

THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

(The House of Representatives was called to order at 12:33 o'clock p.m., Deputy Speaker Candelaria in the Chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

[Gavel] The House will please come to Order. Will Members, Staff and guests please rise and direct your attention to the dais where Imam Refai Arefin will lead us in prayer

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN, IMAN REFAI AREFIN:

Thank you. Let us pray. Dear God, benevolent, and compassionate and gracious; abundant in loving kindness and truth - heal those who are sick from disease, infection or illness. May they regain their strength through quality medical care administered and coordinated by our competent leaders and professionals. Heal us also from fear of one

another, which prevents neighbors from helping one another. And help us and heal us from our own egos so that we may take the brave steps to avert a crisis. Amen.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you. Will Representative Blumenthal of the 147th please lead us into the Pledge of Allegiance.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

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.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

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

CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, communications from the Governor, DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CIVIL PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCIES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Forward and print in the Journal.

CLERK:

Favorable Report House Resolution No. 8,
RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND
THE STATE EMPLOYEES BARGAINING AGENT COALITION
(SEBAC) to be tabled for the Calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Tabled for the Calendar and printing.

CLERK:

FAVORABLE CHANGES OF REFERENCE HOUSE BILLS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA:

Representative Ritter, you have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we waive
the reading of the rest of the House Favorable
Changes Reference to those communicated.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

So ordered without objection.

CLERK:

List of Bills, number 24 dated March 11, 2020.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Again, Mr. Speaker I move that we waive the reading of the list of Bills, and Bills be referred to Committees indicated. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

So ordered without objection.

CLERK: EMERGENCY HOUSE CERTIFICATION House Bill No. 5518, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES, AND CONCERNING MUNICIPAL REPORTS ON CERTAIN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS, VALIDATION OF A REFERENDUM AND HIGHWAY PROJECTS.

Also Joint Resolution No. 25, RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE JOINT RULES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

And last is the Daily Calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Representative Ryan you have the floor, sir.

REP. RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the purpose of an introduction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. RYAN (139TH):

Yes, sir. Every year we have the pleasure of hosting members, representative of the Eastern Regional Council Conference, Council of State Governments. Connecticut has long been a member of the Council of State Governments and these individual regional conferences help provide services and answer questions to the various states that are under it's jurisdiction. So every year, like I said, the staff makes a visit to talk to our members, to better ascertain what needs that we might have that they can help us with. So this year as we have had in the past, we have visiting us, Wendall Hannaford who is the Executive Director of CSG and they are standing in front if they would

standup. David Biette who is the Deputy Executive Director, Deb Page who is the Senior Policy Analyst, we also have Rona Cohen who is a Program Consultant in Environmental Issues for CSG and we also have two former State Reps from New Hampshire who comprise the Policy Consultants for Agg and Rural Issues and that is Tara Sad and Bob Hafka. So if you would join me in welcoming them in our usual manner, thank you. [Applause].

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Welcome to the State of Connecticut.

Representative Comey.

REP. COMEY (102ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for purposes of an introduction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. COMEY (102ND):

Sure, today I would like to welcome in the Chamber with me, I have Branford High School students. They are here today for CAFE Day on the

Hill and have spent the morning with us learning all about our exciting legislation that we have here in Hartford. I also have Representatives of our shop rooms are from the high school teachers and as well as our Board of Ed representatives. So I just want everyone to give them a warm round of applause and thank them for joining us today. [Applause]

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Welcome to the Chambers. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Hearing none will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 25.

CLERK:

On Page 1, House Calendar No. 25, House Joint Resolution No. 19, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE ANTHONY P. FUSCO OF BROOKFIELD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL REVIEW COUNCIL AS AN ALTERNATE FAMILY SUPPORT MAGISTRATE. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good seeing you up there on the dais.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Nice to see you.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

I move Acceptance of the Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The question before the Chamber is on I move for Acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution. Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Yes, this is a Resolution confirming the nomination of the Honorable Anthony P. Fusco to be a member of the Judicial Review Council as an Alternate Family Support Magistrate. He is amply qualified, a graduate of Western Connecticut State University and of the University of Bridgeport School of Law. He has been a Family Support

Magistrate assigned to Bridgeport, Danbury, New Britton. He is amply qualified, served in the U.S. Army as a combat infantryman. This Resolution passed unanimously in our Committee and I urge Adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Do you care to remark further? Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Good Afternoon. I rise briefly to support and agree with the Gentleman's comments. Attorney Fusco is eminently qualified for this position and I would urge adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed? The Aye's have it, the Resolution is adopted [Gavel]. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 26.

CLERK:

On Page 2, House Calendar 26, House Joint Resolution No. 20, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JOHN F. KAVANEWSKY, JR., OF EAST NORWALK TO BE A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL REVIEW COUNCIL. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for Acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before this Chamber is I move for

Acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution. Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is Resolution confirming the Honorable John Kavanewsky of East Norwalk to be a Member of the Judicial Review Council as a Superior Court Judge. He is amply qualified and served as a Superior Court Judge for 25 years mostly in the Criminal Division, has been a member of the Public Defender Services Commission, a member of the Connecticut Code of Evidence Drafting Committee, member of the Connecticut Code of Evidence Oversight Committee and a faculty member of the Connecticut Judge's Institute. He was passed unanimously by our Committee and I urge my colleagues to adopt the Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Perillo you have the floor,

sir.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again I concur with the Chairman of the Committee. I just want to state that it is often times you don't understand what these committees do and I think it is important to say that this is a very important group of individuals, a very important council. It keeps our judicial system honest and aboveboard and holds it to the highest standard and I think we need to recognize that and I think that the gentleman before us is ideally suited for the position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Would you care to remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution please signify by saying, Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The aye's have it. The Resolution is Adopted [Gavel]. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 27.

CLERK:

On Page 2, House Calendar 27, House Joint Resolution No. 21, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ATTORNEY RICHARD T. MEEHAN OF SHELTON TO BE A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL REVIEW COUNCIL AS AN ALTERNATE ATTORNEY-AT-LAW. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move Acceptance of the Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Question before the Chamber is on Acceptance and Passage of the Joint Committee's

Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Clerk stated this is a Resolution to appoint Richard T. Meehan as a member of the Judicial Review Council as an Alternate Attorney-At-Law. Attorney Meehan has been rated as one of our top defense attorneys in Bridgeport, selected to the Super Lawyer's in 2006 and 2019, has worked in criminal defense, personal injury, and medical malpractice. This is a new appointment. He is a UConn Law Scholl Graduate from the Class of 1974. He was passed unanimously by our Committee and I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Representative Perillo you have the floor, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Chairman of the Committee said, Attorney Meehan is eminently

qualified for the position, very-well respected but in my eyes most importantly a resident of Shelton which counts to me, but I am very proud to support his nomination and to speak highly of it and I would urge Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative O'Dea you have the floor, sir.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this candidate, Richard Meehan, at the risk of tainting my own reputation, for the record that's a joke. I just want to speak in support of Attorney Meehan. He is a fantastic attorney and would be a great addition to the Judicial Review Council. He has done a lot for the Bar for many years and I would encourage my colleagues to support his nomination. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark

further? Would you care to remark further on the Resolution before us? If not let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution, please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The Ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted [Gavel]. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 28.

CLERK:

On Page 2, House Calendar No. 28, Senate Joint Resolution No. 19, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ATTORNEY GENEVA ODESSA BELL OF COLCHESTER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL REVIEW COUNCIL AS AN ALTERNATE ATTORNEY-AT-LAW. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for Acceptance of the Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is on I move for Acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution. Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a Resolution as our Clerk has stated to support the nomination of Attorney Genea Odessa Bell of Colchester to be a member of the Judicial Review Council as an Alternate Attorney-at-Law. She has a bachelor's degree of music, a master's degree in elementary education and a Juris Doctorate from the UConn Law School. Throughout her career Attorney Bell has served on many boards and commissions including the Board of Trustees at the Hart School of Music, the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association and the Connecticut Center for Children's Advocacy and many

other organizations. She is eminently qualified, our Committee approved the Resolution unanimously and I urge my colleagues to adopt this Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Perillo you have the floor, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Yes, again Speaker, simply to concur with the Chairman of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. The individual came before us, very impressive, very talented and it was a wonderful discussion we had with her and I would urge Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you. Would you care to remark further? Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. They aye's have it, the Resolution is Adopted [Gavel]. Will the Clerk please call Calendar 29.

CLERK:

On Page 2, House Calendar 29, Senate Joint Resolution No. 20, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE GLADYS IDELIS NIEVES OF NEW HAVEN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL REVIEW COUNCIL AS AN ALTERNATE FAMILY SUPPORT MAGISTRATE. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for Acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is on Acceptance of

Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of
the Resolution. Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Judge Nieves has a degree from Yale and undergraduate degree and she also has a law degree from New York University. She is being appointed to this part-time position and it's term of office will be for three years. Judge Nieves' career has been in Family Law. She was appointed as Judicial Magistrate in 2014. She is a national welfare law specialist, member of the Hispanic National Bar Association, the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association as well as the National Council for Children, the New Haven and Connecticut Bar Associations and much more. She is eminently qualified, was supported unanimously by our Committee. Urge adoption of the Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, I just want to reiterate some of my comments regarding the last individual before us. Our discussions in Committee with this individual were very impressive and the individual is extremely well-qualified for the role and for their service on the council so I would urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution please signify by saying, Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed nay. The Aye's have it. The Resolution is adopted [Gavel]. Would the Clerk please call Calendar 30.

CLERK:

On Page 3, House Calendar 30, House Resolution No. 9, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF CHARLES F. BUNNELL OF WATERFORD TO BE REAPPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT. Favorable Report of the House Committee on Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you've got the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for Acceptance of the Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is on Acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution. Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Bunnell has served as Chief of Staff for the Mohegan Indian for 20 years, also concentrates on External Affairs and

Government Relations not just in Connecticut but many other states, Niagara Falls, South Korea and even in Greece. He was an intern here for Senators Larson and O'Leary and worked for U.S. Senator Dodd. He has served on Make-a-Wish Foundation, Oakhill, Connecticut State Tourism, Southeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, and several other boards. A very well-qualified individual. Mr. Bunnell was approved unanimously by our Connecticut and urge Adoption of the Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Representative McCarty.

REP. MC CARTY (38TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, House Speaker. Thank you very much. I rise in full support of the reappointment of Chuck Bunnell to the Board of Trustees. Check has a very extensive, as you heard, background administrative and in political affairs serving now as Chief of Staff for the Mohegan Tribe and Chuck is also a personal friend. I know he is a

community activist in our town of Waterford, he is very well-liked and gives freely of himself. He is always accessible and very learned and I support him fully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Madam. Would you care to remark further? Representative Cheeseman you have the floor, Madam.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you very much Mr. Speaker and I want to echo the comments of my good colleague and the Chair. Mr. Bunnell is a wonderful community citizen, does a terrific job representing the Tribe and is an all-round good guy. So I would urge everyone to support his nomination to the UConn Board of Trustees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you so much, Madam. Will you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution please

signify by saying, Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Opposed, nay. The Aye's have it. The Resolution is adopted [Gavel]. Would the Clerk please call Calendar No. 31.

CLERK:

On Page 3, House Calendar No. 31, House Joint Resolution No. 22, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MILAN CHAND OF NEWTOWN TO BE APPOINTED A NONVOTING STUDENT MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.
DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.
REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move for Acceptance of the Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is on Acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution. Representative Vargas you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Yes, this young man is being appointed to the State Board of Education as a student representative. I must say Milan Chand was, it was quite a delight to interview him in our Committee. He is a young man with the near perfect GAP, Class President, he is a member of the National Honor Society, World Language Honors Society, Hawks Honor Society, Superintendent's Award and Senator Blumenthal's Special Recognition Award and many more. He plays two varsity sports and has over 500 hours of volunteer time and I like I said, it was a delight to interview this young man. I think he will be a welcomed addition to our State Board of Education from a student perspective and I urge, he was obviously unanimously by our Committee and I encourage everyone to adopt this Resolution.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Sredzinski you have the floor, sir.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Newtown Delegation and the State Representatives from the 2nd, 106th and 112th Districts, we are proud to have a Newtown resident serve on this board. I concur with the Chairman's comments and urge my colleagues to support. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you so much, sir. Would you care to remark further? Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution please signify by saying, Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The Aye's have it. The Resolution is adopted [Gavel]. Would the Clerk please call Calendar No. 32.

CLERK:

On Page 3, House Calendar No. 32, House Joint Resolution No. 23, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF SOPHIA CHIN OF SOUTH WINDSOR TO BE APPOINTED A NONVOTING STUDENT MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for Acceptance of the Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is on Acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption

of the Resolution. Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, Sophia Chin is another student, nonvoting member of the State Board of Education. She came before us and as the previous nominee it was a delight to interview her. She is a top student, she is a Red Cross Blood Drive Ambassador, volunteers at St. Francis Hospital. She plays varsity tennis and is All-Academic Award, teaches tennis in her community. She has received an award and has also been Secretary General of the Model United Nations and she has also received the Prudential Spirit of Community Award and she has worked at Trader Joe's, which is interesting. We had a nice conversation over her work there. She has also served for 400 hours of community service and like the previous nominee this is a top scholar, with a great personality, it was a delight for the Committee to interview her and I urge my colleagues to adopt this

Resolution. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Representative Perillo you have the floor, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. What struck me most about Ms. Chin is it was community service and her commitment to that and her commitment to others and that alone validates her position in this Committee, on the Board and I would urge Adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Will you remark further on the Resolution before us. If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution please signify by saying, Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The Aye's have it. The

Resolution is adopted [Gavel]. Would the Clerk please call Calendar No. 33.

CLERK:

On Page 3, House Calendar 33, House Joint Resolution No. 24, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ANDREW M. NORTON OF COLCHESTER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for Acceptance of the Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is on Acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution. Representative Vargas you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you very much. Mr. Norton is an individual who is amply qualified to serve on CHRO. He has quite an extensive State experience, he has worked for OPM, was Chief of Staff of SRO. He has been a liaison for Rehabilitation Services and now is working in the Department of Aging and Disability Services. He sits on several boards and associations in town as well. He brings a wealth of experience to CHRO. Our Committee supported this Resolution unanimously and I urge adoption. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur and urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the Resolution before us? Would you care

to remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution please signify by saying, Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The Aye's have it. The Resolution is adopted [Gavel]. Would the Clerk please call EMERGENCY CERTIFIED BILL No. 5518.

CLERK:

EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION BILL No. 5518, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES, AND CONCERNING MUNICIPAL REPORTS ON CERTAIN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS, VALIDATION OF A REFERENDUM AND HIGHWAY PROJECTS. Introduced by Representative Aresimowicz, Senator Looney, etal.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Miller you have the floor,
Madam,

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move passage of the Certified, the Emergency Certified Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The question is on passage of the Bill. Will you remark? Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker before I discuss what is in the Bill I want to acknowledge a few people who helped make this day possible. I want to acknowledge by Co-Chair Senator Marilyn Moore and my Ranking Member Representative Libby Floren. And I just want to say to Libby personally, thank you, you have been a great partner and not only have you been a partner, you've been my mentor and you've been my voice of reasoning. So thank you very much for the work that you've done to help create this bond package. I would also like to thank the Chairs of the Finance Committee that is Representative Jason Rojas as well as Senator John Fonfara and we couldn't have done this without OFA

and LCO and I wanted to thank Eric Michael Gray our analyst as well as his team and Chris Reinhart from LCO as well as his team. I want to thank the members of Bonding Subcommittee, I want to thank you for your attendance. I want to thank you for your input because we couldn't have created this package without you, so thank you very much. And then Tom Spinela [Phonetic], Tom thank you very much, thank you for your patience and helping us as well. And I want to thank Cassandra who is the finance clerk and then I want to thank my support team. I want to thank Matt Brockman who is the Chief of Staff, Matt thank you so much for all the work that you've done to help move this along. And my aide, Andrea Furlow and then the policy, I'm sorry, the policy analyst. I'm nervous because she is sitting here with me and I'm trying to think of the great things I can say about her and that is Dianna Palmer. And Dianna thank you so much for the work that you've done. You not only help us with the bond package but when we have bond requests you review those as well. You

keep me on task and I thank you for the work, I thank you for your knowledge because you're well knowledgeable so I thank you very much for the work that you've done to help us with this package as well.

So on to the business. In today's bond package we have continued our commitment to funding clean water projects, advanced manufacturing and growth, UConn and CSUS system building projects, school construction, alliance districts and prioritize schools district grants, Brownfield Remediation, Greenways, school security, daycare security, affordable housing projects, workforce training, non-profit grants, remediation of lead in school drinking water, bridges, roads and other transportation infrastructure among other projects. While maintaining our commitment to these important projects and programs we are mindful of the governor's request for a debt diet. We are authorizing significantly less than we would have been able to authorize under our bond caps.

So what's in this Bill? There is \$1.5 billion dollars in new authorizations in FY 20 and FY 21. We are also 84 percent of a debt limit, the cap is 90 percent and I think the Committee should be commended for doing that because that was no easy task. There is also \$778 million dollars in new STO authorizations in 20 and \$782 million dollars in new STO authorizations in 21. There is \$84 million dollars in the Clean Water Fund Revenue Bonds in 21 to go along with the \$150 million dollars in GO grants for wastewater projects and \$29 million dollars in GO grants for drinking water projects. There is over \$200 million dollars per year for housing projects. There is \$475 million dollars per year to help pay the State's portion of school construction projects. There is over \$200 million dollars per year for major municipal programs. There is \$90 million dollars for dredging which would help assist New London and New Haven, the "News". And then there is Urban Act, there is \$100 million dollars per year for the Urban Act Funding and there is \$30 million

dollars of State funds in FY 20 which will go with the use of the \$30 million dollars that is currently available. It also provides \$15 million dollars in funding for school security. And a significant funding for IT projects to allow the governor to modernize State government. Our package includes increase funding for renovation to libraries, increased funding for Alliance and Priority School Districts, increase funding for Brownfield Remediation, funding for Open Space Programs, increased funding for the non-profit grants. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for givin me the opportunity to make my remarks on the package.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you so much for giving that eloquent summary of this Bill. Thank you, madam. Will you remark further on the Bill? Representative Floren you have the floor, Madam.

REP. FLOREN (149TH):

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. She was eloquent wasn't she? [Laughs]. The Bond

Authorization Bill that Representative Miller just presented was crafted in a bipartisan and collegial process with input from all of our State agencies, on-site visits to various projects and consultation with OPM. Working with Representative Pat Miller is a pleasure. She is inclusive, diligent, and very, very smart. The members of our General Bonding Subcommittee were fully engaged and proactive, professional support staff was provided by Amanda Belengaba [Phonetic], Ben Beracki [Phonetic], Eric Michael Gray, Steve Kidowitz [Phonetic], Michael Murphy, Dianna Palmer and Ashley Zane.

The Bond document is the resulting work product. It adheres to the debt diet without imposing starvation. In fact, you should really call it an example of intermittent fasting. It remains within the 90 percent debt limit [Laughs] and the \$1.9 billion dollar hard bond cap. We restricted new authorizations and we reduced or delayed or cancelled prior authorizations that were not already in process or no longer needed in order

to help alleviate the economic pressure on cities and towns. We preserved school construction reimbursement and municipal funds like LoCIP and TAR and we maintained competitive local grants like STEEP, Urban Act, and the non-profit funding pool. In addition, we were able to provide the \$200 million dollars [Laughs] that was requested by the governor for projects of infrastructure improvements and repairs.

This Bond Authorization Bill has validity. It proves that Bond is not an ugly four-letter word. Restrained and strategic borrowing is a fiscally responsible financial tool that supports capital needs and provides funding for projects that will move our State forward into the future. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Madam. Would you care to remark further on the Bill? Representative Davis you have the floor, sir.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as with

any major piece of legislation that we have here in the Legislature that deals with significant amounts of money, there is always good and bad parts of each package, similar to the budget. And one can certainly argue that this Bond package that is before us is much more responsible than some bond packages that we've seen in years past and it certainly helps bring down some of those debt levels that the State of Connecticut has been suffering through over the last ten years. The Bond package that is before us does come in below the cap, actually quite comfortably unlike some past years which is always a very positive thing to see. There are a number of items within this Bond package that I personally am opposed to including in this Bond package. There's items in here that I am very much supportive of the municipal aid that our towns are depending on, have already budgeted for that our property taxes are based on are included in this Bond package. There is money available for non-profits in this Bond package that ultimately will

hopefully save the State money through appropriations by being able to continue to have those non-profits provide those services going forward with this additional money provided to them. However, I think there is ability of us to take a look at some of these items that may not be the best items to include in this Bond package. And what that, Mr. Speaker I ask that the Clerk call and Amendment LCO No. 3087 and that I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Chamber will stand-at-ease.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Mr. Speaker, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Will the Chamber please come back to order.

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Mr. Speaker before the Clerk reads that LCO Number I would ask for a brief pause and recess to confirm the LCO number of the Amendment that I wish

to call.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Chamber will stand-at-ease.

(On motion of Representative Ritter of the 1st District, the House recessed at 3:03 o'clock p.m., to reconvene at the Call of the Chair.)

(The House reconvened at 3:53 o'clock p.m., Deputy Speaker Candelaria in the Chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95th):

The Chamber will come back to order.
Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I apparently did call the correct LCO number. As you may know this Bill has a lot to it and it was given to us just a couple of hours ago, so I think I have the correct LCO number now and I would like the Clerk to call LCO No. 3087 and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 3087 which will designated Amendment Schedule "A".

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO No. 3087 offered by Representative Klarides, Representative Candelora, etal.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the Amendment. Is there any objections to the summarizations? Is there any objection? Hearing none, Representative Davis you have the floor, sir.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment essentially just removes several sections from the underlying Bond Bill. It removes the sections for grants and aid to the town of East Hartford of \$10 million dollars for each fiscal year. It removes from CRDA the funding for the XL Center to the tune of \$27.5 million dollars in fiscal year 20 and \$37.5

million dollars in fiscal year 21. It also provides funding for affordable housing but it does so at levels that originally requested and does so in a manner that I think is appropriate given that there is still significant funding that is unallocated that has been previously authorized by previous Legislatures. It also removes the funding for the Municipal Redevelopment Authority which to anyone's knowledge has never been set-up, never formed, never had any actual appointments made to but there is \$45 million dollars already earmarked in this Bond package for next year for that Authority even though we have idea what that Authority is actually going to do and how it is going to be set-up. It also reduces Urban Act Grant money to historic levels from \$100 million to \$50 million dollar a year and it removes the funding for the Capitalization of the Paid Family Medical Leave Act that is included in the underlying Bill that there is \$25 million dollars in each year to pay for potentially IT but also other things dealing with the Paid Family

Medical Leave Authority, excuse me, so we removed that language.

And then, very importantly, in the Bonding Subcommittee process, the State Department of Education testified that there is a need and a desire for increased funding for VOC Tech Schools. I think we can all agree that the VOC Tech Schools are gonna play a very important part in the economic drive of this State and the ability for us to overcome some of the economic issues that we have been facing for a number of years. So what the Republican Amendment here does is it restores that \$5 million dollar request that SDE has made for the States' Voc Tech Schools in the first year in fiscal 20 and then also provides that \$5 million dollars that is included in the underlying Bill as well so that we can get the equipment that our VOC Tech Schools need and the facilities that our VOC Tech Schools need in order to expand their operations and allow for the training of your young people.

Additionally as we heard earlier the Bond

package includes \$200 million dollars for transportation related projects. Though most of us would probably agree that is the best direction for us to go in rather than tolls, the underlying Bill doesn't necessarily give direction of where that money would be spent. What this Republican Amendment says is that we should reinstitute the Transportation Advisory and Strategy Board that we had proposed in the Transportation Committee and in various other versions of our transportation plan, have that board be set-up and then direct where this \$200 million dollars would go in a more prudent, efficient and better manner than what might possibly happen with this \$200 million dollars without that direction.

And finally the Amendment also includes language to make it clear that the School Construction Grant Division is not to be moved from DAS into OPM. It is to stay in the Department of Administrative Services. And what that Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Miller you have the floor, Madam.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate my colleagues' efforts but this is an unfriendly Amendment and I am going to ask my colleagues to vote no. I am also going to ask that when the vote is taken it be taken by rollcall.

REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Question before the Chamber is on rollcall vote. All those in favor of a rollcall vote, please signify by saying, Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The Ayes have it. When the vote be taken it will be taken by role. Would you care to remark further? The Question

before the House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark further on the Amendment? Hearing none. If not will the Staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members please take your seats, the machine will be open. [Ringing]

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll, Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll, Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

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

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A"

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Adoption	74
Those voting Yea	57
Those voting Nay	89
Absent not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Amendment fails [Gavel]. Representative Davis you have the floor, sir.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'm certainly disappointed that that Amendment did not pass, I think it was the ability for the State of Connecticut to further reduce the amount of money that we would be borrowing in the future by restricting the Governor's ability to allocate for those projects as I outlined.

Mr. Speaker as I mentioned in the beginning of my speech there are a number of very positive things that are included in this Bond package that I think will be very beneficial for each and every one of

our towns across the State of Connecticut and also the State of Connecticut in general. As I mentioned municipal aid is in there that our towns are depending on, our local taxpayers quite frankly are depending on because without that money taxes would undoubtedly go up. Mr. Speaker, there is money in there for the non-profit providers as I mentioned. There is money in there, \$5 million dollars for public health emergencies that could be very important for us under the current circumstances in which we live. There is also money available for dredging our deep water ports that is desperately needed in order to improve the economy in Southeastern Connecticut and in Bridgeport and in New Haven where most of our goods and services are being shipped in on a daily basis.

With that said, Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear and be on the record that I do not support the funding for the XL Center. I do not support the funding that is earmarked within this Bill for certain communities that I feel goes above and

beyond what we should be doing. I do not support the capitalization of the Paid Family Medical Leave Act Authority and I do not support the money that is being made available for the Municipal Redevelopment Authority. With that said, I have the luxury of serving on the State Bond Commission. I can vote no on those individual line-items when they come up for a vote in the Bond Commission and I will be doing that if these items come up on the Bond Commission. However the total package in totality is significantly lower than the bond cap, as Republicans and Democrats voted to institute just three years ago. It is a responsible direction in my opinion despite some of those items that are in there for the greater good of the State of Connecticut, the vast majority of the projects that are included in here will have a positive effect on our economy, on our towns and ultimately on our residents. And for that reason despite those many or should I say a few items that I am very much strongly opposed I will be supporting this Bill here

today because of the very positive things that are included in here. I would very much see a lot less included but I am hopeful that the Governor will continue with this debt diet, perhaps not select some of these items that are included in this Authorization Bill that I outlined and we can move forward as the State of Connecticut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Simms, you have the floor, sir. Guess not. Representative O'Dea you have the floor, sir.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just a couple of quick questions if I may to the good proponent?

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A question

regarding the amount of money in this Bonding Bill for the Coronavirus. My understanding is that is roughly \$5 million dollars. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

That is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

And a question to the proponent about how is that money going to be allocated. For example New Canaan, we're close to New Rochelle, the New York line, hopefully we won't be hit hard by it but we may be and every year we send roughly \$200 to \$225 million dollars in taxes and according to this we are getting less than \$400,000 dollars or less than \$450 thousand dollars back in this Bonding package. But if we are stricken with an outbreak how is the

process gonna be in allocating the approximate \$5 million dollars to communities in need?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

It is up to the Governor, through his discretion.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully one of the parameters of the need will not be ability to pay as it were but rather a need in emergency services and the cost thereof. Presumably, the ability won't be taken into consideration and I understand from the good proponent that she is not aware of the parameters by which the Governor is going to utilize

that money but presumably will not be based on an ability to pay but rather on an actual need through the emergency services. So there is no further questions that I have that the good proponent could answer on that. I'm still thinking about whether or not to support the Bonding Package. The good proponent and of course our Ranking Member sway a lot of, make me think hard about supporting this Bill and I will listen to the debate as it goes on. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Dubitsky, you have the floor.

REP. DUBITSKY (47TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker two quick points. First off, this package puts more money into the XL Center and this State, the taxpayers of this State should not pay a single penny more for that building. We should give it away, get private money to restore it and put it back on the tax

rolls. We shouldn't be supporting that thing over and over every year, tens of millions of dollars.

The second thing is with regard to the Coronavirus money. We've got a Rainy Day Fund, well everybody seems to think it's raining, that is where this money should come from. There is no reason for us to bond the money for the next 30 years for money that we need today. We've got billions of dollars in that Rainy Day Fund, that's what it's for. We should take the money for that instead of putting it in the Bond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Representative Zawistowski you have the floor, Madam.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of questions for the proponent if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

The Bond Package that we have before us includes \$45 million dollars in fiscal year 21 for the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority. Do we have any insights as to what that money would be allocated for.

Again, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

No, we do not.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Zawistowski.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you for that. I had actually asked a couple of questions of OPM about this particular expenditure during the Appropriations Committee meeting recently and didn't really get what I considered particularly good answers. The CM, Community Municipal Redevelopment Authority is

something that we had approved last session, it is our newest quasi-public organization and the Board has not even been appointed yet. The Statute included for this Board to be appointed by December 1st of 2019 and to the best of my knowledge and to the best of what OPM had mentioned the other day, nobody has actually been appointed yet. This group has pretty widespread bonding authority and this looks like it is probably for seed money, I just think we should have a better sense of what this money is for before we approve it.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an Amendment. It is LCO No. 3072. Would you please ask the Clerk to call it and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Chamber will stand-at-ease.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Mr. Speaker and when the vote is taken up we would like to have it by roll. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Once we come back to order we'll do it. The

Chamber will come back to order. Will the Clerk please call LCO No. 3072 which will be designated Amendment "B".

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "B", LCO No. 3072 offered by Representative Klarides, Representative Candelora, etal.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Representative request leave of the Chamber to summarize the Amendment. Is there any objection to summarization? No objections? Hearing none, Representative Zawistowski you have the floor, Madam REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority when it is finally seated, will be making decisions on how to spend this \$45 million dollars on various projects. So this is an unelected board. They are strictly appointed. I believe that our cities and towns will know better how to spend funds that they need and this Amendment that is before you would take the

money from the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority in FY 21 and add it to STEAP Grants which would give the cities and towns the ability to be able to use these funds.

Mr. Speaker I recommend, I move Adoption of the Amendment and I do ask that the vote be taken by role.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before this Chamber in on Adoption of House Amendment Schedule "B". Will you remark further on the Amendment. Representative Miller you have the floor, Madam.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I consider this an unfriendly Amendment and I ask that my colleagues vote no. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is on rollcall vote. All those in favor of rollcall vote please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those against, nay. The Aye's have it. When the vote is taken it will be taken by role. Will you remark further on the Amendment before us?

Representative Zawistowski.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Mr. Speaker, I do recommend that my colleagues support this, it gives cities and towns the ability to use these funds rather than an unelected board. Thank you,

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Madam. Would you care to remark further? Would you care to remark further on the Amendment before us? If not will the Staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members please take your seats, the machine will be opened. [Ringing]

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll,

Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll, Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Can I have your attention? Someone accidentally hit Representative Rosario's button and we're gonna clear it for the record. Thank you.

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to ensure that your vote has been properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Someone accidentally pressed Representative Rosario's button so can we please clear his vote? Thank you. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "B"

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Adoption	73
Those voting Yea	57
Those voting Nay	87

Absent not voting

7

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Amendment fails [Gavel]. Will you remark further? Representative Dillon you have the floor, Madam.

REP. DILLON (92ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Committee Members of this General Assembly for their hard work but I must point out in fairness and as a matter of honor that belief in this package requires that there be good faith action on part of the Executive Branch. Unfortunately when it comes to the homeowners in my district that has not been the case. It has been some time now that I have been advocating for the repair of what people here call "sinking homes." The previous administration had actually the Secretary of OPM had simply, he and a person from the governor's office simply terminated it. We were able to revive it. I had had hopes that the new administration would be fairer to the people of New Haven but unfortunately although we

were able to revive something which had been authorized but this Legislature, in an action much like this, and that went through the Bond Commission, we learned in the fall that a bureaucrat in this administration had imposed an arbitrary cap of \$30,000 dollars on repairs to the homeowners in New Haven. No one has adequately explained this to me but it was done unilaterally, bad faith. We had a meeting about it, I thought it was an open question and I was startled at the beginning of this week to learn that letters were sent to people in my district informing them that there would be a cap on the repairs to their homes. I see a lot of money going out of this building. These people have waited and waited and waited. Some of them are first-time homeowners, this is not a game. I get that there is some people that work inside the government here who don't answer to anybody and it becomes a game to them. It's not. Our power can hurt people and so I have serious reservations about this particular package because I don't see the good

faith. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Madam. Will you care to remark further? Representative Kokoruda you have the floor, Madam.

REP. KOKORUDA (101ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to stand and say I want to thank certainly Representative Miller and Representative Floren on what a great job and so many other people on this Bill. I know it's a lot of work and I do appreciate it. I just have one disappointment and of course I'm sure there's a lot of things we would all like to change, but I was surprised to see after all the things I hear in this building, that we haven't increased funding really for our community not-for-profits. And you know, I think we all know, we've got them in our district, we talk to people up here who are involved, over half a million people a year are services by our not for profits. They have not seen any real raise since 2007, we gave them that one bump with wages a

couple of years ago, but 2007. So each time I sit here listening to an arbitration award and I'm kind of shocked that we're kind of pretending that we're not doing anything here. I was disappointed to see us putting so much money into the XL Center and ignoring this group. I just want to remind people what these folks do for us. I think we all know. But they employ over 117,000 people a year. That's their workforce. Those are Connecticut people. They are at the frontlines of the opioid crisis. They help people return to their communities who have been in prison. They support people with developmental disabilities. They shelter and feed families in need and they certainly enrich our communities in many areas including cultural and artistic. These are people that are making such a difference. Connecticut would not be Connecticut without them and to see the same amount of money each year, they have estimated that they have lost since 2007, \$416 million dollars. And what they have done, they have done a worksheet and what they

are asking for this year is if we would work with them, a lot of their things they do, do get reimbursed by the Federal Government. But it really comes down to \$67 million dollars they would like to see this year to get them back on track and get them, really to treat them fairly. When we give people signing bonuses because they haven't gotten a raise in two or three years and when they haven't gotten a raise in 13 years, to put money into the XL Center we know has issues, that kind of money, and to be ignoring people that are supporting half a million of our own, I just wanted to voice my concern that again we are doing bonding and we are ignoring a major part of Connecticut which is our community not-for-profits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Madam. Would you care to remark further? Will you remark further on the Bill before us? Will you remark further on the Bill? If not, will Staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members please take your seats, the machine

will be opened [Ringing].

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll, Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll, Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Have all members voted? Please check the board to ensure that your vote has been properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill No. 5518

Total Number Voting	147
Necessary for Passage	74
Those voting Yea	126
Those voting Nay	21
Absent not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Bill passes [Gavel]. Is there any business

on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Favorable Report House
Resolution and House Joint Resolutions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Currey you have the floor sir.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we waive
the list of the reading of the Resolutions and
Resolutions be tabled for the Calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

If there is no objections, so ordered.

Representative Currey.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we Suspend
the Rules for Immediate Consideration of Calendar
Numbers 36 through 39.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Hearing no objections, so ordered.

Representative Currey.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we immediately transmit all action, or all items be referred for action by the Senate to the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Hearing no objections, so ordered. Chamber stand at ease.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 37.

CLERK:

House Calendar 37, House Resolution No. 10, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF SHARI CANTOR OF WEST HARTFORD TO BE REAPPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for Concurrence and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is on the

Acceptance of the House Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution. Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The individual that we are speaking about, the Honorable Shari Cantor is the Mayor of the neighboring town of West Hartford. She has been on the City Council since 2004 and has served as Deputy Mayor and most recently since 2016 as Mayor of the Town of West Hartford. And she is, has done a tremendous job as a mayor. She has also been very involved as a volunteer with the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, many, many organizations including the American School for the Deaf. She has received many, many awards including Hartford Magazine's Best Community Leader Award in 2012. She became a trustee, a UConn Trustee in 2014 and she has been inducted into the UConn Business Hall of Fame in March 2017. Mayor Cantor is a graduate of

Hall High School in West Hartford and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA in accounting from UConn. After becoming a CPA she has worked for Coopers and Lybrand, now Price, Waterhouse, Coopers and for CIGNA. So I believe she is eminently qualified. She has already served on the Board of Trustees. The Committee gave her a unanimous endorsement and I urge all my colleagues to vote favorably on the Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Perillo you have the floor, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My friend is very much correct, Mayor Cantor is very, very qualified for this position, a very impressive resume and I would urge Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you. Would you care to remark further? Representative Gilcrest you have the floor, Madam.

REP. GILCHREST (18TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in strong support of Mayor Cantor being reappointed as a Member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut. She is a fantastic Mayor in the town of West Hartford, also a constituent and just a real leader all around, so I urge support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Madam. Would you care to remark further? Would you care to remark further on the Resolution before us. If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution please signify by saying, Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The Aye's have it. The Resolution is adopted [Gavel]. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 39.

CLERK:

House Calendar No. 39, House Joint Resolution

No. 26, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF RICHARD BALDUCCI OF DEEP RIVER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge Adoption of the Joint Favorable Report of the Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is Acceptance of the Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution. Representative Vargas you have the floor, sir.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It goes without saying that somebody who has served here in the Connecticut General Assembly is well-qualified for almost anything and in the case of Richard Balducci who I have know for many, many years you could say that

it's truer of him than anyone else. He served as Speaker of the House of Representatives, he has had a historic career. He became before our Committee, answered our questions. I believe the Committee expressed their full support of Richard Balducci to serve on the Board of Regents for Higher Education. I believe his perspective will be one that will be of great value to the Board of Regents and I urge my colleagues to Adopt the Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Perillo you have the floor, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaker Balducci is know to many of us in the Chamber both from his time here and of course his time in the Building these days. He is a fine gentleman, very qualified and I would urge Adoption of the Resolution and support for his nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? If not let me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The Ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted [Gavel]. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 38.

CLERK:

House Calendar 38, House Joint Resolution No. 27, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MARTHA PALUCH PROU OF BLOOMFIELD TO BE APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Vargas you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge, well I move that we Adopt the Joint Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is on Acceptance of the House Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption of the Resolution. Would you remark?
Representative Vargas you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you very much. I'd just like to say that Martha Paluch Prou will add an aspect to this Board that is very important. She comes from a manufacturing family, multigenerational manufacturing family that is owned their own business. She has a unique perspective of the role of manufacturing in terms of technical and vocational skills for our youth and I think she brings an added dimension to the State Board of Education and I urge my colleagues, we approved it unanimously in our Committee, and I urge my colleagues to adopt the resolution. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Perillo you have the floor, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the gentleman's point, the nominee's background specifically in, as a small family business that has grown, really bring tremendous depth and I would urge Adoption of the Resolution and support for her.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Davis you have the floor, sir.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I stand in strong support of Martha Paluch Prou as a member of the State Board of Education. I have had the pleasure of knowing Martha since I was a very little child. We grew up together in the Town of East

Windsor and I've had the opportunity to tour her family's business in Enfield a number of times and to see them grow over the last 30 years and the Chairman and the Ranking Member hit on all the great points of the things that she brings to the table as a member of the State Board of Education and another aspect is that her manufacturing company, Advance Manufacturing Company is actually woman owned. Her mother now runs the company and she and her brother are in the succession plan to takeover that company as well. So she gives that extra perspective as well of being a women owned business and I think it is gonna be a great thing to have her on the State Board of Education. I know she is dedicated to education for her own small children in Bloomfield and all of our children across the State of Connecticut. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further on the Resolution before us? DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA

(95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? If not let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The Ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted [Gavel]. Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 36.

CLERK:

House Calendar No. 36, House Resolution No. 8.
RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND
THE STATE EMPLOYEES BARGAINING AGENT COALITION
(SEBAC). Favorable Report of the Joint Standing
Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative D'Agostino you have the floor,

sir.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I move for
Acceptance of the House Committee's Favorable Report
and Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before this Chamber is Acceptance of
the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and Adoption
of the Resolution. Representative D'Agostino you
have the floor, sir.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The Resolution
before us approves the Memorandum of Understanding
between the State and the State Employees Bargaining
Agent Coalition. With your permission Mr. Speaker I
would like to summarize what is in the MOU and urge
members to adopt it? With your permission.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

You have my permission.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

[Laughs] Through you, Mr. Speaker. So the MOU

that you have before us is not a contract like we've been dealing with in the prior Sessions. What this is, is an addendum to the SEBAC 17 Agreement and those of you who were here for SEBAC 17 recall that it incorporated a number of large structural changes with how we deal with both the wage and hour contracts, the pension agreement, the unfunded liabilities, healthcare, etc. all of those changes in the aggregate of course lead to massive savings for the State of Connecticut to the tune of about \$20 billion dollars over 25 years, increased pension contributions by employees, increased healthcare contributions by employees, a whole new tier of employees coming in starting July 1, 2017 all in the aggregate.

One of the other things that that agreement did is it reamortized some of the unfunded liability that we had at that time. We extended out the debt. The best analogy to think about this it is my no means perfect, is refinancing a mortgage. If you have an ARM, an adjustable rate mortgage that is

coming due with balloon payments, at that time we had massive balloon payments on our unfunded liabilities to the tune of billions of dollars and what we did at that time is refinanced like you would refinance a 10 year ARM into like a 30 year mortgage, and that's what we did. The thing is at that time when we did SEBAC 17 we did not do that for the entire unfunded liability, we did that for about 75 percent of it. There was about \$4 billion dollars sin unfunded liability we did not reamortize and that liability right now absent this agreement comes due in 2032 and the increases in payments continue up until that point in time taking out bigger chunks of our budget that we contribute to the unfunded pension liability. So what this MOU does, very simply, is just reamortizes that remaining piece of the unfunded liability. It extends it from 2032 to 2047 in level funded payment amounts. So these are predictable set amounts that we can budget for, and we in fact have budgeted for, we anticipated this agreement in the last Biannual

Budget that we approved last year. Those amount to about \$160 million dollars in lower annual payments to the unfunded liability over the next 10 years and then they increase gradually, consistently, rather than spiking up until 2047. So that is what this agreement does.

Now I will close just by saying I don't want to be accused of hiding the ball here. Whenever you reamortize the debt and extend it out you pay more and that indeed will happen here with this re-amortization, extending it out to 2047, instead of about \$2 billion dollars in liability it will be about \$3 billion over that entire 27 year timeframe from today. As we have this conversation I would ask you to keep two things in mind when we talk about that "cost". The first is just not to think about that in isolation. As I mentioned this re-amortization and this addendum to the re-amortization is part of the SEBAC Agreement that had all those collective benefits that many people on a bipartisan basis wanted to see, increased pension

costs, structural changes to healthcare, all those changes are in the aggregate saving Connecticut billions of dollars. This is part of that change so don't look at this cost or re-amortization in isolation I would urge you.

The second of course is this, if we don't do this we have to then come up with about \$160 million dollars a year including, in this current budget, to account for the fact that we wouldn't be re-amortizing that debt. So where does \$2 billion dollars over the next 10 years come from if we don't do that. There is a cost to do that. Do you increase taxes, do you take it out of Social Services, what do you do? So again cost is a relative term when we're talking about the overall impact in the aggregate. For those reasons this is good for the State of Connecticut, it is good for our budget and I urge our Members to support the Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark

further? Representative Lavielle you have the floor, Madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good Afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Good Afternoon to you.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Just a couple of questions for clarification if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Thank you.

So through you.

To the good Representative, again just for the purposes of explaining why we are doing this today. The substance of the agreement that we are discussing I understand that it was in the 2019 Budget Bill, the Bill for the Budget in which we current are and this is simply, if you will, this is

the implementation language for that substantive material that was in the Budget Bill, is that correct?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I think it is a fair way of characterizing it. The last Biannual Budget assumed these savings. The conversations were ongoing at that time. There were indications from both side that they had an agreement and this is to sort of piggyback on what the Representative was saying, sort of crossing the t's and dotting the I's on that agreement.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Is there any substantive change, Mr. Speaker from what was in the original budget language to

what we see today in the MOU?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

The MOU does not impact the Budget Agreement, it actually simply for lack of a better word codifies what was in it and further to the Representative's question, there is no real substantive change that this MOU affects to SEBAC to that agreement but for the re-amortization of that last piece of debt. We are not changing any of those prior agreements except for that one piece.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

So we are today then voting on something that we saw before in 2019, is that a fair characterization?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, we certainly budget for and anticipated this very impact of this agreement in 19.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. And for further clarification I believe the Representative explained this but just so that it's clear, there were, there was some re-amortization done in 2017 and that was for, I believe what we call the normal costs of our pension obligations and this concerns, what we're discussing today, concerns the part of our pension obligations that were accrued before, I believe it is the year 1983 which did not figure in our 2017 discussions, is that correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Through you.

Perfectly stated.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LABRIOLA (131ST):

Thank you, so I'm glad that and I appreciate the Representative's answers to my questions. Just a couple of comments. We did vote on this in Appropriations this morning. I'm gratified to hear that this is not anything particularly new, that we haven't seen before. In my cases this was something that I was not in favor of in the 2019 Budget. That has not changed for this reason. In the OFA Fiscal Note it indicates that the total increase through this agreement in the State's contributions towards these unfunded liabilities for the period Fiscal Year 20 to Fiscal Year 47 is approximately \$3.3 billion dollars. So by putting off the payments

that were in the original schedule between now and 2032 those payments maybe lower for a time than had been originally planned but they do not constitute savings in anyway, shape or form. We are not saving any money through this agreement. In fact, on the contrary, we are costing the taxpayers \$3.3 million dollars. It is as simple as that. Therefore I will not be supporting the Resolution and I would urge my colleagues and everyone in the Chamber to do the same. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Madam. Would you care to remark further? Representative Betts you have the floor, sir.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand up in strong opposition to this as I did when we first started in 2017. But if I could just ask a couple of questions to the gentleman brining the Bill out please?

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

I heard you frequently, and I've heard other people frequently say that this is a savings. Could you explain to me how it is a savings if the amount of money that is being owed increases? It may be a savings in a payment schedule but it is an actual increase in the total liabilities so is that not a fact that our liabilities are being sizably increased as a result of the re-amortization?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So as I mentioned, I don't want to be accused of hiding the ball. If you look in just isolation at the fiscal impact of the re-amortization as any extension of debt there is additional cost. You are extending the debt out overtime you are therefore paying more for that debt. The cost in my view here

is a relative term as I mentioned because you have to look at this cost in the context of A) the overall SEBAC Agreement which in the aggregate including these additional "financing costs" saves the State a lot of money because you layer into that the increased pension costs, the restructure of the healthcare costs, the entire new tier that we created, freeze of salaries, etc. all of that has, in the aggregate a savings, not just as folks may remember for the Budget Year from Fiscal Year 17 to 18 where we were able to close a \$1.5 billion dollar gap but also overtime, \$20 billion dollars over 25 years in the aggregate savings, including re-amortization of debt from 17 which had an additional cost and including this re-amortization of debt which I concede in isolation is a cost. The second piece to think about when we talk about cost of course if you don't do this you have to make increased payments now through 2032 that total about \$2.13 billion dollars that we are not extending out over time. So the question from a cost standpoint

is how would you do that? There is going to be a cost for that to the taxpayer. Are you going to raise their taxes to pay for that? Are you going to dip into the Rainy Day Fund? Are you gonna cut Social Services, are you gonna cut municipal aid, increase property taxes. There is a cost to not doing this as well. So my view is to not look at the re-amortization cost in isolation but in the aggregate and with those other factors. But I conceded obviously the individual point in isolation on this, yes, you are extending out debt, you are paying more for that debt.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and I appreciate the good gentleman's take and explanation which obviously favors the people who belong to SEBAC but my recollection is that between 17 and 19 renegotiation the liability is increased by about

\$10 or \$11 billion dollars which by the way happens to be more than 50 percent of the current budget. Let me repeat that, it is going to be more than 50 percent of the current budget. That is not inconsequential and that is not in isolation that is real, real money and the other thing I would point out to people is it is going to save the government money by changing the payment schedule, that's correct, it will. The only problem is what do the taxpayers get in return? So if the good gentleman would be good enough to answer that question.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

What did and what are the taxpayers getting in return for this re-amortization of this agreement specifically how do they financially benefit?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Again I think they benefit in a number of ways.

Is one, the entire State of Connecticut, all the taxpayers benefited from SEBAC 17 of which this is an addendum because we were able to increase pension contributions, change healthcare contributions, change the structure of the healthcare program, restructure the debt all of which again we recall for those of us who were around at that point in time, where we gonna come up with \$1.5 billion dollars in a budget. Right, where we gonna come up with that? If paying for that would have fallen on the shoulder of taxpayers, increased taxes, cuts in municipal aid, cuts in social services you name it. And similarly with respect to this re-amortization you're talking about \$160 million dollars in this budget cycle, increasing up over ten year period is about \$2 billion dollars in the aggregate that taxpayers would have to come up with, that we would have to come up with in a budget. Where would we come up with that? So that to me is again when I think about cost and savings I think about the choices we make with respect to paying off this debt

overtime. And look it's important to note I use the analogy of re-amortization the mortgage, that is not a perfect analogy because unlike somebody paying their mortgage, you retire, your job circumstances change. The State of Connecticut is always going to be here. The State of Connecticut by law cannot go bankrupt. So there is an inherent advantage we have in extending out debt like that, smoothing it out so it is predictable so when we have budget cycles we can predict and plan accordingly which is exactly what we did in this last budget cycle. So for all those reasons I do think there is an advantage to the State of Connecticut and an advantage to the taxpayers and it's why I would urge adoption of the resolution, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you very much. I have one final question. Since we are doing this re-amortization and the size of the unfunded pension liabilities is

so significant and we have to wait until 2047 could the good gentleman tell me what the plan is for being able to eliminate his unfunded pension liability or are we going to just continue to do this every few years to make sure we have lower payments but never payoff what is an enormous sums of money? What is the plan, what is the timetable for paying off and being current with the unfunded pension liability because we've know this for at least a decade so I am sure somebody must have some plan that they have been working on a long-term basis to pay this off. I'm just wondering what that plan is and what is the timetable?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I think you are seeing that plan being implemented in the last few budget cycles. It started with SEBAC 17 which was an entirely restructuring in how we think about our

pension and healthcare obligations. All those structural changes are part of a comprehensive plan to deal with that. Doing nothing of course we would have been in a much, much worse hole financially and structurally so that was sort of step one of the plan. And then of course this MOU is an addendum to that, an additional piece of that plan. So you know you look at the schedule that they provided here and the plan is right there. We are at zero on our unfunded liability by the end of 2047. That's a plan. That's like taking out that 30 year mortgage and having that time horizon. You go down, you go down and you pay that thing off. Now I can't speak of course to what future legislations, legislators are going to do but right now that it the plan.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the good gentleman for his comments and I can't help but, I

can't help, I am very upset about this because this has been going on for a very, very longtime and this problem was not created by taxpayers. They did not create the funding imbalance for this at all and yet they are going to be asked to pay an additional \$11 billion dollars, 50 percent of the current budget, \$11 billion dollars that had nothing to do with them. Why weren't smoother payments done prior to this time? What happened since I came in here in 2010? Why didn't we do it back then? We don't have a plan right now other than we gotta wait until 2047. Many of us won't be in this room and I'm sure some of the people who will replace us will come up and say what the heck you guys been doing, you're passing on an enormous, enormous debt to our future generations and how can Connecticut as a State move forward if we are still gonna do this incremental payment? The idea that we pay a little less now is great if you are the one who has to right the checkbook but it doesn't eliminate the problem. And further it means that we own more money to be able

to correct the mistake that was caused by the State government, not the taxpayers, but the government. And we're supposed to be good stewards of the taxpayers money. If we have to ask them to pay an \$11 billion dollars more how is that being good stewards of their money? I am absolutely amazed that we can be so matter-of-fact about this, don't worry we have it under control until 2047. It's still real. I remember when I was in the briefing with the legislators, I was asking so what is the plan, how are we gonna pay this off, when are we gonna do it? We will deal with that when the time comes. That is not good enough. I am very confident in predicting that this Legislature or future Legislatures will come back in within the next five to ten years and say, we're gonna have to refinance this again. We are never going to get rid of this pension debt because we've never been responsible in terms of paying it off. What do the private sectors do? They have to put money aside. They have to put money aside to pay it. And because

we didn't we now have to continue doing this, no one is going to worry about it now because it's not next year, it's not the year after. We bought about four or five years of this. We should all be relieved. I am anything but relived. How can we move forward to other areas where we really need to put money to help our residents when we are still trying to figure out how to pay off our debts? Well you can't move forward. You want money for mental health? You can't get it if you have to go around paying this kind of money to correct the mistakes of the State government, not the taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I'm as upset now about this as I was in 2017. We are not being good stewards and we are not being honest about how we are wasting taxpayers money. We have a financial responsibility and we have to own up to it. Extending it for this long period and not having a plan to pay it off in my judgement is irresponsible and I could never support something like this. I'm really sorry to say that nobody has an answer as to what we're gonna

be doing in the next ten years to reduce this. That is really sad. And it wasn't caused by the taxpayers and they are the ones who have to pay for this. I most definitely will be voting no on this and I urge my colleagues to think about that. thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Wilson you have the floor, sir.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have any questions for the proponent but I wouldn't feel right if I didn't stand up today and voice my objection to this. I was here in 2017 as a new Legislator and I saw the, I believe it is \$11.5 billion dollars that we kicked the can down the road at that time and now here we are again, another \$3.3 million, that's \$14.8 billion with a "B" dollars and all I can think of is my 13-year-old granddaughter. In 13 years she will be 26 and this is legacy that

this body is gonna be leaving to her generation. I am appalled by it, I object strongly to it and I will be a no vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further? Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? If not will the Staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members please take your seats, the machine will be open. [Ringing]

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll, Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll, Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Have all members voted? If all the members please check the board to ensure your vote's been properly cast. If all members have voted please check the board to see that your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, the Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 5518

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those voting Yea	126
Those voting Nay	20
Absent not voting	5

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The Bill passes [Gavel]. Representative Currey of the 11th District, sir you have the floor.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move that we immediately transmit any items that need further action by the Senate to the Senate.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Question before the Chamber is immediately transmit anything awaiting further action in the Senate. Is there objection? Is there objection? If not so ordered [Gavel]. Representative Ritter of the 1st District.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker there will be an immediate Democratic Caucus for about five minutes so if you haven't make your way over there please do. We do expect to return back to business in about 10 or 15 minutes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Representative Klarides of the 114th.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will also be an immediate House Republican Caucus and reminder to everybody when we are done with that caucus we have to come back in here briefly. So please don't go home.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move that we recess subject to the Call of the Chair.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Question before the Chamber is recess subject to the Call of the Chair, without objection [Gavel]. So ordered.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The House will come back to order [Gavel]. Will the Clerk please call House Resolution, Joint Resolution No. 28.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 28. RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE JOINT RULES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Introduced by Representative Aresimowicz, Representative Ritter, etal.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Ritter, you have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move Adoption of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber is on Adoption of the Resolution. Would you remark? Representative

Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We rarely find ourselves in a position where we are Amending our Joint Rules in the middle of Session particularly already in March when we adjourn in about eight weeks now, but obviously in light of the Public Health Emergency that was declared by the Governor yesterday, we sat down in a bipartisan way and we came up with some very common sense Amendments that we think will allow government to function at the same time do our best to protect the public and members. It is a very delicate balance, you go too far and you could deny people and government the right to operate. If you don't go far enough you could lead to outbreaks and getting sick and there still might be a combination of both of those things unfortunately. But to that end, there are three Amendments to the House Rules that have been agreed to in a bipartisan way and I hope the vote reflects that.

The first is to push back JF deadlines for Committees by three business days. So for example if you look at the Resolution on the system, if you are on the Public Safety and Security Meeting, your original deadline was St. Patrick's Day of March 17th and it will now be March 20th. If you were on Human Services it was originally March 26, it is now March 31st, again it's business days and not days. So that's why you might see five days but it is only three business days.

The second change to the Rules is to give LCO three extra days to get the Bills ready and drafted. It seems to make sense, we are gonna give ourselves more time, let the lawyers have more time.

The third one is a concept that again really reflects the state that we are in right now and it is very specific which I think is critical the way in which it is drafted. When the governor has declared a Public Health Emergency that is the only time this particular Amendment applies. There is a statutory process for that. This morning a

Committee of ten Legislators met, we had the right to veto that, so it's a separate process Statutorily but one that is in effect, a Public Health Emergency, members may vote at meetings by telephone or other means of voice communication. The thought that being next week we will have Committee meetings. Members have a choice. If they would prefer to vote from home or from somewhere else, they do not want to come in, they can vote by telephone. It only applies to Committee meetings, it does not apply to House votes or Senate votes on the floor of each Chamber, it does not apply to electronic communications. You cannot email your vote in. There is App, there is no button, but if somebody said, I'm not comfortable going in, could be for a variety of reasons, which we all understand in the situation that we are in, you can pick up the telephone, be on speaker phone and inform the Clerk and the Chairs could be there and the Ranking Members of what your vote is in the affirmative or the negative.

Those are the three Amendments and I urge adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Klarides you have the floor, Madam.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker I agree with the Majority Leader's comments. We have been meeting for three days. This is a case of first impression for us in regards to this, so I will be honest, it's not been easy. We've put out and thrown out many different suggestions and options as to what we should or shouldn't do. As we've all seen things are changing day-to-day, sometimes minute-to-minute and for us, we want to make sure first and foremost that public health is being taken care of but also do whatever we can to make sure the government's business is being done in an efficient way without putting public health at risk. So we have decided to do this for the next

week and reassess on a daily basis as the information from the experts in public health, the Governor's Office, public safety, etc. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Madam. Would you care to remark further? Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, just to wrap up here, before we vote the other announcement I think that both Caucuses were informed of but since people do watch CTN we did postpone Public Hearings for next week, so again this applies to Committee meetings, Committee meetings only. Those Committees that are moving Bills out will be meeting and following the new rule about voting by telephone but we have postponed Public Hearings for next week. Again as the Minority Leader said, we will be visiting this on a daily basis and talking on a daily basis with everybody but that is where we are as of right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. These are definitely unprecedented times. Representative Betts you have the floor, sir.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to be clear about this. My understanding is a Bill cannot be brought up for JF Vote unless it has had a Public Hearing. Is that still in effect?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, that rule has not changed.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Fishbein. The Chamber will stand-at-ease.

Chamber will come back to Order.

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just asking where I could find this document. I couldn't find it in the system and I was able to get a copy from staff so that answers my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

I've been informed that it is in the system.
Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just want to clarify to, the building will be open for members of the public or whomever wants to come attend a meeting and observe, correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker. .

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Correct. Committee Meetings are open to the

public, yep.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just wanted to clarify that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further? Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

I believe that is all the questions and again I would remind folks that it's two-thirds vote and given in light of where we are as a State I hope we can do this in a bipartisan way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

So two-third votes require those present to pass this Resolution. If there is no further remarks on the Resolution before, will Staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take your seats, the machine will be opened.

[Ringing]

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll, Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll, Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

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

The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 28

Total Number Voting	142
Necessary for Adoption	95
Those voting Yea	139
Those voting Nay	3
Absent not voting	9

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The Resolution is Adopted [Gavel].

Representative Ritter of the 1st District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I move that we immediately transmit any item awaiting further action by the State Senate. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Question before the Chamber is immediate transmittal of all items awaiting further action in the Senate. Is there objection? Is there objection? Seeing none, so ordered [Gavel].

Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Reyes of the 75th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. REYES (75th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For purpose of Journal notation, I would like to document:

Illness: Representative Perone, Representative Rosairo, Representative Stafstrom.

In district: Representative Lopes, Representative

Concepcion, and Representative Hall.

And for notation I would like to note that Representative Stafstrom was here for the original Bonds package but do to a family illness had to go home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you and to be clear, Representative Reyes, it's when we Motion to Reconsider that he was absent at that time but did vote initially on the Bill. Thank you. Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For Journal notations, Representative Hayes is home with a family illness. Representative Rohr is back in District on constituent business. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Nolan of the 39th, sir you have the floor.

REP. NOLAN (39TH):

Good Afternoon, sir. I would like everybody to

just keep special thought for Representative Rosario. He had a slight incident and his health is good but just keep him in prayers.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, we will sir.

Ladies and gentlemen before we Adjourn the House Session, I would like to say to you please exercise caution, make sure you're handwashing, obviously we are doing everything we can here in the Department of Health and the Governor, so please exercise caution. We are a family here, we don't want to see anybody getting sick so please take care until we meet again. Representative Ritter. I'm guessing, we're probably gonna Adjourn to the Call of the Chair but I'll let you make that Motion.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

I got some Bills I could call right now, but that might put the place on fire so we won't do that. [Laughter] I move that we Adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Question before the Chamber is on Adjourning
subject to the Call of the Chair. Without
objection, so ordered [Gavel].

(On motion of Representative Ritter of the 1st
District, the House adjourned at 4:07 o'clock p.m.,
to meet again at the Call of the Chair.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 121 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

I further certify that the digital sound recording was transcribed by the word processing department employees of Alpha Transcription, under my direction.

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