



JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

The House of Representatives was called to order at 5:46 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, we ask for the grace of Your guidance. Help us to truly represent the people of this great State and to pass legislation that will benefit the common good of all 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 Wednesday, March 3, 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.

FAVORABLE REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE CHANGE OF REFERENCE HOUSE BILL

The following favorable report on the House Bill recommending a change of reference was received from the committee indicated, the bill read, the report of the committee accepted, and the bill referred as recommended:

AGING. H.B. No. 6458 (RAISED) AN ACT LOWERING THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

The bill was then referred to the Committee on Planning and Development.

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.

TRANSPORTATION

H.B. No. 5420 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY AT INOPERATIVE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS', to require a motor vehicle operator, when approaching an intersection with an inoperative traffic control signal, to stop as though such intersection was controlled by a stop sign.

GENERAL LAW

H.B. No. 6217 (COMM) GENERAL LAW. 'AN ACT INCREASING TRANSPARENCY FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS', to require charitable organizations to disclose their registration numbers and certain financial information when soliciting funds.

APPROPRIATIONS

H.B. No. 6555 (RAISED) APPROPRIATIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT AND APPROVAL OF COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS', to establish a process for legislative oversight and approval of the allocation of COVID-19 relief funds from the federal government.

EDUCATION

H.B. No. 6556 (RAISED) EDUCATION. 'AN ACT ADDRESSING ISSUES CREATED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CONNECTICUT', to address issues arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic on the provision of public education in the state by requiring the identification and mitigation of student learning loss and student disengagement, prohibiting the use of student performance data in teacher performance evaluations for three school years, requiring the offering of summer learning programs in alliance districts, creating a summer learning program grant, and providing flexibility in the hiring of substitute teachers during the pandemic.

H.B. No. 6557 (RAISED) EDUCATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING', to implement the recommendations of the Social Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory Collaborative and to integrate the principles of social-emotional learning and restorative practices into the provision of public education in Connecticut.

H.B. No. 6558 (RAISED) EDUCATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUES RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT', to (1) establish a pilot program that authorizes the Commissioner of Early Childhood to issue a license to a person or group of persons to operate a family child care home in a space that is not a private home and that has been provided by an association, organization, corporation, institution or agency, (2) establish a student loan forgiveness program for early childhood educators, (3) establish a personal income tax credit for certain employees of child care service providers, (4) expand eligibility in the Care4Kids program for certain parents and caretakers, (5) to permit families seeking employment or enrolled in certain education programs to participate in programs provided by state-contracted child care centers, and (6) to establish a task force to analyze and make recommendations concerning early childhood educator licensing and workforce development.

H.B. No. 6559 (RAISED) EDUCATION. 'AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD', to implement the recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood.

HUMAN SERVICES

H.B. No. 6560 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING TIMELY PAYMENTS TO PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS', to require timely payments for personal care attendants in state-funded programs.

H.B. No. 6561 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS PERMITTED TO PRACTICE WITHOUT LICENSES DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY', to require Medicaid reimbursement, to the extent permissible under federal law, for marital and family therapy associates authorized to practice without a license by executive order during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

H.B. No. 6562 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT', to improve child support enforcement efforts in the state by increasing resources, coordinating efforts and studying and implementing technological advancements.

H.B. No. 6563 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT ELIMINATING ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS TO A COMMUNITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM', to require the Department of Social Services to reduce paperwork requirements for participation in the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program by community providers.

JUDICIARY

H.B. No. 6564 (RAISED) JUDICIARY. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SECONDHAND DEALERS, PRECIOUS METALS OR STONES DEALERS AND PAWNBROKERS', to (1) remove the sunset date relating to methods of payment that secondhand dealers and precious metals or stones dealers may use when paying for property received, and (2) require dealers of precious metals and stones to retain certain property for ten days prior to the sale or disposition of such property.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

H.B. No. 6565 (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S SERVICES', to require the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct a study to determine whether policy and procedural changes in the Department of Children and Families may increase the effectiveness of services provided to children.

H.B. No. 6566 (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN PURCHASING FROZEN DESSERTS FROM ICE CREAM TRUCKS', to protect children in the course of buying ice cream from frozen dessert trucks by increasing the truck's visibility to other drivers, warning drivers that children may be present and limiting the location and conditions for vending.

H.B. No. 6567 (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S SAFETY', to require the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct a study to determine whether policy and procedural changes within the Department of Children and Families may increase the safety of children.

TRANSPORTATION

H.B. No. 6568 (RAISED) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PEER-TO-PEER CAR SHARING PROGRAMS', to regulate the operations of and insurance requirements for peer-to-peer car sharing programs.

H.B. No. 6569 (RAISED) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION', to (1) revise the membership of the task force tasked with studying compliance with motor vehicle registration laws, and (2) require a resident of this state to make an appointment with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to register a motor vehicle with number plates issued by another state within thirty days of establishing residency.

H.B. No. 6570 (RAISED) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL ZONING', to (1) increase the number of transit-oriented developments with an affordable housing component, and (2) require a municipality's zoning regulations permit a greater density of housing within one-half mile of a bus rapid transit station or passenger railroad station.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

S.B. No. 2 (COMM) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL EQUITY AND THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN', to (1) establish a youth suicide prevention training program, (2) require certain licensed health care professionals to complete mental health and suicide screening and prevention training, (3) permit minors to receive more than six outpatient mental health treatment sessions without the consent of a parent or guardian, (4) require local and regional boards of education to integrate the principles and practices of social-emotional learning into programs of professional development and statements of educational goals, (5) permit parents to attend parent-teacher conferences remotely, (6) require additional parent-teacher conferences during periods when a school district conducts school sessions remotely, (7) require the provision of information by teachers concerning safety, mental health and food insecurity during such conferences, (8) permit local and regional boards of education to provide instruction to high school students remotely and prohibit such boards from deeming absent a student who attends school remotely, (9) require local and regional boards of education to permit students to take up to four mental health wellness days per school year, (10) require the collection of adverse childhood experiences data by local and regional boards of education and the Department of Education, (11) require the Commissioner of Children and Families to provide children in the care and custody of the commissioner remote visitation opportunities in lieu of in-person visitation, in the event of a pandemic or outbreak of communicable disease, (12) require the Commissioner of Children and Families to develop a policy requiring the cessation of in-person visitation on a case-by-case basis in the event that such visitation could result in the contraction of a communicable disease by one or more participants, (13) expand the operation of the Department of Children and Families telephone Careline to accommodate the receipt and provision of information concerning child abuse and neglect by text message, (14) require the Commissioner of Children and Families to provide certain notice to parents and guardians in the event that the commissioner is considering removal of a child from the home, and the services of a translator, if necessary, during any meeting to discuss such removal, (15) require the Commissioner of Early Childhood to develop and implement a plan to expand the birth-to-three program to provide early intervention services to children five years of age and under and eliminate parent fees for such services, (16) require the Commissioner of Education to establish an Internet access grant program for local and regional boards of education to provide students, educators and staff with Internet access during school sessions that are conducted remotely, and (17) establish a task force to study the comprehensive needs of children in the state.

GENERAL LAW

S.B. No. 152 (COMM) GENERAL LAW. 'AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DELIVERY TICKETS FOR GASOLINE, KEROSENE, FUEL OILS OR SIMILAR SUBSTANCES', to permit acceptance of electronic delivery tickets for gasoline, kerosene, fuel oils or similar substances.

TRANSPORTATION

S.B. No. 608 (COMM) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN WHEN BUYING ICE CREAM FROM A FROZEN DESSERT TRUCK', to protect children in the course of buying ice cream from frozen dessert trucks by increasing the truck's visibility to other drivers, warning drivers that children may be present and limiting the location and conditions for vending.

EDUCATION

S.B. No. 976 (RAISED) EDUCATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION', to require the Technical Education and Career System to accept and enroll students with individualized education programs, and to establish a task force to study issues relating to the provision and funding of special education in the state.

S.B. No. 977 (RAISED) EDUCATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING VIRTUAL LEARNING', to require the Department of Education to develop uniform standards for the provision of virtual learning in public schools, conduct a comprehensive audit of virtual learning programs in the state and develop guidelines for training educators in the provision of virtual learning.

JUDICIARY

S.B. No. 978 (RAISED) JUDICIARY. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PAROLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS SERVING LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR CRIMES COMMITTED BEFORE THE INDIVIDUAL TURNED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE', to incentivize rehabilitation among incarcerated individuals and provide a second chance for those who were convicted and sentenced before twenty-five years of age.

HUMAN SERVICES

S.B. No. 979 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO MEDICAL SPECIALISTS FOR MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT', to require the Commissioner of Social Services to expand access to medical specialists in southeastern Connecticut by expanding telehealth services.

S.B. No. 980 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT ELIMINATING INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS FOR THE MED-CONNECT PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES', to eliminate income and asset limits for working persons with disabilities to qualify for Medicaid.

S.B. No. 981 (RAISED) HUMAN SERVICES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT PARITY FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDERS', to evaluate whether current payment structures lead to payment inequities for health and human services providers depending on where the services are provided in the state and implement recommendations to achieve payment parity.

TRANSPORTATION

S.B. No. 982 (RAISED) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT REVISING MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES', to revise motor vehicle statutes regarding operator's licenses, motor vehicle registration, removable windshield placards, buses, funeral processions, identity cards, vehicle use of the Merritt and Wilbur Cross Parkways, totalled vehicles, veteran number plates, flashing lights, driving schools and instructors, commercial driver's licenses, fire apparatus and instruction permits.

S.B. No. 983 (RAISED) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SLOWING DOWN FOR SERVICE VEHICLES', to require motor vehicle operators to slow down when passing service vehicles.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

S.B. No. 984 (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS', to require the Commissioner of Children and Families to conduct a study to evaluate the efficacy of the programs administered by the Department of Children and Families.

S.B. No. 985 (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S HEALTH', to direct the Commissioner of Public Health to conduct a study to determine whether policy and procedural changes within the Department of Public Health may improve the health of children.

ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to House Rule 50, the House adjourned at 5:48 o'clock p.m., to meet again at the Call of the Chair.