



JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

Thursday, March 18, 2021

The House of Representatives was called to order at 5:00 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. Heavenly Creator, may the spirit of compassion be a significant presence in our land. Guide our Legislators to make decisions so that the needs of our people may be met. 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, March 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.

FAVORABLE REPORTS OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES HOUSE BILLS

The following House Bills were received from the committees indicated, the bills read the second time and tabled for the Calendar and printing:

TRANSPORTATION. Substitute for H.B. No. 5429 (RAISED) (File No. 83) AN ACT CONCERNING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, VISION ZERO COUNCIL, SPEED LIMITS IN MUNICIPALITIES, FINES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS, THE GREENWAYS COMMEMORATIVE ACCOUNT AND MAINTENANCE WORK ZONE AND SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. H.B. No. 6394 (RAISED) (File No. 84) AN ACT CONCERNING INTEREST ON LOTTERY SALES AGENT DELINQUENCY ASSESSMENTS.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. H.B. No. 6395 (RAISED) (File No. 85) AN ACT CONCERNING SMALL HOT WATER HEATERS.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT. H.B. No. 6405 (RAISED) (File No. 86) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

TRANSPORTATION. Substitute for H.B. No. 6426 (RAISED) (File No. 87) AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY REGARDING THE PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES AND METEOROLOGICAL EVALUATION TOWERS.

**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.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

H.B. No. 5467 (COMM) HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A "FEE-FREE DAY" AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION', to require the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut to establish an annual "Fee-Free Day".

H.B. No. 5468 (COMM) HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING COLLEGE CREDITS AWARDED FOR MILITARY TRAINING', to require the governing board of each institution of higher education to review and update its policy concerning credits awarded for a student's military training every five years.

COMMERCE

H.B. No. 5481 (COMM) COMMERCE. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES', to provide access to capital for women and minority-owned businesses.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

H.B. No. 5540 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE', to (1) eliminate the presumption that the Secretary of the State's declaratory rulings, opinions, instructions and orders correctly interpret and effectuate the administration of elections and primaries, (2) require that any such declaratory ruling, opinion, instruction or order be submitted for review and approval by the legislative branch, and (3) eliminate the ability of the Secretary to apply to the Judicial Branch for enforcement of certain orders issued by the Secretary.

H.B. No. 5653 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT AMENDING THE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY STATUTES', to update our civil preparedness and public health emergency statutes and executive order emergency powers to reflect emerging threats, and to retain a legislative role in defining the duration of such powers.

H.B. No. 5655 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING VACANCIES IN CONSTITUTIONAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICES', to align for all constitutional executive branch offices the manner in which any vacancy therein is filled.

H.B. No. 5656 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT DESIGNATING PIZZA AS THE STATE FOOD', to recognize the contribution of pizza to the state's cuisine and economy by designating it as the state food.

PUBLIC HEALTH

H.B. No. 5677 (COMM) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID', to make community violence prevention services provided by a qualified violence prevention professional a covered service under the Medicaid program, and to provide for training and certification of qualified violence prevention professionals.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

H.B. No. 6193 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT SUBJECTING CERTAIN NONSTATE ENTITIES THAT SERVE A GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTION TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND THE CODES OF ETHICS', to subject certain nonstate entities that serve a governmental function to the Freedom of Information Act and the codes of ethics.

H.B. No. 6194 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND OVERSIGHT OF QUASI-PUBLIC AGENCY CONTRACTS', to create transparency in the awarding of quasi-public agency contracts by requiring them to be subject to competitive bidding and subject to oversight by the State Contracting Standards Board.

H.B. No. 6203 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN RECORDS CONCERNING NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT', to facilitate the repatriation of Native American remains and artifacts by enabling state institutions to keep confidential any records provided as evidence that ancestral remains or artifacts were affiliated with a particular tribe.

H.B. No. 6211 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER AND RACIAL DIVERSITY ON CERTAIN STATE APPOINTIVE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS AND AN ONLINE SYSTEM FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT', to (1) achieve gender and racial diversity on certain state appointive boards, commissions, committees and councils that reflects the population of the state, and (2) create an online system for consideration of appointments within the Legislative Department.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

H.B. No. 6263 (COMM) HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT. 'AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT', to exempt records provided to and documents prepared by a public institution of higher education concerning the concentration of pyrrhotite in concrete foundations in residential buildings.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

H.B. No. 6325 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE, ABSENTEE BALLOTS

AND ELECTION AUDITS', to (1) require the Secretary of the State to report on certain election laws modified or suspended for any primary or election held in 2020 or 2021, (2) require any declaratory ruling, instruction, opinion or order of the Secretary to be adopted as a regulation and submitted to the Legislative Regulation Review Committee, (3) prohibit the unsolicited mailing of absentee ballots by certain election officials, (4) provide state-wide consistency regarding pre-election day processing of absentee ballots whenever authorized and prohibit registrars of voters from contacting voters for the purpose of curing unsigned absentee ballots, (5) require the Secretary to establish a pilot program from the verification of signatures on returned absentee ballot envelopes, (6) require that absentee ballot applications contain a statement regarding penalties for noncompliance with certain provisions, (7) establish a task force to study the feasibility of single-envelope returns of absentee ballots, (8) establish a working group to examine risk-limiting audits of election results, and (9) change the deadline by which minor parties need to file their rules with the Secretary prior to nominating candidates for office.

H.B. No. 6649 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION', to make technical changes to provisions concerning government administration.

H.B. No. 6650 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTIONS OF TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBERS', to provide an additional circumstance under which a no-contest election of town committee members may occur.

H.B. No. 6651 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT RESPONDING TO ISSUES RELATED TO COVID-19 AND GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION', to extend the duration of various provisions of executive orders concerning Freedom of Information requirements for meetings and appeals, regulatory requirements, municipal nominations and notaries.

H.B. No. 6652 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT DESIGNATING VARIOUS DAYS, WEEKS AND MONTHS', to designate various days, weeks and months and rename the Columbus Day holiday.

PUBLIC HEALTH

H.B. No. 6653 (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTHY HOMES', to establish a pilot program to annually provide not less than five hundred residential dwellings with (1) energy efficiency retrofits, and (2) residential improvements that reduce health and safety hazards found in such residential dwellings.

FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

H.B. No. 6654 (RAISED) FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHILD TAX CREDIT AGAINST THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX', to establish a child tax credit against the personal income tax.

H.B. No. 6655 (RAISED) FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING. 'AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL TAXATION AND INCENTIVIZING REGIONALIZATION', to limit property tax increases, authorize municipalities to impose local taxes and incentivize municipal regionalization of services.

JUDICIARY

H.B. No. 6656 (RAISED) JUDICIARY. 'AN ACT CONFIRMING AND ADOPTING VOLUMES 1 TO 13, INCLUSIVE, OF THE GENERAL STATUTES, REVISED TO JANUARY 1, 2021', to adopt and confirm the general statutes, revised to January 1, 2021.

H.B. No. 6657 (RAISED) JUDICIARY. 'AN ACT CONCERNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING', to (1) adjust the membership in the Trafficking in Persons Council, (2) allow certain testimony in the case of a delinquency proceeding to be compelled, (3) establish an affirmative defense for trafficking in persons in the case of a victim of trafficking, (4) redefine "sex trafficking", (5) modify the elements of the crimes of patronizing a prostitute and commercial sexual abuse of a minor, (6) change the required frequency of a refresher course in human trafficking awareness for certain professions, and (7) extend vacatur relief to a person who committed certain crimes if a conviction is based on participation in the crime by the convicted person due to such person being a victim of trafficking.

FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

H.B. No. 6658 (RAISED) FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINOR AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE TAX AND RELATED STATUTES', to make minor and technical changes to the tax and related statutes.

JUDICIARY

S.B. No. 6 (COMM) JUDICIARY. 'AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS', to make various changes relating to (1) restraining orders, (2) family violence victim advocates, (3) cash bonds, (4) U Nonimmigrant Status, (5) social services for domestic violence victims, (6) insurance discrimination, (7) counsel for people seeking restraining orders, and (8) crimes based on bigotry or bias.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

S.B. No. 193 (COMM) HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION RELATED TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY', to require the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut to each conduct a study assessing whether the workforce needs of the insurance industry are met by the programs of study offered by the public institutions of higher education under each board's governance.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

S.B. No. 301 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING BIPARTISAN REVIEW OF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS', to allow for bipartisan review of emergency declarations.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

S.B. No. 357 (COMM) HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT. 'AN ACT PRIORITIZING THE ADMISSION OF IN-STATE STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION', to require the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher Education to prioritize in-state students during the admissions process of the public institutions of higher education governed by said boards.

LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

S.B. No. 668 (COMM) LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A FAIR WORK WEEK SCHEDULE', to require certain employers to provide advance notice to certain employees of the employees' work schedule.

PUBLIC HEALTH

S.B. No. 683 (COMM) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL BILLING AND COLLECTION EFFORTS BY HOSPITALS AND COLLECTION AGENCIES', to (1) restrict (A) the amount that a hospital or collection agent may recover from an uninsured or underinsured patient for the unpaid cost of health care, and (B) the manner in which a hospital or collection agent may secure or recover payment for the unpaid cost of health care, and (2) modify provisions concerning hospital billing practices to protect patients who receive health care at outpatient clinics that are owned by, or affiliated with, hospitals.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

S.B. No. 716 (COMM) HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2019', to provide additional protections for student loan borrowers and cosigners of private education loans and to create a cause of action against student loan servicers who engage in abusive acts or practices while servicing a student education loan.

PUBLIC HEALTH

S.B. No. 1070 (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT ALLOWING ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS TO ISSUE HOME HEALTH ORDERS', to allow advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to issue home health orders.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

S.B. No. 1071 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS', to implement the recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts contained in their 2020 annual report.

S.B. No. 1072 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION', to make technical revisions to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

S.B. No. 1073 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT', to require a study of state agency policies and programs to assess the equity of state government programs and the allocation of state resources.

S.B. No. 1074 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATED TO GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND COVID-19', to extend the duration of various provisions of executive orders concerning Freedom of Information requirements for meetings and appeals, regulatory requirements, municipal nominations and notaries.

S.B. No. 1075 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PAYROLL SERVICE PROVIDERS', to impose additional requirements on responders to a request for proposals for the provision of payroll services for the payment of wages of personal care attendants.

S.B. No. 1076 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND PRIVATIZATION

OF STATE SERVICES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER', to require The University of Connecticut Health Center to obtain the approval of the General Assembly prior to soliciting bids or a request for proposals for a privatization or public-private partnership contract.

FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

S.B. No. 1077 (RAISED) FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION AND REVISIONS TO THE TAX AND RELATED STATUTES', to implement the Department of Revenue Services' recommendations for tax administration and revisions to the tax and related statutes.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

S.J. No. 13 (COMM) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLDS TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE, REGIONAL VOTING CENTERS AND EARLY VOTING'

ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to House Rule 50, the House adjourned at 5:02 o'clock p.m., to meet again at the Call of the Chair.