Police Chief, Alaric Fox who used to be Colonel in the State Police, and former beloved Police Chief Carl Sferrazza. And one of the things that Representative Hall and myself had spoken of about with Chief Fox, and as a concern is that, when the police actually go and get someone that has this problem and they bring them to an emergency room, quite often, they'll just turn around and walk right back out.

And there may be some nuance in Massachusetts law where, somehow they can be detained for a certain period of time. And -- and especially when it's young people, a lot of times their loved ones, could be a spouse, could be parents, go to the police and they say, can't you just hold them overnight, so that they don't hurt themselves, again? And in
speaking to the -- the good Police Chiefs, they have said it's not uncommon that they'll go out, pick someone up, detox them, you know, with the pen or however, they do it and bring them to the emergency room, and then a couple hours later, they're back at the scene.

And so, through you, Madam President, is there anything in this Bill that addresses that conundrum that seems to be facing loved ones and law enforcement out there regarding this opioid addiction crisis? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Through you, Madam President. I do remember their testimony actually at the public hearing. And -- and we've heard from a lot of different groups who have split -- who have expressed the same concerns. At this point, we felt the best way to go with that was to create a study, a short-term study that will be available before our next session, so that we would have an opportunity to act on it, to hear more information about it involuntarily transfers and involuntarily commitments, even for a short period of time, for people who are overdosing. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):
Thank you very much, Madam President. And thank the good Senator for her response. And through you, Madam President. I apologize you may have stated this when you did your excellent recapitulation as to what's in the Bill, but who are the members of the study group? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

The study group is going to be done through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services along with the Department of Public Health and any other relevant entities. It would be a working group again, like we've done before. And the members of the Public Health Committee would be involved, too, to pull that together. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much. And through you, Madam President. So, the two Police Chiefs, former Chief Sferrazza, current Chief Alaric Fox, if they wanted to have input to this, could they submit testimony or would there be public meetings? Is there any opportunity for folks that aren't official members of the study group to offer input and ideas? Through you, Madam President.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Through you, Madam President. Absolutely. In our last working group we had local law enforcement members as a part of it, and their input is incredibly helpful. Thank you. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much. I have no further questions. I think that's an excellent approach. The Lieutenant Governor is probably going to be familiar. Actually -- when you were -- when Lieutenant Governor was marching in our Memorial Day Parade, I pointed out the street that I live on, which basically goes from Pearl Street up to Enfield Street, and it's pretty quiet neighborhood, except when it's morning rush hour or people are going back home like 5:00 o'clock to 6:00 o'clock, and that's just road traffic. But people familiar with that part of town, just in the last, I'd say year, maybe a little more than a year, all of a sudden there were like a ton of police cars and firetrucks at the bottom of my street which is a one-way street. You can -- you can take the Enfield, Suffield, Veteran's Bridge from Suffield across, go across Pearl Street up through Terrace to Enfield Street. And so, it
was down at the base, just about a block from the Carnegie Library and -- which is at the bottom of Franklin, which is the other one way direction, and there was a dead body there.

And -- so obviously, you know, I have a 23-year old and 15-year-old, there's a lot of other families that have younger children in the neighborhood. There's not a lot of crime, knock on wood. So, it was sort of shocking and it was like a Sunday morning, what's a -- a dead person doing just at the bottom of our street. And ultimately, it was determined that this person was wandering or stumbling from the Thompsonville section of town and, apparently, was under the influence of an opioid and -- and died there. It was not foul play or anything else like that. That really brings it home as to how close this is geographically and as far as our community goes.

It's also not unusual to hear stories. I mean how heartbreaking. I have heard this a couple of months ago that Senator Guglielmo, nicest guy in the world, and, you know, being in this Chamber for 26 years and then until I decided to seek this term, he was always ahead of me because he got in at the regular beginning of the session 26 years ago and I have to go through a special election, just the nicest guy and what heartbreak for that good Senator to lose his grandson to an opioid overdose, someone that we love and care about and served with for many, many years.

So, this is insidious. I -- it -- it -- it crept into our society quietly and doctors were making these prescriptions. And I don't think anybody was acutely aware as to how addictive these drugs are.
And now, you know, there's almost the sense of anger that we are turning back to these drug manufacturers to come up with a remedy. And some people sort of lay the blame at their feet. But we, as a society, embrace this. You know, we often think about miracle drugs and pain killers and just think that, you know, advances in this field are the way to go. And Connecticut is a state that had many of these manufacturers.

So, one of the things that was stated in our Judiciary Committee, because we indeed had Bills regarding opiates, as well, was that every single year in Connecticut, more people die of opioid overdoses than Connecticut lost in the entirety of the Vietnam war. And that's just a staggering thought. There are places you go throughout the state of Connecticut -- I was at a -- a camp called Workcoeman on a volunteer project, helping spruce up the camp, and the cabins were actually named after fallen Vietnam war veterans, sort of brought it home. But think of how many young men and women we lost in that war and how it tore the state apart. And people were acutely aware of those losses. Yet, it's almost like we're inured to the opioid epidemic. It's almost like, you know, it's on the back of page seven.

I was shocked when I read in the Journal Inquirer this week, that someone had given someone, it was either fentanyl or an opioid and the other individual died. And so, the dealer was sentenced to two years, just two years. But I'm not so sure that harsh penalties on the dealers, while I think in some instances would be completely appropriate, but this is a multiprong issue that we have to approach.
As the good Senator indicated, Senator Abrams, that there's, you know, coaches out there -- recovery coaches, that if the individual does not want to turn their life around or at least make the first few steps, there's very little you can do, you can't really force them. It doesn't work. I mean you could probably force them to stay in the emergency room area for a certain number of hours. But that doesn't mean the problem is going to be solved. It just means that this individual is sort of segregated from the rest of society until they go back into the cycle.

So, I don't want to belabor it. I know that time is fleeting on our final day here in the regular session of our 2019 long-term legislative session. But I do want to commend, Senator Abrams, Senator Somers, and all the other hardworking people on the Public Health Committee. This is as much as Judiciary took up these Bills, and we have some proposals and we voted on one this afternoon. It's really inherently your bailiwick. It's a -- it's a matter of public health. And I'm really, really hopeful that the study group can come up with some great recommendations. And to the extend you can keep us apprised, myself apprised as to the progress and -- and when's an appropriate for my constituents get to offer input, that would be much appreciated. I'm so happy to stand in strong support of the Bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Senator Hwang.
SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this Bill. We've heard enough about the tragedies that have been caused by opiate use. Through you, to the proponent of the Bill, some questions.

THE CHAIR:

Please prepare yourself, Senator Abrams. Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I think -- believe, in section as it relates to the pharmacy's notification. Is it permissive? And if not, what is the requirement for the pharmacist to provide counselling and in what form? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Just a moment. Thank you, Madam President. It states, beginning on line 47, that nothing in this section shall be construed to require a pharmacist to provide counselling to a patient. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.
SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Through you, Madam President. Is that part of the amended change to make that change? I believe the original underlaying message did have that and -- and was the change as the result of feedback from pharmacists in -- in regard to that requirement? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Through you, Madam President. I do not know.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you. Okay. With that said, are there minimum requirements -- I believe there was a -- a 12-day prescription limit, could the good proponent of this Bill explain what the process is beyond the 12-day limit and what this Bill would do to -- to manage the possible abuses of -- of opiate usage? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):
Through you, Madam President. It's actually a 12-week supply that once the physician prescribes to that level, that they are asked to come with a care plan for chronic opioid drug use. We do acknowledge that there are some people who do need this medication and rely on it to control their pain. And we -- we're looking to have the patient discuss with their doctor a plan about pain management that would also include non-opioid treatment options. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you very much. I want to thank the proponent for the clarification that is indeed very helpful. We -- we also made some changes in this Bill in regards to how EMS, as well as law enforcement and fire, would be able to raise awareness, retain or detain individuals under the suspicion of an opiate overdose. Could the good proponent of this Bill, elaborate a little bit more what this Bill does in regards to an additional level of -- of detainment or precautionary care? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Through you, Madam President. In this Bill, we
decided to make that a study until the next session. The -- the results of the study would be due January 1st, 2020. It would be a study that would be run through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and any other entities that would be involved with the group, to look at whether or not detaining people who are suspected of having experience in opioid overdose what would be the implications of the involuntarily transport or an involuntarily commitment to -- even to a hospital for a few days. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I want to thank the proponent for that clarification. Is there a deadline for the study to be submitted to the Committee for review? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):


THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):
Thank you. The proponent does know the Bill. I want to compliment her. That being said, I think we also changed some stipulations in regards to hospital detainment and procedures related to that. Is that part of the study or is it a separate component of compliance? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Through you, Madam President. Yes, it would be part of the study.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you very much. It -- would there be any consideration to the study in -- in regards to testing of the personnel within EMS, fire, police, and hospitals because, there are incidences, we've heard, where individuals with easy access to the possible opiates are, themselves, subject to potential addiction? Are there any implications or directions within the study to explore the possibility of assessing whether proponents of this -- individuals that we cited earlier, first responders and hospital personnel that are administering this, be considered from a standpoint of testing, evaluation, and the possible addiction
services? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

No. There is not anything of that nature in this Bill. Through you --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

-- Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Through you, Madam President. Just in getting ahead of the study, would that be a possible consideration of the study group? And -- and are there any other area in regards to the broad area of possible consideration that this study has been entasked with? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):
Through you, Madam President. Everything that could help in this situation is -- is willing to be looked at by the Public Health Committee. So, certainly that could be something that could be brought up. Although it is not -- would not be in this particular study. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Through you, Madam President. I -- I just want to get clarification. I -- I do agree that we should do everything within our own powers to -- to evaluate and understand the prevention of addiction to opiates. Why would this study not encompass those type of comprehensive points of study? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Through you, Madam President. The purpose of the study was to keep it concise, so that it could be looked in a -- in a precise manner and reported back in a short period of time, particularly about the detaining and the transferring of people involuntarily. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you. I want to thank the proponent for her answer and -- and my appreciations. And I want to compliment the advocates of the Committee for raising this Bill, even though it is significantly narrow in its study focus, it is at least one small step forward to addressing the opiate epidemic in our society. And I urge support of this. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR MCCRARY (2ND):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, just a couple words. I am proud to support this Bill. It goes a long way of helping so many people in the state of Connecticut who are dealing with opioid epidemic -- epidemic that's been going for a while now. The fact that we're going to provide counselling, the fact that we're going to provide mental health evaluations for individuals who are suffering from this or may or may not be suffering, but I don't want to take up too much time. But I'm just -- the reason why I'm so happy to support this, because there was a time, not long ago, when we had other crises of substance in our -- in our state, throughout our country, in the 80s and early 90s, so many people were dealing with substance abuse issues at that time. And at that time, we didn't have the forward
thinking, like we have now, to provide those individuals who were suffering from drug addiction and -- and -- and all the things that come along with -- with that behavior. I'm glad that now we see it as a -- a -- a health issue.

Unfortunately, back then we saw it as a criminal issue. And -- and we what we did then, instead of providing the mental health support, the counselling and all the other support and changing legislation, we locked people up. And once we locked people up, that changed the conversation, not only for that individual, but for that family and that -- that neighborhood and that community. And it put a stigma -- they put a stigma on all those entities that I just said, that individual, that family, that neighborhood, that community. And we created new terminologies that we used to describe individuals who were having substance abuse problems. We called them crackheads. We called them addicts. We said all these -- all these negative, derogatory things for -- to 'em.

Good thing that we're not going to be able to do that as we move forward with this new epidemic. Because there may be the support. The families might get the support. The doctors will be able to -- to treat them. Even EMTs would have experience, and all the personnels will be involved from the beginning to the end.

But I just want to remind us, we still suffering those communities, those families, those neighborhoods, those people, still suffering today because they never, never, never became healed. They never became healed because those supports that we put in place today were not there then and it's
sad.

THE CHAIR:

Senator, I -- I hate to interrupt you, I just wanted to welcome our guests in the gallery to the Chamber. And I would just like to ask them to respect our rules. Our rules, while they allow you to listen to the debate and watch the debate, it is against the Senate rules to take photos or videos. So, again, we welcome you. And we do ask you to respect our rules. And we thank you for coming and watching our process. And Senator McCrory, please do -- please do continue, sir.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

No, I -- I believe the individual -- they -- they probably understand what I'm talking about because some people, you know, they understand where I'm coming from. Some -- some people who have been dealing with for a number of years, so I'm not worried about those individuals because they lived it. So, I would just summarize now, President, that thank you and thank the kind Co-Chair -- I mean Chair of the Public Health Committee for doing this. It's a look forward but we never forget where we -- from which we came. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much, Senator McCrory. Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam. I rise for a point of personal privilege.
THE CHAIR:

Please do proceed, sir.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you. Madam President, we have three special guests in our Chamber today, of one family. We have former State Senator Art Linares, his son, Teddy for next state Senator of the District [laughter], and Representative Caroline Simmons, who's well, I guess Linares; right? I should make those corrections. I'm not sure to be politically correct, but we want to welcome them to the Chamber and Teddy's first visit to the Chamber. Congratulations. You guys got a great family and we look forward to seeing you -- for the next years in the Senate. Thank you. [Applause]

THE CHAIR:

And the Representative Simmons and Art Linares, may I just say that that is one very cute baby. [laughter] Thanks for visiting us today. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the legislation? Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I have a feeling I've been overshadowed here by a little cute baby --

THE CHAIR:

Upstaged.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

-- which is totally fine.

THE CHAIR:

Absolutely.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Totally upstaged, and that's totally fine. Just very briefly, I wanted to thank, Representative -- Senator Abrams and Senator Somers and the House leadership of the Public Health Committee and our staff for the work that they did, Senator Anwar as well, for his work on this Bill. And I appreciate all their -- their help on this crisis. I know it's the Governor's Bill, as well, so thank the administration as well as you, Madam President, for your efforts on this. It's a good Bill. And we should be voting for it unanimously. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Senator Duff. Will you remark further on the legislation that's before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. -- Senator
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if we can now have a -- if the Clerk can now call the items on Consent Calendar, followed by a vote of Consent Calendar, please?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:


THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Would you kindly call the vote? The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 1. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, Consent Calendar No. 1. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 1.

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered
in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please call the tally on the Consent Calendar.

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 1.

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] The Consent Calendar is adopted.
Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move all items needing further action to the House of Representatives to be immediately transmitted please.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the
Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 1.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 1, dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move all items on Senate Agenda No. 1, dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019, to be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and Senate transcripts, and immediately placed on our Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. So noted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I believe it's our intention to recess until about 4:30.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. We are adjourned -- recessed,
pardon me.

On motion of Senator Duff of the 28th, the Senate at 3:52 p.m. recessed.

The Senate reconvened at 7:30 p.m., the President in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. There'll be an immediate Senate Democratic Caucus.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

CLERK:

There'll be an immediate Senate Democratic Caucus. An immediate Senate Democratic Caucus. There will be an immediate Senate Democratic Caucus. An immediate Senate Democratic Caucus.

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

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

CLERK:
The Senate will convene in ten minutes. The Senate will convene in ten minutes. The Senate will convene in ten minutes.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, for purposes of our -- our go list.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 31, Calendar 477, House Bill 7343, go. On Calendar Page 60, Calendar 680, House Bill 7179, go. On Agenda 2, Calendar 689, 7140, I'd like to ask for suspension and mark it go.

THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] So, yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):


On Calendar Page 37, Calendar 533, House Bill 6055, go. On Calendar Page 43, Calendar 581, House Bill 7163, go. On Calendar Page 44, Calendar 589, House Bill 7389, go. On Calendar Page 46, Calendar 597, House Bill 5306, go -- I'm sorry, 7306, go.

On Calendar Page 47, Calendar 603, House Bill 7396, go. Calendar Page 49, Calendar 618, House Bill 7166, go. On Calendar Page 46, Calendar 598, House Bill 7113, go. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:


CLERK:

Page 31, Calendar No. 477 Substitute for House Bill No. 7343, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE CLAIMS
Good evening, Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, Madam President. This Bill is a Bill that affects the Claims Commissioner. It increases the threshold for settling claims from $20 thousand dollars to $35 thousand dollars. It also permits the Claims Commissioner to hold hearings on liability and permits some malpractice claims to initiated in state court instead of -- instead of at the office of Claims Commissioner. It gives the Claims Commissioner the authority to delegate certain decision-making authority to a magistrate. And I urge passage.
Good evening, Madam President. Great to see you there. As the clock is ticking along and it's been a few hours since we've done a Judiciary Committee Bill, so let's just keep that record going.

THE CHAIR:

I think at least three, but who's counting?

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Who is counting? I stand in strong support of the Bill. We've given the Claims Commissioner added resources to get through the backlog. She's been doing a fabulous job, but this gives some latitude as well by bumping the amount from $20 thousand dollars to $35 thousand dollars, that'll mean more things will get resolved in a -- a more efficient manner.

But I also think the most important part of this Bill is the fact that in medical malpractice cases, in particular, you need not just to file the complaint with the court, but in order to address some of the concerns in the path, we now -- probably now more than a decade since we worked on those reforms, require the good faith certificate.

So -- such that a healthcare provider that is in a similarly situated position, would state that they feel that the standard for care in that particular, whatever it was, a surgery or procedure, was not, in their opinion, maintained, but that is a hurdle or a hoop that Plaintiff's counsel would have to have appended to the complaint to go into the court system, and that that certificate of good faith or
good faith certificate is reviewed by the court for its adequacy.

And heretofore, to require claims against the state that are predicated on medical malpractice, to have the Claims Commissioner do a preliminary review, and -- and also, while she may not have the level of expertise that a judge who's more familiar with these types of cases may have, simply has caused these claims to be delayed, sometimes in excess of a year. And again, through no fault of the Claims Commissioner but simply this added layer, once she, in her opinion, says this is adequate, it still has to be reviewed by the court, in any event.

So, what this Bill will allow is that authorization to proceed will be deemed granted if Plaintiff wishes to just proceed right into the Superior Court on a medical malpractice claim against the state, whatever institution might be involved, and thereby access to justice will be speeded up by the Plaintiff and the court proceedings will proceed far quicker. And just your ability to get into the court system, part of achieving justice is the speed wherewith, one can actually access the court system.

So, I think this is a -- a really good reform. It takes out an unnecessary step that was never contemplated and heart -- heartedly support the Bill before us and urge my colleagues to support it, as well. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much, Senator Kissel. Will you remark further on the legislation before us? Will you remark further? Senator Winfield.
SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, Madam President. I am aware that we need a roll call on this. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. With that, Mr. Clerk, please call the roll and the machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7343. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7343. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, House Bill 7343.

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7343. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7343. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally. And a word to the wise, if the Senators could please stay close to their seat. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

House Bill 7343.

Total number voting 36
 Those voting Yea       33  
 Those voting Nay      3  
 Absent and not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Legislation is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 60, Calendar No. 680, Substitute for House Bill No. 7179, AN ACT CONCERNING CRUMBLING CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 10500.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Good evening, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This is an omnibus Bill that adapts to deal with the crumbling foundations crisis in Eastern Connecticut. It expands the definition of residential building. It fixes practical issues with the Healthy Homes Surcharge. It specifies that the grant from the
Healthy Homes fund for certain homeowners in New Haven and Woodbridge only last for one year.

It includes a residential disclosure report requirement that was already passed by the state Senate. It requires CHFA to administer a collapsing foundation supplement loan program. It requires Connecticut Innovations to establish and administer a program to encourage development of new identification, prevention, and repair techniques for crumbling foundations.

It requires the Chief Data Officer to develop and implement data collection as planned necessary for crumbling concrete foundations and establishes a working group to develop a model quality control plan for quarries and to study the workforce of contractors engaged in repairing crumbling concrete foundations. I urge members to support it.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR ANWARD (3RD):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this raised Bill. And I would encourage all my colleagues to please support in favor of this. This is a important Bill. It's impacting -- a number of communities are affected in -- in Eastern Connecticut. Actually, this is a -- a combination of a number of Bills that have been there. Some of these Bills have been already addressed by the Senate and then voted in favor by our Senators. So, I would just urge all of my colleagues to vote in
support and help the community members. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And I rise in support of this Bill, as well. As many people know, the Northeast section of our state has a large amount of homes, as well as businesses, apartment complexes, condo complexes that have crumbling foundations. These buildings are basically collapsing underneath them, and create a public hazard. For us to move this forward, the -- this helps many people. And I'm hoping that we can start to solve this problem, at least, one house at a time. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much, Senator Champagne. Will you remark further? Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Madam President, just a brief comment. As important this -- as this Bill is, this legislative body along with the House, when they created the -- the funding and the program, did not restrict it East of the river and there's a Healthy Homes Program. That program is being used right now in New Haven and Woodbridge for the situation down there. So, it is a statewide program in -- in many ways and that needs to be pointed out. I would also point out to
the body that, unfortunately, this afternoon I was approached by a woman, they live in a condominium complex and they found the first traces of the pyrrhotite in their condominium complex this afternoon after testing at the end of the building. It is an ongoing problem. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I have struggled with this Bill quite a bit. It may not seem like a -- a -- a huge lift, but while I do have one town in particular, Somers, that has some folks with this issue, I had supported the -- the initiatives in the past, the tens of millions of dollars in the captured insurance -- Captive Insurance Company in doling that out. And then last year, it was a very close vote on the additional dollar charge per month on people's homeowner's insurance. I have yet to see a report back as to the -- how those initiatives are working.

And before I feel comfortable moving forward with, yet, another initiative regarding crumbling foundations, and I spoke very long on this issue last year, because if you're endanger of losing your home, that's your most precious asset, that -- probably your largest asset, and I have nothing but compassion for those folks.

While Enfield, the largest town in my District is -- is not suffering from this in any great amount, we
are East of the river, and I'm very much aware of communities East of the river, just a few minutes' drive from where I live, where this is a huge issue.

And I appreciate the stalwart efforts of those proponents that have been fighting this issue, and it could ultimately be a $5 billion dollar issue. And we may just be at that point where we're scratching the surface.

So, by no means, do I wanna come across as hard-hearted regarding this. But until I see where we are regarding our first two financial initiatives that have utilized tens of millions of dollars from our taxpayers, until I see how many homeowners have been positively affected, what course we're charting for the future, if the cost of renovating a home is being driven down, if we're getting positive results from the University of Connecticut and other folks regarding how to address this issue, I'm not comfortable at this time embarking on yet a third program with multiple point -- parts to it to address this issue at this time.

I think it's incumbent upon to us to circle back, especially since it's been about over a year, to find out where are we? How much has been accomplished? How affective have those precious tax dollars been used? And where do we go from here? It's not to diminish this Bill, but for that reason, Madam President, with a somewhat heavy heart, I will be voting no. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Will you remark further?
If not, Mr. Clerk, would you please call the vote. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, House Bill 7179. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7179. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7179. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on House Bill 7179.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? Please cast your votes. The machine will soon be locked and the machine will be locked. And Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 7179.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff. And -- and I should say legislation is adopted. [Gavel] Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Clerk has Senate Agenda No. 2 on his desk.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 2, dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move all items on Senate Agenda No. 2, dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019, to be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and Senate transcripts, and immediately placed on our Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted. So ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk can now call the next item on our Agenda.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.
CLERK:


THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Good evening, Madam President. Good to see you again. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good evening, everyone. This is our annual Department of Transportation large aircraft carrier. It lists a number of items that we have been working with the Department as well as with our four caucuses. So, before I get into some of the bullet points, I do want to take time to thank my Ranking Member, Senator Martin, my Co-Chairman, Representative Lemar, and Ranking Member, Representative Devlin, as well as the staff from LCO, LOR, and OFA on all their assistance in
making sure that all the issues that were important to so many people was crafted in a way that we can all support, overwhelmingly, I hope.

So with that, I will just mention some of the highlights of the Bill. There's quite a bit here. I think what we're going to try to do is just tag team it very quickly. I'll list a few. I'll -- I'll offer Senator Martin to list a -- a few. And then, we can take any questions, if there are any.

Some of the things that are in the Bill is we want to make sure that some of the reports will be adjustable for reporting back to the Committee cognizance, so we push a few out from 2019 to 2020 from DOT. We make requests for a person authorized to be a TNZ driver from Connecticut to hold a license so that they can have reciprocity from Connecticut drivers goin' into -- into New York and -- and back. It requires DOT to submit a plan on modernizing our commuter rail stations and our urban centers.

It also requires for TNZ decals to be displayed on the passenger side of the vehicle. At the moment, these colored lights are either in the windshield or in the rear light. From a distance, it looks like it could be a -- a -- a police vehicle. So, to eliminate that confusion, we want to make sure those lights are on the side.

It allows a -- a parent with a child under 18 with disability to get an additional handicap placard so the parent or the guardian doesn't have to keep transporting the placard between cars as they have, you know, working families with two -- two members trying to figure out what to do at any given moment
It also requires DMV to establish, in concert with the Police Chief's Association, a blue envelope for those who may be on the autism spectrum. That way, if anything were ever to occur, a police officer would only have to receive that blue envelope with license and registration, so that they would be aware of the person's special needs.

It also -- this is our annual Bill where we have numerous names for bridges and roadways. So, all the names that were submitted with unanimous support, I think we've taken care quite a few people there. And it does list a few more.

But I know in interest of time, I will yield to Senator Martin. But I do wanna thank him and the Caucus in both Chambers with Democratic and Republican bipartisan support. It's one of the reasons, we, in the Transportation Committee, are so proud of the fact that we worked very well together. And I would urge support of this piece of legislation. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Leone. Good evening, Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Good evening, Madam President. I also want to extend a thank you to Senator Leone and Representative Lemar and, as well as Representative Devlin for an outstanding session. I think it's been interesting, starting from day one
to where we are today. And as well as, I also want to thank the staff, the LOR as well as LCO.

Some of the other items that are in this aircraft carrier is that we do some tweaking in the current legislation. It does eliminate some obsolete provisions, as well as it, requires a -- it -- it explicitly exempts officers from paying parking meters in the course of performing their duties. It makes some technical changes. It imposes an infraction, penalty on nonelectric vehicles that park in parking spots that are for electric vehicles.

It limits the use of red and blue steady lights that are visible from the front of the car to police officers, specifically. And it requires DOT to submit a quarterly report to the Transportation Committee on -- on the status of implementing PTC, which is Positive Train Control, on passage rails.

And lastly, it does rename some bridges and roads, as Senator Leone, also mentioned, as well. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Martin. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I want to urge support of this legislation, but I also want to take a moment to thank the Committee leadership and it's staff and the various Committee members as we
deliberated this multiple issue Bill. I want to give a special thanks to the Chair and the Leadership in regards to addressing a -- a major concern of mine, that is for the rail commuters that travel between the Southwestern Metro-North Rail Line, the implementation, long overdue of positive train control.

It is a mechanism that will save lives, prevent tragedies, and ultimately this legislation will require quarterly reports that will be shared with the General Assembly to ensure that it meets the compliance and the requirements of the federal government to completely install and make operational positive train controls in our commuter rail lines. And I want to thank the leadership of this Committee for this consideration. And I urge support. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I just have two questions for the proponent of the Bill, if I could?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'm just getting my
first chance to really take a -- a hard look at the language that's in the Bill before us. And I just want to verify two things. I noticed that when I go to the CGA website, just under the title, there is a description and in that description, it mentions No. 2 require -- motorcycle operators in past years to wear protective headgear. And I'm curious if there's anything in this Bill that says that there is a -- a helmet mandate in the state of Connecticut. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. That section is not in this Bill. That is a separate Bill that, hopefully, will be before us.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

All right. Thank you, Madam President. So, I take it that that's been removed from the original? Because it is listed on the -- the page for the Bill. But I understand it's not in the language any longer. The second question I had, through you, Madam President, is, am I correct that there is, included in this language, a study for red light cameras. Is that correct? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Through you. No. That language has been removed.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. And I appreciate the Chairman for his answers. And I'll be in support of the Bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the legislation? Will you remark further?

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Again, I want to thank everyone for their perseverance on issues that were important to them, Senator Hwang, included. This was an effort of great concern for a lot of us. And -- and I'm happy we were able to get to where everyone is in the position to support the Bill. With that, if there's no further objection, I would offer it to be on Consent, if possible.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.
Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):
Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Madam President?

THE CHAIR:
Oh, pardon me, Senator Cassano. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. I need to mark this item PT, and move on to the next Bill, please.

THE CHAIR:
So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:
Page 27, Calendar No. 428, Substitute for House Bill No. 6540, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF THE HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS, as amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 7452. There are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you. Under existing law, physicians and APRNs can examine and actually treat a minor for HIV aids without the consent of the minor's parents or guardian. However, when this Bill was written, the ability to provide prophylaxis to prevent HIV or aids, did not exist. So, to be clear, a minor can go and get tested for HIV aids and, if positive, be treated all without parental consent. If the tests are negative, the same minor cannot be given a prophylaxis to prevent the contraction of the disease. This Bill corrects that. This Bill, as under current law, allows the physician or APRN to provide such prophylaxis without parental or guardian consent only after determining, one, that notifying them would result in denial of the prophylaxis, and two, the minor will not pursue or continue with the prophylaxis, if the parent or
The guardian is notified.

The Bill also provides two exceptions for the confidentiality provision. If the minor is age 12 or younger, the physician or APRN is required to report the minor's name, age, and address to DCF. This is similar to the requirements that -- that apply under existing law for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

HIV aids is still one of the largest pandemics in the world. Having lived through the 80s and 90s, I'm grateful that we now have a way to protect our children, and possibly a path to eradicate this disease. I urge my colleagues to support this Bill so that we can add treatment of HIV aids to the current statute. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Abrams. And I just would note to everyone in the Chamber that we have a lot to do in a short amount of time. And I'd ask our staff and guests and members to keep the volume lower so that we can hear the debate and speed it along. Will you remark further on the legislation? Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I rise to support this Bill. This is a Bill that was heard in Public Health. This Bill takes our current law and expands it to a prophylactic treatment for HIV. The issue here is saving lives. Many of the young folks that might go in and see a physician concerning this are not in a position to share this information with their parents. So, we are debating here tonight, a
life treatment that can actually save young peoples' lives and stop the transmission of HIV.

I want to assure everybody this is a rare occurrence. The clinicians that we've talked to that are in this field, they counsel, they talk to the individual. They try to get them to make sure that they feel comfortable, try to get them to speak to their parents about the situation. But should that not be the case, and that is made on a medical decision, then they have an opportunity to treat a disease that can be preventable and preventable to save lives and also stop transmission. So, I fully support this Bill. And I hope that my colleagues will join us. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Somers. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the Bill that's before the Chamber? Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

If there's no objection, Madam President, I'd ask that this be placed -- oh, I'm sorry. Thank you. I would like a Roll Call Vote, please, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, indeed. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, Mr. Clerk, please call the Roll. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:
Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the
Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote on House Bill 6540. Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 6540. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on House Bill 6540. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 6540. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, House Bill 6540. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 6540.

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Legislation is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 57, Calendar No. 664, Substitute for House Bill No. 6637, AN ACT REQUIRING AN INVASIVE SPECIES STAMP FOR THE OPERATION OF A MOTORBOAT ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 9130 and Schedule "B", LCO No. 10476.
THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Good evening, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Madam President, I would like to yield to my good Vice Chair of the Environment Committee, Senator Julie Kushner.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And thank you to our Chair, Christine -- Senator Cohen and Ranking Member, Senator Miner for working together with me on this important Bill. This is a Bill that will require an annual fee when you register with the MB your motorboat, to go into a new fund called the Aquetic -- Aquatic Invasive Species fee. And that fund will be dedicated to helping to fight invasive species in our lakes and in our ponds and in our rivers. And I think everyone knows that our lakes
and ponds and rivers are part of the natural beauty of our state. And unfortunately, we have been invaded and we need to fight back.

And so, this Bill will help us to provide funds that will make it possible for us to educate boaters, particularly those from out of state who might be using our lakes in the future. So, I urge all of our colleagues to -- to support this Bill. And I hope we'll see passage tonight.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kushner. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Miner to be followed by Senator Champagne. Senator Miner.

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I too rise in support of the Bill. I -- I think there's an Amendment -- I -- that needs to be called. With this Bill? No? Okay. So, I do rise in support of the Bill, Madam President.

It's never an easy for me to support additional fees or taxes. This is a special circumstance. When people take a boat from one body of water and move it into another, many times they capture a plant. And so, we don't really know when that happens or in which cases it happens. Many states do have a surcharge on motorboats. The purpose is to try and limit the amount of occurrences that do happen with regard to plants, especially invasive plants.

And most of our constituents that live adjacent to these bodies of water, whether they're lakes or
rivers, usually bear the brunt of this altogether. So, they -- they're the ones that fund weed removal. They're the ones that fund carp placements that eat the weeds. They're the ones that are called upon to try and keep the lakes clean. And so, this is a way, I think, for us to share that expense statewide and I support it. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Miner. Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And I rise for the same reason. Even though I don't support increased fees, the main reason that we have these invasives is because of the boats going into our different lakes. Every year, we spend money to clean these out -- to clean the invasives out. And every year, it seems like they come back. I know the Canaan Street Lake, Bolton Lakes, even our small waterways are -- are constantly being cleaned out, as well as lakes throughout the rest of my District. I think this $5 dollars will go a -- a long ways to taking care of this problem and making the lakes healthy to continue to use the boats and the -- the health of the fish, as well in -- in these lakes. So, I do urge support of this. And I -- I'd like every -- the support of everybody around the Circle. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Champagne. Will you remark further on the legislation? Will you remark further? Senator Kushner.
SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

I would like to ask for a Roll Call Vote on this.

THE CHAIR:

A Roll Call Vote will be ordered. Will you remark further? Mr. Clerk, please announce the vote. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 6637. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 6637. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, House Bill 6637.

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, House Bill 6637. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. And Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 6637.

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] The measure is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 54, Calendar No. 645, Substitute for House Bill No. 7299, AN ACT MAKING CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT STATUTES, as amended by House Amendment Schedules "A", LCO 8790, and "C", LCO No. 9897.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA (1ST):

Good evening, Madam President. It's good to see you this --

THE CHAIR:

Good --

SENATOR FONFARA (1ST):

-- evening.

THE CHAIR:

-- evening.
SENATOR FONFARA (1ST):

Madam President, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR FONFARA (1ST):

Yes, Madam President. This is the Department of Consumer Protection's Bill to revise various licensing and enforcement statutes. I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Sir, will you remark further? Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA (1ST):

Madam President, unless there's objection, I would ask this be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 61, Calendar No. 683, Substitute for House Bill No. 7413, AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR A GRAND LIST EXEMPTION, PAYMENT OF A GRANT-IN-AID
AND THE EXTENSION FOR FILING A DECLARATION AND
AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY NOTES,
as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No.
10851.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA (1ST):

Good evening, again, Madam President. I move for
acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report
and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR FONFARA (1ST):

Yes, Madam President. Among other things, this Bill
seeks to extend certain -- several existing
statutory deadlines in an effort to assist certain
persons who have unintentionally failed to file. I
urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Sir, will you remark further?

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I believe this passed
the Committee unanimously and -- and is -- really
addresses those concerns within a few particular
tow are. I urge adoption. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR FONFARA (1ST):

Yes, Madam President. Unless there's objection, I would ask this item be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 21, Calendar No. 378, House Bill No. 5521, AN ACT EXPANDING REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PREEXISTING CONDITIONS. There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

Question is on passage. Will you remark?
Yes. Madam President, this Bill simply conforms to the current Department of Insurance practice regarding the bulletin for preexisting, including existing coverage for short-term health plans. I urge support.

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Just a couple quick questions.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Through you Madam President. To the good Chair of the Insurance Committee, Senator Lesser, so would this mean that Connecticut, in terms of preexisting conditions, that it would mirror the Federal Affordable Care Act, but make sure that those conditions also apply to short-term insurance policies? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):
Through you, Madam President. Yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. That was my only question. I stand in strong support of this Bill. I think that coverage for preexisting conditions is extraordinarily important. People generally rely upon this. And I think this is a -- a -- a good move forward for the state of Connecticut. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

If there's no objection, I'd like to place this on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 23, Calendar No. 405, Substitute for House Bill No. 7225, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC HOUSING, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 7263.
THE CHAIR:

Senator Anwar.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

Yes, Madam President. This is actually a pretty straightforward Bill. This is about filing requirement change. Currently, the filing requirements are that there are these entities called Project Based Housing Providers who are supposed to be listed with their information for commercial properties. In this particular filing requirement change, we are just asking that even for their investments in residential properties, their information should be available for people. So, it's a pretty straightforward Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Will you --

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):
Madam President, if there's no objection, I move to
place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Before we move to that, we will entertain the comments from Senator Hwang. Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I want to thank the good chair of the Housing Committee for this Bill. I want a point of clarification. It is for commercial properties that are publicly owned or federally owned? Would that be correct? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Anwar.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

You're correct. This is for Project Based Housing Providers.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Through you, Madam President. The -- the only other question from the House Amendment "A" in which, I remember through our public hearing, there was a debate in regards to public housing waiting lists and reshuffling and changing some of the format of that. Is that removed on this Amendment? Through
Thank you, Madam President. You're -- you're accurate, my Ranking Member for the Housing Committee is accurate with regards to that.

Thank you. One final question, Madam President.

Thank you, Madam President. One additional final question. Does the fine increase in this underlying legislation? Through you, Madam President.

There is no fiscal note but there is an opportunity to have slight increase from municipalities when somebody's not following the requirements. And there is a slight increase in the fine. Yes, correct.
THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Would that be correct for legislative intent, it moves from $250 dollars to $500 dollars and the maximum penalty under current legislation is up to a thousand dollars? Through you, Madam President. Would that be correct?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Anwar.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

Thank you, Madam President. That's accurate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I want to thank the good Chair for his answer and his good work throughout the Committee. And I urge support of this passage. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Sir, will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Anwar.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):
Thank you, Madam President. If there's no objection, I move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing -- Senator Hwang, do you have an objection? Senator Sampson, do you have an objection?

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I prefer a Roll Call Vote, if I could.

THE CHAIR:

And a Roll Call Vote will be ordered. Mr. Clerk.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7225. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7225. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on House Bill 7225. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on House Bill 7225. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7225. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, House Bill 7225.

THE CHAIR:
Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine is locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 7225.

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Legislation is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'd like to put the next item, and move on to Calendar Page 25, Calendar 424, House Bill 7087.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. And just to be clear, is that Page 26, Calendar 424, 7087? Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 26, Calendar 424, House Bill No. 7087, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF THE TRIENNIAL AUDIT OF STATE CONTRACTING AGENCIES BY THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD AND THE MEMBERSHIP AND QUORUM REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOARD, as amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A", LCO 7489. There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Good evening, Madam President. Madam President, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Bill before us makes some changes to the reporting of the State Contracting Standards Board. I urge my colleagues to support this Bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I concur with the gentle lady, the fine Chairman of the GAE Committee. This is a very straightforward Bill. It makes some very straightforward changes to the State
Contracting Standards Board and how they issue certain types of compliance reports. And I urge passage, also. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Sir, will you remark further? Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Good evening, Madam President. I rise for one question for the proponent.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir. Prepare yourself, Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Senator. Good evening. This does this expand the membership of the Board? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Through you, Madam President. The current law is that there are eight members of the Board and this just adjusts the size of the quorum. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

I -- I'm sorry, Madam President, and I heard her say, there are eight members of the Board, but I didn't hear after that. Please forgive me.

THE CHAIR:

Yes. And I would -- I would urge the guests and staff and Senators in the Chamber to please keep the volume down, so that we can hear the debates. Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Through you, again. The membership is -- is eight members, but the Bill adjusts the size of the quorum.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Mr. Clerk kindly call the Roll. The machine will be opened.
CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7087. Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7087. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, House Bill 7087. Immediate Roll Call in the Senate.

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THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

House Bill 7087.

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Measure is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 35, Calendar No. 514, Substitute for House Bill
No. 6588, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF PARKING CITATIONS BY INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This Bill lifts the prohibition on independent higher education institutions and private high schools issuing parking citations, imposing monetary sanctions including by written warning, posted signs, or any other means to owners of vehicles parked on their property. This was an item that was overlooked last session. So, this is a fix to that. This allows these higher education institutions to issue citations to stop laws overwhelming their campuses and I would urge adoption. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

The M's are all in the same area.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to suggest to my colleagues also to vote in favor of this. It -- it is a fix and something that we did over last session. So, thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I do have a question to the proponent of the Bill please, if I might?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Thank you, Madam President. When I was reading through the Bill, I did not see how someone would appeal the issuance of such a parking ticket at a private secondary school or institution of higher education.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to mark this
item PT, and if the Senate can stand at ease for a moment, please.

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I just marked the previous item PT. I'd like to mark the next item PT, Calendar Page 37, Calendar 533, House Bill 6055, and then move on to the next item on our Agenda, please.

THE CHAIR:

So noted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 43, Calendar No. 581, Substitute for House Bill No. 7163, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT ON AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES AND MEALS ON WHEELS, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 9061.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Moore, good evening.
SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Good evening, Madam President. Thank you. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Yes. Madam President, there is an Amendment on the Bill. And the Amendment changes the -- the Amendment gives the -- the Department of Rehabilitation the opportunity to change their rate for Meals on Wheels.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Moore. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If the good Senator could -- I couldn't hear over here what the remark was regarding the Meals on Wheels program. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Moore, would you restate the purpose of the Bill, please.
SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Through you. The Amendment allows the -- gives them the ability to decrease the rate on Meals on Wheels, as the appropriate method stands now.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And what kind of impact have we heard that -- how it would reduce the Meals on Wheels program for those seniors?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Through you -- through you, Senate -- through you, Madam. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to say decrease. I meant increase. [Laughter]

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Very good.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Sorry.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you [laughter] Madam President.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Senator Logan.

SENATOR LOGAN (17TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in favor of this Bill. It -- it helps to keep the Meals on Wheels program viable in terms of allowing providers to -- to justify any potential reimbursement requests. Also, it -- it helps the reporting requirements, and in -- in addition to that, it helps to -- to make recommendations on collecting and analyzing patient malnutrition data. I urge all of my colleagues to support this Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Logan. And just to clarify that the Chamber is considering legislation that was amended in the House. There is no Amendment before the Senate. We are considering the amended legislation as described by Senator Moore, just to clarify so everyone is in -- on the same page. So with that, will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Thank you, Madam President, and good evening.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening.
SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

I also rise in support of this Bill. I know that last year, when they merged the Department on Aging with the Department of Rehabilitative Services, I had made the comment that I would like to see aging in the name of the Department, and this Bill gets us there so that it identifies that client population. And I think that's a nice addition. And I fully support the legislation.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kelly. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Madam President, if there's no objections, I put this on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 44, Calendar No. 589, Substitute for House Bill No. 7389, AN ACT CONCERNING CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE CASE OF A DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER OF A JUVENILE'S CASE TO THE REGULAR CRIMINAL DOCKET AND IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 9228.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Good evening, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This is a Bill that comes to us through Judiciary. It allows for those cases which are automatically transferred to the adult docket to be transferred back if there's a reduction of charges. It makes proceedings that are transferred from the juvenile to the adult court confidential. It requires that the JJPOC review methods of use of detaining transferred children and devise a plan to implement this in Connecticut by July 1st -- July 1st of 2021.

It requires that the provisions that we have in -- for -- for adults where re-prevention is concerned are implemented for juveniles. It postpones a report that was supposed to be that -- I'm sorry, it postpones for a year from June -- June 30th of 2019 to June 30th of 2020 the deadline where families might put forward a family with service needs for the petition. I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Senator Winfield. Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Through you, some questions to the proponent of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you, Madam President. First of all, those matters were -- even though there's a -- alleged crime committed by a juvenile, if it's transferred to the adult court, would that be considered serious crimes? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Through you, Madam President, if I -- if I understand the question correctly, if it is transferred to the adult court generally they -- generally -- they are considered serious crimes. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):
Thank you very much. And so, if we have a provision that would allow the transfer of a juvenile matter because the -- the crimes are so serious, that that's transferred to the adult court, why would we want to maintain confidentiality regarding that transfer and those proceedings? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

The -- the crime potentially is very serious, but we're still dealing with juveniles, and in as many ways as we can to, in the law, think about juveniles in a way that we've learned we need to deal with juveniles, we want to make sure that we do so. And that is why we maintain them confidential. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. And if the defendant reached the age of majority while that proceeding was pending, would the proceeding still be confidential or would the confidentiality lapse? Through you, Madam President. 

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.
SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Madam President, if you'd hold for a second, I just want to make sure I don't change what the Bill actually says. Madam President, the lines dealing with this, it seems to suggest to me, that the proceedings in the case will be held confidential. It doesn't suggest outright that there's a difference if the age changes during that case, through you, Madam President -- if it began already.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much. Well, I want to be supportive of the Bill, but to -- to my mind that's a gray area. I can understand the rationale that if we want to maintain the most hope for the individual, even though the alleged crimes are serious enough to move it to the adult court, my mind would be that as soon as that individual turned 18, that any kind of confidentiality would no longer be warranted.

Through you, Madam President. Could we, even though the Bill itself may be ambiguous regarding this for the purposes of legislative intent, would the good Chair of the Judiciary Committee agree with me that, while protecting confidentiality for a juvenile would have laudable goals, as far as breaking the cycle of recidivism and creating a situation of redemption, that those -- that situation would no longer exist once the juvenile reaches the age of 18? Through you, Madam President.
THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Through you, Madam President. If -- if the question is for legislative intent, if -- if I'm willing to say what the Bill says is not what we mean currently, I think I would have to answer, no. I think I would also have to say that, I would be willing to have a conversation about that in the formal process that we have here though. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. So, it appears to me that what the Bill that's before us and it's, you know, a few hours before we're going to conclude the -- the -- the regular formal session, there's a lot of other good things in here from the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee that I'd like to see move forward. But what I'm hearing, I believe, from my good friend and colleague, the good Chair of the Judiciary Committee, is that that particular area, which doesn't appear to have any dispositive language one way or another, that the good Chair would entertain discussions regarding that very narrow issue. God willing, we're all on this planet back here in the legislature and next February, and we might be able
to clarify that going forward. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. That is absolutely what I'm saying. I am not opposed to any discussion. We may learn things we don't currently know. We may learn that we may have meant to do some things. I am just a little reticent at this moment to suggest something that is outside of the purview of the Bill itself. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I appreciate the fact that the good Chair cannot create a legislative history that really doesn't have anything to hang it's hat on in the Bill language. I find it unfortunate that that particular nuance was not addressed in the underlying Bill, but these things happen. There's a lot of other good things in this particular Bill.

I, on many occasions, as time permits on the JJPOC meetings, I know that the good Chair of Judiciary does, as well a lot of good work going on there. And Connecticut is one of the leaders when it comes
to redemption and trying to take young people off that cycle into the criminal justice system, and thereby breaking the cycle of recidivism or not even letting it start in the first place.

So, with that caveat, I'm happy to support the Bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, as well. And I look forward, God willing that we're all here and healthy and working on future legislation a year -- not a year from now but next February when this could be flushed out and made more concrete. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Will you remark further on the legislation? Will you remark further? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Madam President, if there's no further comment of question I'd ask this be placed on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 46, Calendar No. -- what is that, 59- -- 597, Substitute for House Bill No. 7306, AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' BLUE RIBBION COMMISSION ON TOURISM, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 9262.
THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Good evening, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill, Madam, in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Yes, indeed. Thank you, Madam President. As so indicated by the title of the Bill, this is the result of the Blue Ribbon Commission that the Speaker had commissioned over the last biennium, which we essentially are opening the restrooms and the visitor welcome centers throughout the state. We are also dealing with the signage to indicate what hours those facilities are open. There are additional changes which establish a 29-member Tourism Council, and also require that the DEC Commissioner with the Council, evaluate the strategic marketing plan for the state of Connecticut and ask DOT to study the signage throughout our state highways. Thank you, Madam President. And I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hartley. Will you remark further on the legislation? Will you remark further on the legislation? Senator Formica.
SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you. Good evening, Madam President. I have a -- one -- I rise for a comment and a question.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you very much. My comment would be that this fills a -- a need and a void that's happened over the last number of years since these rest stops have been closed, so, I applaud that. I'm concerned about the size of the Tourism Council, 29 people, and how are they appointed? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And through you. There are 12 members that are appointed by the Governor, three by the President pro tem, two by the Majority Leader and -- of the Senate, and two by the Senator Minority Leader, three by the House Speaker, two by the House Minority Leader, and two by the House Majority Leader, sir. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.
SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The specific requirements and expertise are laid out within the Bill, through you, Madam President, for each of these appointees?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Through you, Madam. Yes, indeed they are.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

And they all represent -- thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator. Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the Bill before us? Will you remark further? Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Madam President, without objection, I ask this be put on the Consent Calendar.
THE CHAIR:

Seeing no --

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Thank --

THE CHAIR:

-- objection -- seeing and hearing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 47, Calendar No. 603, Substitute for House Bill No. 7396, AN ACT CONCERNING PARITY BETWEEN SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE CASE OF A SPOUSAL OR COHABITATING RELATIONSHIP AND OTHER CRIMES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF A FAMILY VIOLENCE CRIME, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 9337.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?
SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This is a Bill that changes the way that we define sexual intercourse and sexual assault in the case of a -- a married or cohabitor. And so, by changing that definition, we, under the law currently deal with these issues in one way and under the law now the spouse would be charge depending on the circumstances. So, because we make it depending on the circumstances, we lay out in the Bill that First-Degree sexual assault is dealt with in a certain way. Aggravated First Degree sexual assault is dealt with in another way, a Class B felony. Second Degree sexual assault is dealt with in another -- another way which is a Class C felony. Third Degree sexual assault with a firearm is a Class C felony. And Fourth Degree sexual assault is a Class A misdemeanor.

The Bill also narrows the exceptions to the law that requires police offices, when they respond to various family complaints, to arrest the person the officer believes is the dominant aggressor. I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Will you remark?

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I stand in strong support of this Bill. Currently, the law is predicated on forms of relationships that I wouldn't go as far to say are antiquated, but they have been far more common a few decades ago. But now, our notations of intimate relationships has changed,
such that, even though one might be viewed as a spouse or in a very -- various other kinds of relationships, one can still perpetrate crimes against the other spouse or cohabitant such that they violate the laws regarding assault.

And so, this in -- in a great way, modernizes our criminal justice laws regarding this. It is one of the two major initiatives of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence this legislative session. And I would urge by colleagues to support the Bill and move it forward. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Madam President, if there's no further comment or question, I ask that it be placed on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, on the next item, Calendar Page 49, Calendar 618, House Bill 7166, I'd like to PT that item, please, and move on to the next item, please.

THE CHAIR:
Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 46, Calendar No. 598, House Bill No. 7113, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION ISSUES, as amended by House Amendment Schedules "A", LCO No. 9342 and "B", LCO No. 9470.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Good evening, Madam President. How are you?

THE CHAIR:

Good evening.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

I'm looking for my script. I'm sorry. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Absolutely. Madam President, this Bill makes the following unrelated changes to educational statutes.
One, Section 1 no changes. Section 2 removes the current law of a vision that allows continuing teachers to move from one school district to a private district. Section 3 establishes a working group around the [inaudible - 00:24:13 R28] adoption. And Section 2 -- Section 4 allows self-managed schools to be in compliance with school Districts in school year 20/21. I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Senator Berthel, good evening.

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):

Good evening, Madam President. I rise in support of the Bill. It makes the adjustments that the good Senator has addressed. And I urge adoption. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Bill before us? Will you remark further on the Bill before us? Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Madam President, seeing no objection, I ask that this Bill be placed on Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

And seeing and hearing no objections, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:
Page 64, Calendar No. 292, Senate Bill No. 527, AN ACT PERMITTING MUNICIPALITIES --

THE CHAIR:

Pardon me, Mr. Clerk. We're going to go to Senator Duff. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I don't think I have marked those items yet. Mr. Clerk.

THE CHAIR:

What is your pleasure, sir?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

He has -- he has the script, I just -- [laughter] I'm not ready yet. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, for our next few items on our go list would be Calendar Page 64, Calendar 292, Senate Bill 527. I'd like to mark that item go. Followed by Calendar Page 65, Calendar 212, Senate Bill 838, go. Followed by Calendar Page 36, Calendar 529, House Bill 7518, go. Followed by Calendar Page 41, Calendar 572, House Bill 6996, go. Followed by Calendar Page 60, Calendar -- I'm sorry, Calendar Page -- skip that one. Calendar Page 44, Calendar 587, House Bill 7277, go. Followed by Calendar Page 21, Calendar 375, House Bill 7257, go. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 64, Calendar No. 292, Senate Bill No. 527, AN ACT PERMITTING MUNICIPALITIES TO COMBINE THE PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS OF MULTIPLE ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'm looking at another [laughter] Bill here. This is a -- a Bill from the city of Middletown. There are two facilities there, NIG owns 'em. One was built quite a while ago. The other was built somewhat recently. The community would like to assess them as one. And so, this allows for that process to take place.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cassano. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

I would ask it to be placed on Consent Calendar. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:
Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 65, Calendar No. 212, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 838, AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND COST SHARING FOR MAMMOGRAMS AND BREAST ULTRASOUNDS, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 10705.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill as amended in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further because the question is on passage.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Bill, as amended, concerns products and services agreements between vision care plans optometrists and ophthalmologists. I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the
legislation that is before the Chamber?
Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Thank you, Madam President. I also rise in support and urge adoption. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yeah. Yes, Madam President. If there's no objection, I'd like to place this on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection -- seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 36, Calendar No. 529, House Bill 7158, AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE BOARDING OF CATS AND DOGS FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN A LICENSE TO OPERATE A COMMERCIAL KENNEL, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 8960.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Cohen.
SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Good evening, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This would define kennel as more than three animals, having more than three animals. I urge my colleagues’ acceptance of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Bill that is before us? Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

If there's no objection, Madam President, I move to place this on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

And seeing or hearing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 41, Calendar No. 572, House Bill No. 6996, AN ACT EXTENDING THE EZEQUIEL SANTIAGO FORECLOSURE
MEDIATION PROGRAM UNTIL JUNE 30, 2023, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 9106.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Bergstein.

SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Good evening, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of this Bill as amended in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark further?

SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Madam President, this Bill would extend the Foreclosure Mediation Program, which has been a great success over the past ten years. It has resolved over 31,000 cases of foreclosure across the state from Danbury to Darien, New Haven to New Canaan.

Most of these cases, the vast majority, are settled, and 73 percent of the people are able to stay in their homes. There is broad support for this. The ARRP would like the program to be permanent. But we resolved to make this a four-year extension. And I would just like to add, that the House, amended this Bill to name it after the late Ranking Chair Ezequiel Santiago, and -- who convinced me that we should extend it for four years rather than two.
And I urge support of this Bill.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):

Good evening again, Madam President. I rise in support of the legislation. I think this is a -- a great tribute to our -- the naming of the Bill, changing of the name is a great tribute to our good late friend, Ezequiel Santiago. I would just add, that I think, at some point, the legislature will need to come back from the Banking Committee and probably have a -- an additional discussion about whether or not we need to continue or sunset. But at this point, the legislation, as it's -- as it's proposed, again, I rise in support of. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Berthel. Will you remark further on the legislation? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of the legislation. However, I would ask when a vote is taken, be taken by roll.

THE CHAIR:

And a Roll Call will be ordered. Will you remark further on the legislation? Senator Bradley, to be followed by Senator Formica. Senator Bradley.
SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Thank you, Madam President. I simply want to say Ezequiel Santiago -- Representative Santiago was my Representative of -- of the area where I live in Bridgeport. He was a tremendous man who believed wholeheartedly in making sure we can serve the people of our District. There was such a huge crises after the whole housing bubble occurred and throughout the state of Connecticut, specifically in Bridgeport that, I think, still continues happening, this program creates a lack of backlog and allows for procedure to happen in a much more orderly fashion and ensure that there is an abusive process for a lot of people who simply don't have the money to afford legal representation. So, it's quite fitting that Senator Bergstein and her Committee have -- have honored Representative Santiago in this way, because, in doing so, we honor his effort of -- of making sure we support working class and poorer class people. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Bradley. Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. A question for the proponent.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):
Thank you. Good evening, Senator. The Ranking Member made a comment with regard to the -- the -- the need to continue this program. Um -- my understanding, when I heard about this on the Appropriations Committee, that the need is kind of past for this program and it may not be necessary. Through you, Madam President. Would that be the case? And how long do we think we may need that program, if it's not the case?

THE CHAIR:
Senator Bergstein.

SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The need for the program has diminished over time. So, the program has been cut in half because demand for foreclosure mediation has decreased since the housing bubble has been resolved. But it is not nonexistent. So, there still is a need and we would like to extend it for four years, and then, reassess at that time? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Senator. Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And the cost to -- to extend that program for four years? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bergstein.
SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The cost is $1.9 million dollars.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator for your answer. I have some concerns about the need for this program. I certainly have no concerns about who it's named after. Representative Santiago was a -- was a great representative and is very deserving of any accolades that he gets. I'm just not sure I can support this program at this time. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. In my other capacity, I -- I do practice law on occasion. And one of my jobs is to keep an eye out for certain matters where there are substantial amounts of liens on property. And so, that allows me to bump into --

THE CHAIR:

Yep.
SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

-- proceedings regarding both foreclosures by fail and strict foreclosure matters. I can say, unequivocally, there is still a need for the Foreclosure Mediation Program, and it has done a superlative job in allowing people to maintain their houses, their homes. Uh -- we've gone through some rough patches.

There's been some very large lending institutions, primarily based outside of Connecticut that had to be reined in, but they are now fully cooperating. It's a great program.

The courts have done a good job. There's a handful of judges really working the program well. Sometimes there are issues regarding gathering up all the appropriate information, both for the lenders and for the individuals that are being foreclosed upon. But working out ways for people to stay in their homes is good for those families, good for those individuals, your self-worth, and is awesome for the neighborhoods, avoid blithe situations.

Uh -- and we need to continue along the path with this program. We had a similar Bill in the Judiciary Committee. I wholeheartedly supported it and I support it to this day. So, I would say there is still a need, maybe not as big a need as the years following 2008 with the great recession. But that need is still out there. And this is what our judicial system should be all about. It's not always just you win and you lose, but bringing in all the parties to work out a reasonable solution and letting people get their feet back on the
ground. So, I'm happy to support this Bill and would urge my colleagues to support it, as well. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Senator Cassano. Senator Cassano? Oh, I apologize. Senator Fasano. I had the wrong -- uh -- we have the right -- we -- okay. Senator Fasano. [Laughter] And you both are wonderful, just to be clear.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Madam President, we served on PND together as Ranking Chair, it happened all the time. They would say, Senator Cassano would say yay. I said, not you. So, that happened all the time.

So, thank you very much. Madam President, I'm going to support the program. But I just want to be clear, how this program began was because of two law firms in the state. Two law firms did 99 percent of the foreclosures. They didn't return phone calls. They didn't refer -- return emails. They didn't return letters. People were going to foreclosures by their neglect. And by the time they got to court, they were six to eight months in arrears, and then they were in really big trouble.

So, we started this program directly as a result of the crisis and results of two law firms who took over. I was very angry and stood up in the Circle and said, we're doing this program because of these two law firms. At the end of the day, I think it was a blessing in disguise. We get people together. We get the banks together. I think the program has
really trimmed itself down. And now it is more fair.

And people would get sick or people had unanticipated hospital stays or layoff or what have you. We nip it in the bud. We have equitable people working on it and an equitable court and justice is well preserved. So, I am glad that we're naming it after Representative Santiago. And also, I would say, Madam President, I'm very proud of the program. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Fasano. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before us? Will you remark further on the legislation? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this Bill as well. And I want to align my comments with Senator Kissel and I appreciate Senator Fasano's historical context, because appreciably, it does matter and it is indeed very much needed. There are people that are struggling and they are unwittingly having their homes foreclosed on. And having this mediation program is a resource that kind of puts the break on this accelerated process of phone calls, letters, and possible harassment, in some cases.

I've spoken to many people in which these mediation programs have given them respite, have given them a sense of an opportunity to take a moment, take a breath, and know that there are resources out there to help them. Um -- through you, proponent -- some
questions of the proponent of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Yes. Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you very much. The -- the Bill says it is for a term of four years. What is the renewal mechanism? Is there a sunset? Is there an automatic renewal? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bergstein.

SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Thank you, Madam President. It is a sunset after four years.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you very much. And the mechanism in which we have made the name, and -- and I do want to take a moment to recognize Representative Santiago for his great work in the Banking Committee and also for his great work in the community of Bridgeport. I think it's a tremendous honor to have this program named after him. I think the sensitivity is -- where are the resources? And what happens if we stop the program? Is it -- do we continue with another
program under the same name or does this program, in essence, if we don't renew it and, in the name, just ceases to be in our memory? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bergstein.

SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If we don't renew the program, then the consequence is that the judicial system will be flooded with cases, mostly pro say cases. So, we heard testimony at the public hearing from Judge Abrams saying that this program had actually reduced pressure on the judicial system and probably saved taxpayer dollars in the course of doing that. So -- uh -- through you, Madam President.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you. Through you, Madam President. And the proponent makes a very good point. We have a four-year period on this, and -- and nonetheless, if we talk about the program ceasing, that there would be flooding of the courts and systems. Why was there not a consideration to make this program permanent? Through you, Madam President.
THE CHAIR:

Senator Bergstein.

SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Thank you, Madam President. There was consideration to make it permanent. We just wanted to be careful of the fiscal impact. We wanted to be able to reassess what the demand was at a future date in time and make a assessment when appropriate. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And -- and with that thought and process, is there any mechanism within this program for data collection? A validation of the tremendous need that we've articulated in the Circle, so, that in four years, that we can reevaluate and reiterate the -- the affirmation that there is tremendous need. Uh -- through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bergstein.

SENATOR BERGSTEIN (36TH):

Thank you, Madam President. There is a requirement for data collection every other year. Through you,
Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And -- and again, I rise in initial support and with this background information, I, again, reiterate my support for this Bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? If not, a Roll Call has been requested. Mr. Clerk, please call the Roll. Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I know the hour is late, but I just had to stand up and urge my support for this. I want to thank the gentle lady of the Banks Committee for pushing -- continuing to push this issue forward.

As a former Banking Chair, I had the pleasure to work on making sure this continued as an effort. But the real shout out goes to our Majority Leader Senator Bob Duff who initiated the program many years ago in the fallout of the 2008 recession hit so many people so severely, not just in Connecticut, but across the country, and it literally saved people's lives, homes, marriages. It had that much of an impact. We sometimes have lost sight of that
because of the success of the program and it's the very reason why this program needs to be continued. So, I felt the duty to stand up and urge my support. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Leone for that. Will you remark further? Senator Bizzarro.

SENATOR BIZZARRO (6TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good evening, Madam President. Very briefly, I would just like to note, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that one of my great regrets so far this session was the fact that I did not get to know Representative Santiago personally, even though his office was right next to mine. I passed him a couple times and he was busy talking to people. And I thought to myself, I'll just grab him next time, I don't want to interrupt him. And of course, tragically that next time never materialized. And I heard from everybody with whom that I spoke, that I would have liked him, that he was a very good man.

With respect to this program, I've represented clients who have utilized this program. It's a very good program. So, tonight I get an opportunity to vote a very good program, which is being named after a very good man. I think that's a win and easy vote for me. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, Mr. Clerk, kindly call the
Roll, please.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 6996. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 6996. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine is locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 6996.

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Measure is adopted. And I would recognize Senator Fasano for a point of personal privilege.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, what we do, from time to time, is have certain people work at our sections of the Democratic Caucus and Republican Caucus, giving us some help. And tonight we had a second-year law student from Quinnipiac who had started with the SRO in January. He's done a
great job. He has really helped out a lot. He's helped out on the legal side, working the Bills and the Amendments and there he is. So, I was looking for you to come out the other day. So, he's been a great help to our office and working out the Amendments and messing with the language that we put in front of the Circle from time to time. So, Madam President, Justin Ahern has been terrific. We want to thank him for his service to our Caucus. And let's give him a warm welcome and a sendoff. Thank you. [Applause] Justin. Well done.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 44, Calendar No. 587, Substitute for House Bill No. 7277, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF LAND BANK AUTHORITIES, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 9096.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Cassano. It is your turn, sir.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Thank you, Madam President. We're moving right along. I would like to move adoption of the Bill. Let's see, Madam President, I have before me House Bill 7277. It seeks to address the land bank authorities. And this Bill is important because about a week ago, we passed a similar Bill that dealt with blighted properties. And the treatment
of -- and -- and -- the treatment, sale, nuisances of blighted properties, it said during that debate/discussion, the need to have land bank authorities as a part of that. And that was -- this is the sister Bill to that, thanks to Senator Looney.

The Bill addresses the creation of land bank authorities. Presently, blighted or abandoned properties among towns, reduce collected property taxes, as well as diminishes new property values. The creation of the land bank will allow for the restoration of these properties. It uses community funds to restore the property. And if it sold, the funds would typically recycle back into the future for another land bank property. So, it's an ongoing process and quite successful.

When I first saw the experience of land banks, they were for the purchase of land for open space and so on. And they have evolved into major neighborhood cleanups. I would urge passage of the Bill. It is a good Bill before us. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The land bank authority, as I see it, I -- I would -- I'm hoping that this will help with the brown fields that we have in different towns. Actually through you, Madam President, may I ask that question?
THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Senator Cassano, can we use this for -- for brown fields?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes. Through you, Madam President. Yes. And again, combined with we pass -- passed prior. One of my concerns for that Bill was your town, because I believe, they put in the limit of 35,000, reduced it from 60,000 to 35,000. If it was up to me, it would be down to -- it'd be to zero, because we have some very small rural towns. Let's face it, New England, if you had a river it led to a town. And so, Vernon has a very live river that has factories on it and that river comes right down and, we have Union Pond in Manchester, it goes from town to town. There are blighted properties along that area that have been back there since the 1800s, and so on. And so, between this and the other Bill, we have great opportunities for revision of these properties.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Well, we have a population of 29,000, so we kind of missed the mark on the -- the original one. But looking at the land trusts here, one of the things I would like to use that for is Brown fields and we can use that throughout the entire region.

There are many factories that are still left that are brown fields. We have owners that have walked away and left the properties. And I'm hoping that through the land -- through Land Bank Authority, we can create that division between the town and these brown fields to then work on cleaning these sites up. And if -- if we're able to do that, I'm definitely in favor of this.

And just thinking about one town, Vernon, we -- we still have a couple factories but we also have some open -- open land that is contaminated. And if you go up into other parts of my District, there are definitely other factories that are abandoned that this program could also be used for. So, I am going to support this one tonight. And I urge the Circle to do the same. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Madam President. If there's no additional comment, I ask it to be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:
Seeing no objection and hearing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 21, Calendar No. 375, Substitute for House Bill No. 7257, AN ACT CONCERNING FOOD-INSECURE STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO 7038.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell, good evening.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Good evening, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill --

THE CHAIR:

And the --

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

-- in concurrence with the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. HB 7257 would study policies and issues regarding food-insecure students at Connecticut public colleges and
universities and understand what needs to be addressed in order to decrease the number of food-insecure students at these institutions.

Madam President, it was an honor to work with the members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee on how we can make sure that no student is distracted from doing their schoolwork and succeeding in their pursuit of higher education simply because they don't have enough funds to know where they're going to have dinner or where they're going to have breakfast the next morning.

I want to thank the Ranking Members, my good friends from -- the Senator from Fairfield for his work on this Bill and urge my colleagues to support the study.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Haskell. Will you remark? Will you remark further? Senator Hwang, to be followed by Senator Formica.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I want to rise in support of this Bill, but also add my compliments to the Chair and the Leader and the staff of the Higher Education Committee. It was an issue that was a surprise for many of us in regards to the issue of, you know, food scarcity or food insecurity in our community. And I rise in support of this because this study will address some of the underlying issues and, hopefully, find some solutions for that -- such issues in our community educational systems. Through you, just for legislative intent,
what would be the composition of the study group?
And -- and how would it be facilitated to be --
uh -- started? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If you'd give me one
moment to find that in the Bill. Madam President,
with regard to the cognizance of the task force that
shall be assembled, each board shall document during
the month of October 2019 and at the Board's
discretion any additional months, the number of
students who reported experiencing food insecurity
or attempted to access benefits offered by an
institution under the Board's jurisdiction to
students experiencing food insecurity.

And, secondly, Madam President, if an institution,
under the Board's jurisdiction, operates a food
pantry or allows the operation of a food pantry on
campus, the number of students served and the number
of pounds of food distributed to that food pantry.
I want to echo, Madam President, the colleagues, and
the Ranking Member of the Committee, in -- in my
surprise at the number of community colleges across
Connecticut that -- that do, in fact, operate a
fully functional and frequently utilized food pantry
across the -- across the state. Thank you,
Madam President. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

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

Thank you. Through you Madam President, I want to acknowledge that the good work and recognizing some of the data that we found already in the community colleges. But I'm also pleased that this study will also encompass public and private colleges within the state of Connecticut.

And my hope is that we also explore vocational technical programs, as well. That being said, I -- I still did not understand, from the standpoint what are the compositions of the task force. Is it going to be appointed by the university, appointed by the General Assembly? What is going to be the composition of this task force to be able to collect the data and be able to submit the report as requested? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I do want to apologize for misspeaking. It is actually not assembling a separate task force. The study will be conducted within the Board of Regents and the University of -- of Connecticut.

And I'll note that I -- I want to thank my colleague and the House who worked very hard on this Bill. It was supported -- supported by members of both side of the aisles. I think, perhaps, because the Bill results in no fiscal impact and the University of
Connecticut and the Board of Regents have sufficient expertise to each conduct a study regarding food and emergency assistance provided to students.

So, Madam President, there will be no task force created by the legislature or the Executive Branch. Thank you, Madam President. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. I want to thank the proponent and the Chair of Higher ED for that explanation. That explains it a lot better, and it also gives me a moment to acknowledge and thank the Board of Regents in their willingness, within their capacity, to -- to be able to undertake this study in collaboration with the requests of the Higher Education Committee.

So, again, this is an important Bill. It will study the necessary solutions for an issue that we did not realize existed, but nonetheless does. So, I urge support of this. And I want to thank the good Chair for his answers. Thank you, Ma'am.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise for a question for the proponent, please.
THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The Board of Trustees -- good evening Senator. The Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents will conduct the study. Is there a consultant that they would hire for that? And is that money in the budget? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Through you. Thank you for your question, Senator. The money is not provided in the budget. It's my understanding that there are sufficient resources and expertise within the Board of Regents and the University of Connecticut system. So, no consultant would be needed to collect the data.

And as you'll see in lines 15 through 26, Senator, in the Bill the -- the issue that we are asking those two bodies to collect is rather simple in nature.

In fact, it's pretty stunning that this information isn't already public, and that's, is there a food pantry operating? And -- and exactly how much need is there on -- on campus on a weekly basis.
Specifically, we're looking at October 2019 as a sort of time and place count. Thank you, Madam President. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator. So, if I understood you correctly, the information is contained within the registration numbers that each of the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees for UConn will have. They'll be able to decipher that and handle this in-house without the need of study and without the need of dollars outside of their budget. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I'd hesitate to say that the -- all the information will be contained in the registration numbers for each campus, but I do believe that all the information will be readily available within expertise in staff for -- for both the Board of Regents and the -- the University of Connecticut.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.
SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And one last question for the good Senator. Is the food banks that's related -- that's referred to here, food pantry, I think on line 17, those are pantries in operation on each of these campuses? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASSELL (26TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Through you. I was -- that is exactly what this -- that portion of the Bill refers to. And as my good friend from Fairfield said just a moment ago, members of the Higher Education Committee were relatively surprised to find out that there were fully operational and desperately needed food pantries, some of them, privately operated and some of them, operated through the Board of Regents. But nearly all ran out of their supplies every week. And that was a -- a staggering statistic and inspired us to take action, given the fact that, certainly no student can succeed in the classroom if he or she is hungry.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator, for
his answers. I appreciate the patience. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much, Senator Formica. Will you remark further on the Bill before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Bill before the Chamber? Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. If there are no further questions or comments from my colleagues, I would ask that this item be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I prefer a Roll Call Vote on this Bill before us.

THE CHAIR:

In that case, a Roll Call will be ordered. Mr. Clerk. We are waiting to get the Bill up on the Board, and then the Clerk will call a Roll Call Vote as has been requested. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7257. Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill
7257. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on 7257. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, House Bill 7257.

THE CHAIR:

And I'd ask the Senators to stay in the Chamber, because shortly, we will have a vote on a Consent Calendar. So, please stay close to the Chamber.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7257. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, House Bill 7257. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? Seeing that we have, the machine has been locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 7257.

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THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, would the Clerk please call the items on the first Consent Calendar followed by a vote, please?

THE CHAIR:

That would be, I believe the second Consent Calendar of the day, sir?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Yes, Madam President. Second Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:


THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Would you kindly call a Roll
Call Vote? The machine will be opened. And we are voting on Consent Calendar No. 2.

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 2. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 2. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 2. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 2.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? Seeing that they have, the machine is locked. Mr. Clerk kindly call the tally.

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 2.

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Consent Calendar No. 2 is adopted.

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move all items that require House action to be
immediately transmitted to the House of Representatives, please.

THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] So ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And is the Clerk in possession of Senate Agenda No. 3?

CLERK:

Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 3, dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And Madam President, I move all items on Senate Agenda No. 3, dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019, be acted upon as indicated and that the Senate -- I'm sorry, acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and Senate transcripts, and immediately placed on our Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Can the Senate stand at ease for a moment?

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease, briefly. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President would the Clerk please call on Agenda 3, Senate Resolution No. 35. I'd like to mark it as a go. I'm sorry, hang on one second. Senate stand at ease, please.

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I -- I apologize. It's the -- to mark go, Senate Joint Resolution 44. I'd like to mark that go, ask for suspension, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

CLERK:

Senate Agenda No. 3. Senate Joint Resolution No. 44, RESOLUTION CONVENING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SPECIAL SESSION.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Senate Joint Resolution, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, let’s just call this into special session for the purposes of a Bond Bill and School Construction Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the Resolution that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Resolution that is before the Chamber?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Will the Senate stand at ease for a moment?

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. May we have a Vote on the Resolution, please?

THE CHAIR:

Yes. A Roll Call Vote will be ordered at the appropriate time. Will you remark further on the -- the -- the Resolution that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further? If not, Mr. Clerk, kindly call the Vote. The machine is opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Joint Resolution 44. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Joint Resolution 44. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Joint Resolution No. 44. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Joint Resolution No. 44. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on Senate Joint Resolution No. 44. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, Senate Joint Resolution No. 44.
THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 44.

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THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives, please.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would Senate stand at ease?

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease. [Gavel] [Gavel] [Gavel] [Gavel] Senator Duff.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'd to mark on Senate Agenda No. 3, House Bill 5001, mark that go, and ask for suspension to immediately call that. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Senate Agenda No. 3, House Bill No. 5001, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY WORKFORCE TRAINING NEEDS IN THE STATE, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 11013.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Good evening, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. HB 5001 is AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY WORKFORCE
TRAINING NEEDS IN THE STATE. Sections 1 through 4 make technical changes to an already existing Workforce Training Authority. It also slightly changes the composition of the Board, which is a bipartisan Board. And it ensures that businesses can benefit from employee training.

It, also, Madam President, makes sure that the funding appropriated in the budget, specifically $500 thousand dollars passed by this Chamber just yesterday, is properly distributed to this Workforce Training Authority.

Madam President, I want to thank my colleagues on the Higher Education Employment Advancement Committee, both Republican and Democrat, for working hard on this Workforce Training Authority Committee and also in the House of Representatives. I'd urge my -- urge my colleagues to support this Bill.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This is a good Bill and I want to thank the House leadership in -- in initiating this Bill and addressing the workforce needs of our state. I urge support. Thank you, Ma'am.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the legislation before us? Senator Formica.
SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good evening. I rise for a question.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Through you to the good Senator. This Bill simply calls for a study by a task force for workforce training? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I would point my friend, the good Senator Formica, to OCO No. 11013 -- LCO No. that is. It makes some technical changes to an already existing Workforce Training Authority, which conducts that study and also ensures that businesses receive some funding from the state. Those could be public or private entities in training their workers, whether they are businesses that already exist in Connecticut or are considering coming to the state. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

You know, I apologize to the good Senator, Madam President, but I didn't hear the last half of what he said.

THE CHAIR:

And before Senator Haskell answers, let me just ask our guests to keep the volume down because we do need to hear the debate. Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Yes. Thank you very much, Madam President. I apologize. I was speaking rather quickly. In LCO No. 11013, as amended by the House of Representatives, there are some technical changes made to the Workforce Training Authority that already existed in statute. I believe it was enacted in the last legislative session. It slightly changes the composition of the Board. And per the request of the good Senator, I'm looking for the specific line numbers. Being with line number 59 through 79, the good Senator will see that there are representatives -- I'm -- I'm sorry, that's line 59 through 95, there are representatives to this Workforce Training Authority made by legislative leaders in both the Republican and Democratic Caucus.

It also changes the meaning of public or private entity, ensuring that businesses can receive workforce training, whether they are already in state or whether they are considering moving to
Connecticut. Thank you, Madam President. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator. I'm just trying to follow along all these changes that -- I wonder if we might stand at ease just for one second, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease briefly.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

It's -- you know, 11 -- 11 pages takes a second to kind of go through to make sure -- but it does to me that there's nothing else in here other than a study for training workforce. There's no mandates or implementing statutes with regard to this Bill. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Haskell.
SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And thank you for the question. Through you, the Bill does make largely technical changes. So, the more substantive changes are the two that I went over which is the composition of the Board and the meaning of public private entity. It's my understanding, Senator, that there are no -- no mandates made. I will note that in sections 5 and 6, there are slight adjustments made concerning technical revisions given the upcoming increase in the minimum wage. But those are largely technical in nature, Senator.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Thank you, Senator. I appreciate your patience and tolerance.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the legislation before us? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise and I'm going to support the Amendment or the -- the Bill before us this evening. But I swear that there are so many studies out there that seem to be doing similar work. I just can't seem to get my arms around what's out there.
So, hopefully in the interim, between now and next session, the Office of Legislative Research can -- will be asked to do an analysis of all of the studies that this Chamber and the Lower Chamber has asked for and how they compare to each other. Because I -- sometimes I think we're reinventing the wheel, because I can't put my finger on it, but my memory tells me that there are other similar studies being done already regarding this subject matter. I'm not going to be impediment, so I'm going to support it. But I just wanted the Chamber to know that -- that -- that further information will be forthcoming. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

We shall study the study, sir. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before us? Will you remark further? Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If there are no other questions or comments from my colleagues, I would ask that this item be placed on the Consent -- I'm so sorry, Madam President, I would request a Roll Call Vote.

THE CHAIR:

And a Roll Call Vote will be requested. Mr. Clerk kindly call the Roll and the machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, House Bill 5001. Immediate Roll Call Vote
has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 5001. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on House Bill 5001.

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Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on 5001, that's House Bill 5001. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on House Bill 5001.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine is locked. Mr. Clerk, please call the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 5001.

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Legislation is adopted. Mr. -- Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, Senate
stand at ease for a moment, please?

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, does the Clerk have in its possession Senate Agenda No. 4?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk?

CLERK:

Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 4, dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you. Madam President, if -- I move all items on Senate Agenda No. 4, dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019, to be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference into Senate Journal and Senate transcripts and immediately placed on our Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered and so noted, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Senate stand at ease, please?

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, for purposes of marking, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Senate stand at ease?

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For purposes of marking, please?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Agenda 4, Calendar 697, House Bill 7269, I'd like to mark that go and
suspend our rules to mark it go. On Calendar Page 19, Calendar 350, Senate Bill 882, I'd like to mark that go. On Calendar Page 15, Calendar 286, Senate 998, I'd like to mark that go. On Calendar Page 62, Calendar 21, Senate Bill 795, go.

On Calendar Page 46, Calendar 5 -- on Calendar -- I'm sorry, Agenda No. 1, Calendar 688, 7201, I'd like to mark that go. On Calendar Page 24, Calendar 410, House Bill 7141, I'd like to mark that go. And I believe on Agenda No. 3 or 4, I believe it's 4, Calendar 590, House Bill 7250 on 4.

THE CHAIR:

Page -- page 45, Calendar 590, 7250.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. So ordered and so noted, sir. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Senate Agenda 4. Senate Agenda No. 4, Calendar 697, House Bill No. 7269, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE INSURANCE AND RELATED STATUTES, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 10992.

THE CHAIR:
Good evening, Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Good evening, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill --

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

-- in --

THE CHAIR:

Will --

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

-- concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Madam President, the Bill as amended it is both the LCO technical changes recommendations and it also -- it also pushes out the effective dates of two Bills currently pending, 7424 and 7179. I urge passage.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

If there is no objection, I would like to place this item on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 19, Calendar No. 350, Substitute for Senate Bill 882, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ARBITRATION AND THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM. There are Amendments.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening --

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Good evening.

THE CHAIR:

-- Senator -- good evening, Senator --
SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

[Crosstalk] be a good night.

THE CHAIR:

-- Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Let me -- I have two folders that are interchanged here. Um -- hold on one second. Madam President, I want to move adoption of the Bill --

THE CHAIR:

The question is --

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

-- and I please leave to summarize?

THE CHAIR:

Yes. The question is on adoption. Please proceed to summarize, sir.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

This is an act concerning municipal arbitration of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System. There's two parts of the Bill. I would like to defer to my colleague, the distinguished Chairman of the Labor Committee -- Chairwoman of the Labor Committee to explain part one. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Kushner, do you accept the yield?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

I do. Thank you, Madam President. This is a Bill that will provide for, over the next six years, for municipal employees to participate in the Municipal Employees Retirement System to contribute an additional half a percent each year from their pay to fund their pensions. And so, it is accumulative of three percent increase over six years. It will effect 85 towns and cities, will result in saving millions and millions of dollars for these towns and cities. And so, I urge my colleagues to move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kushner. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I would like to bring out the second part of the Bill, Section 501 of this Amendment, LCO 11064, notwithstanding the charter explicitly a special act for the city of Bridgeport is authorized to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed $125 million dollars plus the costs of issuances of such bonds for the purpose of funding the city of Bridgeport's Pension A Plan Fund. Such bond should be pension deficit funding bonds as defined in Section 7-374c of the general statutes, but shall not be subject to the provisions of subsection (b) or (e) said section. The bond shall mature not more than 25 years from the date of
issuance and be subject to the provisions of Chapter 109. I would move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

I move the Amendment for adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cassano. So, Senator Cassano, if you have an Amendment that you would like to move, then we will have to ask the Clerk to please call that Amendment.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

I would ask the Clerk to call Amendment LCO 11064.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

There -- there are two Amendments. There are two separate Amendments.

CLERK:

LCO No. 11064, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:
Senator Cassano, the Clerk has called the Amendment. Please proceed to summarize, sir.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This is an Amendment. It involves the city of Bridgeport. I will reread now that it is on the record officially. Bridgeport is authorized to issue bonds in the amount not to exceed $125 million dollars plus the costs of issuances of such bonds funding for the city of Bridgeport's Pension A -- Plan A Fund. Such bonds should be pension deficit funding bonds as defined in Section 7-374c of the general statutes.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cassano. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? We will stand at ease briefly.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Okay.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Step three, I will withdraw the reading of the two Amendments that I have read.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you. So, we will withdraw. Mr. Clerk, what is that LCO, please?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

11064.

THE CHAIR:

11064 will be withdrawn.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

11659 -- excuse me, 10659 is what I have.

CLERK:

LCO No. 10659, Senate Schedule "B".

THE CHAIR:

So, Senator Cassano, to be clear, the Amendment that was just -- the LCO number that was just called, would you like to call that and summarize that?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes, I move the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. So, LCO 10659 has been called by the Clerk. Sir, please proceed to summarize. And I do assume that you move that Amendment, sir?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes. I have that Amendment and again, this is the -- the special act for Bridgeport for $125
million dollars. And I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on adoption of the Amendment that is before the Chamber. Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber? Will you remark further? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber now amended? Will you remark further on the Amendment that is -- excuse me, on the amended legislation before the Chamber? Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):
Yes, Madam President. I would ask for adoption of the Amendment, this first Amendment, and I would defer again to the distinguished Chair of Labor for that call. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

And we just -- we just did adopt the Amendment. So, we are now on the legislation as amended. So, Senator Kushner, would you like to comment on the -- the legislation that has been amended that's before us?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):
Thank you, Madam President. I would urge our colleagues to support this Bill. This will provide 85 towns and cities millions of dollars in savings insofar as far as the employees of the Municipal Employee Retirement System will be paying over six years an additional three percent toward their pensions.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kushner. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):

Yes, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bradley.

SENATOR BRADLEY (23RD):
Just quickly. I just want to thank Senator Kushner and Senator Cassano for their hard work in getting this done. And as a point of personal privilege, if I may, Madam President, I just want to simply say I want to recognize Senator Ed Gomes who sat in this chair for many years and was a tremendous servant to the state of Connecticut. So, if we could please recognize, Senator Ed Gomes. [Applause]

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gomes, welcome to the Chamber. It is very nice to have you here, sir. With that, will you
remark further on the amended legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

I am being told to wait a second.

THE CHAIR:

We will stand at ease.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Thank you. You know, there's a party, Ed Gomes is here. All right. I -- Madam President, I move adoption of 11064 as read.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

That's Bridgeport.

CLERK:

LCO No. 11064, Senate Schedule "C".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Madam President, this is the Bridgeport Amendment
that has been prior -- read prior, and I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. The Amendment has been moved. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the legislation as amended before the Chamber? Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

So, I would ask that it be put on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, the legislation goes on our Consent Calendar.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President let's have a vote. I think I would like to remove that from the Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. So, the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar. And a vote has been requested on that legislation. So, we will open the machine after the Clerk announces the Bill. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 882 as amended -- as amended by Senate "B" and "C". Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 882 as amended by Senate "B" and "C". Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

So, we are going to ask all of the Senators to please cast your vote and please stay in the Chamber, as the pace is going to speed up significantly. Have all of the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Please announce the tally.

CLERK:
Senate Bill 882, as amended by Senate "B" and "C".

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THE CHAIR:

Legislation is adopted. Senators, please stay in the Chamber. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For immediate transmittal to the House.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 15, Calendar 286, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 998, AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO ENVIRONMENT RELATED STATUTES. There are Amendments.

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:

Question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Yes. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment, LCO No. 11059. I'd ask the Clerk to please call the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 11059, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you. I move adoption of the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This Bill and Amendment simply contains minor revisions to environment related statutes in accordance with our Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber? If not, let me try your minds. 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):

Yes.

THE CHAIR:

For your --

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Oh. Oh. Sorry, Madam President. I just -- I wondered if we could put the Bill on Consent. That's all.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no --

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Moving right along.
THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. No?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Let's just -- let's just vote, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate; Senate Bill 998 as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate; Senate Bill 998 as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on Senate Bill 998 as amended by Senate "A".

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? If you are in the Chamber, Senator Hwang and Senator Anwar, please do cast your votes. Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 998, as amended by Senate "A".

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Absent and not voting 0

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 62, Calendar No. 21, Senate Bill No. 795, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS. There is an Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Anwar.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

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

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):
Yes, please. Madam President, this is a commonsense Bill which is basically suggesting that the AEDs which are -- are present in most of the public places, they have challenge of being used in medical practices, dental practices because of civil liability. And we are just fixing the language to make sure that they will be used in the places where they need to be used the most. And there is an Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

And please give us the LCO number and the Clerk will call the Amendment.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

Madam President, the Amendment is LCO 7270. And I -- I ask it's reading be waived and seek leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7270, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Anwar, please proceed to summarize.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

Thank you. The Amendment is pretty simple as well.
It's states that -- that line 53 be strike where the -- the sentence, may constitute ordinary, and insert was not a result of such health care provider.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber? Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of the Bill. This is a Bill that has been in this legislature for quite some years. This is the first time we've been able to get the physicians and the trial lawyers on the same page. I would like to caution everyone that if you are an MD, you do still have a heightened responsibility in using an AED in your office. You are not completely considered a Good Samaritan, but the MDs have signed off on that. And it is much better than where we stand today and I hope that the Circle will support it. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber? Will you remark further? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:
Opposed? The Amendment is adopted. Senator Anwar.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

Madam President, I would ask if we do a Roll Call Vote. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

A Roll Call Vote will be ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 795 as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 795 as amended by Senate "A". Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Would call -- have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk kindly announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 795 as amended by Senate "A".

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THE CHAIR:
[Gavel] Amendment is -- legislation is adopted. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For our next Bill, I had not marked it, Calendar Page 46, Calendar 595, House Bill 6921.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 46, Calendar No. 595, Substitute for House Bill No. 6921, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL ON THE COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF A CRIMINAL RECORD, as amended by House Amendment Schedules "A", LCO No. 8536 and "B", LCO No. 9352.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner and before you start, Senator Kushner, just a reminder to the Senators, please stay in the Chamber, we are not holding these votes open long. Senator Kushner.
SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move adoption of the Bill in concurrence with the House. This is a Bill that will provide a commission to study the impact of criminal history on employment, and discrimination.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kushner. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to add this to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff. Okay. So -- so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Senate Agenda No. 1, Calendar 688, House Bill 7201, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVENIENCE OF ACQUIRING MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 10312.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):
Madam President, I move the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you. This is an agency Bill. Quite simply, it extends driver's licenses from six years to eight years. It also changes the registration from a two-year period to a three-year period with fees proportional as well as allowing refunds for anyone who turns in their car within the first and second year. I urge adoption. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):
Madam President, I rise to support the -- the Bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Just if I may, I have questions for the proponent of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:
Please proceed.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you. Through you, Madam President. I had a concern when I read the Bill that we're extending the age from six to eight years especially for those newly licensed drivers that are age 16. They wouldn't be going back to the Department of Motor Vehicles for a -- a new photo identification until they were 24 years of age, which would have -- I think would have an extreme change of -- of appearances. And I'm just curious why that increased for that young of an age driver. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Through you, Madam President. I'm not sure I caught the question exactly. Could you just repeat that?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you. So, from my understanding of the Bill is, you don't have to get a renewal of your driver license, it was moved from a six-year period to an eight-year period. And if somebody gets their driver's license when they're 16 years old, now they
wouldn't have to go back to the Motor Vehicles to get another picture taken -- their updated driver's license picture until they're 24 years of age. And there's, in my opinion, a huge growth and a change of appearance from age 16 to age 24. And I would -- that -- that's the reason why I'm asking why we chose that, specifically, for that age group. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. It was an Agency request. What the concurrent legislation allows is a -- a license every six years plus what is considered skip a trip, so someone could take advantage of skipping the trip and going an additional six years without having to go back to change their card for a total of 12. We removed that section in favor of going to the eight years. So, in effect, anyone could go for the eight years and not get that skip a trip which would have made the extension even longer. I hope that makes a little bit of sense. So, we agreed with making the change to the eight years as long as we remove that duplication of the six years on the current law. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):
Thank you, Madam President. I -- I don't agree with the policy change. And I'd ask for a Roll Call Vote. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

A Roll Call will be ordered. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further? If not, Mr. Clerk, please announce the vote. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7201. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7201. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, House Bill 7201.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 7201.

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Measure is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 24, Calendar No. 410, Substitute for House Bill No. 7141, AN ACT REGULATING ELECTRIC FOOT SCOOTERS, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 7215. There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark? SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This Bill is an act regulating electric foot scooters. Right now without this legislation, there is no oversight with these new items coming onto the market here in Connecticut as predominate as they have been throughout the rest of the country.

This Bill defines electric foot scooters and also expands the vulnerable user law and also requires that they -- those under 16 would be -- would need to wear helmets. Pretty much aligns the -- the
legislation with what -- what we've done with bicycles and knee bikes in the past. And this just provides a framework for monitoring these devices going forward. I know there may be a few questions, but without this legislation, there would be absolutely no oversight as these things come to market. And I would urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Leone. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The question to the proponent of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, and through you, Madam President. Can communities opt out of the scooters?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Through you, Madam President. I don't believe so. This is -- this would be across the state.

THE CHAIR:
Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Are you required to have a driver's license to operate this on the roadways?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Through you, Madam President. Not at this present time, given that the size of the motor is so small.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Even though the -- the size of the motor is small, you're still out on the roadways, still have to follow all the rules and regulations that others do, and -- and because of that, I fear for the safety of -- of -- of those riding 'em, especially if they're young. So, I will be voting against this tonight.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Champagne. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the legislation?
Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Without the full consent, I would ask for the Roll Call Vote.

THE CHAIR:

Roll Call Vote will be ordered. Mr. Clerk, the machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, House Bill 7141. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7141. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate, House Bill 7141.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted. The machine is locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 7141.

    Total number voting     36
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    Those voting Nay         4
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THE CHAIR:
[Gavel] Measure is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 45. Calendar No. 590, Substitute for House Bill No. 7250, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL TIME DEVOTED TO UNDIRECTED PLAY TO THE REGULAR SCHOOL DAY, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 9102.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRARY (2ND):

Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR MCCRARY (2ND):

Sure. Madam President, this Bill allows our children the opportunity to expand from 20 minutes of recess a day to 50 minutes. I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the legislation? Senator Berthel.

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):
Good evening, Madam President. Madam President, I rise in support of the legislation. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Amendment -- excuse me, will you remark further on the legislation before -- I would just welcome our guests to our gallery. I do want you to understand that it is against the rules of the Senate to be taking a videotaping or to be taking pictures. So, please respect our rules. We do welcome you here. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Madam -- Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Oh, sorry. Senator Formica. Apologies.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):
I apologize to the good Senator for my confusion. I would ask for a Roll Call Vote.

THE CHAIR:

Roll Call Vote will be ordered. Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, please call the vote.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7250. Immediate Roll
Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7250. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7250. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 7250.

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THE CHAIR:

Measure is adopted. Mr. Clerk -- Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For the purposes of markings, Calendar Page 43, Calendar 584, House Bill 7198, go. Calendar Page 66, Calendar 687, House Joint Resolution 171, go. Calendar Page 60, Calendar 677, House Bill 7194, go.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:
Page 43, Calendar No. 584, Substitute for House Bill No. 7198, AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 9085.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Yes. This Bill provides some -- some assurance to social workers that they can only use that title if they have the proper accreditation from an accredited college.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Abrams. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber?

Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes. I just rise in full concurrence and hope that this could go on the Consent Calendar. I'd like a Roll Call Vote please, Madam President.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the legislation? Will you remark further on the legislation? Mr. Clerk, please announce the vote. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7198. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Bill 7198. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? We have some Senators in the Chamber who have not cast their vote, Senator Hartley. Thank you. The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk kindly announce the tally please.

CLERK:

House Bill 7198.

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THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] Measure is adopted. Mr. Clerk.
Thank you, Madam President. I move adoption of the Resolution.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the Resolution that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Yes, Madam President. This Resolution is the state water plan. It comes from a Public Act 14-163, that actually began five years ago. It's the result of the work of many stakeholders and I ask my colleagues to support this Resolution that passed unanimously out of the House. There is a condition on the next Bill that I will be bringing out that has satisfied all -- most parties. And so, I want people to know that that's part of it, too. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.
SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

And I'd ask for a Roll Call Vote.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Abrams. Will you remark further on the legislation? Will you remark further on -- Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Madam President, just really fast. The issue that I've always had with this is that, when you do the public trust, the question is whether it falls under 22a-1516 with respect to intervener status. My understanding is that is not the intent of this change to have it fall under that. And with that, I will support the Bill with the understanding that it is not to apply to an intervener status which would open up a lot of different issues for small communities and people with wells. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Fasano. Roll Call Vote will be ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, House Joint Resolution 171. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate, House Joint Resolution 171.
THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang, please cast your vote. Mr. Clerk kindly announce the tally please.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 171.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>36</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Those voting Nay</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Absent and not voting</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
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THE CHAIR:

Legislation is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 60, Calendar No. 677, House Bill No. 7194, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTHS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PUBLIC DRINKING WATER, as amended by House Amendment Schedules "A" LCO No. 10598 and "B" LCO 10832.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:
And the question is on passage. Will you remark further?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Yes. This Bill provides several things. It allows public water systems, public service companies regulated by PURA to receive grants from BBH Public Water System Improvement Program. It requires BPH to amend its regulations to include standards and procedures for it to approve third parties to administer certification exams to operators of water treatment plants, water distribution systems, and small water systems.

It authorizes all municipalities to establish a municipal storm water authority, and specifies in that, that for the purposes of this, that the municipality does not include any metropolitan district, school district, special taxing district, or certain other localities -- or certain other local entities, excuse me. And it also, as related to the state water plan that we just adopted, it specifies that if the state water plan conflicts with any statute, the statute controls. I move for adoption and would ask for a Roll Call Vote.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. A Roll Call Vote will be ordered. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes. I rise in support of this Bill through Public
Health. And I just wanted to talk to folks about the fee. The fee is planning on remaining the same as it has been and that is in the budget. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Somers. Will you remark further on the legislation? Will you remark further on the legislation? If not, a Roll Call Vote has been requested. Senator Abrams, you did request a Roll Call vote?

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

I withdraw the request and ask that we move it to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For items for our Consent Calendar please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 21, Calendar 380, Senate Bill -- House Bill 7313, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page
23, Calendar 401, House Bill 5683, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 23, Calendar 402, House Bill 6997, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 24, Calendar 409, House Bill 7282, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 25, Calendar 415, House Bill 6666, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 25, Calendar 416, House Bill 7243, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 30, Calendar 469, House Bill 7325, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 31, Calendar 480, House Bill 7361, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 33, Calendar 496, House Bill 7340, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 34, Calendar 499, House Bill 7064, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 35, Calendar 515, House Bill 7248, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar 37, Calendar 535, House Bill 7230, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 38, Calendar 538, House Bill 6346, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 41, Calendar 574, House Bill 7122, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 42, Calendar 575, House Bill 7125, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 42, Calendar 578, House Bill 7000, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 43, Calendar 582, House Bill 5575, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar 43, Calendar
583, House Bill 7104, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 45, Calendar 592, House Bill 7394, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 45, Calendar 594, House Bill 6939, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 46, Calendar 600, House Bill 5181, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 47, Calendar 607, House Bill 6122, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 48, Calendar 608, House Bill 6747, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 48, Calendar 609, House Bill 6146, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 49, Calendar 616, House Bill 7286, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 49, Calendar 617, House Bill 6890, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 49, Calendar 619, House Bill 5213, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 50, Calendar 623, House Bill 7217, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 50, Calendar 626, House Bill 7244, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 52, Calendar 635, House Bill 7373, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 52, Calendar 637, House Bill 6942, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 53, Calendar 638, House Bill 5833, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 53, Calendar 640, House Bill 7215, I'd like to move that item to Consent.
On Calendar Page 53, Calendar 641, House Bill 7353, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 54, Calendar 645, House Bill 7299, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 55, Calendar 649, House Bill 7107, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Calendar Page 37, Calendar 536, House Bill 7190, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 67, Calendar 381, House Joint Resolution 57, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 56, Calendar 657, House Bill 6376, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Agenda 4, Calendar 692, House Bill 7192, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Agenda 4, Calendar 695, 7363, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 2, Calendar 76, Senate Bill 971, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

On Agenda 2, Calendar 696, House Bill 6088, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 26, Calendar 423, House Bill 6184, I'd like to move that item to Consent. On Calendar Page 66, Calendar 686, House Joint Resolution 170, I'd like to move that item to Consent.

If the Clerk will now call the items on the Consent Calendar followed by a vote on the Consent Calendar. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

May I just say that was impressive, Senator Duff. [laughter] [Applause] And can I also say, I wrote all that down. I was not the Secretary of the State for nothing. [laughter] Mr. Clerk, would you --
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Hold on, Madam President? We need to add -- add one more please.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 514 -- I'm sorry, Calendar 514, House Bill 6588, I'd like to move that item to Consent, please.

THE CHAIR:

All of those items are so noted and --

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

One more, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

-- so ordered. Yes. We will -- 6588, House Bill 6588.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

All right. Madam President, if the Clerk can start reading the items on the Consent Calendar, please?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. You go, Mr. Clerk.
Consent Calendar --

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar No. 3, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:


THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I need to add three more items, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar 111 -- I'm sorry, on Calendar -- House Bill 7152, I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar. And also
Madam President, have we called Senate Agenda No. 5?

THE CHAIR:

No.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Okay. Mr. Clerk, would you please call Senate Agenda No. 5?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, Senate Agenda 5.

THE CHAIR:

Senate Agenda No. 5, dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I -- I move all items on Senate Agenda No. 5 dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2019, be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference to the Senate journal and Senate transcripts, and be immediately placed on our Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted, so ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For our Consent
Calendar, Substitute for House Bill on Agenda No. 5, Senate 7297. I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar. And the second item is, House Bill 7258 on Agenda 5. I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The first item was House Bill 7152, Calendar 679, Page 60. Thank you, Madam President. Let's vote.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Thank you, sir. Mr. Clerk, 7152, 7297, 7258.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

7297, 7258, and House Bill 7152.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk kindly call the Roll. The machine will be opened on the Consent Calendar.

CLERK:

Hold on. Hold on a moment. Let me put it on -- I got to put these on the -- we'll put these on the Consent Calendar. On the Consent Calendar 72 -- Agenda No. 5, 7297, Agenda No. 5, 7258, and House Bill 7152. House Joint Resolution 7152.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Senate -- Madam President? Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you. Calendar 514, House Bill 6588 on the Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Thank you.

CLERK:

Calendar 514, House Bill 6588 on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 3. Immediate Roll Call Vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 3. Immediate Roll Call Vote in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 3.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:
Consent Calendar No. 3.

Total number voting 36
Those voting Yea 36
Those voting Nay 0
Absent and not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar is adopted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I think we have time for just one more Consent Calendar. [laughter] Thank you, Madam President. And with that, I move that we adjourn. I move that we adjourn, Sine Die. [Applause]

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff. [Gavel] [Gavel]

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I think that was an impressive Consent Calendar. And I want to thank everybody for their cooperation on that. Madam President, as we -- before we get down to the -- to the Governor's speech, I want to just take a moment to say thanks to -- to some folks here in the Chamber and outside the Chamber. If we could have order in the Chamber, please?

THE CHAIR:

[Gavel] [Gavel] [Gavel] [Gavel] [Gavel] Could
we have order in the Chamber for a few thank yous. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, this Chamber is a little more experienced than we were back in January and we know that we have many new faces here and I think many of us wondered how we would get through the session and how it would work, and I think, based on the work we did tonight and our Consent Calendar, we proved to the people of the state of Connecticut that we work well together. We work in a bipartisan way and we are moving our state forward.

I wanted to just thank -- take a few moments to thank some -- some people who have helped make this evening possible. First, I'd like to say thank you to our Senate President, Senator Looney for his leadership of our Caucus who has really done a superb job leading our Caucus, but also leading in the Senate and working together with leadership to make sure things worked together, worked smoothly.

We are -- Senate Democrats our agenda moved forward, but we always did it in a collegial way and Senator Looney is just such a wonderful mentor, a friend, just a -- a -- a -- just a wonderful person and I could not -- not ask for a better partner than Senator Looney. I also want to thank Senator Fasano for his friendship and his leadership. Working together is always a pleasure. We can always have honest discussions and working together we always make bills better. And having his friendship and leadership really means a lot to me. Same with Senator Witkos, working the floor together, always
our cooperation means so much.

I certainly want to thank you, Madam President. You've done a great job your first year. It's not easy coming in here, especially those from the House. [Applause]

THE CHAIR:

To all the Senators, I would just say thank you. It has been a pleasure getting to know you all better and working with you all every day.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

And thank you. Madam President, I'd like to also, of course, thank our Speaker of the House, Joe Aresimowicz, my House Majority Leader and my counterpart downstairs, all of our Senators, and of course, our families who have been putting up with us not being home for at least the two and a half weeks, who put up with us all the time. None of us could do this without families and friends and we certainly have to thank them.

I have to also thank our Screening Committee that worked so hard, Senator McCrory, Senator Moore, Senator Winfield, and of course all of our staff, as well.

I also want to thank our Chief of Staff Vinny Mauro, our Deputy Chief of Staff Courtney Coullinan, Ken Saccente, Shirley Harol [phonetic], Dean O'Brien, our -- our attorney Joe Rudikoff, Joe Quinn, Brad Cupfor [phonetic], Bill Beccaro, Liz Keyes, of course our Policy staff, all of our Senate Democrat staff.
Also, Carla and Rhonda who are -- are really great den mothers back there who take good care of us. Our press staff who does a great job. [Applause] And again, just a thanks to -- to everybody, the folks who brings us the -- the Amendments and they work so hard all the time and we appreciate it. Our button pushers over there and our -- everybody else who does all our -- Sergeant in Arms, everybody who works to help make things smooth over here. And certainly thanks to our constituents who send us up here to do good work and who give us this honor of being in the Circle.

So, again, Madam President, I want to thank everybody for all of your hard work, the Governor, staff, Governor Lamont, of course, and his -- his folks because we're all working together, trying to move this state forward.

So, again, I want to thank everybody. Have a well-rested time. Hope to see you soon, but not too soon and maybe downstairs in a little bit. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. [Applause] Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam President. First, I -- I'd like to just let the Governor's Office know that I did not have to Google the words to MC Hammer, U Can't Touch This. It's the only rapper I've ever known. So, to the Governor's Office, I want to clear that record up.
I also want to echo the words of thank you to Bob working with Senator Duff and Senator Looney, who I have known most of my life, frankly now. It has always been a pleasure and that's what makes this building work.

But I have to talk about Chris Fletcher and Vinny Mauro and Weirs Courtney [phonetic] and Jack for putting together the Calendars that allow us to operate and making sure we're all on the same page. I think they all deserve a great big applause, if you don't mind. [Applause]

I want to thank the non-partisan staff, who we freshly call, the people of the -- of the night. We don't see them, they operate in the night. They drop stuff off at our desk. They put stuff in the computers. We enjoy the information. We don't know who they are or where they are, but they're about this building.

I also want to just thank the folks downstairs and leadership downstairs, without the dance and the coordination that we have on the last day, we cannot get the Bills passed in the House and the Senate that we do without all that help.

Madam President, it's good to see that you are now in the Upper Chamber in a room that we have enjoyed for years and it's -- we welcomed you and you did a great job. And it's good that you have Adam on your side helping you out. He's a veteran of this hall.

To the staff on both sides of the aisle, it is always a pleasure to work with staff on both sides of the aisles. You're so cordial to each other.
You treat Republicans and Democrats with respect, no matter what side that you're on, and that is so nice, whether you're an aide or a researcher or an attorney. It is a pleasure to work in this building along all that staff. You guys do great, great work. So, thank you so much for all that.

And we have a speech downstairs. I'll be yielding to Senator Looney. And then, I understand there's some beverages that may be about the building. But -- so, we'll end that with this session.

And to the rookies who are sittin' around this Circle, congratulations, welcome to the best place in this building and where you can make a difference. You got through it. You did it very, very well. I congratulate you guys. You made it through. You may have -- we may have a new Bill on PTSD next year for you, but for now congratulations. And I'd like to yield to my friend, Senator Looney. [Applause]

SENIOR LOONEY (11TH):
Thank you, Senator Fasano and I do accept the -- the yield. And Madam President, first of all, thanks -- thanks to you for your gracious service here and your sense of just the seriousness of our purpose here and the blessing it is for all of us to be here selected by the people of the state or by our Districts to be here.

I would like to begin by thanking Senator Fasano who has been my friend for so many, many years, and although we have politically opposing roles, I -- I think that the trust and friendship we have in each other has helped seen us through some -- some difficult times and made some -- some carving out
some compromises that might otherwise have been impossible.

And it is true. I think that serving in the state Senate is just the -- the greatest blessing of my life. I can say that as a former 12-year House member, as well. And that was also great and I actually missed it for the first couple of years after coming to the Senate, but not any longer after 27 sessions here. It is -- just is the greatest blessing of all.

And some other -- some other folks to -- to thank who we may not have been mentioned earlier in -- in our legal staff. Dina Berlyn, who has become an expert on Health Policy and Health Insurance. Joe Quinn, who is our -- our counsel emeritus, and he now wears the -- for a while, he had the beard to look like the -- the aged Sage, but Joe is still invaluable to us. Bill Beccaro, who has done so much over the years. Our policy staff, Manie Merisotis, Katie Hubbard, Dave Steuber, Taylor Thorpe [phonetic], Teresa Covert [phonetic], Connor Oliver [phonetic].

The non-partisan staff of course, Neil Ayers, Louise Nadeau, Stephanie D'Ambrose, and Jim Tamburro, the heads of all of the offices. Other staff members who are so invaluable and doing so much. My aide, Tyler Mack. Nick Neeley, who is sort of a -- a jack of all trades and does so much.

Our press staff on our side, Kevin Coughlin, Larry Cook, Henry Chisum [phonetic], Joe O'Leary [phonetic], Lauren Myer [phonetic], Gregg Davis, John Curly [phonetic].
It was mentioned earlier, Carla Smith and Rhonda Carroll have done such a great job keeping us well fed, contempt, and happy, despite all of the -- the long hours that we have -- that we have put in here.

And before -- before we're going downstairs, Madam President, just two other special people or three actually, our Majority Leader, Senator Duff who has done -- done such a great job in helping to -- to manage and build our way through difficult problems, as I mentioned.

I think that all of us here on both sides have great respect for what we do. I want to add the -- this -- the congratulations to all our members, but especially the 14 members for whom this is their first term, the 11 on the Democratic side and three on the Republican side, all have been superb and have -- there has been -- it seems to have been no learning curve at all. All of you acted as really experienced and savvy and knowledgeable legislatures and your Districts can -- can be proud of your service here and that you have all hit the ground running in -- in important ways.

And finally, I'd like to -- to thank two special people who helped me every day make it -- make it run. First of all, our Deputy Chief of Staff and Policy Director, Courtney Cullinan, who is the -- the person who kind of keeps everything moving and moves serenely from one crisis to another and manages to solve them all. That is -- it's just a -- a great blessing to have her there and she is somebody who inspires confidence and -- and helps calm the nerves of all when things get fraught.
And finally, our Chief of Staff, Vinny Mauro. What I'd like to say about Vinny is that Vinny is someone who is playing three-dimensional chess while most people are playing checkers. And that's kind of -- that's kind of how it is. But he does such a great job and has for -- for so many years.

So, again, to the Governor and all of the administration, thanks for -- for their great work and cooperation, also in their first session working with all of us here. So -- and I think now it's time for us to -- to celebrate the achievements of the session, to go down to the House for -- for joint convention. Thank you, Madam President. [Applause]

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. We are adjourned and let's all go down to the House. [Gavel]

On motion of Senator Duff of the 25th, the Senate at 12:00 a.m. adjourned Sine Die.