

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

The Senate was called to order at 1:20 p.m., the President in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

Will the Senate please come to order? Will members and guests rise and direct your attention to Ms. Kathy Grant of North Haven who is our Guest Chaplain

GUEST CHAPLAIN KATHY GRANT:

When we learn that someone is hurting, help us to know what to do and say. Give us compassion today for the hurting, as compassion is love in action.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, and now it is my pleasure to invite Senator Matt Lesser to do the Pledge of Allegiance.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

(ALL) I pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God with liberty and justice for all.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Lesser. Good Afternoon, Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Good Afternoon, Madam President, is there business on the Clerk's desk?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Good Afternoon. The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 1, dated Wednesday, May 19th, 2021.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Move all items on Senate Agenda Number 1 dated Wednesday, May 19, 2021 be acted upon as indicated and the Agenda be incorporated by reference in the Senate Journal and transcripts.

**Senate Agenda
No. 1
REGULAR SESSION
Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

MATTER(S) RETURNED FROM COMMITTEE - to be tabled for the calendar.

NO NEW FILE

FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

SB NO. 711 AN ACT CONCERNING COVID-19 RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND REQUIRING FEDERAL REGULATORY ANALYSIS FOR PROPOSED STATE REGULATIONS. (As amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A" (LCO 8236))

REPORT(S) RECEIVED - to be referred to committee(s) indicated.

Report - Auditors of Public Accounts - Department of Labor Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2017 and 2018. (Pursuant to Section 2-90 of the Connecticut General Statutes.) Date received: February 26, 2020. Referred to Committees on Appropriations and Labor and Public Employees.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President for markings for today.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Can the Senate stand at ease for a moment, please?

THE CHAIR:

And the Senate can stand at ease.

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President, I have some items for our Consent Calendar please.

THE CHAIR:

Yes indeed, please proceed and [Gavel] and we just need to keep it quiet so we can hear the items that are going to go on the Consent Calendar.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 20, Calendar 293, Senate Bill 986 like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 8, Calendar 146, Senate Bill 872, like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 18, Calendar 278, Senate Bill 1072, like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 42, Calendar 228, Senate Bill 841, like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President, the Senate can stand at ease.

THE CHAIR:

And the Senate shall stand at ease.

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President, I'd like to mark two items for a GO please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Calendar Page 43, Calendar 247, Senate Bill 943, mark GO.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Followed by Calendar Page 15, Calendar 248, Senate Bill 999, mark GO please.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. And here we are again, Senator Kushner. Oh, I do apologize, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Page 43, Calendar No. 247, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 943 AN ACT REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN INFORMATION TO DOMESTIC WORKERS AT THE TIME OF HIRE AND ESTABLISHING AN EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Kushner and here we are again.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Here we are again and it feels like ages, right?

THE CHAIR:

Right.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, 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 KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The Clerk is in possession of an Amendment LCO No. 8845, I would ask that the Clerk please call the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 8845 Senate Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. 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.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This is a Bill that provides for trusted organizations, qualified organizations that work with domestic workers to aid and assist in providing information and education and training to domestic workers. It also requires the, it requires the employer to provide written explanation of the work and the expectations and specifically the Amendment provides that qualified organizations defined as an organization that is nonprofit that has five or more years of experience providing education advocacy and other related services to domestic workers and that each organization that provides education advocacy or other related service to domestic workers on behalf of the nonprofit described would be covered by this. This is a good Bill and it ought to pass.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before the Chamber. Good Afternoon, Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Good Afternoon, Madam President. Just a couple of questions to the proponent of the Bill if I might?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you very much. Just regarding the Amendment although this language appears in the underlying Bill also, when referring to the qualified organizations, are these government organizations? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Through you, Madam President, no, these are nonprofit organizations.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. So, would this Bill make it so that anyone that would work as a domestic worker have to be affiliated or in contact with one of these organizations? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Through you, Madam President, no, it does not.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. So I understand, and I think this is affected in the Amendment and the Bill, how would that work if there is no connection between the qualified organization and the particular domestic worker that the requirements of this Bill would be fulfilled, that this notice of information would reach them? I'm just trying to understand how this is supposed to work in the real world. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson. I mean Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President.

And through you.

This Bill provides that the qualified organizations will do education work in the communities, that they will be a resource for training and that that can answer questions and help advise workers who come to them with a concern about whether or not our state wage and hour laws are being adhered to. In terms of the question regarding written statement, those would be provided directly by the employer under this Bill would be required that they provide that directly to the domestic worker.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. That was not my question. The Bill has two parts. One of them is about the notice requirement from employers and the other part is about the qualified organizations which are not government organizations and how they

are going to help these domestic workers navigate this work environment.

What I was asking is if they are not government organizations and a domestic worker is not required to be part of that organization how would they ever reach one another, how would they ever come in contact or is this Amendment simply to establish these qualified organizations as a mechanism to provide, I notice there is a note here about an online resource, so they're just simply going to provide information for any domestic workers that look them up to do so? Is that correct?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Through you, Madam President.

These organization have to have been working in this field for at least five years and they have established relationships in the community and they could in fact just be looked up for information. A lot of people will do that. They will search the internet to resolve an issue and they will find, they'll Google for help and that could be one of the ways that they would be led to these organizations.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you for that answer, Madam Chairman, I appreciate it. I am going to support the Amendment because I think the Amendment improves the Bill by eliminating the

requirement that the Labor Commissioner establish this worker education and training program and then we can certainly resume our conversation about the Bill. I do want to follow up by understanding exactly how all this would work in practice though. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

A voice vote will be fine.

THE CHAIR:

Excellent. So having heard no other Senators that would like to remark on the Amendment, let me try your minds. All in favor of the Amendment that is before the Chamber please signify by saying Aye.

(MEMBERS):

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The Amendment is adopted. Now we will continue the conversation on the Bill as Amended. Will you remark further on the Bill as Amended? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. So the Amendment passed as expected and does, as I said, improve the Bill by saving the taxpayers a few dollars for certain. I do have some concerns about the way this is laid-out. Everyone of us wants to make sure obviously that, you know, citizens in our state particularly folks that are maybe new to the country or they are in communities that are necessarily easy to reach as far as education from the government as far as what are laws and rules and requirements are for things that they do in fact have access and those things are available to them.

I don't know if this is the proper mechanism though. What this Bill proposes to do is two things. One of them it is going to put a requirement on employers of domestic workers to give them certain information at the time of hiring. As we discuss often in this Chamber my opinion is that that is a relationship between those individuals, the employer and the employee and they can work out the details of that themselves.

In fact, I don't believe unless someone is public safety is at stake the state government has any interest at all in their arrangement, or their rate of pay, or their hours or their responsibilities. And I guess that is philosophical and ideological difference between me and my friends on the Democrat side of the aisle.

But the other part of this Bill is also a concern of mine because it seems to me to be a precursor to organizing the domestic workers in our state. In the amended language it says, "qualified organizations shall collectively establish a program," etc., etc. This reads like the beginning of an organization of labor for these folks which concerns me because I will tell you, Madam President the homecare program is something that is very near and dear to me.

I believe this is a program that has tremendous benefit for citizens in our state, the Medicaid Waiver Program allows people who would otherwise be institutionalized to stay in their homes and receive treatment. It benefits them in that way and it also benefits us all as taxpayers as a result.

If we begin to meddle with this process and many of these folks are, you know, relatives or family friends that are involved in this process and if we make it so that they've got to be involved in some organization like qualified organization, we're missing the whole point of how this is supposed to work.

And I just don't think it is the right way to go about it. I don't think that anyone who wants to work as a domestic worker or wants to hire one, needs to be involving themselves with the state or any qualified organization and as a result I am going to vote no.

This simply boils down to whether we need laws like this or not, Madam President. As far as I can tell, if the qualified organization wants to get together outside of the government and put together this information then they can do it. They don't need a Bill from us. They don't need us to pass a law that say that they can create a program to inform domestic workers about things. They can do that today. There is no law necessary.

And I think it is fine if they do and that way people can choose to participate or not and determine whether they provide a benefit on their own, we don't need to tell them how to live.

The other part of the Bill I think is just an unnecessary requirement on employers especially when it comes with the potential for what might be sizeable fines. I don't see this as benefiting

anyone, Madam President and I am going to vote no on the Bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Through you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further on the Bill? Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? If not, I will open the voting machine, Mr. Clerk kindly call the roll.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 943 as Amended. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 943 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate on Senate Bill 943 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, will you kindly announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 943 as Amended.

Total number voting	33
Those voting Yea	25
Those voting Nay	8
Absent and not voting	3

THE CHAIR:

The measure is adopted. (gavel) Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Page 15, Calendar No. 248, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 999 AN ACT CONCERNING A JUST TRANSITION TO

CLIMATE-PROTECTIVE ENERGY PRODUCTION AND COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move
Acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report
and Passage of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an
Amendment LCO NO. 8860. I would ask the Clerk
please call the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO Number 86886 that's 8860 Senate Schedule "A"

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on Adoption. Please proceed to summarize.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This is Bill that requires employers who are building Class I renewable energy projects to pay prevailing wage on any project over 4 megawatts.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the Bill, the Amendment before the Chamber. Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to make sure I understand this Amendment clearly. The underlying Bill if I recall set a requirement of the things that are in this Bill, the establishment of a project labor agreement and so forth for only projects that are nongovernment projects in excess of \$2.5 million dollars or five megawatts. And the new language is now going to reduce that to two megawatts and there is no more limitation based on the dollar investment. I just want to make sure that is correct. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Through you, Madam President, that is correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. So just doing a little research on my own, I understand that a two megawatt project is something that might power around 400 homes. I'm just curious that is an accurate assessment according to the kind Chairwoman of the Labor Committee.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you.

It sounds right, I don't have that exact definition in front of me but it sounds about right.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Okay, so what's happening here in this Amendment is we're essentially going to create a requirement that these projects which essentially are an investment in green energy projects will now have to be subjected to these regulations that establish a need for organized labor to participate. That sounds to me like what the Bill does and the Amendment is actually going to make it apply to all but the smallest residential clean energy project.

As a result, I can't support it. I can't support the Bill and I certainly don't support the notion of imposing these requirements on even very small

projects. So I am going to encourage my colleagues to vote no on the Amendment because I think it make a bad Bill even worse and I will be back to discuss the Bill depending on the Amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I am also going to speak out in opposition to this Amendment and the entire Bill in general. I believe in the lowest qualified bidder projects because a lot of these projects that we talking about, especially the municipalities are funded by taxpayers. The taxpayers are going to pay for something then it should be the lowest qualified bid.

We should not artificially inflate that in any way because again we're talking about taxpayer monies and to reduce down from the \$2.5 million dollars and make this an even smaller requirement to have these PLAs, I just have a problem with that. I have a problem as a state we should be looking for the lowest qualified bidder on all our projects. This isn't our money. This money is coming from the taxpayers.

Here we are, we are trying to push green energy and we want to increase the cost to it. You know, when I look at this, part of me is thinking, you know, is this part of this to make these more expensive so the people stay with Eversource or is this going to Eversource to increase their costs. I don't understand we're passing all of these different laws and bills and stuff making things more expensive. Taxes are already highest in the country. This has to stop at some point.

I have one question for the proponent of the Bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you. Through you, Madam President, can you tell me on average what the PLA would raise an average project to cost on an average project percentage way?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Through you, Madam President.

This Bill does not address PLAs.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Champagne.

SENATOR CHAMPAGNE (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I understood that project labor agreements were part of this and in fact if you have a project labor that the rest of the Bill doesn't pertain to this. But the Amendment as a whole is doing the same thing. All right. I'll leave that. I don't need any more questions on that.

You should definitely go with the lowest qualified bidder to save taxpayers money especially in a time coming off Covid, especially in a time when businesses are struggling. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Good Afternoon, Senator Needleman.

SENATOR NEEDLEMAN (33RD):

Thank you, Madam President, very nice to see you. I would like to speak in favor the Amendment. I just want to say that as the Chair of the Energy Committee we've analyzed this, the Amendment narrows down the actual project that this would apply to, to Class I renewables that are two megawatts or more and the rationale behind this is to be consistent with our requirements for the large wind procurements that the state has approved two years ago which received broad bipartisan support.

I also want to say that this building, this Bill, this Amendment really helps the building trades folks who have been disproportionately hit by the pandemic and the pipeline for work is very limited. We want Connecticut building trades people to be doing work on our renewable projects, our grid level renewal projects. So I think this is a good Amendment. It helps people in the State.

Some of the solar operators have been know to bring in extremely low cost labor. It doesn't impact taxpayers dollars, it impacts ratepayer dollars but solar projects are amongst the lowest component of labor of all energy generating projects because they don't require any long-term operating maintenance. So we calculated that the impact to the ratepayers over the life of this project is almost insignificant at this point and we believe that I believe that it's really important to make sure all building trades people get to do this work and not bring in low cost contract labor that are put four in a room to work on these projects and then leave and go somewhere else.

We have on the Energy Committee worked tirelessly to, in a bipartisan way, to look at cost structure. We don't want to have unnecessary ratepayer impact. We have held back on different projects that advocate in the environmental community have wanted because we are trying to balance a more renewable future with mitigating ratepayer impact and keeping our people employed.

So, I stand here strongly in support, not only of the Amendment but of the Bill in total because I believe that this is critical for our future and it gives work to our people in this state. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Needleman. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Good Morning, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

I think we're on afternoon, that too!

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Sometimes I think morning is more of an attitude than a time of the day.

THE CHAIR:

Indeed.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Anyway, Good Day to you. Good Morning or Good Afternoon. I rise for a question or two of the proponent.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good Afternoon, Senator Kushner. On Lines 99 and a followup to the conversations that Senator Champagne had, 99 talks about and 100 "subcontractors and contractors on a covered project shall pay each employee on the project wages and benefits that are not less than prevailing wage and fringe benefit rates", etc.

And then if you go down to 116 again talks about "prevailing wages shall not apply if it covered by a project labor agreement" so it would seem to me to read that this would be another way of saying that these projects through this Amendment would be the same as having a project labor agreement it I am understanding this correctly.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Through you, Madam President.

This Bill only requires prevailing wage and fringe benefits, it does not require a project labor agreement. However if there is one, there is a project labor agreement in place then the provisions in this Bill for prevailing wage and fringe benefits are waived.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Sorry, I have a lot of trouble hearing you with the mask on.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

I'll take it off, can you hear me okay.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

People tend to drop their volumes, you know, as they trail off in the sentence, so the last part of your --

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

I forgot I had it on. I apologize.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

No, so the last part of what you said, I believe if a project labor agreement is already on the project this defers to that?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Through you, Madam President.

If there is a project labor agreement then the prevailing wage and fringe benefits requirement of the Bill are waved.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Okay. Thank you very much, Madam President. Thank you for the answer. And with regard to the project labor agreement versus the prevailing wage and the fringe benefits, they are much more covered under

the project labor agreement in term of terms of work or is that basically what they're talking about when they have a project labor agreement?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President.

And through you.

Project labor agreement would typically have more terms and conditions than prevailing wage and fringe benefits.

THE CHAIR:

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And thank you, Senator Kushner and the rest of this Amendment to the Bill does not include those other criteria that normally would be in a project labor agreement, as I am understanding you to say.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Through you, Madam President.

That is correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The question I also have is municipal electric companies, are they covered under this Amendment?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Give me one minute to check on that.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Can we just stand at ease for a moment?

THE CHAIR:

You can stand at ease for a moment. Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. In response to your question, municipalities would be covered like any other developer. However it would be very uncommon for them to build projects that exceed the threshold.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. So municipal electric companies would be, and I didn't understand what you said about exceeding the threshold, sorry.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Through you, Madam President.

The threshold is for two megawatts and it would be unusual for them to exceed that threshold in the developing of a project.

THE CHAIR:

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, I missed the word unusual which is what happened there. All right thank you. I have no further questions, Senator and I want to thank you for answering my questions and I think we can go to the Bill portion or if anybody else is speaking.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. And I apologize for getting up a second time. I will be very brief. I just wanted to point something out. There was a conversation earlier where we established that the Amendment would reduce the limit to two megawatts and we also established that is a relatively small number of residential homes. I can't remember whether I was told it was 400 homes for one megawatt or two but either way that would be under 1,000 homes.

So, I just want to clarify that since I think we just heard the proponent of the Bill say that it would be unusual for a municipality to exceed that limit and I don't see that at all, I think that it extremely they would exceed that limit and I'd like that on the record. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to request a roll call vote on the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

And a roll call vote has in fact been requested. Will you remark further? Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I do want to further clarify that being a municipality, these projects would fall under the state prevailing wage laws which would be a lot less, it would be \$100,000 for rehab a million dollars for a new project. So there are already exists in municipalities requirement for prevailing wage that would most likely cover these projects. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Will you remark further on the Amendment? If not, a roll call vote has been requested on the Amendment. Mr. Clerk please call the role.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 999, Senate Amendment "A". Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 999 Senate Amendment "A" LCO No. 8860. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 999 Senate Amendment "A". Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

Immediate roll call vote in the Senate. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 999 Senate Amendment "A". Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 999 Senate Amendment "A". 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 on the Amendment.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 999, Senate Amendment "A".

Total number voting	33
Those voting Yea	22
Those voting Nay	11
Absent and not voting	3

THE CHAIR:

The Amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you remark further on the Bill as Amended? Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. So the Amendment has been adopted and therefore this Bill now is going to effect any renewable energy project that is in excess of two megawatts and there are no longer any provisions for a dollar amount of renewable energy investment. I don't have a lot to say about this Bill, Madam President, I just want to boil it down very simply for the folks that are listening what we're voting on here.

I would start my comments by suggesting that the title is problematic. I'm often frustrated by titles of Bills in this building. It strikes me all the time the title is supposed to create some sort of energy, pun intended, on the legislation that is before us. But Bills, as we know are much more than titles.

The title of this Bill says, "AN ACT CONCERNING A JUST TRANSITION TO CLIMATE PROTECTIVE ENERGY PRODUCTION AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT." Well first off I don't think any Bill title should ever contain the word "just". I mean this implies anyone that is voting against the Bill is unjust and that is just not acceptable Madam President not when we're making public policy. We should not have the word "just" in a title. And we should not be implying what is just or unjust in a title.

What is also ironic is that this Bill title claims to be in favor of protecting the climate, "AN ACT CONCERNING A JUST TRANSITION TO CLIMATE PROTECTIVE ENERGY PRODUCTION." Anyone looking at that at a glance would say this Bill must be in favor of clean energy. But this Bill is not in favor of clean energy at all.

In fact, it is exactly 100 percent contrary to clean energy. The result of this legislation, ladies and gentlemen, will be that less clean energy projects go forward. No one can deny that. It's very simple. What we're doing is we're putting new restrictions on any private investment for renewable energy projects. That's certainly not going to have the result of having more people wanting to do them. If you go back and look at the testimony on the original Bill which was no where near as, in my opinion egregious in how far this actually goes, Madam President.

The only folks that supported the Bill were people that were supporting organized labor. The people that actually invest money in renewable energy projects they were all in opposition. Well this Bill affects private investment of renewable energy. Not state projects just private investment. So what this Bill is actually doing is telling people that want to do private investment in energy projects, go to a different state cause you are not wanted here because what we're gonna do is we're gonna make you follow these new guidelines.

Forgive me if I sound frustrated, Madam President. I do not like having to vote no on a title that implies that this Bill is a good thing, a just thing and that it's somehow designed to protect the environment because the Bill doesn't protect the environment. Don't let anybody get up and tell you it does. It does not. It puts more restrictions on people that want to create renewable energy projects, not less. That will mean less projects, less green energy, less good environment in the future. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For me this is a really important Bill because I do embrace renewable energy projects. I do embrace. I do understand fully the need for us to move to renewable energy sources for the good of the planet, for the good of the future generations, for the good of my grandkids.

So, for me to have an opportunity to address something so important to our state, while also taking into consideration and insisting that we're doing these projects, these large projects, we also want to make sure that we are fair to the workers in this field who have dedicated their lives to providing, to working on energy projects for us in this state.

That the workers we rely on when we turn on the lights, the lights go on. That when it gets hot in the summer we have air conditioning. All of the energy that's been produced in this state that has been really we talk about companies but what about the workers who've done the building of the projects that allow us to have to these energies.

And in the past, these have been good job with good benefits. When we think of the trades men and women who live in our communities we're so proud that they've been able to send their kids to college, that they've been able to live in a nice house. That they've been able to provide for their families. We're proud of that. This is the backbone of our state. And this Bill shows that we're committed to the future of those families. We're committed to the future of those workers.

What does this Bill require, it requires when you're doing a project like this that you pay a decent wage and you provide decent benefits. These are wages and benefits that our families, our workers in this state have come to enjoy. But we want to ensure that is going to be fair for them in the future. And I believe when we ensure that we strengthen our

commitment as a state to building green energy projects. It's been pointed out to me that in fact the rates are the rates. The rates are set by PURA. They are set. And the rates are the rates. This isn't going to cost taxpayers. What it might mean, it might mean that the big energy companies that come in and develop these projects might not make quite as much money. Be assured they are still going to make plenty of money.

So I think this is good for the State of Connecticut. I think it is good for the people of Connecticut. It moves us forward environmentally into a cleaner greener energy era and the bottom line is we all move forward together. So I want to thank the good Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee for his praise of this Amendment. I really do appreciate my good friend's work on behalf of the people of Connecticut and the work and his explanation and dedication to moving forward good energy projects. So I urge all my colleagues to vote enthusiastically this, you know, really good Bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise to support the Bill as Amended today and want to thank Senator Kushner for her work in bringing this to the floor and to thank the Connecticut Building Trades as well for their work, as well as Senator Needleman and others who've been supportive from their perspectives and others who have helped craft the legislation today.

Madam President this Bill is an important Bill for a number of reasons. One is that we are saying today that we're not only standing up for our building

trades but we're saying that we also want to make sure that the work that is done is done in a way that matches the quality that we would expect from jobs here in the State of Connecticut. I chaired the Energy Committee, I was Vice Chair for a number of years including even when I was in the House and this field is a growing field but it is not a field that one just answers a want-ad and says I want to do this work. It takes training, it takes time, it takes apprenticeship, it takes a skill that one develops over time.

And building trades are really the place for the seal of approval. The seal approval of quality and that gets done when this work is accomplished. This is not speaking of smaller projects, this is not interfering with jobs that can be done with more low voltage equipment. This work is being done, this Bill is being done because the work that is happening out in around the state is very technical. It is very difficult and just like when we did natural gas expansion, when replacing an old pipe and that is work that takes a very skilled person years of training to do them as consumers and residents, we would expect that.

We want to make sure when we turn on the lights, the lights come on and that there is no danger. And we want to make sure the work that is being done when we just do the simple things in our lives that we don't have to worry about whether or not the person who performed some of this work did it in a way that put anybody at risk but is doing it because they understand the equipment, they understand the process, they understand the work.

It's almost like the building trades, when the work is done on one of our highways or some other place, or our railroads, we expect people who do that work, complete that work to have the skillset and not just come out of the, you know, just come in again from a want-ad. So, Madam President I think that this Bill is important as we progress in our new economy and

that we are keeping up with the times so that we are saying again, we want the work done, we want it done correctly and we want to make sure that we continue to have that same quality of work that we already expected in our state. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, the machine will be opened and Mr. Clerk please announce the roll call vote.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 999 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 999 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 999 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.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 999 as Amended

Total number voting	34
Those voting Yea	23
Those voting Nay	11
Absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff. And I do want to say that legislation is indeed adopted. (Gavel)

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'd like to refer an item please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar Page 20, Calendar 297, Senate Bill 288, I'd like to refer that to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And the next item for us on our Go List is Calendar Page 3, Calendar 57, Senate Bill 416.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

I apologize, I meant on Calendar Page 20, Calendar 297, Calendar 288 Amendment to go to the Education Committee not the Appropriations Committee. I misspoke.

THE CHAIR:

I think we had it open. It' will go to Education.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Page 3, Calendar No. 57, Substitute for Senate Bill NO. 416, "AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES STATUTES."

THE CHAIR:

And Good Afternoon, Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Good Afternoon, Madam President it is a pleasure to get a different viewpoint in the Chamber today. 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 ABRAMS (13TH):

Yes, Madam President. This Bill makes information in DDS abuse and neglect registry available to the Department of Administrative Services. It allows the DDS Regional and Training School Directors to consent to emergency medical treatment for an individual under their custody or control. It expands the circumstances under which perpetrators

of abuse or neglect or individuals who live with them are denied access to certain information about DDS's investigation.

It updates appointments to Camp Harkness Advisory Committee. It requires DDS to submit an individual eligibility denial letter rather than a reassessment to Probate Court during guardianship reviews for adults determined ineligible for DDS services. It also makes some technical and confirming changes. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. And we will go to Senator Somers.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes, Good Afternoon, Madam President. I rise in full support of this Bill and if there are no objections I would ask that it be added to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection. We will indeed move that item to the Consent Calendar. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

And the Senate will stand at ease.

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Clerk please call Calendar, Page 21, Calendar 309, Senate Bill 912.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 21, Calendar 309, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 912, "AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT OF FATHERHOOD INITIATIVES."

THE CHAIR:

And Good Afternoon, Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Good Afternoon, Madam President. How are you today?

THE CHAIR:

Oh, it is a beautiful day and even better to see you.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

And I wore this pink so we could brighten it up just in case it wasn't bright enough.

THE CHAIR:

Excellent.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

So, thank you. Madam President, I move for 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 MOORE (22ND):

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment LCO 8292. I would ask the Clerk please call the Amendment and I would see leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 8292 Senate Amendment Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Thank you. Madam President, this Amendment is a friendly Amendment inserting after Line 130 the words "Appropriations and the Budget to State Agencies".

THE CHAIR:

And do you move Adoption, Senator.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

I move adoption of the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you and the question before the Chamber is on adoption. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Good Afternoon, Senator Berthel.

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):

And indeed it is a Good Afternoon, Madam President. Good to see you today. I rise in support of this Amendment. I think this makes an important but simple change to the Bill and I urge adoption. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Berthel. Will you remark further on the Amendment? 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? And the Amendment is adopted. (gavel) Will you remark further on the Bill as Amended? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, this is the Fatherhood Initiative, started in 2010 and it brings together fathers and systems to try and address the role of fatherhood and having them involved in their families. The Fatherhood Initiative is really, was the brainchild of Pat Pheanious Wilson who was a member of the committee until she wasn't reelected this time and I now sit on the board.

The Bill establishes an office and council to oversee the Department of Social Services. It also establishes the office of Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative within DSS. It changes the structure somewhat of the commissioners, the membership of the commissioners and allows DSS Commissioner to designate a working group from among the council's

members to carry out specific duties required under the Bill. The Bill requires the Commissioner to seek advise and participate in any person and organizations, or state or federal agencies to carry out the Bill provisions. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):

Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to highlight some additional components to the Bill that I think are important and I appreciate the good Chair's explanation of what the new CFI will do. Part of what the objectives of the CFI are that are stated in the Bill are to among other things to promote public education concerning financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood, assisting fathers for legal, financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood, promoting the establishment of paternity at childbirth and encouraging fathers regardless of their marital status to foster their emotional connection to and financial support of their children.

And then, of course, also establishing support mechanisms for fathers in their relationship with their children again regardless of their marital and financial status.

I think these are all very important objectives if we truly believe as a legislature that CFI is important and I think we do. So, I would urge everyone to vote in favor of the Bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Berthel. Will you remark further on the Bill that is before the Chamber? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

I would just like to mention I want to thank the DSS Commissioner and Pat Pheanious Wilson for the work that they've done over the years and I also want to mention that this passed out of the Committee unanimously. If there are no questions or objections. I need to stand at ease for a moment.

THE CHAIR:

And the Chamber will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'm not sure if there is any other, I'll yield to Senator Moore when she is ready.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

Thank you, Madam President. I am going to ask for a roll call vote please.

THE CHAIR:

Absolutely. A roll call vote has been requested. Will you remark further on the Bill as Amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as Amended? If not, I will open the vote and the machine will be open. Mr. Clerk, please announce the roll call vote.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 912 as Amended, immediate roll call in the Senate. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate. immediate roll call vote in the Senate. Senate Bill 912 as Amended, immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

Immediate roll call vote in the Senate on Senate Bill 912 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 912 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote Senate Bill 912 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 912 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate on Senate Bill 912 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 912 as Amended.

Total number voting	34
Those voting Yea	32
Those voting Nay	2
Absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The Legislation is adopted. (gavel) Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, will the Clerk please call Calendar Page 16, Calendar 254, Senate Bill 759.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 16, Calendar 254, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 759, AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER NEUTRALITY IN THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

THE CHAIR:

Good Afternoon, Senator Flexor.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Good Afternoon, Madam President, nice to see you today. Madam President, I move for 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 FLEXER (29TH):

Yes, Madam President. Madam President, the Bill before us sets up a commission to study the issue of gender neutrality in the State Constitution. I believe this Bill is very important because when you read, I'll just read the first line of our State Constitution, it says, "We declare all mem when they

form a social compact are equal in rights and no man or set of men are entitled to exclusive public" and it goes on clearly from that first sentence, Madam President you can see that you and I are left out of that language.

And frankly, women deserve better. Our society would not function if it were not for the work of women and it's high time that our State Constitution include women and people who identify in all genders in our State Constitution. So I am hopeful that this legislation will pass, that this commission will do the work that it is being asked to do and we will have a State Constitution that is reflective of all of us, not just men. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The Bill before us proposes to establish a commission, a taskforce essentially, to identify what is described as gendered language in the text of our State Constitution and then make recommendations for how to update and change that language to make it conform to something that is more gender neutral.

The issue I have with this Bill is really not with the Bill at all. I think it has to do with the presentation of the argument for why this needs to be changed. If folks came to me and said, Senator we believe that language has changed over time and as a result we need to make sure that our official documents as a state need to reflect the language in common use today so that people understand what is going on. I would be far more amenable to supporting policies like this and I mean no disrespect to anyone in this Chamber and certainly

not the proponent of this Bill when I say that I just simply disagree with the assessment that the Constitution does not address women.

The fact of the matter is that the word "men, man, he" when used in the context of our State Constitution and lots of our documents reflects men and women. No one has ever claimed that it does not and I do not believe that is an accurate assessment. And forgive me for saying that I find that offensive to imply that somehow the folks that drafted that document were trying to imply that women were less than men or to leave them out because they were not. You can pickup any dictionary of English from *Merriam-Webster* to anything you can find and you'll discover that those words are inclusive of men and women.

I'm going to say no on this Bill, Madam President but again I would just urge folks that want to see changes like this in the future, to try and do it with a little more tact. Instead of assuming that anyone who appreciates the English language in it's existing form is somehow bigoted in some way. I know I'm certainly not bigoted against women or anything else and when I read our founding documents and our State Constitution, I don't read it to say men, I read it to say people because that is what they meant. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you Senator. Will you remark further?
Senator Flexor.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President I appreciate to a degree the remarks of the Ranking Member of the Committee and I appreciate in general that in our Committee and the leadership of our Committee we were able to talk about the various bills that come before us and try to understand each

other's perspective but I have to say emphatically this does not say all people. When I read these words all men does not apply to me and that is why this commission's work will be so important. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the legislation before us? Will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, we will open the voting machine and Mr. Clerk please announce the roll call vote.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 759. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 759. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate Bill 759.

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate for Senate Bill 759. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate on Senate Bill 759. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 759.

Total number voting	34
Those voting Yea	23
Those voting Nay	1
Absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President will the Clerk call the next Bill, Calendar 41, Calendar 164, Senate Bill 925 and will mark that as our Order of the Day, please.

THE CHAIR:

And Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Page 41, Calendar No. 164, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 925, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPORT, SALE AND POSSESSION OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS, LIONS, LEOPARDS, BLACK RHINOCEROS, WHITE RHINOCEROS AND GIRAFFES.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cohen, lions, tigers and no bears in it.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

There we go. I'll follow that up with an, Oh, my, 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 COHEN (12TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an Strike-All Amendment LCO 8306, I ask the Clerk please call the Amendment and I be given leave of the Chamber to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO No. 8306 Senate Schedule "A"

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cohen, please do proceed to summarize.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you so much, Madam President. Many I the Circle today will recall the history on the Bill before us today. This Bill will serve as a complement to our Federal Endangered Species Act by taking action to prevent the import, sale and possession of the African Big Six, or elephants, lions, black rhinos, white rhinos and giraffes. It is really a horrific practice trophy hunting.

In 2015, some may recall the tragic story of Cecil the lion. Cecil was a beloved black-mane lion that lived peacefully on a national park in Zimbabwe. Cecil was supposedly a protected animal that had been tracked since 2008 with constant monitoring by scientists but somehow and American paid \$50,000 dollars to travel to this destination and shot an arrow in this lion who was left to suffer a day before he was tracked by this hunter's group and shot for a second time.

Well the Federal Law does not yet prohibit of ban trophy hunting completely. We have the opportunity here to stop this practice by Connecticut residents. Since 2005 Connecticut residents have killed 71 leopards, 39 lions, 7 elephants and a giraffe in spite being protected by the Endangered Species Act. The good news is the Federal ban is being introduced again this Congress and I certainly hope for it's passage.

Again in the meantime we have a responsibility to protect these beautiful species from these frivolous and incredibly harmful practices. I urge my colleagues to pass this proposal as amended today.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you and do you move the Amendment, Senator. Just wanted to be sure about that so the question is on adoption of the Amendment. Will you remark further on the Amendment? Senator Miner. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Will the Senate stand at ease?

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease. Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I would request that Amendment LCO 8306 be withdrawn. Madam President the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment LCO 8888. I move adoption. Oh, I would request that the Clerk please call the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, we will have Mr. Clerk please call that new Amendment.

CLERK:

LCO 8888, Senate Schedule "B".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cohen.

SENATOR COHEN (12TH):

Thank you, Madam President. My comments remain and I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Cohen. Will you remark further on the new Amendment before us? Senator Miner.

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Thank you, Madam President, I'll wait and comment on the Bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

All right, thank you. Will you remark further on the Amendment LCO 8888? 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 Miner.

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, now that we are speaking on the Bill as Amended, let me first say that I appreciate the efforts that my Co-Chair on the Environment Committee, she's the Co-Chair, I'm the Ranking Member, has put in to trying, into this Bill trying to find language that clearly makes policy statement on behalf of those that find the hunting of any of these species objectionable and that's my word, not theirs. They might even have a stronger word than that.

But what I think this language does it seeks to start the process of reminding people that there are some heritage, some legacy items in the State of Connecticut that may have been acquired without licensure, they may have been bought at a tag sale, they may have come here any number of ways and there are provisions in this Bill that would require those items to be registered. You would not be able to sell those items once they're registered.

Madam President, there is some language in the Bill that I think is tough, talks about misdemeanors and felonies. Again I'm not discounting how people feel but I got to say that I think for someone to fail to register their leopard skin that may have hung on their wall for decades they could be facing a pretty significant penalty. So, Madam President the Bill does do a number of things, it preserves a least one business's ability to continue to do taxidermy in the State of Connecticut on these items that is no small order. There are at least seven people that I am aware of that have a job today because these items are brough back into the United States legally and so you will be able to travel to the State of Connecticut with them as you would be under the Federal Law and while I can't support the language I do appreciate every effort that has been put into it to date and I look forward to future discussions

about other opportunities. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Miner. Will you remark further on the Bill as Amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as Amended? Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise to support the legislation and want to thank Senator Cohen and the Environment Committee. I know Senator Miner as well has also been, you know, very interested in this legislation and has had some very good comments to make and constructive comments as well such as the taxidermy piece and other sections that has helped make this Bill one that I believe is a good one and that will preserve jobs and preserve some of the roles we have here in the state but also preserving the Big Six in Africa.

This legislation came to me from a constituent in Darien and through the Friends of Animals had an event after the news of Cecil the lion and so for us it's about putting our mark on what I think is a very important piece of legislation that talks about where we are in the State of Connecticut. So, I just want to thank everybody who has been part of this. It's been a bit of a long haul on it and I think everybody has worked in good faith to try and see it through. So thank you. Thanks to Senator Looney for his work and patience on this Bill as well as well as members of the caucus and our team and again I urge support of the legislation. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, I will open the

voting machine. Mr. Clerk please announce the roll call vote.

CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate, Senate Bill 925 as Amended. Senate Bill 925 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 925 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 925 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote.

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 925 as Amended. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

We will ask Members to stay close to the Chamber because we will shortly be voting on the Consent Calendar so please do not stray far from the Chamber.

CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 925 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.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 925 as Amended.

Those voting Yea	30
Those voting Nay	3
Absent and not voting	3

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President will the Clerk please call the items on the Consent Calendar for a vote right after?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 1, Page 20, Calendar 293, Senate Bill 986. Page 8, Calendar 146, Senate Bill 872. Page 18, Calendar 278, Senate Bill 1072. Page 42, Calendar 228, Senate Bill 841. Page 3, Calendar 57, Senate Bill 416.

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

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

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 1.

Total number voting	34
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff. And the Consent Calendar is adopted.
Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. That concludes our business for today unless Senator Looney or I have any points of personal privilege which I doubt. I would move -- we are going to be session tomorrow at noon and I would move that we adjourn subject to the call of the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

And we are adjourned. Go forth. (Gavel)

(On the motion of Senator Duff of the 25th, the Senate at 4:00 p.m. adjourned Sine Die.)