



JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

Friday, March 6, 2026

The House of Representatives was called to order at 4:40 o'clock p.m., Representative Godfrey of the 110th District in the Chair..

Prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Shepard L. Fisher of Meriden, Connecticut.

The following is the prayer:

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, grant us compassion as we try to alleviate the burdens of our constituents. Guide us to bring forth legislation that will benefit all the citizens of Connecticut. Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Shepard L. Fisher of Meriden, Connecticut.

BUSINESS FROM THE SENATE FAVORABLE REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE CHANGE OF REFERENCE SENATE BILL

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

AGING. S.B. No. 285 (RAISED) AN ACT PROVIDING A FAMILY CAREGIVER TAX CREDIT.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS

On motion of Representative Gaiewski of the 40th District, the first reading of the following bills and resolutions was waived, the list of bills and resolutions as prepared by the Clerks was accepted, and the bills and resolutions referred to the committees as indicated thereon in concurrence.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

H.B. No. 5001 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR ALL AND VARIOUS OTHER REFORMS TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS', to (1) remove the statutory restrictions on eligibility for absentee voting, (2) allow municipalities to provide by charter for quadrennial municipal elections, (3) authorize the Secretary of the State to recommend changes to procedures for in-person voter registration of disabled individuals, (4) permit assistant municipal

clerks running for municipal clerk to perform their official duties on the day of an election, (5) provide for jointly temporarily relieving the registrars of voters of a municipality, (6) allow for Attorney General involvement in matters relating to subpoenas, warrants, other requests and alleged interference at elections, (7) permit the use of high-speed voting tabulators for recanvasses, (8) replace certain references to the Federal Election Commission with references to the Election Assistance Commission, (9) allow seventeen-year-olds who will attain the age of eighteen by the day of an election to vote early or by absentee at such election, (10) address applicability and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance of party rules filed with the Secretary, (11) provide for electronic ballot delivery and return for certain absentee voters, (12) amend the retrieval requirement for absentee ballots from drop boxes, (13) modify the availability time of primary petitions for certain municipal candidates, (14) amend the reasons for which, and the process by which, municipal clerks may be removed from office, (15) amend deadlines for the submission of municipal election returns and the conduct of post-election audits, (16) implement the recommendations of the risk-limiting audits working group, (17) authorize the State Elections Enforcement Commission to also investigate violations of elections-related regulations and not just violations of elections-related statutes, and (18) repeal a training requirement for registrars of voters.

ENVIRONMENT

H.B. No. 5520 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING FISH PASSAGES', to provide additional means by which fish passages may be provided for on dams and reservoirs and establish standards for such fish passages.

H.B. No. 5521 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING STERILE CULTIVARS', to authorize the sale and distribution of sterile cultivars of certain plant species and provide for the review of certain energy-related facilities regardless of their use for sterile cultivar propagation.

H.B. No. 5522 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE SEWAGE RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT', to provide for certain implementation and public availability of the requirements of the sewage right-to-know act.

H.B. No. 5523 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING TRIBAL COMANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES', to establish a cooperative framework between the state and Native American tribes for the shared stewardship of wildlife and fisheries resources and expand conservation participation for tribal members, while supporting tribal food sovereignty and resource management infrastructure.

H.B. No. 5524 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM', to expand the number of entities required to source-separate organic materials from the solid waste stream, prohibit the use of polystyrene containers by restaurants, prohibit the provision of single-use food service items unless requested by a consumer, prohibit the distribution of single-use straws that contain PFAS at restaurants, require certain entities to prioritize surplus food donation over other means of disposal and establish eligible costs for material management grants issued by the state.

H.B. No. 5525 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES', to establish a rapid response program and protocol for the elimination and containment of hydrilla and other aquatic invasive species in the state.

H.B. No. 5526 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING RECIPROCITY FOR CERTAIN INLAND WATERS FISHING LICENSES', to provide for reciprocity of fishing licenses from neighboring states on inland waters of the state.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

H.B. No. 5527 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN LEGAL NOTICES', to permit the posting of advertisements of legal notices on municipal Internet web sites along with a posted printed copy in public locations in lieu of in a newspaper.

H.B. No. 5528 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC AGENCY EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT TRAINING', to require public agency employees to attend Freedom of Information Commission trainings on the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

H.B. No. 5529 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING POLL BOOKS FOR THE CHECKING OF ELECTORS AT ELECTIONS, PRIMARIES AND REFERENDA', to require registrars of voters to provide to certain committees notice of at least fourteen days prior to any election, primary or referendum of whether electors on the official checklist to be used at such election, primary or referendum will be checked manually on paper or electronically.

H.B. No. 5530 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF ABSENTEE BALLOT ACCESS IN UNCONSOLIDATED CITIES AND BOROUGHS WITHIN A TOWN', to study obstacles to allowing a voter in an unconsolidated city or borough within a town to be able to apply for an absentee ballot through the Secretary of the State's online application system for an election, primary or referendum held for such unconsolidated city or borough.

H.B. No. 5531 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING FAITHFUL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS', to (1) require candidates for presidential electors, as part of their candidacy filings or registrations, to execute pledges to vote for the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates associated with such filings or registrations, and (2) modify the process by which meetings of presidential electors are conducted in order to ensure votes are cast consistent with such pledges.

H.B. No. 5532 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS FOR REVISIONS TO THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS AND INCREASING VARIOUS MONETARY THRESHOLDS IN SAID CODES', to (1) amend the quorum requirements of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board, (2) prohibit nepotism by public officials or state employees, (3) permit the filing of the name of certain tax-sheltered annuity retirement plans in lieu of naming specific securities within such statements, (4) apply substantial conflict of interest provisions in the state code of ethics for public officials and state employees to conflicts involving the public official's or state employee's nonstate employer or spouse's nonstate employer, and (5) increase various monetary thresholds in the state codes of ethics.

H.B. No. 5533 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PROTECTION OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION PROCESSES, ELECTIONS SITES, ELECTION WORKERS AND ELECTORS', to (1) establish prohibitions on certain conduct, including the possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, at or near certain elections-related locations, (2) impose criminal penalties for harassment of election workers and tampering with or unauthorized sharing of election equipment, and (3) allow for Attorney General involvement in matters relating to subpoenas, warrants, other requests and alleged interference with elections.

H.B. No. 5534 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT DESIGNATING THE STATE AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA, THE STATE AMPHIBIAN, THE TOWN OF ENFIELD AS THE GATEWAY TO CONNECTICUT AND THE STATE ROCK', to designate the state as

the birthplace of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the spring peeper as the state amphibian, the town of Enfield as the gateway to Connecticut and Housatonic marble as the state rock.

ENVIRONMENT

S.B. No. 452 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF LIGHTER-THAN-AIR BALLOONS', to prohibit the sale of helium for purposes of filling lighter-than-air balloons.

S.B. No. 453 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED SURCHARGE ON CERTAIN INSURANCE POLICIES', to enact a surcharge on certain insurance policies for fossil fuel related facilities that contribute to climate change.

S.B. No. 454 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PARK REPLACEMENT BY MUNICIPALITIES', to clarify certain provisions of the park and open space replacement statute for municipalities.

S.B. No. 455 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING JURISDICTION OVER FARMING OCCURRING ON CERTAIN STATE LANDS', to transfer oversight of farming occurring on certain state lands from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to the Department of Agriculture.

S.B. No. 456 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN THE STATE', to establish a grant program for certain nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation facilities in the state.

S.B. No. 457 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S BOTTLE BILL', to (1) require the development of a product stewardship program for beverage containers sold in the state, (2) examine the legal implications of requiring state-specific labeling for beverage containers sold in the state, (3) establish a timeline for the picking up of beverage containers by distributors, (4) prohibit transshipment of beverage containers, (5) require the acceptance of certain processed beverage containers by distributors, (6) make permanent certain escheat distributions from beverage containers, and (7) prohibit the act of short bagging by redemption centers.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

S.B. No. 458 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT DESIGNATING VARIOUS DAYS AND MONTHS', to designate various days and months.

S.B. No. 459 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CIRCULATION OF PRIMARY AND NOMINATING PETITIONS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS', to prohibit for a period of time certain individuals convicted of crimes under title 9 of the general statutes from circulating primary and nominating petitions and distributing absentee ballot applications.

S.B. No. 460 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF WHETHER UNCLAIMED GIFT CERTIFICATES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ABANDONED PROPERTY', to require the Treasurer to conduct a study of the feasibility, advantages and disadvantages of having unredeemed gift certificates escheat to the state.

S.B. No. 461 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING POLITICAL SPENDING AND STATE-GRANTED CORPORATE POWERS', to (1) prohibit any corporation formed in this state, and any foreign corporation doing business in this state, from making any political expenditure unless such political expenditure is made from a political committee established by such corporation, and (2) modify the corporate powers that the state may grant to entities incorporated in this state.

S.B. No. 462 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT', to establish the Office of Government Oversight to investigate fraud and waste in government.

S.B. No. 463 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SECURITY OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION PROCESSES, ELECTIONS SITES, ELECTION WORKERS AND ELECTORS', to (1) establish prohibitions on certain conduct, including the possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, at or near certain elections-related locations, (2) impose criminal penalties for harassment of election workers and tampering with or unauthorized sharing of election equipment, and (3) allow for Attorney General involvement in matters relating to subpoenas, warrants, other requests and alleged interference with elections.

S.B. No. 464 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT STUDYING COMPENSATION OF ELECTION WORKERS DURING THE EARLY VOTING PERIODS PRECEDING AND ON THE DAY OF ELECTIONS, PRIMARIES AND REFERENDA', to study the compensation of registrars of voters, town clerks and other local election workers during the early voting periods preceding and on the days of elections, primaries and referenda.

S.B. No. 465 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING EXPLORATORY COMMITTEES', to (1) restrict exploratory committees to not more than thirty days of operation, (2) cap the maximum contribution to exploratory committees at two hundred fifty dollars, (3) limit the total amount of contributions exploratory committees may receive to five thousand dollars apiece, and (4) provide that, if a candidate makes any statement that such candidate is exploring a run for a particular office, such statement triggers the requirement to convert an exploratory committee into a candidate committee.

S.B. No. 466 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING VEXATIOUS REQUESTERS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT', to include harassing and threatening conduct that occurred outside of a request for public records under the Freedom of Information Act when finding a person to be a vexatious requester and to permit a longer period of relief from requests from such vexatious requester for a second or subsequent granting of a petition.

S.B. No. 467 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING OBSERVATION OF THE CONDUCT OF ELECTION RECANVASS PROCEDURES', to afford election recanvass observers greater ability to observe the conduct of election recanvasses.

S.B. No. 468 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING CONTRACTS WITH NONPROFIT HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDERS', to require the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to conduct reviews of the level of services and reporting requirements of nonprofit human services providers and to require prompt payment of private provider organizations.

S.B. No. 469 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD', to implement the recommendations of the State Contracting Standards

Board, including requiring a notice of bidder rights in solicitations, requiring minimum staffing for the board, amending what is required for privatization business cases, permitting waiver of bidding requirements for minor, nonrecurring or emergency purchases and expanding disqualification grounds.

S.B. No. 470 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL AND MINOR REVISIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION STATUTES', to make technical and minor revisions to the government administration statutes.

S.B. No. 471 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF APPRENTICES ON PREVAILING WAGE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS', to create phased-in requirements for the usage of apprentices on certain prevailing wage public works projects, and to subject contractors and subcontractors who do not comply to a civil penalty and temporary disqualification from public works contracts.

S.B. No. 472 (RAISED) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF EMPLOYEES', to require employers to notify employees of where electronic surveillance is occurring and which prohibited activities may give rise to surveillance without prior notice.

JUDICIARY

S.B. No. 473 (RAISED) JUDICIARY. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE REVISOR'S TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES', to make various technical changes concerning grammar, clarity, accuracy of internal references and consistency in the general statutes.

S.B. No. 474 (RAISED) JUDICIARY. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF ANNUAL TRAINING TO A PERSON APPOINTED AS A CONSERVATOR IN A PROBATE COURT PROCEEDING', to require the Probate Court Administrator to establish and implement an annual training program for persons appointed as a conservator in a Probate Court proceeding.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Representative Gaiewski of the 40th District, the House adjourned at 4:42 o'clock p.m., to meet again at the Call of the Chair.