

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

The Senate was called to order at 12:32 p.m., the President in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, everyone. Will the Senate please come to order. Members and guests, please rise and direct your attention to our guest chaplain, Ms. Kathleen Zabel of Burlington.

GUEST CHAPLAIN KATHY ZABEL:

We pray for continued blessings and watchfulness over the concerns of the state. Continue to uphold its officials as well as the citizens in the weeks ahead.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much. And now it's my pleasure to introduce Senator Jorge Cabrera to lead us in the Pledge.

SENATOR CABRERA (17TH):

I pledge allegiance to the United States of America and the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cabrera. And with that, it's my pleasure to call on Senator Duff. But you do need a microphone, so let's see if we can get the NASCAR drivers over there so that -- we can get the tech crew. Look at that, my chief of staff has stepped up.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Adam. Thank you, Madam President, and good afternoon. Why don't we stand at ease for a moment while we wait for our Clerks to arrive? Thanks.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, is there business on the Clerk's desk?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, do you have business?

CLERK:

Good afternoon. The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 1 dated Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move all items on Senate Agenda No. 1, dated Wednesday, April 28th, 2021, be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and Senate Transcripts.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I have some referrals that will take a little bit of time.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Indulge me here. On Calendar Page 1, Calendar 48, Senate Bill 262, I would like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 2, Calendar 50, Senate Bill 266, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 2, Calendar 54, Senate Bill 35, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 3, Calendar 58, Senate Bill 702, I'd like to refer that into the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 3, Calendar 59, Senate Bill 763, I'd like to refer that into to the Judiciary Committee. THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 4, Calendar 62, Senate Bill 836, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 4, Calendar 72, Senate Bill 418, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 7, Calendar 114, Senate Bill 326, I'd like to refer that item to the Public Health Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 8, Calendar 118, Senate Bill 764, I'd like to refer that item to the Human Services Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 8, Calendar 121, Calendar 890, I'd like to refer that item to the banking -- I'm sorry to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Can the Senate stand at ease for a moment?

THE CHAIR:

And the Senate will stand at ease.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Yes?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

It looks like I made a mistake on these two. Thank you, Madam President. Going back to Calendar Page 7, Calendar 114, Senate Bill 326, it needs to be referred to the Finance Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered and we'll correct that.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you. And on Calendar Page 8, Calendar 118, Senate Bill 764, I need to refer that to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And again, Calendar Page 8, Calendar 121, Senate Bill 819, I would like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 8, Calendar 123, Senate Bill 901, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 8, Calendar 124, Senate Bill 911, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

And on Calendar Page 9, Calendar 130, Senate Bill 910, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 9, Calendar 131, Senate Bill 913,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Can the Senate stand at ease for a moment?

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, and thank you Madam President,
Calendar Page 14, Calendar 163, Senate Bill 985, I'd
like to refer that item to the Finance Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 14, Calendar 164, Senate Bill 925,
I'd like to refer that to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 15, Calendar 172, Senate Bill 861,
I'd like to refer that item to the Finance
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 16, Calendar 174, Senate Bill 941,
I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 16, Calendar 179, Senate Bill 917,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 16, Calendar 181, Senate Bill 945, I'd
like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 17, Calendar 187, Senate Bill 652, I'd like to refer that item to the Finance Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 18, Calendar 190, Senate Bill 852, I'd like to refer that item to the Finance Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 18, Calendar 191, Senate Bill 932, I'd like to refer that item to the Finance Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 19, Calendar 196, Senate Bill 119, I'd like to refer that item to the Finance Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 20, Calendar 202, Senate Bill 916, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 21, Calendar 206, Senate Bill 121, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 21, Calendar 208, Senate Bill 1004, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 23, Calendar 221, Senate Bill 693, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 23, Calendar 222, Senate Bill 893, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 24, Calendar 227, Senate Bill 881, I'd like to refer that item to the Education Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 24, Calendar 228, Senate Bill 841, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 24, Calendar 229, Senate Bill 844, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 25, Calendar 231, Senate Bill 1007,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 26, Calendar 237, Senate Bill 1045,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 26, Calendar 239, Senate Bill 1047,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 27, Calendar 244, Senate Bill 668, I'd
like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 27, Calendar 246, Senate Bill 906,
I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 28, Calendar 247, Senate Bill 943, I'd
like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 28, Calendar 251, Senate Bill 572,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 29, Calendar 252, Senate Bill 845,
I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary

Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 30, Calendar 260, Senate Bill 576,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 31, Calendar 265, Senate Bill 1031,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 31, Calendar 267, Senate Bill 658,
I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 32, Calendar 269, Senate Bill 972,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 32, Calendar 270, Senate Bill 988, I'd
like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 32, Calendar 275, Senate Bill 1014,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 36, Calendar 294, Senate Bill 1002,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 36, Calendar 295, Senate Bill 1, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 37, Calendar 300, Senate Bill 1033, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 37, Calendar 302, Senate Bill 1074, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 38, Calendar 307, Senate Bill 1056, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 39, Calendar 311, Senate Bill 980,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 39, Calendar 312, Senate Bill 1090,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 40, Calendar 323, Senate Bill 870,
I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 42, Calendar 329, Senate Bill 1064,
I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 42, Calendar 330, Senate Bill 1065, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 42, Calendar 331, Senate Bill 238, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

And on Calendar Page 47, Calendar 15, Senate Bill 5, I'd like to move that item be recommitted back to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And that concludes our referrals at the moment, and will the Senate stand

at ease, please?

THE CHAIR:

And the Senate will stand at ease.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For the purposes of marking our first Bill, will the Clerk please call Calendar -- I'm sorry, Page 47, Calendar 319, Senate Resolution No. 7?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 47, Calendar No. 319, Senate Resolution No. 7, RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNION UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA, UAW LOCAL UNION 6950.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten, good afternoon.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. It's nice to see you today. I hope you got some rest. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill, and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Please proceed.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. This is a simple Resolution approving a contract between the University of Connecticut and UAW workers which are often referred to as postdoctoral students. It passed 100% on a favorable vote in the Appropriations Committee. It covers the timeframes of March 2021 through June 2024. There were 164 members in the bargaining unit as of April 1, 2021. The cost for this contract would be assumed by UConn through a variety of mechanisms, mostly through research grant revenues, although a small amount of \$112,590 in Year 1, \$151,483 in Year 2, \$156,027 in Year 3, and \$160,708 in Year 4 would be covered by UConn costs. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before us? And good afternoon, Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And through you, I just have a couple of quick questions for the proponent.

THE CHAIR:

Certainly, please proceed. Senator Osten, prepare yourself.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Senator Osten. And basically, I think I got the gist of everything. I just want to verify that -- of how this is being paid for and how this is going -- so the positions, are these positions paid for by taxpayer funds? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. These positions are being paid for out of research grants, mandatory fees and through tuition. To be quite clear, taxpayers fund a lot of different things and it would be wrong to say that this is not, in essence, covered by some taxpayer funds because relatively speaking, taxpayers go to UConn and they pay those, so I'm not certain if that answers your question. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Osten. Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I guess I should ask it a little different. Is this coming out of our state budget funds, coming from the state budget on this?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. The answer to that would be no.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Through you, Madam President, are any incidentals such as health insurance being paid for out of our state budget?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. The answer to that would also be no.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And the last question I have, many of these positions are just five years or less? Through you, Madam President, is that correct?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. The positions that are covered here generally would not stay in this position any longer than that five-year timeframe. There may be some that stay a little bit longer based on circumstances beyond their control, such as if a military person got called up, it would take up a year of their timeframe. However, generally speaking, postdoctoral students don't last any longer than that five-year timeframe. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to thank you for the clarification on this. I wasn't able to get a copy of the contract, so I just wanted to verify. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Champagne. Will you remark further on the legislation before us? Good afternoon, Senator Kushner. Let's get your microphone on there. There we go.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I don't have any questions for Senator Osten but I did want to comment on this contract. I had the pleasure of working with these postdoctoral researchers at UConn

prior to coming to the Senate, and I am so impressed with the work that they do. They are dedicated to our university system. They are key components of a lot of the research dollars that come to our state. They do amazing work. They've all completed their studies there. They have their doctorate degrees and they could go elsewhere. There are positions like this at many universities around the country, but they choose UConn because of the nature of the work that they're able to do there, and they help make it a first class university.

And so I'm very proud of our Legislature here and our opportunity to vote in favor of this contract here today, that will help them to be productive members of our university community. And I congratulate all of the postdoctoral researchers and I applaud the university, and I thank Senator Osten for bringing out this Bill today. It's a great contract and I think that it will serve our state very well. So thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kushner. Will you remark further on the Bill that is before us? Good afternoon, Senator Miner.

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, we heard testimony on this agreement. We did meet, the Appropriations Committee did meet and discuss this agreement. And I can't remember if it was unanimous, but there was significant support for this in the Committee, and I rise to support it and urge its passage. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Miner. Will you remark further?
Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Disregard, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

I see that Senator Hwang has entered the Chamber.
Sir, would you like to remark on this Bill? Please
proceed.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. It's good to see you
tonight, today. Just a couple of questions for the
proponent this Bill. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

I just want a point of clarification that this
agreement was agreed to in March of 2020, and
obviously COVID impacting so many different things
has forced us to enact this now. Would that be
correct? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. That is correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

And from a standpoint of funding availability, I know the good Ranking Member of Appropriations has done the due diligence and obviously, I'm looking at the records, the Bill passed through in a bipartisan, unanimous nature. The available funds are current in the UConn system and more importantly, it is no additional revenue expense to the State of Connecticut. Would that be correct? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Just to be clear, the support of this contract from comes from research grants, which are currently being applied for. The application of those grants happens on an ongoing basis, that's how they get paid. To support that, there's a small amount of money that comes through two other mechanisms, through tuitions and mandatory fees in UConn, but that's where the amount would be coming from, through UConn not through the general fund of the state budget. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Through you, Madam President, I want to thank the good Chairwoman of Appropriations for that clarification. It is a terrific example where a public-private dynamic has occurred, where grant funding because the research ability and the research competitiveness of our UConn system has allocated revenue and funding to be able to staff these appropriate individuals, combined with the collaboration of state government. So I want to thank the good Chairwoman for bringing this Bill out and obviously, a year later, nonetheless but that being said, I rise in support of this Bill because it is important to acknowledge the unique funding revenue to this. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further?
Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I would ask for a roll call vote on this resolution.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Mr. Clerk, would you kindly call the roll and we will open the vote.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Resolution No. 7. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Resolution No. 7. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Resolution No. 7. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Resolution No. 7:

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	1
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

(gavel) And the legislation is adopted. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, for the purposes of our markings today.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 44, Calendar 342, Senate Bill 1089, I'd like to mark that item go. On Calendar Page 35, Calendar 292, Senate Bill 959, I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered on both.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 35, Calendar 290, Senate Bill 892, I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 29, Calendar 255, Senate Bill 923, I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 38, Calendar 304, Senate Bill 1071, I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 2, Calendar 53, Senate Bill 817,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 5, Calendar 76, Senate Bill 696,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 11, Calendar 138, Senate Bill 840,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 11, Calendar 141, Senate Bill 48,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 20, Calendar 203, Senate Bill 1039,
I'd like to mark that item go. .

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 13, Calendar 153, Senate Bill 954,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 19, Calendar 193, Senate Bill 903,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 16, Calendar 177, Senate Bill 859,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 21, Calendar 204, Senate Bill 186,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 10, Calendar 132, Senate Bill 152,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 1, Calendar 23 -- Calendar, I'm sorry,
Calendar Page 1, Calendar 23, Senate Bill 264, I'd
like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 1, Calendar 22, Senate Bill 263, I'd
like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 25, Calendar 230, Senate Bill 1003,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 25, Calendar 232, Senate Bill 1008,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 21, Calendar 210, Senate Bill 1050,
I'd like to mark that item go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The Senate will stand at
ease.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Members I'd also like to
note that there may be some other markings a little
bit later on. And if the Clerk could now call the
first Bill, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 44, Calendar No. 342, Senate Bill No. 1089, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REVISED TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, good afternoon, Madam President. Good to see you. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Before us is a Bill that comes from the Judiciary Committee. It is AN ACT CONCERNING THE REVISED TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES, the Bill we have on an annual basis, and it's a Bill that comes on a 36-0 vote. It makes, as the title would suggest, technical changes to our statutes, related to many things. It's always almost a unanimous vote and I would urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Will you remark

further? Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Oh, my mask broke. Good afternoon, Madam President.
How are you this afternoon?

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon. I'm sure we have another one we can
get for you.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much. I would urge my colleagues to
support this. As the good Chair of the Judiciary
Committee, Senator Winfield indicated, this comes to
us on an annual basis. The changes are essentially
purely technical. And indeed, many, many years ago,
I did ask the proponent of the Bill to start
reciting what those changes were and it made paint
drying look really exciting, because they're
extraordinarily technical. But it's something
necessary that we have to do to bring our statutes
into comportment with little nuanced, modest
changes. There's nothing of substance involved in
this particular legislation, but it's necessary. And
again, I would urge my colleagues to support it.
Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Will you remark further?
Will you remark further? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, Madam President. If I didn't ask for it, this

should be a roll call, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

On consent?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Roll call.

THE CHAIR:

Roll call. Then in that case, Mr. Clerk, I'll open the machine, if you would kindly call the roll.

CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill No. 1089. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill No. 1089. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, kindly call the roll.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 1089:

Total Number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	0

Those absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

(gavel) And the measure is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 35, Calendar No. 292, Senate Bill No. 959, AN
ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT OPERATIONS.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Good afternoon again, Madam President. I move
acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report
and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Before us is
another Judiciary Bill, Senate Bill 959, AN ACT
CONCERNING PROBATE COURT OPERATIONS. It is also a
Bill that comes to us with a unanimous vote. This
Bill, which is another one of our annual bills,
makes various changes to the laws governing the
probate court's operations. It makes changes to
filing fees and it allows the probate courts to
accept fee payment via electronic fund transfer and
charge related service fees. I would urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Will you remark further on the legislation before us? Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I think it behooves me to leave my mask on for the rest of this session this afternoon, and I want to thank our crack team for getting me a replacement mask. As the good Chair of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Winfield indicated, this is yet another annual Bill. It's my guess that the probate court administrator probably reaches out to the various probate judges throughout the state of Connecticut.

I think there's about 124 different probate districts, or thereabouts. They probably give some suggestions as to how to fine-tune some of the procedures. So, these are fairly innocuous. They help streamline different things that the probate courts do throughout the state of Connecticut, highly noncontroversial. And again, I would urge my colleagues to support this Bill this afternoon. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before us? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I think I again forgot to ask for a roll call vote.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. In that case, will you remark further on the Bill? Will you remark further? If not, Mr. Clerk kindly call the roll and I will open the vote.

CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill No. 959. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill No. 959. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please call the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 959:

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

(gavel) And the legislation is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 35, Calendar No. 290, Substitute for Senate

Bill No. 892, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION, DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

THE CHAIR:

And good afternoon, Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and the passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Here's another Bill that comes to us through the Judiciary Committee, Senate Bill 892, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION, DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL. It's another Bill that was unanimous. The Bill amends the process that we have in place for nominating the Inspector General. It changes the structure of the Inspector General's Office and makes it separate as opposed to independent. That had a lot to do with the conversations we've been having about the way that the Constitution works.

It requires that the Criminal Justice Commission appoint rather than nominate one Deputy Chief State's Attorney for the position that is in question, which is the Inspector General, and it eliminates the General Assembly confirmation in the

way that we had it prior to this.

What the Bill also does is the Members of the CJC, which is the Criminal Justice Commission, would go before the Judiciary Committee as opposed to executive and legislative nominations. The Chief State's Attorney would be required to notify the Criminal Justice Commission whenever there's certain types of promotions. The Criminal Justice Commission is going to determine how many Department of Criminal Justice recommendations it is supposed to receive for each attorney, and various other things as it relates to this process.

Madam President, it came out on a unanimous vote and I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President, I stand in strong support of this particular Bill proposal. It definitely fixes something that inadvertently got, I would say I hate to say messed up because that's not really legalese, but wasn't done probably in the most effective manner when we came in, in the middle of summer, to pass wide-sweeping law enforcement reform legislation.

So what this does is it takes care of that issue in a very fair and evenhanded manner, in my opinion. The other matter that it does do is it allows the head of the Criminal Justice Commission, who currently is Justice Andrew McDonald, who we all know from his time here as a State Senator, as well

as counsel to Governor Malloy, to break ties, which are very few and far between on the Criminal Justice Commission.

And Madam President, lastly, when this comes up, I would ask for a roll call vote. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Will you remark further on the legislation before us? Will you remark further? With that, Mr. Clerk, if you would call the vote and I will open the machine.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 892. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 892. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 892:

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 29 --

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, I do apologize. I do want to add that after you announced the tally, I should have said that the legislation passed, and it did overwhelmingly. So with that, Mr. Clerk, sorry to interrupt. My general counsel did not want that.

CLERK:

Page 29, Calendar No. 255, Senate Bill No. 923, AN ACT CONCERNING A REVIEW OF ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS BY THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark, please?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This is another Bill that comes to us with a unanimous vote out of the Judiciary Committee. Senate Bill 923 requires that the Sentencing Commission study, review the animal cruelty laws that we have in this state and other states, and the penalties that pertain. And after that is done, the Sentencing Commission would be required to, not later than January 1st of 2023 to report to the Judiciary Committee on their findings and recommendations. It's a good Bill and I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Will you remark further? Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Just a quick question through you, to the proponent of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much. So I just want to clarify, as you brought the Bill out, Senator Winfield, that you said there would be recommendations and I know that you were also speaking about the underlying proposal, that the Sentencing Commission would look at other states. And I'm just wondering, is there a specific charge as to recommendations, or it's really whatever in its wisdom the Sentencing

Commission feels would be perhaps more appropriate to protect the welfare of animals out in the state of Connecticut? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The Bill is broken into two sections, two subsections in Section 1 of the Bill. Section B is that part that talks about the recommendations, so that would refer you back to Section 1 to know what is required there. Under Section 1, what the Sentencing Commission will be reviewing and would be part of the review is a look at the penalties for animal cruelty imposed by the laws of Connecticut and the laws of other states to ascertain as to whether or not there are national or regional trends concerning the changes to such penalties. Beyond that, it does not specify in those sections the limitations on recommendations.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I think it's a good Bill. I would urge all my colleagues to be supportive of the Bill. And if we could just take 30 seconds, stand at ease?

THE CHAIR:

And the Senate will stand at ease. Thank you,

Senator Kissel. Will you remark further? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, Madam President. If there's no objection, I ask this be placed on consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, this item will be placed on the Consent Calendar. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 38, Calendar No. 304, SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 1071, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

THE CHAIR:

And good afternoon, Senator Flexer. And we'll get your microphone on for you.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I, for the first time in I think more than almost two years, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. It's nice to see you back in the Chamber. And will you remark further?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Yes, Madam President. Madam President, the Bill before us implements the recommendations of our wonderful State Auditors of Public Accounts. The Bill before us has a number of recommendations from the auditors, from their great work ensuring that our state resources are dealt with in an ethical and fiscally responsible manner. The provisions of this Bill have been before the Government Administration and Elections Committee in the past, and I'm grateful that the Bill had broad bipartisan support in Committee and I hope that my colleagues will support it today. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Flexer. Will you remark further on the Bill that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Bill? Will you remark further? Senator Sampson, would you like to remark on this legislation?

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Just to say that this is in fact a good Bill. We have the auditors before the Government Administration and Elections Committee every year, and they never fail to provide us with very, very important and good information about their diligent efforts every year to make good government actually happen in our state. I'm very pleased with their work and I believe this Bill will be helpful to them in the future, and I encourage support. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further on the Bill before us? Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if there's no objection I move that we placed this Bill on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

And seeing no objection -- excuse me, Senator Sampson objects, therefore we will indeed open the vote and Mr. Clerk if you would call the roll, please. Call the vote.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 1071. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 1071. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 1071. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? We do see Senator Billie Miller in the chamber. I'm going to close the vote and we will go to Senator Miller to see which how she would like her vote to be recorded.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I vote in the affirmative.

THE CHAIR:

All right, Mr. Clerk, if you would add that to the vote and please give the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 1071:

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

(gavel) And the legislation is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 2, Calendar No. 53, Senate Bill No. 817, AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR CENTERS.

THE CHAIR:

And Senator Patricia Billie Miller.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment LCO 7265. I ask that the Clerk call the Amendment, waive the reading and that I be given leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7265, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

And Senator Billie Miller.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I want to first thank Senator Olsten her leadership on the original Bill, SB 899, which is now the Amendment that we have before us today. The Amendment seeks to expand the scope of the community response education program, which currently exists under law, to include senior citizens to receive education on sexual assault, as well as sexual abuse and prevention. Madam President, I move passage of the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage of the Amendment that is before the Chamber. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Thank you very much, Madam President, and good afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

I rise in support of this Amendment. I think what it's going to do is bring more education and resources to seniors, both about sexual abuse and exploitation, and I think it's something that is beneficial. It also provides it not only to seniors but to their caregivers, which I think is the most important aspect of this.

This is an issue that's come before the Aging Committee for a number of years and it's a good Amendment and I fully support this. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kelly. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

MEMBERS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? And the Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the Bill that is before us?
Senator Billie Miller.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage of the legislation, as amended. Will you remark further?

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, both the underlying Bill and the language in the Amendment passed through the Aging Committee unanimously. In addition to what I summarized in the Amendment, the purpose of this Bill is to support and expand services offered by senior centers.

Senior centers are important to the emotional, social, intellectual and physical needs of older adults in our state. But in order to meet these needs, senior centers need to be connected to state services and this Bill does exactly that. The first thing that it does it, it makes changes concerning municipal services for older adults.

Second, the Bill also allows one or more municipalities or private organizations that serve older adults, and are designated to act as agents of one or more municipalities, to establish a multipurpose senior center, which is a community center that organizes and provides a broad spectrum of senior services.

Third, the Bill also requires the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors Equity an opportunity within available appropriations to assist senior centers and assign personnel to provide assistance to the centers.

Finally, the Bill establishes a 14-Member statewide senior center working group to develop a coordinated plan of development for senior centers and municipal

service for older adults. The scope and membership of the working group is established within the purpose, in the proposed language. The report of the working group is to be submitted no later than January 1st, 2023, to various committees of cognizance. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before us? Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I do have some questions about this Bill in concerns to the municipalities. And Section 4 is this statewide senior center working group, and what it exactly does in concern to municipal senior centers. So my question is going to be to the presenter of this Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Billie Miller, prepare yourself. Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President, and through you. Could you please tell me what this Section 4, what exactly this does to the operations of municipal senior centers?

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

If you could give me a moment please, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Can the kind gentlemen repeat his question, please?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Yes, my question is, can you just basically describe Section 4 and what this working group does to the operations of the municipal senior center?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Billie Miller.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

It is basically just to establish a plan for senior centers and the municipal services for older adults. It is just to establish a plan.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. It establishes a plan. Is this plan going to be a mandatory plan that is put on the municipalities who pay for the senior

center?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Miller.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Through you, Madam President, no.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I do notice in the language of this, you know, it does say that it provides standards to allow for the parity of core services across municipalities, standards that allow for -- or while maintaining flexibility for delivery of those core services. Through you, Madam President, how is this possible without interfering with the municipal senior centers?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Miller.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Through you, Madam President, there's no fiscal note, so there's no expenses to the municipalities.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. There's always a fiscal note when it comes to the municipalities if you have to take work hours, or you have to change the development or the way you're operating a senior center because of an outside agency.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Would the kind gentleman please repeat his question?

THE CHAIR:

Yeah, I wasn't sure it was a question, actually, Senator. I'm going to give him a chance to rephrase.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

My point is that you said there's no cost in municipalities. These senior centers are paid for by municipalities. They are run by the seniors that are in those senior centers. And now there's an outside group that wants to come in and oversee how they're run across different agencies and provide services. What I want to make sure is that this law does not step in and tell those senior centers, this is the way you're going to do it. And my question is, the way I read this, I see that happening, and I just want to make sure that the legislative intent is not that.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Miller.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

The work group will report its findings to Aging, and so there is no expense, as the fiscal analysis stated. There's no expense to the state or municipalities.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. So if a senior center decides not to take part in this study or put any man hours towards this, is it held against the municipality?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Miller.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Through you, Madam President, no.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Okay, like I said, my main concern is we have a senior group that runs our senior centers, and the last thing I want is for the state to come in and tell those senior centers or those advisory groups how they're going to do that. So that is definitely not the intent of this law, as I read this? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Miller.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Through you, this workgroup will only make recommendations. There's no mandatory requirements to the municipalities. It is just to make recommendations.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If that's the case, I'm okay with that, as long as they don't overstep and step into the municipalities or the senior centers and tell them what they're going to do in their senior centers. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the Bill? Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise in support of the Bill as amended. I think that what we're doing here is bringing more services and more resources to more seniors in Connecticut, which is always a good thing. Unfortunately, in our state, every town isn't, I'm going to say as populated as others. And maybe some communities that are more urban have more resources and services. And this is

a way that we can bring more benefits, more services and more resources to seniors in rural and smaller communities, and to have more of a collaborative and cooperative approach in delivering those services.

I would like to, having served on Aging, I would like to thank Senator Osten for bringing this forward for a number of years. This has been a good initiative, an initiative that is long overdue. We can't do enough. This is the Greatest Generation and whatever we can do to enhance their lives and bring more services and resources is a good thing. So I think the good Chairwoman for bringing this initiative forward, Senator Osten's idea to begin with, and would urge The Circle's support.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kelly. Will you remark further?
Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. It's a pleasure to see you this afternoon. I rise in support of this piece of legislation. I want to thank Senator Miller for bringing it to closure, because it's been around for a number of years now. And what it does is exactly that, that Senator Kelly just says it. What it does is it brings more services, in particular to those communities that may not have the ability to do the research to have those services available to people. It allows for robust services in communities that have little ability to research those services themselves.

And it also allows to have a component where you recognize that other senior centers, you can work in

collaboration with those other senior centers to deal with a variety of issues that many senior centers see individually, but don't have an idea on what they could do to fix that particular situation.

And this Bill started out, I think, four years ago now. And a taskforce was assembled as a result of it, originally. And that taskforce came back with certain recommendations which are incorporated into this piece of legislation. I'm very proud to see this come to a resolution and I thank all of the Members of the Aging Committee for doing the work that they have done; Senator Kelly, Senator Miller, Senator Slap and a number of other people who said this idea has merit. We would like to see it come to a conclusion and that's what is incorporated into this piece of legislation.

Again, I can't thank Senator Miller enough for bringing it to closure and I look forward to voting in favor of this piece of legislation and urge my colleagues to do so. Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Osten. Will you remark further on the Bill? Will you remark further on the Bill? If not, Mr. Clerk, will you please call the roll and I will -- stand at ease. Senator Miller.

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I asked that this Bill as amended be moved to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

And seeing no objection, except Senator Kissel, do you have an objection?

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

I do. I'd like to ask for a roll call vote on this Bill.

THE CHAIR:

In that case, Mr. Clerk, I will open the machine, if you'd call the roll.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 817. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 817. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate on Bill 817 as amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? We will lock the machine and I will call on Senator Miller. Senator Miller, how would you like to have your vote recorded?

SENATOR MILLER (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I vote in the affirmative.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you make sure that Senator Miller's

vote is recorded in the affirmative, and would you please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Bill 817:

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

(gavel) And the Bill as amended is adopted. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I believe the next item was Calendar Page 5, Calendar 76, Senate Bill 696. I would like to mark that PR to move on to the next Bill, please.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 11, Calendar No. 138, Senate Bill No. 840, AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S SHELLFISH RESTORATION PROGRAM, AND THE CONNECTICUT SEAFOOD COUNCIL.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President, I move acceptance of the Committee's Joint Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Connecticut's shellfish industry is a \$30 million industry, it employs over 300 people across the state, more than 70,000 acres of shellfish farms. And this Bill seeks to bring more attention to our shellfish and aquaculture programs across the state.

It allows our Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture to acquire, in addition to purchase under existing law, shell or cultch material to be placed on our state shellfish beds. It also allows them to contract vessels to lay the shellfish and the cultch, rather the shell and the cultch, on these beds.

And it also requires any funding they get either through private, state or federal grants to be deposited in the Shellfish Fund, which DAG then uses to operate this program.

It also expands and reconstitutes the Connecticut Seafood Development Council, currently comprised of 11 members, this would expand it to 13 and really pays mind to our current state of aquaculture in the state of Connecticut, making sure that it's

comprised of lobster harvesters, kelp harvesters, as well particularly important to my district, as well as numerous shellfish wholesalers, harvesters and even representation from the Connecticut Restaurant Association.

Madam President, the Clerk is also in possession of an Amendment, LCO 7495. I'd ask the Clerk to please call that Amendment and I be given leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, Mr. Clerk, would you please call the Amendment?

CLERK:

LCO No. 7495, Senate Schedule "B".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you so much, Madam President. This is a bipartisan amendment from the leadership of the Environment Committee. We had a Bill in 2020. Obviously with an abbreviated session, we were unable to accomplish our goal of its passage. Agriculture as defined in 1-1q includes aquaculture within the definition of agriculture. It should be no different when we're talking about PA 490, Public Act 490, which allows for a special assessment of farmland in the state.

So what this amendment does on this Bill, also paying special mind to our growing shellfish and

aquaculture industry here in the state of Connecticut, is it expands PA 490 to include underwater farmland and really making sure that these farmers, which they are, are being assessed at the special rate. So I would urge passage of the Amendment, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Senator Miner.

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I too rise in support of the Amendment. I think this is really providing parity between aquaculture, agriculture performed under the water and adjacent to the water, similar to what we recognize as being in our backyard. So, I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Will you remark further on the Amendment? And it is getting a little difficult to hear the debate, so I just ask our distinguished staff to keep it down to a low roar. So, will you remark further on the Amendment?

If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

MEMBERS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The ayes have it, the Amendment is adopted.
Will you remark further on the Bill as amended?
Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Madam President, I would just urge passage of this Bill for all of the aforementioned reasons, that we really have a growing aquaculture industry in the state of Connecticut. They deserve proper representation on our Seafood Council, in coordination with our restaurants and other shell fishermen and kelp harvesters in the state of Connecticut, and I would urge my colleagues to pass this legislation before us.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the Bill? Will you remark further on the Bill? If not --
Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If there is no objection, I'd love to have this moved to our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

And seeing Senator Sampson objects, Mr. Clerk, would you please call the roll? I will open the machine.

CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 840, as amended by Senate

Schedule "A". Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 840, as amended by Senate Schedule "A". Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 840, as amended by Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 840 as amended:

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

(gavel) And the legislation is unanimously adopted. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you Madam President. Madam President, just for clarification, on my earlier markings before when on Calendar Page 47, Calendar 15, I might have said Senate Bill 5, I meant Senate Resolution 5 that was recommitted back to the Judiciary Committee. I wanted to make that clarification it is Senate Resolution No. 5, not Senate Bill No 5.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you for that.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And the next item that was up, Calendar Page 11, Calendar 141, Senate Bill 48. I would just like to mark that item PT and move on to the next Bill, which is Calendar Page 20, Calendar 203, Senate Bill 1039. If we could just stand at ease for a moment.

THE CHAIR:

Yes. And the Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you. Mr. Clerk, please call the next item.

CLERK:

Page 20, Calendar No. 203, substitute for Senate Bill No. 1039, AN ACT CONCERNING BLOCKCHAIN AND EMERGENT TECHNOLOGIES.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Yes, and to you, Madam President, it's a pleasure to see you today. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill, please.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Yes, yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, Section 1 of this Bill is about blockchain technology. And blockchain, essentially, is a distributed ledger technology, the purpose of which is to achieve efficiencies in terms of time and dollars.

Probably the best explanation or layperson's explanation of the technology would be by way of an example. There were some California growers who adopted the use of blockchain into their production and distribution line. And previously, in the past, it could take up to 45 days to identify a source of salmonella. And with the use of blockchain, they were able to identify it in 45 minutes and isolate it. So clearly, efficiencies.

So Section 1, Madam President, tasks the Department of Administrative Services, with issuing an RFI to identify possible use cases for achieving efficiencies in state operations, programs and the like, through the use of blockchain. Now, several states have used this approach, and very successfully. But in addition to attempting to identify --

THE CHAIR:

Pardon me, Senator Hartley, I'm just going to ask some of our guests in the Chamber to keep it down because we are having difficulty hearing the debate. Please proceed, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Thank you, Madam President. So previously, several states have adopted the process of doing an RFI to identify possible use cases for such savings. But in addition to that, there'd be an ancillary benefit, which would signal to the rest of the technology world that, in fact, the state of Connecticut does embrace these technologies and this is a place and a destination for the talent, which takes it to launch these initiatives.

Madam President, Section 2 is a segue, actually, from the use of this emerging technology and deals with the new and emerging remote work economy. Thankfully, we are now moving beyond this COVID era. And clearly, one of the results of that is the forever changed work environment that we are witnessing, and we certainly will continue to witness going forward.

We know without a doubt that our work worlds have shifted, that remote work is going to remain with us. Some say that it probably could be up to 50% of the workforce continues to work remote. That does remain to be seen; however, we know that remote work is here to stay.

And so, Section 2 charges the Department of Economic and Community Development to work with, Advance CT in recognizing this work shift and to develop a plan to promote our existing remote work environments. But further than that, to incentivize, to launch new remote work environments. But in particular with an eye to our central business districts, which we have witnessed the shuttering and the lights going out in many of them.

And also another area, besides the underutilized office space, is in our large malls, where we have witnessed the exodus of major anchors. So we're asking that the plan give a specific eye to this kind of thing and try to leverage this moment in terms of capitalizing on our talent in the state of Connecticut, and these existing and hopefully future workplaces. So with that, Madam President, I urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Hartley. Will you remark further on the Bill that is before us? Good afternoon, Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, I rise to support this piece of legislation. I heard about blockchain technology for the very first time three years ago, and I believe it was a Bill submitted by Representative Dave Yaccarino. If not, he's been a big proponent of this Bill.

Since day one, we heard some testimony, and I wish I could say exactly what I heard that afternoon or that morning, but I don't remember all of it. But what I do remember is how this would place us more in the forefront, and be ahead of most other states regarding how we can multitask, may be the best way of putting this, multitask across the internet, and specifically for various transactions.

And I'm just going to use my field of expertise, and that's the real estate world. And I can see this, how this could be applied, and being more efficient,

and maybe less things falling through the cracks, so to speak. And basically, information flowing out to the bankers, the mortgage brokers, attorneys, real estate agents, whether they are representing the buyer or the seller, the buyers and sellers themselves, home inspectors, et cetera; information that would be applicable to each of them, or maybe just one of them, informing them that, hey, this has taken place.

And if they were allowed, and again, what I should say is, this is would be under the consensual agreement between all of them that this would be allowed. But if I needed to see that mortgage application process and the approval of it, then that piece of information would come to me and whoever else it needed to get to. So, and if it didn't need to get to the home inspector, he wouldn't be able to have access to it.

So it's really, in my opinion, something that we should be spending some time in exploring and getting more information on. And I'm hoping to, when we received that information from DSS that we would be able to incorporate that technology here in this state and make our state more efficient.

The second part of this is something somewhat similar as well, and we're looking for ways to -- we're looking for the DECD Commissioner and staff to look into the ways of becoming more efficient. And one of that which my good Chair of the Committee made reference to is the remote work, and how can we incorporate remote working, make our state more efficient going forward? So Madam Chair, I rise to and I encourage my colleagues to support this. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Martin. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before us? Will you remark further? Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Yes, Madam President. If there is no objection, I would ask that this be put onto the consent list.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, I do appreciate that. Senator Sampson has asked for a roll call vote and Mr. Clerk, I will open the machine if you would kindly call the roll.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 1039. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 1039. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, we're glad you're back. Please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 1039:

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	34

Those voting Nay	2
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

And the legislation is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 13 Calendar No. 153, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 954, AN ACT REQUIRING THE REPORTING OF INCIDENTS THAT RESULTED IN SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURIES OR DEATH IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

THE CHAIR:

And good afternoon, Senator Slap.

SENATOR SLAP (5TH):

Good afternoon, Madam Chair. Good to see you. I do believe that the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment, LCO No. 7463. And I would ask the Clerk to call the amendment and I be given leave to summarize, please.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Senator Slap, would you like to please repeat the LCO number?

SENATOR SLAP (5TH):

Sure. It is LCO No. 7463, with a number of cosponsors, including Senator Witkos, Senator Haskell, Senator Miner, Senator Kissel, Representative Elliot and myself.

THE CHAIR:

We are in the process of locating that distinguished Amendment. Is it 7643? Because that may be the reason we are unable to find it.

SENATOR SLAP (5TH):

If you can give me one minute, I'll just check the number and confirm it. Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Madam President. I may have transcribed the number accidentally. It is LCO, Amendment 7643. My apologies.

THE CHAIR:

7643. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7643, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slap.

SENATOR SLAP (5TH):

Thank you. I'll briefly summarize the Amendment. It really does three things. It ensures that accidents, as opposed to incidents, are being what's reported by universities and college institutions of higher education in Connecticut. It ensures that the data from accidents resulting in death and accidents resulting in serious injury are not aggregated, so there's essentially a line for each of those. And, it includes dormitories and campuses overseas that are controlled or operated by Connecticut colleges,

universities and institutions of higher ed. So I do move passage of the Amendment and would ask for a voice vote.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. So the question is on passage or adoption of the Amendment that is before the Chamber. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I thank Senator Slap, the distinguished Chair of the Higher Education Committee, for offering to be on a joint Amendment with many of his colleagues, both in the House and the Senate. I urge passage of the Amendment and I'll speak later on once it becomes a Bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? If not, let me try your minds All in favor of the Amendment before the Chamber, please signify by saying aye.

MEMBERS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed, and the Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Senator Slap.

SENATOR SLAP (5TH):

Thank you, Madam President. About three years ago, a freshman in college in Colorado, who was from Connecticut, tragically died in an accident and his family, ever since, has been working on this legislation and been spending an incredible amount of energy, and I would say displaying an incredible amount of strength to get us to this moment, this day, in this Chamber to see this Bill passed and to go down to the House.

I came in as Chair of the Higher Education Committee in midstream and had picked this Bill up and was not familiar with it. And I'm very grateful for my colleagues, Senator Haskell and Senator Witkos, and I would say Senator Hwang, Senator Miner, Senator Kissel, who all have contributed to this bipartisan bill that we have before us today. It truly is an example of the product being better when we work together.

And I have learned, through my conversations with the Houseman family, that accidents are the leading cause of death on college campuses, not only in Connecticut, but across the country. And oftentimes, they're not reported. It would seem, I think, to most people, most families, that this would be an oversight. And we know that crime statistics are reported. But when it comes to accidents that cause serious injury, or death, they are not reported.

So what this Bill does is it requires universities and institutions of higher education report those accidents. And, because of the good work of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as amended, this Bill also applies to dormitories and campuses overseas that are owned or operated by a Connecticut college or university, so I think this Bill closes a loophole.

But, you know, more importantly, when this is passed and signed into law, this will save lives. And UConn's police chief said as much in her testimony, which she said it will help, in this case UConn, prioritize -- well, first I should say identify, prioritize, and address threats to public safety when it comes to, you know, in some cases, it could be a sidewalk or, you know, a walkway or other hazards or things that are on a college campus that are a threat to public safety.

And this Bill, you know, would certainly include other information as well. But you know, when I saw and read the testimony, and I realized that this Bill has the potential to save lives, it showed me how important it is that we get this done, and get it done as soon as possible.

The last thing I just want to say, and I know some of my colleagues are going to speak on this as well, is that I really stand in awe of the strength of the families who came to testify on this Bill. There are many families, not just the Houseman family, who have been touched by tragedy and have sent their child off to school with all the promise that that means, you know. And we all think -- I have a junior in high school right now and I can imagine what that's going to be like and you send them off to college and think about the incredible bright future and then tragically, something happens.

And, you know, in the Houseman case, they could have been devastated. And of course they are, but they could have and it would have been understandable for them to leave it at that, you know, and to, in the years that followed this tragedy, to grieve and to not necessarily think almost immediately as they

have, how can I somehow use this tragedy to help other people?

And they, remarkable in what they did They followed up with this university in Colorado and offered to actually, from my understanding, use their own money to help make a safety improvement. And to this day, my understanding is that safety improvement still has not happened at that university. But they have just been relentless in their pursuit of making an improvement.

And sadly, tragically, it's too late for Cory but it's not too late for our children. And this is what that Bill does, it's very simple. But again, it is going to shine light on accidents that result in serious injury or death. It's going to give public and parents critical information. And then it's going to help the institute of higher education, have that information, evidence-driven data to make changes and make campuses safer.

So I do urge my colleagues to stand with me and pass this Bill for all those families who have experienced a tragedy and to prevent others from also experiencing it. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Slap. Will you remark further?
Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Imagine, you have a 17, 18 and 19-year-old graduating from high school and they're about to begin their college tours of places they would like to go to. So you, as a parent or a

guardian, you go with them and you tend to look at all the different aspects of the school. What kind of quality education will they receive? How much does it cost? Where is it located? You know, what is the community that it's involved in? You have the ability to look and see what kind of crimes have been reported on campus.

But the unknown here, which is kind of what brought us here today, is you didn't know what happened on campuses that wasn't a crime, that caused the death of a student that caused a serious physical injury to a student. And I thank Senator Haskell, who was the former Chair of Higher Education, for bringing this Bill forward. And to hear the parents and the friends and the relatives of those children that died on a college campus, whether it's on a public road or in a dormitory, or any facility that was controlled by the college, that maybe as a parent, as you were taking your child on a tour, you might, if you had that information, you may want to have steered your child to a different school.

Because in some cases, I think we heard during testimony, five students had died in the previous three years. As a parent you didn't know that, because it wasn't a crime, it was never reported. So this is going to give not only the parents, but the student themselves who are putting themselves there, most oftentimes the first time away from mom and dad, to live on their own, to be that grown-up teenager, if you will, as they're entering into the early 20s, to finally get out of the house, and live life without the restrictions of mom and dad, but being fully aware of the environment that they're getting into themselves.

As Senator Slap had so eloquently said, I applaud

the advocacy of these families that had to deal with such tragedy, that they turned it around and in the case of this particular session in Higher Ed, the public hearing went on for hours and hours and hours. But they stayed there and they told their story and they answered questions. And God only knows how they did it in some cases without, you know, just breaking down, but they did. Because in part they're doing it so often because they want something to come out of a tragedy. They're telling the story over and over and over again to affect change.

And I think that as we discussed this Bill in our caucus, and I'm sure on the other side of the aisle discussed it in their caucus, how can we take these ideas that have been bandied around and make this the best Bill that we can? And I think that's the product that is now before this Chamber is a combination and collaboration amongst the 36 Senators that are seated around this circle to say, we want to make our parents and our children aware of what's happening on these campuses. We want the colleges and institutions to report those incidences. So it's full transparency, so anybody can make the decisions on whether to send their child or prefer them to go to a different school, maybe based on that or maybe not.

But information, as we all know, in this building is power. And what better power can you have as a parent than to have the full story behind it? So with that, Madam President, I want to thank the Members and urge passage of the now amended Bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Will you remark further? Senator Haskell to be followed by Senator Sampson. Thank you very much, Madam President. I am so grateful to be standing here today. And first and foremost, I want to thank my friend Senator Derek Slap, Senator Kevin Witkos. It just means so much to me and I know to the family, the Houseman family, that we've come together to pass this very important Bill. And I was sort of nervous when I left the Chairmanship of the Higher Ed Committee that perhaps this Bill might fall through the cracks but Senator Slap made sure that it didn't happen. Senator Witkos made sure that it didn't happen. They kept working to make this Bill better, to make it stronger, and to make it bipartisan, which we all I think could use today.

I also want to thank Representative Josh Elliott and Representative Irene Haynes, the House Chair and Ranking Member of the Higher Ed Committee for being so supportive of this legislation. You know, it's true, it's not just something that we say, it is true that the very best ideas for legislation come from our constituents. And I can't tell you how moved I was one day when, in the midst of the pandemic, I got a call from a constituent named Annette Houseman who shared the story of her son, Cory. This is a story that Senator Slap mentioned just a moment ago.

Cory passed away from a preventable accident in the first semester of his freshman year at college. In fact, if I recall correctly, it was the 15th day that he was at that college. It brought such a devastating loss to his family. And we heard from his family, we heard from his neighbors, we heard from his brother, who had just helped to move him into that college campus. But there's just an

incredible amount of credit that is owed to his mother who has channeled her grief into advocacy and channeled her loss into activism.

You know, she gave a quote to the paper recently that really moved me. She said, "When something happens that we can't control, some of us gravitate towards something that we can." We are, I think, forever grateful for the people like Annette Houseman who do gravitate towards those things that we can control. And surely this is something we can control, right? Why in the world would we not want to know which campuses are seeing preventable deaths and accidents?

And for that matter, Madam President, I want to take a moment to thank the colleges and the universities who have been supportive of this legislation throughout the process, because they recognize that this isn't just going to help the general public. It's not only going to help the parents, who I think Senator Witkos so eloquently spoke about, making an informed decision, in partnership with their children who are going off to college. But it's also going to help the campuses themselves to become safer and to become smarter, to invest in making sure that these accidents don't happen in the future.

I am enthusiastically voting yes today, and I'm so grateful for the Chamber for coming together. We shouldn't have to comb through media reports to find out which campuses are safe and which aren't. There should be a centralized system where we can figure out which campuses too often fall victim to accidental deaths and injuries. So I thank you for the time, Madam President, and thank you to my colleagues for prioritizing this Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I will be very, very brief. I'm rising in support of the legislation before us today, and I want to begin by aligning my thoughts with the comments made by Senators Slap, Witkos and Haskell. I agree with them completely and I'm very pleased to see this piece of legislation before us today. And I'm confident that it will make it the entire way because it is a good Bill, and it ought to become the law in our state.

Listening to my colleagues, I wondered whether I should add the comments that I have at the moment but I'm already sitting here and I believe that what I've got to say doesn't take anything away from the bill that is before us. And I am very pleased to support it and I hope it does, in fact, become law. But I would just like to make a few comments about what we can do even beyond this, that I hope become part of this policy in the future.

And that is that this particular university crime report or uniform campus crime report, it's called, sticks only to items that actually occur in the purview of the campus itself. And this is a difficult question because every college campus is different. You have some that might be in an urban environment at Yale, for example, that is located in a city, in fact, a major city that may have a higher crime rate than some other place where another university might be. And I don't want to end up

doing damage to any particular school because some sort of statistics that are really a measure of the crime in the city reflect on that university.

However, I would say, Madam President, that if the purpose of legislation like this is to truly let parents and potential students know about the dangers of any particular campus and their record, I think it is very, very important that that information about what happens that is student related, is made part of reports like this going forward.

This focuses on the actual location controlled by the school. I think that the best solution would be something that is focused simply on the student body, whether that happens on school grounds or not, if you're looking for information that really reflects the risk potentially associated with sending a student to any particular university. Again, this is good legislation. But I believe it is the beginning of something we can even improve on in the future and I hope these fine gentlemen will speak with me next session, maybe and we can talk about ways to even go beyond what we've done here before, and I'm delighted that this, this bill is here in memory of someone who was lost tragically, and his family can at least have some solace to know that they may prevent another tragedy in the future. And thank you for the opportunity, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further on the legislation before us? Senator Slap?

SENATOR SLAP (5TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I do want to make sure that I thank Senator Tony Hwang, who was also really a key part of this bipartisan effort to craft the best possible legislation. If there are no objections, I would suggest and move that this item be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, it will be placed on the Consent Calendar. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 19, Calendar No. 193, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 903, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO STATUTES CONCERNING APPRENTICESHIPS AND OTHER LABOR STATUTES.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Senate stand at ease for a moment?

THE CHAIR:

And the Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'd like to remove that item from the Consent Calendar and have a vote, please. Actually, before we do that, I think I'd like to yield to -- just the vote?

Okay, Madam President, just for a vote, please.

THE CHAIR:

So we will -- it will take the Clerk a moment to adjust and get that legislation up. And as soon as it is on the board, I will open the machine and we will call the roll. Mr. Clerk, the machine has been opened on Senate Bill 954. Please call for vote.

CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 954, has been removed from the Consent Calendar. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 954 as amended. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 954 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. And Mr. Clerk, would you please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Bill 954:

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

(gavel) And the legislation is adopted. Mr. Clerk.
Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

The Senate will stand at ease, please.

THE CHAIR:

And the Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For the purposes of
marking some items for our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Certainly.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 19,
Calendar 193 -- I'm sorry, Calendar Page 19,
Calendar 193, Senate Bill 903. I'd like to mark that
item for our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 16,
Calendar 177, Senate Bill 859, I'd like to mark that
item for our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

And on Calendar Page 21, Calendar 204, Senate Bill 186, I'd like to mark that item for our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And if the Senate can stand at ease for a moment, please.

THE CHAIR:

And the Senate will stand at ease.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Majority Leader.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. Nice to see you up here this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. President. Would the Clerk return to the Calendar, calling Calendar Page 10, Calendar 132, Senate Bill 152?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you please call the item referenced by the Majority Leader?

CLERK:

Page 10, Calendar 132, Senate Bill No. 152, AN ACT
CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DELIVERY TICKETS FOR GASOLINE,
KEROSENE, FUEL OILS OR SIMILAR SUBSTANCES.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Good afternoon, Mr. President. I move acceptance of
the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage
of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

The Bill has been moved. Will you remark? Senator
Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of an
Amendment, CLO 7657. I would ask that the Clerk
please call the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO number 7657, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

I move adoption of the Amendment and ask that its reading be waived, and seek leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, Senator.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment just adds into the Bill to give a timeline of when the electronic tickets can be delivered. It allows for them to be delivered instead of immediately upon delivery, within two days of the delivery.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Will you remark further on Senate Amendment Schedule "A", LCO 7657? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to rise in support of the Amendment. I think that this is a conversation that came up not only in our respective caucuses, but during the public hearing as to what would be a good timeline for the business to make sure that they electronically submitted that ticket or the Bill to the homeowner, and I think two days was the language that everybody spoke about, so certainly in support of the amendment. I'll speak a minute on the Bill once this Amendment passes. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Will you remark further on the Amendment, Senate Amendment Schedule "A"? If not, I will try your minds All in favor, please indicate by saying aye.

MEMBERS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The ayes have it, and Senate "A" is adopted. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. I would just like to briefly summarize. We learned many things from this pandemic, and one of them is that some of our statutes are outdated. And one such issue was with the fuel tickets that prior to the change that we're making, it was required that if you were delivering fuel oil, so kerosene or heating oil, you had to place a paper ticket on the door. This Bill, in Section B, will simply allow consumers to opt in to receive an email notification of the delivery and as amended, that email notification being within two days.

It modernizes the law. It saves on the emissions as it's estimated that there -- well, there are 3.6 million deliveries of fuel oil a year, five minutes, an estimated five minutes time to put the ticket on

the door, so it's saving over 300,000 hours of idling time. It's also a safety issue, as oftentimes these tickets are left on the door so people will know if someone's not home.

And I'd like to note that the Bill passed unanimously out of Committee. I would like to thank Senator Witkos for his work on the Bill, as well as Senator Haskell for introducing and bringing the concept to us.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Maroney. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A"? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Mr. President, and I'd also like to commend Senator Haskell for bringing the concept before us, Senator Maroney for his leadership. And add to the comments that this is certainly a choice by the consumer whether they want to receive a paper ticket or go to an electronic one. There's nothing that mandates that they have to go electronic, so the choice still remains with the homeowner. But I suspect that more homeowners would want to go to the electronic means, because that's how we're doing business nowadays. And you don't have to chase a piece of paper across your front lawn to make sure you actually have it because there's nothing that says the wind doesn't blow or a stranger coming up to your door, some safety issues behind that, all good things.

As a matter of fact, Mr. President, the industry spoke highly of the piece of legislation before us

too. Many times we think, well, this is a mandate upon businesses but no. The businesses said, we embrace this concept. Please let us do this. This is a win-win for everybody. So I urge the Chamber's support for the Bill as amended. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Senator Haskell.

SENATOR HASKELL (26TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I wanted to rise very briefly and thank Senator Maroney and thank Senator Witkos for being so supportive of this reform. I can't possibly say it better than my two friends in The Circle other than to say that Senator Witkos is exactly right. This is about giving consumers choice. It's about modernizing those outdated state statutes that we still have on the books.

Frankly, it is kind of amazing to me that we still require companies like Gault Energy, for example, in my district to provide delivery tickets in paper format. That means more time, more time idling, as Senator Maroney said, at each and every stop. And of course, during the pandemic, this posed all sorts of public health concerns with regard to creating unnecessary contact between the company and their customers. But even after the pandemic, surely, we should be able to provide these companies and their customers a choice to provide tickets delivery electronically.

And I just want to read very briefly from something

that my friend and constituents, Sam Gault, the president of Gault Energy and Home Solutions in Westport said when this Bill was being debated and heard in the General Law Committee. He said as a business, being able to offer our customers an electronic option will make us more consumer-friendly and more environmentally friendly. And that is so critical, I think, in the 21st century. So thank you both for bringing this Bill forward. Thank you, Madam President for the time. I look forward to voting yes and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Haskell. Will you remark further on the Bill before the Chamber? Will you remark further? Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Madam President, if there's no objection, I would ask that the Bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

And seeing no objection, we will place that item on the Consent Calendar. And Mr. Clerk, would you kindly move us to the next item?

CLERK:

Page 1, Calendar No. 23, Senate Bill No. 264, AN ACT CONCERNING FAIR REIMBURSEMENT TO RETAIL DEALERS OF POWER EQUIPMENT.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Amendment LCO 7651. I would ask that the Clerk please call the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you kindly call the amendment? And Senator Maroney, could we have that number one more time, please? LCO number?

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

7651. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. The LCO hamsters are looking for that one right now.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7651, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This merely makes clarifying and technical changes to add a definition of current net price. I apologize. I move adoption of the Amendment and ask that its reading be waived, and seek leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Certainly, I'm very delighted that you have moved adoption. Please remark.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This merely makes technical changes in that it adds a definition in of current net price, as well as it made some clarifying changes to warranty claims and how they would be processed.

THE CHAIR:

And will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I just rise in support of the Amendment. I will speak on the Bill once the Amendment becomes a Bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Will you remark further on the Amendment LCO 7651 that is before the

Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment?
If not let me try your minds? All in favor of the
Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

MEMBERS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

And nays? The Amendment is adopted. Now on the Bill,
will you remark further? Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This Bill predates my
time in the Legislature. It's a concept that I
believe has been around for a number of sessions and
was originally championed by Representative Orange,
who is a great friend to all and when I was in the
House, I was fortunate enough to sit a few seats
away from her. So I'm very happy that we can bring
this Bill out and hopefully get it across the finish
line for her.

What this Bill does is it just guarantees fair
reimbursement for retail dealers of power equipment.
It specifies within the Bill when they're paying a
warranty claim how much must be paid from the
supplier to the dealer, the parts plus 18% and then
an hourly rate. It also prevents denial of claims
and chargebacks for merely administrative purposes.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Maroney. Would you remark
further? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Senator Maroney was absolutely correct when he said this Bill has been around for a while and would have been passed last session. But as we know, in March, we vacated the building and we have started all over again from day one. But we reached a resolution through negotiations over a number of years. And the manufacturers, folks that make these large power equipment and the folks that repair those all came together, reached a compromise, which is before us today in the amended Bill. And that's why I believe it passed, I think it was 19-0 out of the General Law Committee.

And when you think about a store that repairs equipment, small power equipment, like if anybody owns a lawnmower, or a chainsaw, or snowblower, where do you take it? You know, most people might try to tinker with it themselves to get it to work but if it doesn't work, you start looking at, well, where can I take it? I know I bought it at this store, but you go to that store and you say I have it in the trunk of my car or on my trailer, it's still under warranty, could you repair it for me? And this big store says, we don't do that. Well, I bought it here. It doesn't matter. Take it to ABC down the street, they do all the repairs.

So you go to ABC Company, which is generally a small business, family-owned business in the state of Connecticut, and they do the repair work under the warranty. So they submit the claim to the manufacturer. And the manufacturer says well, we're not paying you that kind of money. I know that's your posted rate that you get for all the other work that you do, but we're only going to pay you this

and it's undercut. And we're not going to pay you for the cost of those parts that you have to keep on your shelves, and you have to keep the inventory for and we're going to just pay you X.

So what was happening, in essence, was it was squeezing out the repair folks, because they were so small that they didn't have the volume of sales that were going to where they could discount the merchandise to that level. So they basically were a repair shop. Whereas the bigger stores, they didn't do any of the repair but the volume was so great that they could undercut the price. So people were buying them there, but going over here to have them repaired.

And this basically legislation puts it on a level playing field that if it's out of warranty, I get paid x which is my posted rate. If it's in warranty, I get paid x which is my posted rate. Manufacturer, you come up with the warranty. We're not telling you what the warranty is. But if it's under your warranty, this is what we pay as your authorized dealer, or we get paid as your authorized dealer.

This particular piece of legislation is mirrored after a few of the New England states that also have this legislation and they've seen no issues from the adoption of this legislation in their particular states. And I think that's why it's been tried, it's been tested in other states. That is why when we had this concept in our state, that the retailers and the manufacturers came together and signed off the legislation, and that's why it moved through our Committee and I urge the Chamber's adoption. Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Chairman Maroney.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Will you remark further?
Senator Sampson, good afternoon.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Good afternoon. And thank you, Madam President. I'm just going to speak for a couple of moments on the Bill before us. I understand that this legislation is the result of some negotiations between the manufacturers of various types of this small engine type equipment and their dealers. And I don't really want to speak to the language in the Bill directly other than to say that it does specify on Line 13, that any supplier that pays a warranty claim must pay the dealer a current net price, plus 18%, for parts and labor, and so on.

Which is essentially us in the General Assembly, making a law that determines how much one business must pay another business, despite the fact that they already have their own private contract. I will point out to this Chamber and to my colleagues that if there were two businesses that were trying to establish a contract like that, it would be a violation of our laws and our federal laws because of antitrust.

What we're doing here is a big mistake. Now, I understand that this may benefit some small businesses in our communities. And I'm all for that. But it is not our role to be the decider, or the champion of one side of a contractual equation when you have private parties. And that's exactly what this Bill does.

This Bill essentially says, we're going to use the force of government to insert ourselves in your

private agreement and affect what the actual free market would come up with as a solution. The result of that is significant. Number one, this will end up costing consumers more because obviously, it prohibits the larger company from dictating their terms to the smaller repair shop as far as compensation, who will naturally pass that on to the consumer. So the idea that this is in anyway benefiting everyone, or is good public policy that treats our citizens fairly under our laws, is mistaken.

And forgive me, Madam President, but I'm not comfortable standing up actually having this conversation. Because I understand completely, that there are people that will characterize my remarks as if I'm looking out for the big guy, or I don't care about the small business owner in my district or something like that. But that's not the case at all. What I care about is the principles that the country was founded on, which is the notion that the government has no right to decide who wins and who loses and what business benefits at the expense of another. And that's what this Bill does.

I'm a Republican, Madam President. And I'd say the number one reason why I identify that way is because of the concept of limited government. The idea that if we keep government small than the people in rooms like this will have little power to cause pain and injury to their constituents.

Most of our constituents have very little idea what's passing through here on a day to day basis anyway, and that's a shame. But I don't mind it, because I actually think that that's the way it ought to be. They should not be concerned one bit about what we're doing here because we should not

have the power to affect their lives in a way that is even significant enough for them to care. But every day that we pass another law that interferes with a private agreement between competent adult parties, we are inserting ourselves and giving ourselves more and more power. And when you give governments more and more power, you give the ability to have corruption, more and more ability to enter into the equation. That's what's dangerous about this. We should not insert ourselves into private contracts. We should not be the deciders of who is right in a dispute.

These are adults. Both parties in that contract can decide whether they like the terms or not. And it is just a matter of reality that times change. And if we were here back in the early 1900s, when Henry Ford first introduced the automobile on the assembly line, we would probably be here trying to pass a law to protect buggy whip companies, because they're being driven out of business by Henry Ford. And that would have been wrong, Madam President.

We had other Bills in here about auto glass recently, where we were trying to help protect the small auto glass company. But we were trying to do it in a way that was wrong and unconstitutional by putting undue burdens on the larger company. And I said so, even though I was told over and over again that this is helping small businesses, and the courts agreed with me ultimately, because they saw the danger. And this, I believe, is unconstitutional also. And I think it is beyond our realm to start inserting ourselves in a private contract like that.

And again, I'm sorry to have to get up. I have a feeling I may be the only no vote on this Bill, and to me, that's the ultimate shame, because I would

hope that most of my colleagues would recognize, if not all, that this is something that we should not do ever. We should say I'm sorry, but the market should solve this situation. Our duty is to protect people so they have equal opportunity to compete on a fair playing field. This means we are determining the playing field and we are determining it to benefit one side and it's wrong. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before us? Will you remark further? If not, I will open the machine. Mr. Clerk, will you please announce the vote?

CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 264. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 264 as amended. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 264 as amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 264:

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19

Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	1
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

(gavel) And the legislation as amended is adopted.
Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 1, Calendar No. 22, Senate Bill No. 263, AN ACT
CONCERNING CLUB PERMIT AND NONPROFIT CLUB PERMIT
FEES.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I move acceptance
of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and
passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage Will you remark?

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an
Amendment, LCO 7675. I would ask that the Clerk
please call the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7675, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

I move adoption of the Amendment and ask that it's reading be waived and seek leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, and the question is on adoption.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This Amendment is a strike-all Bill, in effect, so it does become the Bill. I would like to thank my colleagues, Senator Witkos and Senator Kelly, for bringing forth this Amendment and working together on this. What this does is a few years ago, we did a major overhaul, one of the first major overhauls of the state's liquor laws in a number of years and thanks to Senator Witkos and Senator Fonfara's hard work, we condensed approximately 40 permits, I believe it was, down to about a dozen different liquor permits.

And when we did that, we inadvertently raised concerns condensed a private club permit fee and a nonprofit club permit fee into a cafe permit. So what this does in Section 1 is it recreates the private club permit fee in the nonprofit club permit

fee. So the private club would be a \$300 annual fee, the nonprofit club permit fee would be an \$815 fee.

Section 2 just clarifies that golf clubs would still be under the cafe permit. Section 3, I believe, allows for reimbursements but my figures are -- okay, Section 3 just says, so for one year these permits were as a cafe permit, it allows them to go, since we're recreating these classes that we had eliminated, it allows them to go back when they renew to the club and nonprofit club. Section 4 allows for refunds because the cafe permit was a \$2,000 fee. So if anyone had paid that it allows them to be refunded the difference. And then section 5 makes conforming changes for guestbook requirements on the private clubs. Section 6 also makes some conforming changes, as do Sections 7 and 8.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Maroney. Will you remark further? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And since the Amendment that's before us is strike all and will become the Bill, I'll speak to the Amendment. Sometimes we have to right a wrong, and that's what this Amendment does today. As Senator Maroney correctly said, in Public Act 19-24, when the liquor statutes were basically rewritten, and we had about 72 permits here in the state of Connecticut. And ever since prohibition time there were carve-outs and there were special permits created, and it was very confusing for businesses. They didn't know, like, what permit do I get? And they weren't really given

the guidance from the department, because it's up to you to apply for the type that you want. So it's very confusing.

And we in the General Law Committee felt, well, let's make this more efficient, not only for the department, but for the people that are applying for these permits in having the ability to serve alcohol because alcohol is a regulated commodity here in the state of Connecticut. So we reduced those permits from like 72 down to a dozen.

In the process of that, we eliminated the club and the nonprofit permit, the club permit, and combine that into a cafe permit. And it wasn't until subsequent to that where we heard from our constituents that the price rose drastically, from a \$300 permit fee to a \$2,000 permit fee. And same thing with a nonprofit, it went from \$815 to \$2,000.

Recognizing this on the beginning of the COVID curve where a lot of these facilities had to be shut down, I mean, they were only a bar so they weren't allowed to be open. And I think they can open May 19th, they're not even open yet. So recognizing that fact, I want to thank Senator Kelly and all the Members of the Democratic Caucus and Republican Caucus who said we need to correct the wrong that we made here.

And that's, as I say, that's what this amendment does, and it restores the club permit to the \$300 registration fee. It restores the nonprofit to an \$815 registration fee, and if those businesses that had already sent their check in or paid for it online at the \$2,000 rate, the legislation says you will be refunded for the overage. And it's great when this body can come together and recognizes the mistakes it might make, to make things better, but

we're ready to come back and correct those and that's what this does. I urge the Chamber's adoption. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos. Will you remark further? Senator Kelly. Good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I also rise in support of the Amendment which becomes the Bill. I would like to thank the Chairman, Senator Maroney as well as our Ranking Member, Senator Witkos, for their hard work and effort in bringing this before the Chamber. As Senator Witkos has pointed out, you know, every now and then there are oversights that occur. I'm not sure I'd say mistake but oversights. We did, by the underlying initial legislation, limit and reduce a significant number of permits. And this, you know, got caught up in that.

But today, we are, you know, putting things back the way they were. We've heard from our constituents and I think it demonstrates that we listen. And to that, I say thank you to the leadership of General Law.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kelly. Will you remark further on the Bill that is before us. Will you remark further on the strike-all Amendment that is before us? If not -- Senator Duff. If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

MEMBERS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended. Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Thank you, Madam President, and thank you to my colleagues. As has been mentioned, we were able to correct an inadvertent issue where we had raised the fee and we've all heard from our legions and our Elk's Clubs and our various nonprofit clubs in our district, so I'm glad that we're able to provide this relief to them. And Madam President, if there's no objection, I would ask that the Bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica, do you object? Okay, so Senator Formica, please you have the floor to speak on the Bill as amended.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Pardon me, Senator Maroney, for not being as quick. I just wanted to get up and speak on the Bill as amended and compliment all of the work that has been done. Senator Witkos, Representative D'Agostino, Senator Maroney, the leadership of the Committee, and the work that this was bipartisan to come together, and I think it solves a problem. And I think many of us, many of the people in all of our districts are going

to be sleeping a little better this evening as a result of this Bill this evening. So I wanted to personally thank everybody, and urge support. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Formica. Will you remark further, Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Madam President, if there's no objection, I would ask that the Bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

And seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 25, Calendar No. 230, Senate Bill No. 1003, AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN HEALTH CARRIERS AND PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGERS FROM EMPLOYING COPAY ACCUMULATOR PROGRAMS.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. And I believe the distinguished Insurance Chair is looking for his seat. Good afternoon, Senator Lesser. We just want to keep everyone awake and alert. And there we have it.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And I was just looking for a place to stand.

THE CHAIR:

There you go.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment, LCO 7236. I ask that the Clerk please call the Amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7236, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Madam President, this Amendment inserts after "any discount provided for" in three different places in the Bill. It's my belief that this

Amendment is technical in nature and I urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. And the question is on adoption. Will you remark further? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. It's good to see you this evening. And I do believe the good Chair did cite that they were technical in three separate areas and I'm in concurrence. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further on the Amendment? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment before the Chamber, please signify by saying aye.

MEMBERS:

AYE.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The ayes have it, the Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further, Senator Lesser?

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, this Bill seeks to prevent insurance plans from using what are called copay accumulators. A copay accumulator is a strategy used by an insurance

company or a pharmacy benefit manager to stop manufacturer assistance coupons from counting towards a deductible or a maximum out-of-pocket spending. It's been supported by a wide array of consumer groups.

We heard from, I'll go through a very quick list of the healthcare advocates. We heard from the American Cancer Society, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Connecticut State Medical Society, the Epilepsy Foundation, the American Kidney Fund, many, many other groups in support of this legislation as something that will help people with many complex diseases, and it passed out of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee unanimously. Madam President, I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Lester. Will you remark further on the legislation before us? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And indeed this is an interesting concept as it relates to one of the components of rising health care insurance costs, and one of which that has been addressed or we're attempting to address is in the area of prescription drugs.

Before we begin in a better understanding of this, I wanted to acknowledge the efforts and the leadership of Senator Looney in this area. His longstanding approach and consideration in prescription drug costs is to be lauded and acknowledged here.

That being said, through you, Madam President, it's

an interesting concept and perhaps for the record, can we take -- can the good Chair take us through a hypothetical of a prescription drug that may be for one of the associations that have advocated? And take us through what these coupons and cost savings and how that is being applied upon getting prescriptions, and how this Bill will address some of the deductible considerations? Could the very good Chair of Insurance take us through a hypothetical case for people to understand the importance of this Bill? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Sure. Thank you, Madam President. Through you to the honorable Senator, that's a great question. Suppose a person has been prescribed a drug or a medical device, and the cost is prohibitive. In some cases, a manufacturer may provide a coupon that would help bring down the out-of-pocket cost that a consumer would otherwise face. Under the copay accumulator program, the insurer or the pharmacy benefit manager would prohibit that coupon from counting towards the deductible, therefore requiring the person to keep paying and never actually meeting their deductible.

So this Bill is intended to ensure that people do make progress towards their cost sharing, whether that's in the form of a deductible or a copay. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Lesser. Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you. And I want to thank the good Chair for explaining that. And I wanted to add further the unique and complex operation of how our pharmaceutical companies, in conjunction with providing lifesaving, life-enhancing pharmaceutical products, but also add tremendous cost burden. And through the good Chair and correct me if I have misspoken, the concept is you have X drug, and the prescription drug is prescribed. And an individual goes to get that drug.

That drug, on a fair market value from the pharmacist would be \$1,000 for a 30-day dosage. Now, from what I understand, there are opportunities offered by pharmaceutical companies through coupons, through discounts that they offer to incentivize and encourage people to use their prescription and then they would present it to the pharmacist. And then they would get a 40%, 50%, 60% deduction from that \$1,000. With that be what this Bill is looking to address? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Through you, Madam President, that's exactly right. So this Bill would allow that to be applied to the deductible and right now, under current practice, PBMs, insurance companies prevent that from being used. It's really disincentivizing a pharmaceutical company from making such a discount

or coupon available to the consumer. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Lesser. Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Through you, Madam President, it brings up two very important points of consideration as this Chamber and indeed this General Assembly considered and addressed the increasing healthcare, pharmaceutical prescription drug cost basis. Obviously, this is an artificial decrease in the marketplace of prescription drug costs.

But I think the other important component of this Bill, of what it's trying to address is the fact that this copay deductible would not right now be applicable to the consumer that is using that, therefore adding an increased deductible burden for the individuals using this prescription. Is that correct? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, under current practice that's what happens, and this Bill is designed to address that issue. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you. So through you, Madam President, the concept of this Bill is to create an equalizing effect to ease the burden on the consumer, but also understand that the necessary prescription drugs for consumers, for their health and wellbeing, is able to be obtained. So what we're looking at is not to increase the burden on the consumer in their deductible payments, but also, it is also a compelling message to address the concerns of prescription drug costs that we have in the state of Connecticut. Would that be correct? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, I think through you, Madam President, that is absolutely correct. And I think the goal that this legislation attempts to do is make sure that the consumer is not held in the middle of a fight between the PBM, insurance company, and the pharmaceutical company. The consumer should not be left holding the bag. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you. And I want to agree with the good Chair's statement that the consumer should not be left holding the bag and the intent of this Bill as

originated and thought by Senator Looney is indeed, we want to get the prescription drugs that will protect and help the wellbeing of individuals. But at the same time, it recognizes that these couponing effects allows and affords the people to get access to those important medicine for their wellbeing.

But also, it also is an indirect statement of the incredible cost of prescription drugs that we have in the state of Connecticut. So that being said, I appreciate the proponents of this Bill. And obviously, there is going to require some accommodations, some compromise, some real understanding how we all need to work together, from the consumer side, from the physician side, from our hospitals, pharmacists, prescription pharmaceutical companies, to understand that we all need to collaborate together to contain the cost of health care.

So I urge support of this bill. But nevertheless, I think it's important to understand the underlying concern of this Bill, along with many other Bills we're going to consider in this building, is the incredible and unsustainable cost and escalating cost of health care and health care insurance. So I applaud Senator Looney for his initiative in this effort and I encourage that the proponents that are impacted via all the shareholders on this, buy into this idea and collaborate to protect the consumer, but afford the highest and best quality care to those individuals in the state of Connecticut. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Anwar, to be followed by Senator Sampson. Senator Anwar, good afternoon.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I rise in support of this Bill. I do not have any questions for our honorable Chair of Insurance and Real Estate Committee. But I do have some comments I wanted to share.

First, I wanted to also, of course, thank Senator Looney who brought this Bill, at least I noticed it in 2019 and in 2020 when this Bill was brought back, there was a pandemic that did not result in this. But I want to share some diseases, some illnesses that are impacting individuals that are directly going to benefit from this, and I'll list them, and this is a partial list.

Rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, gastric cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, pulmonary arterial hypertension, to list a few. These are all illnesses which can cause severe morbidity and mortality, they can have an impact on the person's lifespan, they can have an impact on the person's ability to do things.

The decisions that were made by the insurance industry and pharmacy benefits manager, which means they are benefiting the insurance industry and never the patients and the consumers, that resulted in these individuals having a negative impact on their wellbeing and resulting in deaths in many cases.

I want to share a study that was published in 2019, and this was in the American Journal of MCAGMC. 600 patients were looked at, and they looked at when

this new formula was put in by the pharmacy benefit managers, it resulted in the patients not being able to stay on their medications and had a negative impact.

Because of the fact of the pandemic, we actually, it was very clear that we were not going to be able to pass this Bill. I reached out to the Insurance Commissioner and I pleaded and said that we have patients who are actually not being able to be on their medications, and we're going to have certain number of people who will not do well and some will die. But the Insurance Commissioner does not have the capacity to do this based on his powers.

This is a legislative issue. This is something that I can tell you, thousands of patients in the state of Connecticut have been waiting for this very moment. This very moment that we as a Senate and then hopefully the House after this is going to pass this so they can get the medicines that are life saving for them. And I also wanted to mention Representative Gillian Gilchrist who has been a staunch advocate for this as well, because many of the people in her community have also reached out to her.

So with that, I would urge each and every Member, on behalf of the patients who are suffering every single moment of their life from many of the illnesses that are listed with chronic illnesses, yes, we have to represent the people. I know some people would love to support the insurance industry and be there for them all the time. But at the end of the day, the people who elect us, they're suffering and need to be helped and protected. And that's why I would urge each and every person to vote for this Bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Anwar. Will you remark further?
Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I don't know how many of my colleagues have ever squeezed a toothpaste tube. And I say that because it's obvious to me that when you squeeze the toothpaste tube, the other end blows up. And if you go back and you squeeze the fat end, guess what happens? It will go the other way. And that's exactly what this Bill does, Madam President.

And I can appreciate my colleagues wanting to pat themselves on the back for doing something for our constituents, to benefit their concerns with regard to the cost of health care and health care insurance. And I believe they're sincere in that regard and so am I, and I would gladly support legislation that does that. But this Bill doesn't actually achieve that in any way. It gives an illusion only Madam President, that somehow we are actually helping consumers.

This Bill may, in fact, reduce someone's out-of-pocket costs at some point on the front end of their insurance or healthcare transaction. But all it really does is shift that money that they would have collected at the beginning of an insurance claim to fulfill a deductible and add it back into a premium later. Because this Bill does absolutely nothing, and I mean, absolutely nothing, zero, zero to affect the cost of health care and insurance, which is the problem.

I would also point out that the problem is very often created in this building. This body is forever enabling the current system. The current system that hides the cost of health care from consumers. The current system that continually creates more burdens on health care providers and insurers to provide services and then expects them not to raise the premium so they are forever being attacked.

I just heard one of my colleagues go after pharmacy benefit managers, pharma companies, pharmaceutical creators, and insurance companies, all in a short set of breaths. Do you know that all of those industries are highly regulated, Madam President? Insurance companies in this state are allowed to make a certain amount of profit, and that's it. And guess what? They make that much profit every time around, because that's what we tell them they can make. But the idea that somehow, they are going crazy making all kinds of money, and the consumer is suffering solely because of the insurance company, is a fiction.

Now, you can argue that some insurance companies are making a lot of money and maybe that some people might see as a problem. But I don't see that as a problem that people are making money. Because when people make money, that means that they employ people and the insurance industry happens to be a large part of our economy. And we hire tons and tons of people to work in that industry in this state.

It would be great if our insurance capital of the world, Hartford, Connecticut was still the insurance capital of the world. But I'm afraid that's not true anymore. So many insurers have left this state and that city to go to Atlanta, Georgia, and elsewhere across the country and the world, because the

environment here is completely unfriendly to them. And that environment is also a cost driver, Madam President. The fact that we have reduced the number of companies that sell health care insurance in this state down to, I think there are two left. I mean, it's unbelievable. And if you ask them why they leave, they'd probably be afraid to mention it. But the fact is, it's the overburden some regulation and the cost of doing business in this state.

The Bill before us, Madam President, I'm going to vote for the Bill before us because as much as I don't think it has a real world effect on driving down the cost that any consumer is going to pay for their health care, it may -- let me just put it this way. I like the idea that we're addressing the issue. I like that. I'm glad we're talking about it. I want to talk about it in a far more substantial way. I don't like that anyone will take credit for doing something over it, though. And I would caution my colleagues to do that, because I'll call you out for it because this Bill doesn't really accomplish its stated goal.

If we want to do something, Madam President, let's actually do something to drive down the cost of insurance. We can start by letting consumers choose what kind of products they want to purchase. We can also let insurance companies offer different types of products so consumers have choices on what to purchase. We prohibit that in this state, Madam President. Do you know how many people in their 20s and 30s would love to buy an insurance policy that costs half as much but it covers less? Because they understand that that increased amount of coverage costs money, but they're otherwise healthy people, they don't need to have the full boat insurance product.

And we say, in this body, you can't do that. We say you can't do that to the insurance company. You can't offer the product. We say that to our neighbors and our constituents that we represent. You can't buy that product, we won't let you. And that's wrong, Madam President. It's supposed to be a free country. We're supposed to be the insurance capital of the world. We should have more choice and options. We should be the stellar example, for elsewhere on how we are doing insurance.

This Bill addresses high deductible health insurance. Do you know where high deductible health insurance came from? It came from the policies I was just talking about. The only reason why we have high deductible health plans anyway is because they had to be created to keep the premium down enough so that people could afford them. A premium that's skyrocketed because bodies like this forced insurers and providers to provide things far beyond the ability for consumers to pay, and then mandated them that that's all they can sell and all that a consumer can buy.

That's the simple equation of what our insurance situation is. The solution is choice and freedom. In every case, in almost everything we do. I would encourage the Insurance Committee when they come back here next year, to try and find ways to allow more companies back into the state to increase competition, to be able to offer different types of products and give consumers real choice on what they want to buy. That will make things better, Madam President, not this Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further on the Bill that is before us? Good afternoon, Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. And thank you very much. Speaking in support of the Bill, I wanted to thank the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, Senator Lesser in particular for his leadership on this, Senator Hwang for his support and his comments today, their counterparts in the House.

This is, I think, a very important Bill in our continuing effort to provide equity for patients and holders of insurance policies in the state, the consumers of both health care and those who pay for that protection. And it's a continuing battle, I say, because we find that there are sophisticated price-gouging schemes going on at every level, and it's a bit of a game of whack a mole.

A couple of years ago, we discovered one which was that the pharmacy benefit managers had contract provisions with the pharmacies that gagged the pharmacies from disclosing to their customers that, in some cases, it was cheaper to pay cash for a generic drug than to run it through their insurance policy, where the copays were higher. And that was a practice that we identified. Other states have adopted legislation to bar that practice since then.

But Senate Bill 1003 is a continuing effort to help consumers because as we know, right now, the consumers and the patients are actually hostages in some way in the battle of insurers and pharmacy benefit managers versus pharmaceutical companies, and battling the high price of prescription drugs is

one we have to approach on a number of fronts. So under these copay accumulator programs, any copayment assistance, as Senator Lesser said, that a patient will receive either directly from a pharmaceutical manufacturer or from a coupon card, Good RX is one of them, does not count toward the patient's deductible.

So we have a system here of the patient believing that he is getting some assistance, finding out it doesn't count, postponing the meeting of his deductible, continuing the period of time until a deductible is met. And that is both frustrating and deceptive. So patients spend more out of pocket to reach their deductible, sometimes thousands of dollars depending on the nature of the drug. And for too many patients, this makes the drug they depend upon unaffordable.

And the pharmacy benefit managers claim that these drug coupon cards do incentivize the use of name brand drugs. That's one of the justifications that they use. But statistics have indicated that about 87% of the cards are used for drugs that don't have a generic equivalent anyway. So that these programs, in many cases, allow double dipping because they get their full copay, while also extending the duration of the deductibles.

So this is an area again, where we need to protect our consumers from another abusive practice. And unfortunately, too often, we uncover these practices and have to take them on one by one. And again, I commend the Committee for taking on the Bill this year. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Looney. Will you remark further on the Bill before us? Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if there is no objection, I'd like to place this on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

And seeing no objection, we will move this Bill to the Consent Calendar. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 25, Calendar No. 232, Senate Bill No. 1008, AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH EQUITY, THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND PULSE OXIMETERS.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk, and I do believe that this is one of Senator Lesser's pieces of legislation. Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment, LCO 7678. I asked that the Clerk please call the Amendment and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. And we have LCO 7670. Is that the correct number, Senator?

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

No, Madam President, it's 7678.

THE CHAIR:

7678, got it.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7678, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Amendment seeks to broaden and clarify the language in Section 1, thereby switching some of the responsibilities in Section 1 from the Department of Insurance to the Department of Public Health. I'd prefer to speak on the Bill overall, if the Amendment is adopted, but would urge adoption at this time.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. The Amendment before us has been moved. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And I understand this is a joint Amendment and I want to thank the good Chair for including my participation. Through you, it only strikes Section 1, and did we garner this input from the administration to offer their perspective and insight on this Bill? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Yes, the answer is yes. We worked with the Governor's Office as well as I believe with the relevant agencies. The Bill initially referenced only I think the Department of Insurance, and now it identifies that the appropriate agency would be Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Insurance Department. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, and I want to thank the Governor's Office for their input to collaborate two essential components of health care and insurance, in

collaborating to get the necessary awareness and education programs out. So I'm in support of this Amendment and I want to thank the Governor's Office, but also the acknowledgement that the more the merrier in getting this important information out. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying aye.

MEMBERS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed. And the ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted. And now we will discuss the Bill as amended. Will you remark? Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Madam President, this is the first Bill that I can recall us addressing that specifically addresses some of the health equity issues that had been raised by the coronavirus pandemic. And I want to thank at the outset the Bill sponsor, Representative Patricia Dillon of New Haven, as well as Senator Looney, for bringing this to the attention of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

And the issue is very simple. One of the most

valuable tools in addressing a person's health, particularly someone who is fighting COVID-19, is the use of a pulse oximeter. But pulse oximeters give different readings depending on someone's skin tone. And so this Bill ensures that we are providing quality medical education to patients throughout the state, and that people are not denied access to health care because of an inaccurate reading of a pulse oximeter on the basis of their skin tone. Madam President, I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And indeed, I will say before the COVID pandemic, I would have never understood what a pulse oximeter is. Through you, Madam President, indeed, for record and also for education, because part of this program, part of this Bill is indeed to raise awareness, to raise the social equity considerations of how the pulse oximeter and its impact on insurance interpretations and policies. So through you, Madam President, could the good Chair explain what a pulse oximeter does and how it truly gets its reading? Because in some ways, it's quite unique and quite innovative. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I have not graduated from medical school but a pulse oximeter is a device that identifies a person's blood oxygen levels, for the purposes of making a medical diagnosis.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Through you, indeed it does. And in the COVID symptoms, the blood oxygen level is a critical assessment in regards to this impact on health. But I think the other component, a major component of the pulse oximeter is it gathers its reading based upon light pulses reading upon the skin tone of the individual measured. And through its pulsating light and the skin tone interaction, they're able to measure pulse and blood oxygen levels.

The Bill addresses some potential compromise in that assessment and diagnostic because in certain skin tones that are much darker, the pulse oximeter and the light sensor does not get an accurate reading. And the intent of this Bill is to raise the awareness where social equity concerns in regards to skin color and the different impact of technology and ultimately its misreading may possibly impact people's insurance applications and policy viability.

So, the importance of this is to raise awareness of different potential methodologies, different considerations, and that based upon various darkness of skin tone, that the data could be compromised. So that we are making sure that should a compromise

data because of a false reading, that it does not adversely impact an insurance application or insurance applicability.

So through you Madam President, as I am saying this even though the good Chair does not have an MD degree, understanding the pulse oximeter, is that the consideration of this Bill to raise awareness through the amendment to incorporate not only the Department of Insurance, but now the Department of Public Health in the consult and advisory of crafting information and literature? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Through you, Madam President, that is the purpose of the first part of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you. And the good Chair raises another important component. So the other Section of the Bill, could the very good Chair articulate the purpose of that Bill? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Because of the unequal applicability of pulse oximetry readings, depending on a person's skin tone, it prevents that information from being used to deny coverage to an insured person in the state of Connecticut. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you and the good Chair, and I'm appreciative of articulating the second component of it in regards to a social equity consideration of a false reading. I think this Bill provides opportunities for corrective action, but also most important of all, it also provides a greater awareness and the Amendment, as well as the awareness initiated through this Bill is a positive and I urge support. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang, Senator Lesser. Will you remark further on the bill? Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Briefly speaking in support of the Bill, again, I want to thank the Insurance and Real Estate Committee for their superb work here, to Senator Lesser, Senator Hwang and their counterparts in the House. I want to thank my colleague from New Haven, Representative Dillon for

bringing this to our attention, again, as a matter of equity.

Many physicians have told us as the pandemic has gone along, that the original instruction given about people should take their temperatures regularly as a way of tracking whether they may be contracting, have contracted COVID or not, is not the most accurate way to do an early diagnosis. But that, in fact, having a pulse oximeter may, in fact, be a better early indicator. Because what happens often is that blood oxygen levels, absorption levels are reduced in the early stages of COVID in a way that are an indicator of an impending acceleration of the disease. And that is more specific to that particular disease than mere temperature variation is.

But again, that is complicated by the fact of skin tones coming into play and getting an accurate or not accurate reading. Because medical reports and medical guidance indicate that if you have a level above 95 or so you're in the safe territory. If it drops below 95, there is a level of alarm and you should be in touch with your physician; below 90, you may need hospitalization and below 85, you may be in critical condition. So you have a lot being attached to particular numbers in terms of consequences about the level of care that someone may need. So it's a very important thing.

I think as Senator Hwang said, that we have an awareness of how there may be a variant in all of this. And also, it's important to know that no one should be disadvantaged in terms of insurance coverage because of this variant as well. So again, I wanted to thank Representative Dillon and the Committee once again for its really enlightened

approach to consumer advocacy in health care. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much, Senator Looney. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if there is no objection, I'd like to place this on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Going once, seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 21, Calendar 210. Senate Bill No. 1050, AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICES PROVIDED BY LIFE INSURERS.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening again, Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Madam President, it's good to see you once again. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, I thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment, LCO 7674. I ask that the Clerk please call the Amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

And Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7674, Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

And Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, Madam President, if the Clerk could please stand at ease for one moment.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment. Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. I apologize for that, there was some momentary confusion over an Amendment. But, Madam President, this Amendment clarifies the intent of the legislation, which is to provide that either the policy holder of a life

insurance policy for the person for whom the policy has been taken out, if it's not the person who's paying for the policy, be notified annually that the policy is in place. I urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Lesser. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before us? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And I appreciate the good Chair's accommodation on a collaborative Amendment. And it was a result of listening to major shareholders, individuals from industry that would be applying these requirements and laws that we make to make it better. And it also makes it much more practically applicable. And I want to thank Senator Kelly for his leadership in initiating this Amendment to make a good Bill even better. So I urge support for this Amendment. I want to acknowledge the good Chair's collaboration, and also the efforts of Senator Kelly. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber? Good evening, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Good evening, Madam President. I just rise in support of the Amendment. I would like to thank the leadership, Chairman Lesser and Ranking Member Hwang on the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. I certainly miss the Committee but I do commend the leadership on it for bringing forward this

initiative to do what Senator Hwang said. It's going to make a good Bill even better. We refined it in accordance with collaboration in the industry and I certainly hope everybody can support the Amendment and the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the Amendment before the Chamber? Will you remark further on the Amendment? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment before us please signify by saying aye.

MEMBERS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Any opposed? The ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted. Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I want to echo the remarks earlier from my good friend, Senator Hwang, in support of the Amendment in the underlying Bill. You know, Madam President, this was an idea that we actually heard from Senator Kelly on, and it is an important consumer protection, making sure that not only policyholders, but also people in some cases, someone may take out a life insurance policy on behalf of a third party, and that they be notified of that. Making sure that that notice is provided is simply a consumer protection. I would want to know if somebody took out a life insurance policy on me. And I think you would want to if someone took it out

on you. So I think this is a good idea from Senator Kelly. I want to thank him for proposing it. And I think it is an example of the kind of bipartisan collaboration we've come to work with many times on the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, and we do miss him over there. And Madam President, I urge passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the legislation before us? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Making comments on the underlying amended Bill. I want to commend the good Chair as well as the House Chair, Representative Wood, as well as my Ranking Member Representative Pavalock D'Amato in her efforts in the Committee. That being said, I think it is important. This is an important consumer bill. It allows that life insurance policies upon change is properly notified to allow people to know that it is a product that is intended for their benefit should anything occur, and that these policies do not lapse because of an inability to find the owners, should they move or change housing addresses et cetera.

So I want to commend Senator Kelly for his many years of advocacy on this bill in a real proactive consumer awareness of recognizing that industry has a responsibility to provide quality customer service. The end product through the amended Bill is also a reflection of how the interaction with major shareholders, individuals and businesses that are world leaders that we have in the state of Connecticut can collaborate and offer their

expertise, and interact and create innovative solutions for problems that are readily evident that we experience with our consumer marketplace and business marketplace.

So again, I also want to leave by simply saying this. As much as we may have debates of contention, but this is an example of the last number of bills that we have done in Insurance. It shows bipartisan collaboration, it shows a keen consciousness where Republicans and Democrats are working together in a collaborative manner to address consumer-sensitive information.

Ultimately, it shows that we can do very good work in this Circle. And again, I want to thank the good Chair, I want to thank my colleagues on the Insurance and Real Estate Committee for their work this year. And this is one example where good work in a Bill that we worked on that is good is made better. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further?
Senator Lesser.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And Madam President, if there is no objection, I'd like to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

And seeing no objection, so ordered. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, for a couple of markings, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Does the Clerk have on his desk Senate Agenda No. 2 and Senate Agenda No. 3?

CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of both Senate Agenda No. 2 and Senate Agenda No. 3 dated Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move all items on Senate Agenda No. 2 and No. 3 dated Wednesday, April 28, 2021, be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by referencing into the Senate Journal and Senate Transcripts.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

**Senate Agenda
No. 3
REGULAR SESSION
Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNOR:

**To be referred to the Joint Committee on Executive
and Legislative Nominations**

April 28, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Pursuant to Sections 4-1 and 15-120bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, I have the honor and privilege to nominate and, with your advice and consent to appoint **MISHONE DONELSON** of Farmington to be a member of the Connecticut Airport Authority Board of Directors in succession to Brett Browchuk, to serve a term ending June 30, 2025, or until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

Sincerely,

Ned Lamont
Governor

April 28, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Pursuant to Sections 4-1 and 1-205a of the Connecticut General Statutes, I have the honor and privilege to nominate and, with your advice and consent reappoint **LENNY T. WINKLER** of Groton to be a member of the Freedom of Information Commission, to serve a term ending June 30, 2024, or until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

Sincerely,

Ned Lamont
Governor

April 28, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Pursuant to Sections 4-1 and 38a-1042 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I have the honor and privilege to nominate and, with your advice and consent to reappoint **THEODORE M. DOOLITTLE** of West Hartford to be Healthcare Advocate, to serve a term ending January 10, 2025, or until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

Sincerely,

Ned Lamont
Governor

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Also, I'd like to refer two items please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 16, Calendar 175, Senate Bill 2, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

And on Calendar Page 31, Calendar 268, Senate Bill 660, I'd like to refer that items to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, so ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, for another marking.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 47, Calendar 354, House Bill 5377, I'd like to ask for suspension and to mark that item as go.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And followed by, after that, I'd like to take up Senate Joint Resolution and ask for suspension on Senate Agenda No. 2 to take up Senate Joint Resolution No. 46.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And after that, we'd like to take up and mark a go on Calendar Page 4, Calendar 74, Senate Bill 699.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Just as clarification, the House Bill 5377 is on Page 46, not 47. And if we can now call the Bill please.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 46, Calendar No. 354, House Bill No. 5377, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF COVID-19 RELATED LAYOFFS FROM THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXPERIENCE ACCOUNT.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Good evening, Madam President. It's good to see you at this not-so-late hour. I would move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This is AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF COVID-19 RELATED LAYOFFS FROM THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXPERIENCE ACCOUNT. During the last year, we have seen so many workers laid off because of the pandemic, because of the public health crisis that we are in. And as a result, we know that employers will be struggling if we have to charge all of those layoffs in their experience rating for the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. So this Bill will make it a non-charge for the period of July 1st --

THE CHAIR:

I'm sorry. Say that again, Senator. I do apologize.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

It's okay. I think I'm getting static here. It will be a non-charge of benefit charges in taxable wages between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021, when calculating an employer's unemployment tax experience rate for the taxable year starting on or after January 1, 2022.

And in addition, this Bill will also allow new employers who are opening up new businesses during this period, typically, you would have a formula that incorporates the last three years of the state's unemployment tax rating period, and that will be now, according to this Bill, they will be relieved of two of those years, so it would only be the first of the three. In other words, new businesses and existing businesses will not have to pay the cost of this incredibly difficult time. So, I urge adoption of this Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kushner. Will you remark further on the Bill? Will you remark further? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of the legislation before us. I'm very, very pleased to see this Bill make it to this Chamber today and am delighted to support it and looking forward to it being voted out of this Committee, or this Chamber rather, and taken up by the House.

The last year has indeed been extraordinary and the damage done to our economy and to the many, many businesses, small and large, across our state is significant. I want to say thank you to the

Chairwoman of the Labor Committee and her colleague in the House and thank them for bringing this bill forward and helping us to make this a reality, because this is a very, very necessary piece of legislation.

It would be, in my opinion, fundamentally wrong to punish these businesses that through no fault of their own had to lay people off as a result of the COVID pandemic and also the state's response to it, which required them to close, in many cases. And as a result, I urge tremendous support for this Bill. I hope it makes it all the way because this is one of the things that needs to be accomplished in this session, no matter what happens. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further on the legislation that is before us? Will you remark further? Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And as you've heard, this is something that is really I feel so privileged to be in a position to bring out this Bill today, because we know that so many people have struggled. And this is something that's going to be really good for business, but it's also good for the workers. So it is my -- I feel this is one of those moments where we really need to take special note of how important it is that we work together to get through this very difficult public health crisis. And so I appreciate the comments from Senator Sampson and want to say that this passed out of our Committee with unanimous support and I think we are

all unified in wanting to make sure we move forward together. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kushner. Anything further, Senator Kushner that you might like to suggest?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. I would like to place this on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

And seeing no objection, that item will be placed on our Consent Calendar. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Senate Agenda No. 2, Senate Joint Resolution No. 46,
RESOLUTION APPOINTING CLARK CHAPIN OF ELLINGTON AN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Committee's Favorable Report and adoption of the Resolution.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on adoption. Will you remark?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The resolution confirms Clark Chapin of Ellington to be one of our Auditors of Public Accounts. Somebody who we all know and love and is taking on a position after the unfortunate passing of the former auditor, former Senator Rob Kane. Clark served in this Chamber for a number of years, well liked. He served in the House so he knows the building well, and I know that he'll do an exceptional job in this position, and I would urge adoption. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. Will you remark further?
Good evening, Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Good afternoon. We may be out of here by evening, Madam President, I rise in support of this appointment. And I had the pleasure of serving with then Senator Chapin here around The Circle. I found him to be very detailed, very meticulous, very personable, responsible and I urge my colleagues around here to vote in favor of his appointment, as he will, I believe, do a good job. I also would be remiss if I didn't stand here and express regret that we have to make an appointment to this due to the untimely passing of our friend, Rob Kane. But that being said, if we're going to appoint a successor, I urge that we adopt Clark Chapin. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further? Senator

Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

I yield to Senator Kelly.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kelly, do you accept the yield, sir?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Yes, Madam President. I accept the yield.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kelly, please proceed.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST):

Thank you. And thank you, Senator Looney. I stand and rise to support this nomination and echo many of the same comments of my colleague, Senator Paul Formica. Very happy to be here to support Clark Chapin's nomination, but on the same hand, I must say there's a measure of, you know, sadness in the fact that we have to do this.

Turning back to Clark, I've had the luxury and privilege to serve with Clark here in The Circle and found that he was an individual who was very, very thoughtful, very focused and made sure that he had all the information in detail before he acted. He makes sure that he has done his homework and to those ends, that's what we look for in an auditor. Somebody who is detail oriented, pays attention to that, and has the interests of not only the state of Connecticut, as he did when he was a Senator to his

constituents, but the people. And he was a strong fiscal conservative understands the value of a dollar. He's committed to public service. And I'm support this nomination wholeheartedly and hope that The Circle supports it also. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much. Senator Kelly, will you remark further? Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Speaking in support of the resolution, I certainly endorse all of the comments of my colleagues who have spoken before. I think that Clark Chapin certainly embodies the kind of person that we want to see as a state auditor, as Senator Kelly said. He is someone who is a thoughtful, methodical, detail oriented, exactly the kind of systematic, organized person that we want to see in someone doing the rigorous job of state auditor, and I think he will with great distinction continue in the distinguished line of former Legislators who have who have held that position with Kevin Johnston, Bob Ward, the late Rob Kane, who we unfortunately have to replace and now Clark, he will be, I think, standing proudly in that line with some of the same gifts and talents that led each of the others to be successful in that role. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Looney. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the legislation? Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If there's no objection I'd like this item to be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, the item will be placed on the Consent Calendar. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 4, Calendar No. 74, Senate Bill No. 699, AN ACT CONCERNING ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS.

THE CHAIR:

And good evening, Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Good evening, Madam Chair, how are you today?

THE CHAIR:

Excellent.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark,

sir?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes. I move adoption of Senate Bill 699, and I wanted to add an Amendment because there's -- mostly it's a typing mistake.

THE CHAIR:

And we just want to make sure that we have an LCO -- was that an LCO number?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

The LCO number is 7661, the Amendment. And that Amendment replaces the term planning commission with Zoning Board of Appeals.

THE CHAIR:

Great. And do you move adoption, sir?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. And the question is on adoption, but we have to get it up on the board. Yes, we do, indeed, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 7661, Senate Schedule "A".

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes, this is a Bill that particularly is advantageous to smaller communities having difficulty filling positions. And in many cases, people have multiple positions. What this does is allow people to serve that may be on one commission but can serve on a second one as long as they abstain from any kind of a boat that they have been participating in before. It's a good Bill for small towns having difficulty filling these positions. It's also provides an opportunity to move through the process. It was voted 26-0 in Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cassano. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber? Senator Hwang.

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. It is wonderful to see the good Chairman of Planning and Development across the way in person, and indeed this is on the Amendment. And I want to applaud Senator Cassano, Senator Needleman, Senator Osten and Senator Miner for their fine eye in being able to correct a typing error, an editing error, in the corresponding Bill. And this makes the correction of replacing Planning Commission with Zoning Board of Appeals. So with that being said, I urge support and I want to thank the good Chair for his fine eye in picking out the error, and Senators for picking it up as well. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Hwang. Will you remark further on

the Amendment that is before the Chamber? If not --

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

I move adoption of the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. The Amendment has been moved. Will you remark further on the Amendment? If not, let me try your minds All in favor of the Amendment before us, please signify by saying aye.

MEMBERS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed. The ayes have it, the Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the Bill as Amended?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes, Madam President, I would ask that we move for adoption of the Bill as amended.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

And I'd ask that that it go on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Bill as

amended?

SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I want to respect the good Chair's words and suggestions so I urge support and at the same time, I have no complaints about the Consent. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Excellent and there has been a request to put this item on the Consent Calendar. And seeing no objection to that, that item will be added as well. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if the Clerk can please call the items on the Consent Calendar for a vote of the Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

Indeed. Mr. Clerk, if you would, please read the items on the Consent Calendar, please.

CLERK:

Page 29, Calendar 255, Senate Bill 923; Page 21, Calendar 204, Senate Bill 186; Page 16, Calendar 177, Senate Bill 859; PAGE 19, Calendar 193, Senate Bill 903; Page 10, Calendar 132, Senate Bill 152; Page 1, Calendar 22, Senate Bill 263; Page 25, Calendar 230, Senate Bill 1003; Page 25, Calendar 232, Senate Bill 1008; Page 21, Calendar 210, Senate Bill 1050; Page 46, Calendar 354, House Bill 5377, Senate Joint Resolution 46; Page 4, Calendar 74,

Senate Bill 699. That is Consent Calendar No. 1.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff -- Thank you, Mr. Clerk you have put forth all of the items on the Consent Calendar. I will open the voting machine and would you kindly call the roll?

CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Consent Calendar No. 1. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Consent Calendar No. 1. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Consent Calendar No. 1. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, would you kindly announce the tally, please?

CLERK:

Senate Consent Calendar No. 1:

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

(gavel) And the Consent Calendar is adopted. Mr. Clerk -- excuse me, Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'd like to move for immediate transmittal to the Governor House Bill 5377, Calendar 354.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Before we get to our schedule for next week, I just wanted to yield for any points of personal privilege or announcements, and I know Senator Kushner has one, so I'd like to yield to her, please.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner, do you accept the yield?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And I just want to say in the short time that I've been in the Senate, I've never come into this Chamber wearing a denim jacket, it would seem inappropriate in most cases. But today is exceptional, because today is the day that women have been asked, in recognition of domestic violence, to wear denim, to recognize that we should not blame the victim of domestic violence, as was done once in the past. So I want to give a shout out to the Greater Danbury Women's Center for bringing this to my attention, and to ask everyone to recognize the importance of taking on the issue of domestic violence, and bringing more peace to our

community and to all the victims.

So thank you for this opportunity to raise this important issue and recognize the great work that's being done in our state on behalf of victims of domestic violence. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kushner. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Seeing no other points of personal privilege or announcements, I just wanted to let people know that it's getting to be that time of the year where we're getting close to sine die, and so there's a lot of business on our desks and we have to make sure we have adequate time to do that. And I would urge people to hold Wednesday, Thursday and possibly Friday for session days next week. Thank you, Madam President. With that, I move that we adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

And we are adjourned. (gavel) Go forth and govern.

(On the motion of Senator Duff of the 25th, the Senate at 5:31 p.m. adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.)