



## **JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE**

**Monday, February 1, 2021**

The House of Representatives was called to order at 12:35 o'clock a.m., in accordance with the provisions of House Rule 50, and under the authority of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the House Minority Leader.

Prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Ann M. Clark of Bloomfield, Connecticut.

The following is the prayer:

Let us pray. Almighty God, may You provide a special blessing to those who serve in this General Assembly. Guide them, as they create legislation that will benefit all of our citizens. Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ann M. Clark of Bloomfield, Connecticut.

Pursuant to House Rule 50, the House of Representatives was called to order, by the Office of the House Clerk under the authority of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the House Minority Leader.

It was moved that the House agenda dated Monday, February 1, 2021 be adopted, and the items on said agenda - illustrating Business on the Clerk's desk - were acted upon as indicated, and the matters contained in the agenda were incorporated by reference into the House Journal and the House Transcript.

### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS**

Pursuant to House Rule 50, the first reading of the following bills and resolutions was waived, the list of bills and resolutions as prepared by the Clerks was accepted, and the bills and resolutions referred to the committees as indicated thereon in concurrence.

### **APPROPRIATIONS**

**Proposed H.B. No. 6322 REP. DATHAN, 142nd DIST. 'AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION'**, to provide additional educational resources to a growing bilingual student population in the state.

### **BANKING**

**Proposed H.B. No. 6323 REP. JOHNSON, 49th DIST.; REP. CHAFEE, 33rd DIST.; REP. HUGHES, 135th DIST.; REP. ELLIOTT, 88th DIST.; SEN. FLEXER, 29th DIST.; REP. MICHEL, 146th DIST.; REP. GODFREY, 110th DIST.; REP. GUCKER, 138th**

**DIST.; REP. PORTER, 94th DIST.; REP. SMITH, 48th DIST. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE OF CONNECTICUT BANK'**, to establish a State of Connecticut Bank.

#### ENVIRONMENT

**Proposed H.B. No. 6324 REP. WINKLER, 56th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITTED RECREATION ON PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY STORAGE OR DISTRIBUTION RESERVOIRS'**, to require community engagement and consensus prior to any change in the rules adopted for permitted recreation on public water supply storage or distribution reservoirs.

#### GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

**Proposed H.B. No. 6325 REP. MASTROFRANCESCO, 80th DIST.; SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST.; REP. FRANCE, 42nd DIST.; REP. FISHBEIN, 90th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE, ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND ELECTION AUDITS'**, to make several changes regarding the administration of elections.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6326 REP. BOLINSKY, 106th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE ANNUAL CANVASS OF ELECTORS'**, to require the Secretary of the State to complete the annual canvass of residences in municipalities and prohibit the Secretary from mailing absentee ballots to any elector not confirmed from such canvass.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6327 REP. FOX, 148th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO TOTAL COST BASIS CONSTRUCTION STATE CONTRACTS'**, to speed up the process by which certain amendments to a total cost basis construction state contract can be made.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6328 REP. ELLIOTT, 88th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A FINE FOR NOT VOTING AT AN ELECTION'**, to impose a fifteen-dollar fine for not voting at an election.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6329 REP. RYAN, 139th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING AN OPPORTUNITY TO CURE FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS'**, to require local election officials to notify an elector in the event of a signature defect with such elector's returned absentee ballot so that such elector can cure such defect and such ballot may be cast.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6330 REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE VOTER REGISTRY LIST'**, to allow victims of domestic violence to omit their residential address information from voter registry lists.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6331 REP. BORER, 115th DIST. 'AN ACT GIVING PREFERENCE TO IN-STATE MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS'**, to prioritize Connecticut companies and workers.

#### GENERAL LAW

**Proposed H.B. No. 6332 REP. FRANCE, 42nd DIST.; REP. FISHBEIN, 90th DIST.; REP. DAUPHINAIS, 44th DIST.; REP. WILSON, 66th DIST.; REP. ACKERT, 8th DIST.; REP. ANDERSON, 62nd DIST.; REP. DUBITSKY, 47th DIST.; REP. FIORELLO, 149th DIST.; REP. FUSCO, 81st DIST.; REP. HAYES, 51st DIST.; REP. LANOUE, 45th DIST.; REP. MASTROFRANCESCO, 80th DIST.; REP. PISCOPO, 76th DIST.; REP. POLLETTA, 68th DIST.; REP. VAIL, 52nd DIST. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES THAT ARE PURELY FEE-BASED'**, to establish a task force to identify occupational licenses that are purely fee-based.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6333 REP. PHIPPS, 100th DIST. 'AN ACT REGULATING THE PREPARATION, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF KRATOM-BASED PRODUCTS'**, to regulate the preparation, distribution and sale of kratom-based products.

#### HUMAN SERVICES

**Proposed H.B. No. 6334 REP. GILCHREST, 18th DIST.; SEN. SLAP, 5th DIST.; REP. EXUM, 19th DIST.; REP. FARRAR, 20th DIST. 'AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS'**, to provide medical assistance to low-income residents regardless of immigration status.

#### INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

**Proposed H.B. No. 6335 REP. ROSARIO, 128th DIST. 'AN ACT ENCOURAGING HOMEOWNERSHIP'**, to encourage homeownership.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6336 REP. WELANDER, 114th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE AND HEALTH COVERAGE OFFERED BY SMALL BUSINESSES'**, to require the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange to apply the advance premium tax credit for small businesses on a quarterly basis in accordance with an existing tax schedule.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6337 REP. RYAN, 139th DIST. 'AN ACT PROHIBITING BALANCE BILLING AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PROTECTION TO HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS'**, to: (1) Prohibit certain out-of-network health care providers from engaging in balance billing; and (2) provide additional consumer protections to health care consumers.

#### JUDICIARY

**Proposed H.B. No. 6338 REP. NOLAN, 39th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING STATE LIENS AGAINST THE PROCEEDS OF CAUSES OF ACTION OF PERSONS WHO WERE INCARCERATED'**, to change the provisions authorizing the state to impose a lien against the proceeds of a cause of action of persons who were incarcerated to lessen the amount claimed by the state and shorten the applicable time frame.

#### LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**Proposed H.B. No. 6339 REP. PHIPPS, 100th DIST. 'AN ACT RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE IN CONNECTICUT'**, to raise the minimum wage in Connecticut to keep up with productivity growth.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6340 REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY OPERATORS'**, to provide funding for on-the-job training of wastewater treatment facility operators.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6341 REP. ARORA, 151st DIST. 'AN ACT EXEMPTING SMALL BUSINESSES FROM PREVAILING WAGE REQUIREMENTS'**, to exempt small businesses from prevailing wage requirements, to create an equal playing field for new entrants and small participants.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6342 REP. CANDELARIA, 95th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC WORKERS'**, to expand the application of various labor laws to domestic workers.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6343 REP. HUGHES, 135th DIST.; REP. PORTER, 94th DIST.; REP. WINKLER, 56th DIST.; REP. ALLIE-BRENNAN, 2nd DIST. 'AN ACT ENSURING FAIR EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS FOR GIG WORKERS'**, to update and modernize the classification of Connecticut's gig workforce, so that all Connecticut workers have fair treatment under the law and to provide Connecticut with the updated and proper framework for employee protections in the modern economy.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6344 REP. ROJAS, 9th DIST. 'AN ACT CREATING THE OFFICE OF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' ADVOCATE'**, to reduce the burden on the Labor Department's staff and provide greater support for claimants of unemployment benefits.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6345 REP. SANCHEZ, 24th DIST. 'AN ACT GRANTING TEMPORARY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS DURING A COVID-19 RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY'**, to allow individuals who are disqualified from accessing unemployment benefits because of such individuals' debt to the state to be temporarily granted such benefits during a COVID-19 related public health emergency.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6346 REP. COOK, 65th DIST. 'AN ACT REGARDING STAFF PAYMENT PROCEDURES IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES'**, to provide incentives for staff to work in a single nursing home facility.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6347 REP. COOK, 65th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME EMPLOYEES WHO BECOME INFECTED WITH CONTAGIOUS DISEASES'**, to offer sick time and financial support to nursing home staff who become sick after they have exhausted their current benefits.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6348 REP. TERCYAK, 26th DIST. 'AN ACT ELIMINATING THE TIP CREDIT AND THE USE OF FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE EXEMPTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS OF DISABLED PERSONS'**, to eliminate the tip credit and to eliminate the use of federal minimum wage exemptions for employers of disabled persons.

#### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Proposed H.B. No. 6349 REP. HORN, 64th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING DISTRICT GRAND LISTS'**, to allow districts to include certain property, that is otherwise exempt from taxation, as taxable property on their grand lists.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6350 REP. GOUPIL, 35th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING RESOURCES FOR BUILDING OFFICIALS'**, to facilitate at a regional level the sharing of resources and information among building officials.

**Proposed H.B. No. 6351 REP. LEMAR, 96th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO PUBLIC BEACHES'**, to prohibit municipalities and other local units of government from limiting the access of certain individuals to public beaches.

#### TRANSPORTATION

**Proposed H.B. No. 6352 REP. BORER, 115th DIST. 'AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF MOTOR SCOOTERS'**, to assist the police in tracking scooters by requiring an operator of a scooter to register such scooter with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

#### AGING

**H.B. No. 6353 (RAISED) AGING. 'AN ACT INCREASING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES**

**RAISING CERTAIN CHILDREN'**, to reduce the financial burdens on grandparents and other nonparent relatives raising certain children.

**H.B. No. 6354 (RAISED) AGING. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES'**, to reduce obstacles for senior citizens and persons with disabilities to apply for rental assistance.

#### JUDICIARY

**H.B. No. 6355 (RAISED) JUDICIARY. 'AN ACT CONCERNING RISK PROTECTION ORDERS OR WARRANTS'**, to (1) establish a risk protection order and to expand upon the list of persons who may be complainants for purposes of issuance of a risk warrant; (2) require the Judicial Branch to develop and make available a form and explanatory materials to persons applying for a risk protection order; (3) disqualify persons subject to a standing risk protection order from possessing firearms or ammunition; and (4) penalize any such possession.

**H.B. No. 6356 (RAISED) JUDICIARY. 'AN ACT ADOPTING THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE RECEIVERSHIP ACT'**, to adopt the Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act.

#### AGING

**S.B. No. 56 (COMM) AGING. 'AN ACT DETERRING AGE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS'**, to deter age discrimination by prohibiting questions regarding age in preliminary employment applications.

#### BANKING

**Proposed S.B. No. 745 SEN. ANWAR, 3rd DIST. 'AN ACT PROHIBITING LENDERS FROM ENGAGING IN CERTAIN LENDING PRACTICES'**, to prohibit lenders from engaging in certain predatory lending practices.

#### COMMERCE

**Proposed S.B. No. 789 SEN. HWANG, 28th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM'**, to establish the Connecticut development, research and economic assistance matching grant program.

#### GENERAL LAW

**Proposed S.B. No. 790 SEN. HARTLEY, 15th DIST.; REP. DIGIOVANCARLO, 74th DIST.; REP. NAPOLI, 73rd DIST. 'AN ACT REQUIRING GYMS AND FITNESS CENTERS TO HAVE A.E.D.'S ON SITE'**, to require gyms and fitness centers to have automatic external defibrillators on site and to have developed and implemented policies for the use of defibrillators.

**Proposed S.B. No. 791 SEN. FLEXER, 29th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PRICE GOUGING IN THE EVENT OF A PUBLICLY DECLARED EMERGENCY'**, to prevent against price gouging in the event of a publicly declared emergency.

**Proposed S.B. No. 792 SEN. OSTEN, 19th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING APPRENTICE TO JOURNEYMAN RATIOS FOR ELECTRICAL TRADESPERSONS'**, to require the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to review current standards for electrical tradesperson apprentice to journeyman ratios.

## GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

**Proposed S.B. No. 793 SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING EXECUTIVE BRANCH AUTHORITY REGARDING ELECTIONS'**, to require the Secretary of the State to report to the legislature on election laws modified by executive branch authority for any election or primary held in 2020 or 2021.

**Proposed S.B. No. 794 SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE'**, to require legislative review of certain interpretations of election law by the Secretary of the State.

**Proposed S.B. No. 795 SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING MAILED ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS'**, to prohibit the unsolicited mailing of absentee ballot applications.

**Proposed S.B. No. 796 SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE BALLOTS'**, to specify that absentee ballots may only be counted on election day, provide consistency among towns as to pre-election processing of such ballots and allow for the curing of unsigned absentee ballot envelopes.

**Proposed S.B. No. 797 SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURES ON ABSENTEE BALLOT ENVELOPES'**, to establish a pilot program for verification of signatures on absentee ballot.

**Proposed S.B. No. 798 SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS'**, to advise absentee ballot applicants of the penalties for violation of election laws, including those concerning possession and completion of absentee ballots.

**Proposed S.B. No. 799 SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF CERTAIN ABSENTEE VOTING PROCEDURES'**, to establish a task force to study using a single envelope for the return of an absentee ballot.

**Proposed S.B. No. 800 SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PHOTO IDENTIFICATION FOR VOTING PURPOSES'**, to (1) require the presentation of photo identification at the polls in order to vote, and (2) establish a program for waiving the fee associated with obtaining, for voting purposes, a form of government-issued photo identification.

**Proposed S.B. No. 801 SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING CROSS-ENDORSED CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT'**, to require that, for any candidate who has been nominated by multiple parties, the name of such candidate shall appear only once on the ballot.

**Proposed S.B. No. 802 SEN. SAMPSON, 16th DIST.; REP. MASTROFRANCESCO, 80th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS'**, to implement several changes concerning the administration of elections.

**Proposed S.B. No. 803 SEN. SOMERS, 18th DIST. 'AN ACT RECONVENING THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL AND ANALYZING THE STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THE RESERVATIONS IN THE STATE'**, to reconvene the Indian Affairs Council and clarify the state's responsibilities with regard to maintaining and providing services to the reservations in the state.

## HOUSING

**Proposed S.B. No. 804 SEN. ANWAR, 3rd DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING INCLUSION IN CERTAIN COMMUNITIES'**, to address several issues surrounding affordable housing, multiunit residential buildings, sewerage systems, housing authority jurisdiction, training for certain municipal officials involved in planning and zoning decisions and compliance with municipal zoning regulations.

#### LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**Proposed S.B. No. 805 SEN. ANWAR, 3rd DIST. 'AN ACT CREATING A PUBLIC OPTION FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE'**, to create a public option for workers' compensation insurance.

**Proposed S.B. No. 806 SEN. MARONEY, 14th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND RESPONSES TO UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES'**, to give transparency to Connecticut's residents regarding responses by the Department of Labor regarding unemployment issues.

**Proposed S.B. No. 807 SEN. FLEXER, 29th DIST. 'AN ACT MANDATING A MINIMUM NUMBER OF SUPPORT STAFF AT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT AND ESTABLISHING A CONSISTENT CONSUMER CONTACT CENTER TELEPHONE NUMBER'**, to mandate a minimum number of consumer support staff at the Labor Department and to establish a consistent telephone number for said department's Consumer Contact Center.

#### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Proposed S.B. No. 808 SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. WINFIELD, 10th DIST.; REP. PAOLILLO, 97th DIST.; REP. WALKER, 93rd DIST.; REP. PORTER, 94th DIST.; REP. CANDELARIA, 95th DIST.; REP. LEMAR, 96th DIST.; REP. DILLON, 92nd DIST.; REP. DIMASSA, 116th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PROPERTY TAXES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING'**, to require an additional property tax for certain municipalities and use the revenues from such tax to fund support services and programs in other municipalities.

**Proposed S.B. No. 809 SEN. SLAP, 5th DIST.; SEN. LESSER, 9th DIST.; REP. WOOD, 29th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF HARTFORD COUNTY'**, to address concerns with the organization and operations of the Metropolitan District Commission of Hartford County.

**Proposed S.B. No. 810 SEN. HWANG, 28th DIST.; REP. DEVLIN, 134th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE TERM "COMMUNITY RESIDENCE"'**, to specify an exception to the term "community residence" in section 8-3e of the general statutes.

#### TRANSPORTATION

**Proposed S.B. No. 811 SEN. CASSANO, 4th DIST. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING MINIMUM PER MILE AND PER MINUTE EARNING RATES FOR RIDE SHARE DRIVERS'**, to establish minimum per mile and per minute earning rates for ride share drivers.

#### AGING

**S.B. No. 812 (RAISED) AGING. 'AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM'**, to expand access to the Alzheimer's disease respite care program by raising income and asset limits.

**S.B. No. 813 (RAISED) AGING. 'AN ACT CONCERNING RETROACTIVE MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME CARE SERVICES'**, to grant retroactive Medicaid eligibility to home-care applicants consistent with federal law.

**S.B. No. 814 (RAISED) AGING. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW VOLUNTARISM NEEDS OF THE STATE OMBUDSMAN'**, to establish a task force to review voluntarism needs of the State Ombudsman and make recommendations.

**S.B. No. 815 (RAISED) AGING. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKING IN NURSING HOMES, ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES AND OTHER HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY'**, to protect the health of elderly persons by restricting cigarette smoking.

**S.B. No. 816 (RAISED) AGING. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING LOAN FUND TO ASSIST ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS'**, to establish a revolving loan fund to help financially distressed senior citizens to pay property taxes.

**S.B. No. 817 (RAISED) AGING. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR CENTERS'**, to support and expand services offered by senior centers.

**S.B. No. 818 (RAISED) AGING. 'AN ACT PERMITTING THE COMMUNITY SPOUSE OF AN INSTITUTIONALIZED MEDICAID RECIPIENT TO RETAIN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ALLOWABLE ASSETS'**, to prevent impoverishment of spouses of institutionalized residents.

#### GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

**Proposed S.J. No. 12 SEN. HWANG, 28th DIST. 'RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING TERM LIMITS FOR LEGISLATORS'**, to impose a term limit of five terms as a senator and five terms as a representative.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to House Rule 50, the House adjourned at 12:36 o'clock a.m., to meet again at the Call of the Chair.