



## **JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE**

**Thursday, February 18, 2021**

The House of Representatives was called to order at 11:14 o'clock p.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. Lord, awaken our hearts with Your presence. Help guide us to do what is best for the citizens of Connecticut. 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 Thursday, February 18, 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.

#### **COMMERCE**

**H.B. No. 6467 (RAISED) COMMERCE. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS PROGRAM'**, to increase access to capital for businesses, opportunity zones and distressed municipalities.

#### **FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING**

**H.B. No. 6468 (RAISED) FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING. 'AN ACT CONCERNING INCENTIVES FOR QUALIFIED DATA CENTERS TO LOCATE IN THE STATE'**, to provide certain tax exemptions to incentivize qualified data centers to locate in the state.

## HUMAN SERVICES

**H.B. No. 6469 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY'**, to eliminate the copayment under the state-funded portion of the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly.

**H.B. No. 6470 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING HOME HEALTH, TELEHEALTH AND UTILIZATION REVIEW'**, to ease health care access by making permanent certain changes related to home health, telehealth and utilization review in the medical assistance program that were implemented by executive order during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**H.B. No. 6471 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER COST-EFFECTIVE HUMAN SERVICES AND DETER FRAUD'**, to establish a public-private partnership between the state and nonprofit human services providers to deliver cost-effective human services and deter fraud.

**H.B. No. 6472 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING TELEHEALTH'**, to expand telehealth services for Medicaid beneficiaries for a period of two years and study whether the benefits of expanding such services should be made permanent.

**H.B. No. 6473 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT EXPANDING THE DIAPER BANK TO INCLUDE FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS'**, to provide funding to the Diaper Bank of Connecticut so that it may provide feminine hygiene products to women of limited income.

## LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**H.B. No. 6474 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING COLLATERAL EMPLOYMENT CONSEQUENCES OF A CRIMINAL RECORD'**, to address the collateral employment consequences of a criminal record.

**H.B. No. 6475 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING FORCED ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS'**, to allow employees to sue employers on behalf of the state after having waived their personal rights to sue by signing forced arbitration agreements.

**H.B. No. 6476 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A DISPARITY STUDY'**, to require a disparity study.

**H.B. No. 6477 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND AMBULANCE COMPANIES AND THE DEFINITION OF EMPLOYER UNDER THE STATE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT'**, to clarify the definition of employer regarding volunteer fire departments and ambulance companies under the State Occupational Safety and Health Act.

**H.B. No. 6478 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION'**, to address various issues concerning workers' compensation.

**H.B. No. 6479 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'**, to require the Labor Commissioner to adopt regulations regarding the efficient operation of the Labor Department.

## VETERANS' AFFAIRS

**H.B. No. 6480 (RAISED) VETERANS' AFFAIRS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNERAL EXPENSES OF CERTAIN VETERANS'**, to specify the funeral expenses covered by the sum paid by the state for certain veterans.

**H.B. No. 6481 (RAISED) VETERANS' AFFAIRS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL REGISTRATION MARKER PLATES FOR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO SERVED IN PERIODS OF WAR'**, to create special registration marker plates available to veterans and members of the armed forces who served during certain periods of war.

**H.B. No. 6482 (RAISED) VETERANS' AFFAIRS. 'AN ACT EXCLUDING FEDERAL VETERANS' BENEFITS FROM INCOME ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS'**, to exclude all federal veterans' benefits from income when determining eligibility for public assistance programs.

**H.B. No. 6483 (RAISED) VETERANS' AFFAIRS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM'**, to allow military orders to be accepted as proof of residency for the purpose of enrollment in a public school by children of members of the armed forces and to establish a Purple Star School Program.

#### COMMERCE

**S.B. No. 430 (COMM) COMMERCE. 'AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT BOARDS OF DIRECTORS'**, to allow two or more municipalities in any regional tourism district to jointly appoint one representative to the regional tourism district boards of directors.

#### LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**S.B. No. 902 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING WORKING CONDITIONS'**, to require the Labor Commissioner to adopt regulations regarding safe and equitable working conditions for all employees in the state.

**S.B. No. 903 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE LABOR DEPARTMENT STATUTES'**, to make technical and other changes to Labor Department statutes.

**S.B. No. 904 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'**, to specify the executive director of the Labor Department's Employment Security Division shall be in the classified service and shall be devoted full-time to the duties of his or her office.

**S.B. No. 905 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT REGARDING NEUTRAL ARBITRATOR SELECTION COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS AT THE STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION'**, to specify neutral arbitrator selection committee requirements at the state board of mediation and arbitration.

**S.B. No. 906 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING NON-COMPETE AGREEMENTS'**, to set certain requirements for covenants not to compete.

**S.B. No. 907 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT'**, to make minor and technical changes to the Workers' Compensation Act.

**S.B. No. 908 (RAISED) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE TO JOIN OR SUPPORT A UNION'**, to protect the rights of public employees to join or support unions.

#### HUMAN SERVICES

**S.B. No. 909 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE HUSKY B PROGRAM'**, to change co-pay requirements for HUSKY B and eliminate the HUSKY Plus program.

**S.B. No. 910 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR POST-PARTUM CARE TO TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A MEDICAID BENEFICIARY GIVES BIRTH TO A CHILD'**, to expand Medicaid coverage for post-partum care to twelve months after a Medicaid beneficiary gives birth to a child.

**S.B. No. 911 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRENATAL CARE'**, to require the Commissioner of Social Services to provide prenatal care under the Children's Health Insurance Program, or "HUSKY B", under a state plan amendment.

**S.B. No. 912 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT OF FATHERHOOD INITIATIVES'**, to establish an advisory council to make recommendations concerning fatherhood initiatives and provide state funding for fatherhood initiatives.

**S.B. No. 913 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT REQUIRING FAIRNESS FOR FAMILIES IN MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY AND REIMBURSEMENT DETERMINATIONS'**, to ensure equity in payment between privately paid and family providers of human services, equity in Medicaid reimbursement for home care services compared to institutional care and fairness to families who discover an asset or are unable to immediately liquidate an asset after applying for Medicaid.

#### VETERANS' AFFAIRS

**S.B. No. 914 (RAISED) VETERANS' AFFAIRS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING HMONG LAOTIAN SPECIAL GUERRILLA UNITS WHICH SERVED IN THE KINGDOM OF LAOS'**, to provide certain benefits to members of the Hmong Laotian special guerilla units who served in the secret war in the Kingdom of Laos during the Vietnam War.

**S.B. No. 915 (RAISED) VETERANS' AFFAIRS. 'AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY SUICIDE BY VETERANS'**, to create a task force to study suicide by veterans.

**S.B. No. 916 (RAISED) VETERANS' AFFAIRS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING FEES FOR CERTIFIED COPIES OF VITAL RECORDS SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES FUND'**, to require the waiver of fees charged for certified copies of vital records sought in connection with a person's application for aid from the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund.

**S.B. No. 917 (RAISED) VETERANS' AFFAIRS. 'AN ACT EXEMPTING VETERANS' FEDERAL PENSION BENEFITS FROM INCOME ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC**

**ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS'**, to exclude all veterans' federal pension benefits from income when determining eligibility for public assistance programs.

**S.B. No. 918 (RAISED) VETERANS' AFFAIRS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF VETERAN'**, to expand the definition of veteran.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to House Rule 50, the House adjourned at 11:15 o'clock a.m., to meet again at the Call of the Chair.

**CHANGES OF REFERENCE  
HOUSE BILLS**

The following reports on the House Bills, recommending a change of reference were received from the committees indicated, the reports of the committees accepted, and the bills referred as recommended:

**PUBLIC HEALTH. Proposed H.B. No. 5474 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF CRITICAL SERVICES TO PERSONS SUFFERING AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

The bill was then referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**PUBLIC HEALTH. Proposed H.B. No. 5475 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR PERSONS SUFFERING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

The bill was then referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**PUBLIC HEALTH. Proposed H.B. No. 5671 AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.**

The bill was then referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**PUBLIC HEALTH. Proposed H.B. No. 6299 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY AND AWARENESS WEEK.**

The bill was then referred to the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

**BUSINESS FROM THE SENATE  
CHANGES OF REFERENCE  
SENATE BILLS**

The following reports recommending a change of reference were received from the committees indicated, the reports of the committees accepted in concurrence, and the bills referred as recommended:

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. Proposed S.B. No. 551 AN ACT CONCERNING MULTIFAMILY HOUSING AND ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS.**

The bill was then referred to the Committee on Transportation.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. Proposed S.B. No. 554 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ZONING AND PUBLIC TRANSIT.**

The bill was then referred to the Committee on Transportation.

**COMMERCE. Proposed S.B. No. 710 AN ACT CREATING INCENTIVES FOR DEFENSE CONTRACTORS TO CREATE JOBS.**

The bill was then referred to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

