

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

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Bill Number: 7000
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GEN. ASSEMBLY
SENATE

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SEN. MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. For purposes of Journal notation, would the record reflect that both Senator Nickerson and I were absent the Chamber on other legislative business and missed the roll call vote on Consent Calendar No. 6.

And I think it's safe to say we both would have voted in the affirmative. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

The Journal will reflect. Thank you, Senator McKinney. Senator Looney.

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes, thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. Returning to Senate Agenda No. 7, on H.B. 7000, would move for suspension to take up that item.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President, if the Clerk may please call that item.

THE CLERK:

Calling from Senate Agenda No. 7, H.B. 7000, An Act Concerning the Expenditures of the Department of

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Social Services (As Amended by House Amendment Schedules "A" and "B"), Favorable Report of the Committee on Appropriations.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SEN. HARP:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage in concurrence with the House, will you remark further?

SEN. HARP:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill implements all of the changes in the Social Services, the health and hospital portion of the budget that we passed yesterday.

It reestablishes the HUSKY adult program, and it charges premiums, we think, in the second year, of \$25 and \$1 co-pays for outpatient medical visits.

It basically expands the purview of the Department of Social Services, FRED Program, or the Fraud Early Detection Program, to childcare programs

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and other programs of the Department of Social Services.

It extends the Residential Energy Conservation Services Program. It makes our ConnPACE Program conform to the Medicare Part D Program, and it also expands our existing supportive housing pilots among many other things. I urge your adoption.

THE CHAIR:

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

SEN. CAPPIELLO:

Mr. President, I rise in support in this bill, although there are some issues that I have with particular sections, and of course, as you know, I do not, did not support the budget.

But I understand that this budget does need to be implemented, and although I wish that we had a chance to be in the room and negotiate some of these sections, and I would hope that that practice would never ever, ever, ever take place again, because I think it's unfair to have certain people in this building unable to be in the room to negotiate

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implementation of a budget, whether they support it or not, I am going to support this implementer.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further?

Senator Fasano.

SEN. FASANO:

Thank you, Mr. President. You know, Mr. President, we were all around this Circle. We were here until 4:00 in the morning, 4:20 I believe, this morning.

We started at noontime that day, went to 4:00 in the morning. We came in here today at 12:00 or 12:30. It is now 20 to 12:00.

We have in our hands a 116-page document handed to us less than 35 seconds ago. It is told to me that this is the entire DSS package, the entire DSS package.

As Senator Cappiello said, our side wasn't even allowed in the door to discuss this entire DSS package, and now we're asked to vote on this entire DSS package, for which we just received an instant ago.

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I find that disingenuous, if I may, to the process that we have here. I'm very concerned about these matters, not that I don't support them or will support them.

But what I'm concerned is I kind of like to know what I'm doing when I'm doing it. And it isn't that any of us shirked our responsibility.

At 4:00 in the morning, we did more than our responsibility, being here, making sure we got the people's business being done.

And now, we're asked to look at this document, this document, and make a decision on something that certainly is not my area of expertise, but I know there are people on both sides of the aisle that do have that expertise.

I'm not going to hold up the process, Mr. Chairman, and I'm not going to stand here and ask the questions that probably should be asked that someone could tell me what it is in this document that we and 35 of my associates here would be voting upon.

I'm not going to do that. But I just wanted for the record to note the displeasure that causes when

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these types of things happen. And I think that this Circle has worked always so hard to work together.

And I'm a little bit insulted by the manner of which, personally, I'm speaking for myself, I have received this, because I think I'm always working with Committees here to get the best legislation out.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further?

Senator Cook.

SEN. COOK:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Good evening, it is 11:45 p.m., and I rise also to register my concern.

I probably will support this implementer, but I have to tell you, I got elected to serve in this chair the same way every other person in this building and in this Chamber got elected, by the people of my district, to serve the people of the state.

It is not appropriate in any way to ask us to vote on a bill that so heavily impacts the neediest people of our state without proper review, without proper review.

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Yesterday, in the budget debate, you talked very carefully, and the majority party was so thrilled because we finally did something that we've, many of us have been trying to do for 15 years, to increase the state supplement for the people who are the most needy, the frail and the aged and the disabled.

We finally gave them the COLA from the federal government that they've been waiting for. Every year they got, and every year we always took it away. Great. I'm glad you did.

But what is in this implementer in front of me? You're taking away the state COLA from these folks. That's not right.

I hope they get a net increase of some sort so they can buy an extra bottle of shampoo. I have one question that I've been able to come up with in this quick perusal.

And if I might, I'd like to pose it to, through you, to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

You may frame your question.

SEN. COOK:

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Thank you very much. In Section 31, the fiscal note states that now we are going to mandate and require everyone who receives services from the Department of Mental Retardation, in order to continue receiving those services, they must enroll in the Medicaid Waiver, is that, and I would like to ask is that correct, through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SEN. HARP:

Thank you. I believe that the fiscal note, through you, Mr. President, says that the Department is allowed to make exceptions to the requirements and to continue to provide services to individuals who are not eligible for enrollment if it is determined there is a legal requirement to serve the individual pursuant to a court order, so not in every case.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cook.

SEN. COOK:

Thank you very much. Well, if you get a court order, I suppose you don't have to be in it.

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Then, through you, to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, in the budget that was passed, have you included enough case management staff to meet the appropriate ratios for case management under the Medicaid waiver?

Because the folks that I care about and serve in a close way, families of people with mental retardation, and indeed, of course, I am a parent of a son with mental retardation, have received notices that if you're on the waiver, you get a case manager for only a small number of folks, ratio to the case manager. But if you're not on the waiver, you might see a case manager maybe once a year.

So clearly, if we're now mandating everybody to be on the waiver, to be part of the Medicaid program, we are going to need many more case managers in the Department of Mental Retardation to meet that appropriate ratio.

Is that going to be accommodated in the budget, through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SEN. HARP:

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Thank you, Mr. President, through you, I believe because of the consent decree that has occurred that there, we are adding many more case managers.

Now whether or not the frequency of visits will occur, I'm not certain. But I do know that we have increased the overall number of case managers in the Department of Mental Retardation.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cook.

SEN. COOK:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Well, you know, I only got to the first 30 sections out of a bill at a quarter to, ten minutes to 12:00 that has 104 sections.

I'm not going to belabor this, but I do believe that this implementer is not even going to be implementable in the state because of needs that are already obvious.

So, Mr. President, I'm very concerned, A, that I have been asked to do something as a State Senator that's impossible to do, to read a bill on 30 seconds notice and then vote 5 minutes later.

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And I am also concerned that there are things in this bill that you promised in the budget that are not even going to be deliverable in the implementer or that you've promised in the budget that you're now very quickly taking away.

So, Mr. President, I don't think the way we ought to be conducting business for the people of the State of Connecticut.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SEN. HARP:

Thank you. I move the bill, Sir.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? If not, I would ask that the Clerk make an announcement that the Senate is preparing to vote by voice roll call. Ask that the Members please be at or in their seat.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

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An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

A voice vote, roll call vote has been called for in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on passage of H.B. 7000. Senator Fonfara.

SEN. FONFARA:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Coleman.

SEN. COLEMAN:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Handley.

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SEN. HANDLEY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Harris.

SEN. HARRIS:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Kissel.

SEN. KISSEL:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Herlihy.

SEN. HERLIHY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Ciotto.

SEN. CIOTTO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

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Senator Harp.

SEN. HARP:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Looney.

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Meyer.

SEN. MEYER:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Gaffey.

SEN. GAFFEY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Slossberg.

SEN. SLOSSBERG:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Hartley.

SEN. HARTLEY:

Yes.

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THE CLERK:

Senator Murphy.

SEN. MURPHY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Crisco.

SEN. CRISCO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Cook.

SEN. COOK:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Prague.

SEN. PRAGUE:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Stillman.

SEN. STILLMAN:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Gunther.

SEN. GUNTHER:

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Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Finch.

SEN. FINCH:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Newton.

SEN. NEWTON:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Cappiello.

SEN. CAPPIELLO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Duff.

SEN. DUFF:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Freedman.

SEN. FREEDMAN:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator McDonald.

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SEN. MCDONALD:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator McKinney.

SEN. MCKINNEY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Williams.

SEN. WILLIAMS:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Roraback.

SEN. RORABACK:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Colapietro.

SEN. COLAPIETRO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator DeLuca.

SEN. DELUCA:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

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Senator Daily.

SEN. DAILY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Fasano.

SEN. FASANO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Guglielmo.

SEN. GUGLIELMO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Nickerson.

SEN. NICKERSON:

Yes.

THE CHAIR:

Will the Clerk please announce the result

[inaudible].

THE CLERK:

Motion is on passage of H.B. 7000.

Total number voting, 36; necessary for passage,

18. Those voting "yea", 36; those voting "nay", 0.

Those absent and not voting, 0.

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THE CHAIR:

The bill is passed.

SEN. LOONEY:

Mr. President.

THE CHAIR: [THE PRESIDENT IN THE CHAIR]

Thank you, Senator Coleman, appreciate it very much. Mr. Majority Leader.

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. President. The Clerk has in his possession two additional Agendas, Agendas No. 8 and 9, if he may please call those items.

THE CLERK:

Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agendas Nos. 8 and 9, dated Wednesday, June 8th, 2005, copies of which have been distributed.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Majority Leader.

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move all items on Senate Agendas Nos. 8 and 9, dated Wednesday, June 8th, 2005, to be acted upon as indicated and that the Agendas be incorporated by

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CLERK:

On Page 8, Calendar Number 491, House Bill Number 7000, AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPENDITURES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, Favorable Report of the Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished Chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on acceptance and passage, Madam.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

The Clerk has an Amendment, LCO Number 8230. May he call and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 8230, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A".

Clerk, please call.

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CLERK:

LCO Number 8230, House "A", offered by
Representative Merrill, Senator Harp et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Is there objection to summarization? Hearing
none. Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86th)

My staff is indicating we don't have copies of
the Amendment, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

House will stand at ease.

(CHAMBER AT EASE)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

I believe everybody has copies. Representative
Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment is a
summary of the budgetary language that we need to
implement the budget that we passed a few nights ago.

I will forego going through all the Sections, but
among other things it re-establishes HUSKY eligibility
for the parents of children who are living between
100% and 100% of poverty.

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And by implementation of this Bill, we will enable them to keep their healthcare, 13,000 people who need to get notice by next week.

It also implements changes to the Medicare Part D program. Most of them are items that were directly in the budget last week. There are also items related to both the Department of Social Services and the Department of Public Health. And, Mr. Speaker, I move its adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Madam. Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS: (150th)

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Guess again. That would be Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madam.

REP. GIBBONS: (150th)

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry, it's late. I urge adoption of this Amendment. One of the things it does have in it is it spells out the regulations for the provider tax in the nursing homes, how this tax will be collected and how it will then be redistributed.

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It's very important that we get this into
Statute. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Representative Gibbons. Will you
remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A"?
Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER: (55th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to
Representative Merrill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please frame your question.

REP. SAWYER: (55th)

Representative Merrill, I was trying to find it
quickly. In the 50s somewhere there is a makeup of a
task force. It is developing the Department of Aging.
And I was wondering if she could describe how the
makeup of that task force was designed.

My question being, we are looking at Executive
Branch agency. And my concern is the makeup of the
task force. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

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Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you.

There will be a subsequent Amendment that will have, allow the Executive Branch to have a Co-Chairmanship of this task force. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER: (55th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A"? Will you remark? Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Just I have a few questions to ask of the proponent of the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Merrill, just a few questions for clarification, if I may. In Lines 95 through 98, am I reading it correctly to say that we are extending the coverage for families for a

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period of 12 months from passage of this Amendment?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Just a moment, please.

(GAVEL)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

I'm having trouble seeing Representative Merrill.
If I could have a clear line of sight, I would
appreciate it. Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Yes. Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. I
believe you are enquiring about the provision that
reduces from two years to one year the eligibility for
medical assistance under the Social Security Act.

That is an implementation piece of the budget
that was assumed as a savings in the budget. Through
you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One more question, if I
may. Representative Merrill, Lines 125 to 130, and
please forgive me if I'm not reading it correctly.

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It seems to me that parents are going to be now covered under this plan and they will be paying a \$25 premium per month for a two-parent household for the caretakers or relatives of the children. Is that true? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is correct, although it will not be instituted until year two of the budget, because there will be a need for a waiver to institute this premium. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But, parents, according to this Amendment, will become covered by this Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker. That's correct.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And a couple more questions, if I may. The co-payment of one dollar, is that going to be mandatory? And, if you remember last year they were on the prescription plans, what was happening is they will tell the pharmacist that I am not able to pay the one dollar and they do not pay it.

Under this plan, is it mandatory to be paid or will they be able to waive it? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Prescriptions are exempt from this provision, so this would not impact the provision of prescription but only other medical services.

It is a mandatory one-dollar co-pay. But again, this cannot be instituted, as I understand it, without a waiver. So we would need to be able to get a waiver

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in order to implement this portion of the budget.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Representative Merrill, in Lines 197 through 201 it talks about dispensing fees.

No dispensing fees shall be issued. Does this mean that, at one time, pharmacies had a dispensing fee for ConnPACE poor prescription, does this mean that pharmacies will no longer be allowed to charge the dispensing fee to the State? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. This portion of the Bill talks about the institution of the Medicare Part D plans, which will be put into law as of the first of the year. And this says that anyone, that the dispensing fee can only be paid--

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

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I can't hear her.

(GAVEL)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Gentleman is having difficulty hearing the lady's answers. Representative Merrill, if you would kindly repeat the answer so that Representative Noujaim can hear it.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

--Through you, Mr. Speaker. As I was explaining, the dispensing fee will be set by the federal government as part of the Medicare Part D plans when they come into existence at the beginning of this year.

So we really don't know what those dispensing fees will be. That will be associated with whatever plan that people choose as part of the Medicare Part D plan. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I truly appreciate the consideration. Since some of these amendments are really large, I'm just trying to review them now and

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making sure that we understand them. But I truly,
truly appreciate Representative Merrill's answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Representative Wassermann.

REP. WASSERMAN: (106th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question, through you,
to the proponent of the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. WASSERMAN: (106th)

Representative Merrill, on Section 68, Lines 2585
through 2594, please, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. WASSERMAN: (106th)

Mr. Speaker, this has to do with the purchase of
prescription drugs.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Yes, I have the Section. Is there a question
about this Section? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Wasserman.

REP. WASSERMAN: (106th)

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Yes, Ma'am. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has to do with the purchase of prescription drugs through pharmacies located in Canada or other countries. This is a very thorny, very complicated issue that has been debated.

And I would like to know why, at this point, there were removed three agencies that I think are critical in the review. And that is the Commission of Consumer Protection, the Pharmacy Commission and DSS, all three agencies very important in this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Madam. Representative Merrill, I think there was a question in there some place. Would you like to try?

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can only say that this was the decision of the people putting together this particular working group. It is, at this point, just a study. I don't know if they would be receptive to adding more people to the group.

I believe it was just simply seen as a group that would be mostly involved with the Public Health

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Department, but I do not know why they did not include those agencies. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Wassermann.

REP. WASSERMAN: (106th)

Just to clarify. I don't mean to take your time, Mr. Speaker. Those three agencies were on this list right from the start and they have been removed just in the last 24 or 48 hours.

I want to make a point. I don't have an Amendment drawn. This is a very unfortunate issue now and I will not be able to support this Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Madam. Representative Dillon.

Representative Dillon.

REP. DILLON: (92nd)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some concerns, through you, of the proponent of this Amendment, Section 46.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed. Please proceed.

REP. DILLON: (62nd)

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Yes. To the Chair of the Appropriations Committee, concerning the language in Section 46. I see that this says that the Commissioner of Social Services shall establish prior authorization procedures for home health services which require more than two visits per week.

My question, my first question, through you, Mr. Speaker, is does this include psychiatric services?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it does.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Dillon. Representative Dillon.

Thank you.

REP. DILLON: (92nd)

Mr. Speaker. Thank you. And what exactly, what kind of restrictions are you suggesting be placed on nurses who administer psychotropic drugs to the mentally ill who are not in institutionalized settings? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill. Representative Merrill.

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REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker. The change would be from a total of 12 visits per month without prior authorization to two visits per week without prior authorization. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Dillon.

REP. DILLON: (92nd)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say that I'm sorry I didn't know this was here, I'm sorry that we don't talk more in our Democratic Party, but this is a very inflammatory issue over the years with OPM.

There are a lot of nurses who appear to cost a lot of money because of the cost of nursing care. This was a difficult issue with the previous Secretary of OPM.

We are never going to be able to place all the mentally ill people in this State in institutions. And I am very concerned that this is a very blunt instrument that could end up denying absolutely critical psychotropic medication to the mentally ill. And I think this Section should be removed.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Madam. Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A". Representative Noujaim, for the second time.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your consideration for the second time. Just a quick question, because I have not seen it anywhere in here.

Is it logical, through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Merrill, that the Department of Consumer Protection should be involved in this process, especially when talking about imports of, of prescription drugs from different countries? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Section 68, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

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I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I couldn't quite hear the question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim, could you please repeat the question.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just looking again at Section 68 that Representative Wasserman spoke about. And somehow I did not see the Department for Consumer Protection being involved, especially in importing and exporting prescription drugs from different countries.

Isn't it logical for the Department of Consumer Protection to be involved in this process? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker. This is, I believe, the same question Representative Wasserman asked. I gather that at some point the Department of Consumer Protection had been proposed to be part of this study group.

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And as I said to her, I don't know why they were removed, however it does make sense that they may be involved.

And perhaps there could be something worked out. I don't really know the reason they were removed. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I apologize for being redundant, but I did not hear the answer the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

No apology necessary, Sir. Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A"? Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A"? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted. Representative Merrill.

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REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk has an Amendment, LCO Number 8266. Would he call and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 8266, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "B". Would the Clerk please call.

CLERK:

LCO Number 8266, House "B", offered by Representative Merrill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Is there any objection to summarization? Hearing none, please proceed, Madam.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is simply a few minor changes to some language in three different Lines and I move its adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on adoption. Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER: (55th)

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Mr. Speaker, I'm just trying to find it quickly in the Amendment and how it works in Line 2269. If the Chairman would help me on that, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill, can you help her out.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker. This is the provision I responded about earlier. It does insert the Governor as the Co-Chair I believe of the task force. And this is the Line that inserts that into this Bill. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER: (55th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Just a point of clarification. May the Governor appoint a designee? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill. Representative Sawyer, I don't believe Representative Merrill heard the question. If you could repeat it please and, before we do that.

(GAVEL)

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you. Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER: (55th)

Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. If the Governor so chose that she wished to appoint a designee, may she?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the way this is written, the Governor will, the Governor and the President pro tem of the Senate shall jointly select the Chairpersons of the task force. I believe that is their role.

It doesn't mention the Governor being able to have a designee, so I would assume that the answer is no. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER: (55th)

I thank the Chairman for her answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Will you remark further on House Amendment "B"?

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Will you remark further? If not, let me try your
minds. All those in favor signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The Amendment
is adopted. Will you remark further on the Bill as
amended? If not, will the machine will be opened.
Representative Dillon. I'm sorry.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll
Call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting by
Roll Call. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members
voted and is your vote properly recorded? If so,
Representative Dillon, would you care to vote, please.
Thank you, Madam.

Representative Sherer. Representative Miller.
Representative Backer. Representative Mazurek.
Ladies and gentlemen, if you would please stay in the
Chamber. Thank you. If everyone has voted,

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Representative Backer. Representative Kirkley-Bey,
please. Thank you, Madam.

Machine will be locked and the Clerk will take
the tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill Number 7000, as amended by House
Amendment Schedules "A" and "B".

Total Number Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	135
Those voting Nay	13
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Bill as amended is passed. Representative
Donovan.

REP. DONOVAN: (84th)

Mr. Speaker, I move immediate transmittal of all
items acted upon today that need further action in the
Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Is there any objection? Hearing none, so
ordered.

REP. DONOVAN: (84th)